



# Frederick H. Hackeman CAMP 85

September 2018

## A Message From the Commander

Brothers,

Since the June issue came out our camp has been involved in two activities which I think were a positive experience and worth starting as traditional activities: the June Flag day parade in Three Oaks and the Three Oaks Civil War Days in July.

Why make these two events a traditional camp activity? First, we get out in the public - they see us and know that we are around. Second, they may walk up and ask about us which then gives us a foot in the door into recruiting new members. While we are a worthwhile organization we can't do much to fulfill SUCW goals by sitting at home and waiting for something to happen *TO* us. We have to go out and **DO** something - *out there*.

The Civil War Days event is a prime example of what these activities can mean to our camp and the SUCW in general. I set up my tent with a table (closely approximating a period table with a 35 star American Flag, our camp flag, and a reproduction flag of the 6th MI Light Artillery). On the table I had both of the SUCW pamphlets for the public to take.

Commander to Page 9

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## Next Camp Meetings

September 20, 2018 - 6 p.m.

Location - 10329 California Road, Bridgman

Camp Communicator

Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War

# Berrien County in the American Civil War

7th INFANTRY.

The Seventeenth regiment had about forty men from Berrien County, and about half as many from Van Buren. It was raised in the summer of 1862, and left Detroit for Washington on the 27th of August. Scarcely had it arrived at the latter place when it was assigned to the Army of the Potomac, and in less than three weeks from the time of leaving Michigan these raw recruits were gallantly battling for their country at South Mountain. The victory gained there by the Union army cost the regiment the lives of twenty-seven of its officers and men, besides one hundred and fourteen who were wounded. On the 17th of September it was again hotly engaged at Antietam, where it had eighteen of its members killed and eighty-seven wounded.

After following Lee's, defeated army through Northern Virginia, and camping for awhile at Falmouth, the regiment crossed the Rappahannock at Fredericksburg, but did not participate in the battle of that place. It remained in the Army of the Potomac through the winter, but in the spring was ordered to Kentucky. After a short stay in that state, it proceeded with the 9th Corps to Mississippi and joined Gen. Grant. It was stationed at Hayne's Bluff and Milldale, and was slightly engaged before Jackson on the 10th of June.

It soon returned to Kentucky, and moved thence with Burnside's army into East Tennessee. It took part in numerous movements and counter-movements, for which the forces in East Tennessee became famous, and on the 16th of November was acting as the rear-guard of the army, which was falling back towards Knoxville. While it was crossing Turkey Creek, near Campbell's Station, the enemy attacked in force, and a sharp engagement followed. The 17th, with its brigade, steadily covered the rear of the army, having twenty-six officers and men killed and wounded during the fight.

That night the whole Union force moved into Knoxville, and from then until the retreat of the enemy, on the 4th of December, the 17th was busily engaged in the defense of that place, suffering greatly from want of rations, but gallantly performing its duty. After the defeat of the Confederates, and marching up and down the Tennessee Valley was resumed, and was kept up, with some intervals of rest, throughout the winter.

On the 20th of March, 1864, the regiment set out with the 9th Corps from Knoxville, and marched over the Cumberland Mountains to Nicholasville, Ky., whence it moved at once to Maryland.

With the same corps the 17th passed through the great campaign of 1864. It was sharply engaged in the Wilderness on the 6th of May, having forty-six men killed and wounded. At Spotsylvania, on the 12th of May, the regiment charged gallantly on the rebel works, but was surrounded by a superior force in the dense woods, and had twenty-three killed, seventy-three wounded, and ninety-three taken prisoners, out of two hundred and twenty-five engaged. So small a Squad remained for duty that on the 16th of May it was detailed for engineer service, though still retaining its regimental number.

It served throughout the winter of 1864-65 either in this capacity or as provost-guard. During the Confederate attack on Fort Steadman, however (March 25, 1865), the 17th advanced as skirmishers, drove back the enemy's skirmishers, and captured sixty-five prisoners. After the capture of Petersburg and the surrender of Lee, the regiment moved north to Washington, set out for Michigan on the 4th of June, 1865, reached Detroit on the 7th, and was forthwith paid off and discharged at the latter place.

## Company B

1st Lieut. John Cunningham, Niles; Com. June 2 1862  
Sergt. Williams H. Martson, Niles; enl. June 2.



## Officers 2017 - 2018

Camp Commander:  
Steven Williams

SVC: Richard Gorski

JVC: Rex Dillman

Secretary : Charles L Pfauth Sr

Treasurer : Charles L Pfauth Sr

Council 1: Charles L Pfauth Jr

Council 2: Ray Truhn

Council 3: Ted Chamberlain

Patriotic Instructor:  
Ted Chamberlain

Chaplain : Open

Graves & Memorials:  
Rex Dillman

Historian: Rex Dillman

Eagle Scout

Coordinator: Unassigned

Signals Officer: Unassigned

JROTC contact: Unassigned

Guide: Unassigned

Editor  
Steve Williams  
sarwilliamssa@gmail.com

# Three Oaks Civil War Days

The second Civil Wars Days event in Three Oaks took place starting on Friday July 27th with the grave markings of three civil war veterans buried at Shedd Cemetery. The veterans so honored and remembered were

- Pvt. John Redman - 23rd Michigan Infantry Co. G
- Pvt. Thomas Bock - 102nd Michigan Colored Troop Co. H & K
- Corp. Benjamin Platt - 12th Michigan Co C

Camp 85 provided the SUVCW Ritual portion of the ceremony after the local DAR began the presentation. The DAR chapter ladies researched and discovered these veterans buried in Shedd Cemetery. In that research they noted that there were no headstones marking their burial sites. The headstones were ordered from the VA and placed by Bob Cooley. Participation in the SUVCW ritual were three Sons from the new South Bend camp of the Indiana Department as well as several Confederate Soldiers. The honor guard provided a 7 shot volley. Camp members attending this service were Charles Pfauth Sr, Charles Pfauth Jr with musket, Rex Dillman, Glenn Palen, Ted Chamberlain, and myself.

The Civil War days this year was the second year for this event and according to all reports was double the number of tents for the re-enactors; 4 Federal and 4 Confederate to twice that number. Each day had activities from 9 am to after dinner: 3 battle simulations, music, presentations of civil war personages (4), a free breakfast for the re-enactors on Saturday morning by the American Legion post, a free dinner Saturday for the re-enactors, Music in the park Saturday evening, a Sunday worship service, an afternoon presentation by the Harbor Country singers of Civil war era songs, plus several vendors. All of the activities were open to the general public and throughout both days many visitors came around to experience the ambiance.



Other camp members coming by during the weekend were, Ray Truhn and Keith Chapman. Greg Scygiel and son, Mark, were there as re-enactors. Scattered throughout this issue will be photos of the event.

All camp members are encouraged to consider taking part at next year's Civil War Days even if it's to come for a couple hours and sit with us at our tents. Certainly if you have an outfit so much the better.



## Department News

### Installations of Officers

Greetings Brothers,

At the recent 137th National Encampment of the SUVCW, a proposal brought forward before the Encampment by our own Department of Michigan has changed the time period of Camp officer installations. They may take place between September and January to assist the installing officers in avoiding inclement weather and hazardous driving conditions. Therefore the Department Commander Rob Payne requests that the camps begin scheduling their installations. Please schedule as soon as you can with the Department Chief of Staff L. Dean Lamphere, Jr. at [chiefstaff@suvchwmi.org](mailto:chiefstaff@suvchwmi.org).

Thank You and best regards.

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty  
Dick Denney, PCC  
Secretary, Dept. of Michigan  
March to the Sea Camp No. 135  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

### The Five Year Strategic Plan

This plan can be found at this link  
<http://www.suvchwmi.org/hq/Strategic%20Direction%205%20YR%202018.pdf>  
and accessed via the Department of Michigan website - <http://www.suvchwmi.org/>

The Department of Michigan's Quarterly newsletter *The Messenger* is also accessed through the department's website.

## August-September

1861

**August 2** Congress passed the first national Income tax measure calling for 3% on incomes over \$800. The bill also provided for new and stiffer tariffs. (It was never enforced and was revised in 1862) Sporadic skirmishes throughout the states. **August 10** Battle of Wilson's Creek (MO) **August 14** – Maj. Gen. Fremont declared martial law in St Louis MO. President Davis proclaimed banishing of aliens who did not acknowledge the authority of the Confederate States of America. **August 16** President Lincoln proclaimed that the inhabitants of the Confederate States “are in a state of insurrection against the United States , and that all commercial intercourse, “ with certain exceptions, between loyal and rebellious states was unlawful. **August 20** Maj. Gen. George B McClelland assumed command of the newly organized Department and the Army of the Potomac for the Union. **August 27** Arrack on Cape Hatteras Forts Begin **August 28** Capture of Fort Hatteras **August 30** Fremont's Emancipation Proclamation Maj. Gen. John Charles Fremont wrote and then issued his famous unauthorized emancipation proclamation and order of confiscation. Declaring martial law throughout Missouri.

**September 2** President Lincoln requested Maj. Gen. Fremont to “modify” his proclamation of Aug 30 which had ordained freedom for slaves of rebellious owners, threatened the death penalty for certain secessionists and confiscated their property. **September 3** Confederate forces enter Kentucky **September 6** Federal capture of Paducah Grant captures Paducah with no bloodshed. **September 10** Engagement at Carnifax Ferry Rosecrans' Federal command struck Confederates at Carnifax Ferry, western VA, but failed to break the Southern Lines. **September 11** Cheat Mountain Campaign For five days Gen. R. E. Lee and his Confederates campaigned actively against the Federals, the heavy rains of the season, and the rugged mountains Virginia. **September 12** Siege of Lexington Missouri Begins Vastly outnumbering the Federals, Gen. Price and his Missouri troops converged on the commercial town of Lexington, where a Federal force under Col. James Mulligan was posted and pushed aside the pickets and began what became a nine day siege of Lexington. **September 14** President Davis rejected a complaint by Gen. Joseph E Johnston about the rankings of the generals, one of the most galling incidents in a long series that led to the estrangement of the president and his general. **September 20** Surrender of Lexington, Missouri Col. James Mulligan, after a heartbreaking defense of his hilltop position at Lexington, surrendered his force of about 3600 Federal troops to Gen Sterling Price's Missourians, numbering about 18,000.



1862

**August 4** President Lincoln ordered a draft of 300,000 militia to serve for nine months. Unless discharged sooner. This draft was never put into effect. **August 5** Engagement at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. **August 6** Loss of CSS Arkansas The Federal ironclad Essex and four other vessels attacked Arkansas at Baton Rouge **August 9** Battle of Cedar Mountain or Slaughter Mountain, Virginia **August 12** John Hunt Morgan was active again, capturing Gallatin, Tenn and a Union garrison. **August 17** Sioux Uprising begins In southwestern



### Meeting Schedule

Our meeting schedule is Alternate months between September through April meeting on the 2nd Thursday of every month except as noted. At 6:00 PM.

Location -

Currently

10329 California Road, Bridgman



7th corps Kepi patch

Minnesota on this day the tragic Sioux uprising began and lasted until September 23. The Sioux, allegedly facing semistarvation on their reservations, revolted. **August 24** CSS Alabama commissioned. Near the Azores in the Atlantic, CSS Alabama was commissioned as a cruiser of the Confederate Navy and received its armament and supplies. **August 26** Second Bull Run or Manassas Campaign begins **August 27** at Manassas Junction **August 28** Groveton or Brawner's Farm, Virginia and Bragg Begins Confederate Campaign into Tennessee and Kentucky **August 29** Second Battle of Manassas or Bull Run, Virginia **August 30** Second Battle of Manassas or Bull Run, Virginia Concluded and Battle of Richmond, Kentucky

**September 1** Chantilly or Ox Hill, Virginia The last scene of fighting in the Second Battle of Bull Run or Manassas was at Chintilly or Ox Hill VA. **September 2** McClellan Restored to Full Command in Virginia **September 6** Stonewall Jackson's men occupied Frederick MD as the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia established their base of operations north of the Potomac. **September 13** "Lost order" Found by Federals In the morning at Frederick, MD, two lounging Union Soldiers picked up a paper wrapped around a few cigars. It was a lost copy of Lee's orders for the Maryland Campaign. **September 14** Battle of South Mountain and Battle of Campton's Gap **September 15** Confederates Capture Harper's Ferry **September 17** Battle of Antietam or Sharpsburg and Munfordville, Kentucky Surrenders This September day along Antietam Creek was one of the bloodiest of the Civil War. Badly outnumbered, Lee made his stand in Maryland and McClellan attacked, throwing in his corps piecemeal and failing to use his very strong reserve. **September 19** Battle of Iuka, Mississippi **September 20** Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation Announced **September 27** The Second Conscription Act of the Confederate Congress authorized President Davis to call out men between thirty-five and forty-five.



## 1863

**August 1** Prominent Confederate spy Belle Boyd was in prison in Washington for the second time after her arrest in Martinsburg, W VA. **August 17** First Great Bombardment of Fort Sumter **August 19** Northern authorities resumed the draft in New York City with no difficulties, although troops protected the draft headquarters against a repetition of the disastrous riots of July. **August 21** Sacking of Lawrence Kansas **August 29** In Charleston Harbor

the Southern submarine H. L. Hunley sank with five men lost.

**September 2** A joint committee of the Alabama Legislature approved the use of slaves in Confederate armies and the Alabama House adopted the resolution after modifying it somewhat. **September 6** Confederates Evacuate Battery Wagner and Morris Island, South Carolina. **September 8** Confederates Victorious at Sabine Pass, Texas **September 9** Federals Enter Chattanooga **September 10** Fall o Little Rock Arkansas **September 15** As a result of existing "State of Rebellion" Lincoln suspended the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus though the nation in cases where military or civil authorities of the United States held persons in their command or in custody. **September 18** Chickamauga Campaign Begins **September 19** Battle of Chickamauga, First Day **September 20** Battle of Chickamauga, Second Day



## 1864

**August 5** Battle of Mobile Bay ...Adm. Farragut, in the ort rigging of the Hartford, is said to have shouted, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead." **August 9** A tremendous explosion rocked City Point VA, killing 43, injuring 126 and causing vast property damage. **August 18** Battle of the Weldon Railroad, Virginia, Begins **August 19** Battle of the Weldon Railroad, Virginia, Continues **August 25** Battle of Ream's Station, Virginia **August 30** Sherman severed one of the last to railroads into Atlanta and marched rapidly towards the Macon line. The Democrats meeting in Chicago adopted a platform and placed in nomination for President Maj Gen George B McClellan. **August 31** General McClellan Nominated for President and Battle of Jonesboro, Georgia

**September 1** Confederates Evacuate Atlanta, Georgia and Battle of Jonesboro, Georgia Continues **September 2** Federal Army in Atlanta **September 4** John Hunt Morgan Killed **September 7** Evacuation of Atlanta Ordered **September 17** Fremont Withdraws from Election Contest **September 19** Third Battle of Winchester or Opequon Creek, Virginia Lincoln urged Sherman to allow Indiana soldiers to go home as long as they could not vote in the field. **September 22** Battle of Fisher's Hill, Virginia **September 29** Battle of Peeble's Farm Virginia to Oct 2 and Battle of Fort Harrison or Chaffin's Farm Virginia. **September 30** Battle of Peeble's Farm Virginia to Oct 2 and Battle of Fort Harrison or Chaffin's Farm Virginia continued

Source: *The Civil War Day by Day, An Almanac 1861-1865*, E B Long, 1971, Doubleday.

# Upcoming Events

## National

National Encampment in Framingham, MA on August 9 – August 12, 2018. {[http://www.suvcw.org/?page\\_id=2791](http://www.suvcw.org/?page_id=2791)}

**HOTEL INFORMATION AND RESERVATIONS:**  
Sheraton Framingham Hotel and Conference Center  
1657 Worcester Rd  
Framingham, MA  
Group Code: Sons of Union Veterans

## Department

August 2018

- 01 & 08 August, Wednesday - Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall & Museum is open 10 AM until 5 PM.
- 15 August, Wednesday - Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall & Museum "Civil War Discovery Camp" for kids ages 7-14 from 10 AM until 5 PM. Brothers - volunteers are needed to assist!

September 2018

- 01 September, Saturday - Deadline for submissions to Michigan's Messenger. Articles should be forwarded by email to [editor@suvcwmi.org](mailto:editor@suvcwmi.org).
- 05 & 12 September, Wednesday - Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall & Museum is open 10 AM until 5 PM.
- 08/09 September, Saturday/Sunday - Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall & Museum will participate in an outdoor GAR display at the Greenfield Village Old Car Festival at the Henry Ford from open 9 AM until 5 PM both days. Brothers - volunteers are needed to assist!
- 14/15 September, Friday/Saturday - Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall & Museum is open both days during the "Eaton Rapids Urban Air Festival" from 10 AM until 5 PM.
- 23 September, Sunday - Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall & Museum Annual Anniversary Program - "Talk with President Lincoln," Fred Priebe, speaker.

October 2018

- 03 & 10 October, Wednesday - Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall & Museum is open 10 AM until 5 PM.
- 13 October, Saturday - "Living History" exhibit at Camp Fort Hill in Sturgis, sponsored by the March to the Sea Camp No. 135, as part of the 90th anniversary of Camp Fort Hill. Contact Brother Russ Gordon.
- 13 October, Saturday - Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall & Museum is hosting the "Eaton County Heritage Conference" from 10 AM until 4 PM.
- 24 October, Wednesday - Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall & Museum is hosting the "Michigan History Alliance" meeting from 9 AM until Noon.

November 2018

- 07, 11 & 14 November, Wednesday - Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall & Museum is open 10 AM until 5 PM.
- 12 November, Monday - Veterans Day - Observed (Federal holiday moved to Monday).
- 17 November, Saturday - Annual Remembrance Day Parade and Ceremony - Gettysburg.
- 20 November, Tuesday - Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall & Museum presentation of "Michigan in the Mexican-American War of 1846-1848," with speaker COL Paul H. Scheider, USA (RET) and Gilluly-Kingsley Camp No. 120 Commander, at 7 PM.
- 22 November, Thursday - Thanksgiving. Army of the Republic Memorial Hall & Museum is open 10 AM until 5 PM.



The SVR roots date back to 1881 with the "Cadet Corps" of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) – the largest Union Veterans organization which formed in 1866 after the Civil War. The members of the GAR encouraged the formation of their sons as the SUVCW in 1881. These units eventually became known as the Sons of Veterans Reserve, when the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War moved toward a more patriotic and educational organization in design.

Many of the Sons of Union Veterans Camps (local organizations) formed reserve military units which volunteered their services during the Spanish – American War, World War I, and with the National Guard. Just prior to World War I, over 5,000 men wore the blue uniform of the SVR. As late as the 1930's, several states regarded their local SVR units as a military training component. Since World War II, the SVR has evolved into a ceremonial and commemorative organization. In 1962, the National Military Department was created by the SUVCW and consolidated the SVR units under national regulations and command. Since 1962, there have been five SUVCW Brothers that have held the SVR rank of Brigadier General and have had the honor to serve as the Commanding Officer of the SVR.

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform the members of Frederick H. Hackeman Camp 85 of activities and events related to the mission of the SUVCW and its interests.

If you wish to place a civil war article or SUVCW item please submit to the Editor at sarwilliamssa@gmail.com

*The Editor reserves the right to censor and/or edit all material submitted for publication to the Camp Communicator newsletter without notice to the submitter.*

## Camp Website

Be sure and visit our Camp Website at <http://www.suvcwmi.org/camps/camp85.php>.

## Sutler Links

Link to list of vendors for any items to fill out your uniform and re-enactor accessories.

<http://www.fighting69th.org/sutler.html>

<http://www.csutlery.com/>

<http://www.crescentcitysutler.com/index.html>

<http://www.regtdm.com/>

<http://www.cjdaley.com/research.htm>

<http://www.fcsutler.com/>

<https://www.militaryuniformsupply.com/civil-war-reenactment-clothing-gear>

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## Department of Michigan Officers

Commander -	Robert R. Payne, PCC
Senior VC -	Terry McKinch, PCC
Junior VC -	Nathan Smith, CC
Members of the Council -	
	Charles Worley, PDC
	Kevin Lindsey, PCC
	Michael Maillard, PCC
Secretary -	Dick Denney, CC
Treasurer -	Bruce S.A. Gosling
Counselor -	Paul T Davis, PDC
Chaplain -	Rev. Charles Buckhahn, PCC
Patriotic Instructor -	David Kimble, CC
Color Bearer -	Edgar J. Dowd, PCC
Signals Officer -	David F. Wallace, PDC
Editor, "Michigan's Messenger" -	
	Richard E. Danes, PCC
Historian -	Keith G Harrison, PCinC
Guide -	Nathan Tingley
Guard -	Steven Martin
Graves Registration Officer-	Richard E. Danes, PCC
GAR Records Officer-	Gary L. Gibson, PDC
Civil War Memorials Officer-	John H. McGill
Eagle Scout Coordinator -	Nathan Tingley
Camp-At-Large Coordinator -	George L. Boller
Military Affairs Officer -	Edgar J. Dowd, PCC

## Berrien from Page 2

1862; Lost a leg at Petersburg, Va., June 18, 1864; disch. for wounds, May 5, 1865.

Corp. Samuel H Case, Buchanan; must. out June 3, 1865

Corp. Allen B Myers, Sodus; enl. Aug 6, 1862; killed in battle of Spotsylvania, Va.. May 12, 1864.

Alonzo G. Bigelow; disch. for disability, Sept. 13, 1862

Albert Bixby; must. out June 3, 1865

John Beauwain, must. out June 3, 1865

George W. Chase; disch. for disability, Feb. 9, 1863

Jonathan Day, trans. to Vet. Res. Corps., Feb. 15, 1864

Rock Edwards, must. out June 3, 1865

Jesse Foster, disch. for disability, March 3, 1863

Daniel A. Gates, disch. for disability, Feb. 26, 1863

John Hazlett, disch. for wounds, Sept. 14, 1862

Henry Hinman, Died of disease in Tennessee. Jan 21, 1863

Nutter M. Halsted, must. June 3, 1865

John R. Haynes, must. out June 3, 1865

George Isham, died in action at Campbell's Station, Tenn. Nov. 16, 1863

Lewis Jones, accidentally killed at Antietam, Md., Sept. 17, 1862

Henry Jackson, died in action at Campbell's Station, Tenn. Nov. 16, 1863

Sylvanus McManus, disch. for disability, Dec. 3, 1862

Ferdinand Metzger, disch. for disability, Oct 3, 1864

Stephen Mead, must. out June 3, 1865

Benjamin Norris, must. out June 3, 1865

Columbus Paddock, disch. for disability, Feb. 3, 1863

Edward F. Rice, must. out June 3, 1865

Chester J. Walser, must. out June 3, 1865

Lorenzo D. White, disch. for disability, Sept. 17, 1863



## Civil War Days Artillery cannon for mock battles





## The Battle of Mobile Bay

On August 5, 1864, at the Battle of Mobile Bay during the American Civil War (1861-65), Union Admiral David Farragut (1801-70) led his flotilla through the Confederate defenses at Mobile, Alabama, to seal one of the last major Southern ports. The fall of Mobile Bay was a major blow to the Confederacy, and the victory was the first in a series of Yankee successes that helped secure the re-election of President Abraham Lincoln (1809-65) later that year.

### BATTLE OF MOBILE BAY: BACKGROUND

Mobile became the major Confederate port on the Gulf of Mexico after the fall of New Orleans, Louisiana, in April 1862. With blockade runners carrying critical supplies from Havana, Cuba, into Mobile, Union General Ulysses S. Grant (1822-85) made the capture of the port a top priority after assuming command of all U.S. forces in early 1864.

Opposing Admiral David Farragut's force of 18 warships was a Confederate squadron of only four ships; however, it included the CSS Tennessee, said to be the most powerful ironclad afloat. Farragut also had to contend with two powerful Confederate batteries inside of forts Morgan and Gaines.

### BATTLE OF MOBILE BAY: AUGUST 5, 1864

On the morning of August 5, Farragut's force steamed into the mouth of Mobile Bay in two columns led by four ironclads and met with devastating fire that immediately sank one of its iron-hulled, single-turret monitors, the USS Tecumseh. The rest of the fleet fell into confusion but Farragut allegedly rallied them with the words: "Damn the torpedoes. Full speed ahead!" Although the authenticity of the quote has been questioned, it nevertheless became one of the most famous in U.S. military history.



The citadel at Fort Morgan as it appeared after its surrender following the Battle of Mobile Bay.

The Yankee fleet quickly knocked out the smaller Confederate ships, but the Tennessee fought a valiant battle against overwhelming odds before it sustained heavy damage and surrendered. The Union laid siege to forts Morgan and Gaines, and both were captured within several weeks. Confederate forces remained in control of the city of Mobile, but the port was no longer available to blockade runners.

The Battle of Mobile Bay lifted the morale of the North. With Grant stalled at Petersburg, Virginia, and General William T. Sherman (1820-91) unable to capture Atlanta, Georgia, the capture of the bay became the first in a series of Union victories that stretched to the fall presidential election, in which the incumbent, Abraham Lincoln, defeated Democratic challenger George McClellan (1826-85), a former Union general. Mobile Bay to Page 10



David Glasgow Farragut (July 5, 1801 – August 14, 1870) was a flag officer of the United States Navy during the American Civil War. He was the first rear admiral, vice admiral, and admiral in the United States Navy. He is remembered for his order at the Battle of Mobile Bay usually paraphrased as "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead" in U.S. Navy tradition.

Born near Knoxville, Tennessee. Despite his young age, Farragut served in the War of 1812 under the command of his adoptive father. He received his first command in 1824 and participated in anti-piracy operations in the Caribbean Sea. He served in the Mexican-American War under the command of Matthew C. Perry, participating in the blockade of Tuxpan. After the war, he oversaw the construction of the Mare Island Naval Shipyard, the first U.S. Navy base established on the Pacific Ocean.

Though Farragut resided in Norfolk, Virginia prior to the Civil War, he was a Southern Unionist who strongly opposed Southern secession and remained loyal to the Union after the outbreak of the Civil War. Despite some doubts about Farragut's loyalty, Farragut was assigned command of an attack on the important Confederate port city of New Orleans. With the Union in control of the Mississippi, Farragut led a successful attack on Mobile Bay, home to the last major Confederate port on the Gulf of Mexico.



# WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR CONTENT SUGGESTIONS, COMMENTS, BOOK REPORTS, FAMILY CIVIL WAR STORIES, ADVICE.

Send your contributions to the Editor at [sarwilliamssa@gmail.com](mailto:sarwilliamssa@gmail.com)



## Commander - From Page 1



Above: Church Services in the park for re-enactors and public.

Below: A portion of the Union encampment with our Camp's tents being the 2nd and 3rd up from the bottom.



On both days many visitors came by to check out the tents and all of the re-enactors doing what soldiers then typically did - sitting and chatting, smoking pipes, and poking at the fires. When they would come up to my tent I would engage them in conversation and ask each gentleman if he had done his genealogy back to the Civil War to see if he had an ancestor who fought on the 'right' side. Simple enough but I got into involved conversations with at least 8 gentlemen who expressed interest in our organization. Each walked away with the pamphlets and my business card. At least two I can be fairly certain will end up joining. One I know and the other is a young man, maybe just in college, who came back a second time and told me that he had started doing his research. People like this are what we need to meet. We can't do this just waiting for them to knock on our door. It's the 80-20 rule - to get 20 members you have to expect that 80 will not pan out - but you get 20 members.

Now let's see what's coming up in this next year. Our first meeting will be in September and we will start using the ritual for the meetings. I have asked secretary Pfauth, for two things, 1) to check on the possibility of a tour of the civil war paintings that was done years ago, 2) to look for a larger place to hold our meetings. Then we have elections at the November meeting to think about. Installation in January sometime and then March and Department Encampment in April.

Why a larger meeting place? **IF** we get more members and they attend, Brother Gorski's location cannot hold any more than what we can seat now. The refreshments we and his wife provide are truly appreciated and I (my stomach actually) would hate to miss that but it would be necessary. We need new members and we need them to become engaged and attend the meetings.

At the September meeting we'll be using some of the standard meeting ritual to conduct camp business. See earlier newsletters for that ritual.

See you all at the next meeting

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

Steve Williams, Frederick H. Hackeman Camp 85 Commander

## Incidents of the battle

### Farragut lashed to the rigging

An anecdote of the battle that has some dramatic interest has it that Farragut was lashed to the mast during the passage of Fort Morgan. The image that it brings to mind is of absolute resolve: if his ship were to be sunk in the battle, he would go down with her. The truth, however, is more prosaic. He was indeed lashed to the rigging of the mainmast, but it was a precautionary move rather than an act of defiance. It came about after the battle had opened and smoke from the guns had clouded the air. In order to get a better view of the action, Farragut climbed into Hartford's rigging and soon was high enough that a fall would certainly incapacitate him and could have killed him. Seeing this, Captain Drayton sent a seaman aloft with a piece of line to secure the admiral. He demurred, saying, "Never mind, I am all right," but the sailor obeyed his captain's orders, tying one end of the line to a forward shroud, then around the admiral and to the after shroud.

Later, when CSS Tennessee made her unsupported attack on the Federal fleet, Farragut climbed into the mizzen rigging. Still concerned for his safety, Captain Drayton had Flag Lieutenant J. Crittenden Watson tie him to the rigging again. Thus, the admiral had been tied to the rigging twice in the course of the battle.

### Damn the torpedoes

Most popular accounts of the battle relate that Brooklyn slowed when Tecumseh crossed her path, and Farragut asked why she was not moving ahead. The reply came back that naval mines (then called "torpedoes") were in her path—to which he allegedly replied, "Damn the torpedoes." The story did not appear in print until several years later, and some historians question whether it happened at all.

Some forms of the story are highly unlikely; the most widespread is that he shouted to Brooklyn, "Damn the torpedoes! Go ahead!" Men present at the battle doubted that any such verbal communication could be heard above the din of the guns. More likely, if it happened, is that he said to the captain of Hartford, "Damn the torpedoes. Four bells, Captain Drayton." Then he shouted to the commander of Metacomet, lashed to Hartford's side, "Go ahead, Jouett, full speed." The words have been altered in time to the more familiar, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!"

### Army signals

Prior to the battle, army and navy used completely different signals. The navy used a cumbersome system of colored flags that would impart messages that had to be decoded, whereas the army was experimenting with a far simpler wig-wag system, recently developed by Col. Albert J. Myer. In order to communicate with army forces ashore after the fleet was safely inside Mobile Bay, several members of the fledgling Signal Corps were put on the major ships of Farragut's fleet. They were expected to stay out of the way until they

were needed; those on Hartford, for example, were assigned to assist the surgeon, so they were stationed below decks.

When Brooklyn encountered her difficulties with Tecumseh and the minefield, Captain Avery of Brooklyn wanted clarification of his orders more rapidly than could be done with navy signals, so he asked his army representatives to relay his question to the flagship. In order to read the message, the signal corpsmen on Hartford were brought up from below, and they stayed up through the rest of the fight. Their contribution was acknowledged by Farragut.

### Aftermath

The Battle of Mobile Bay was not bloody by standards set by the armies of the Civil War, but it was by naval standards. It was only marginally, if at all, less bloody than the Battle of Forts Jackson and St. Philip and the Battle of Hampton Roads. The Federal fleet had lost 150 men killed and 170 wounded; on the Confederate ships, only 12 were dead and 19 wounded. Union Army losses were very light; in the siege of Fort Morgan, only one man was killed and seven wounded. Confederate losses, though not stated explicitly, seem to have been only slightly greater.

The continued presence of a Union Army force near Mobile constrained the Confederate Army in its last desperate campaigns. Maury realized that the numbers opposite him were inadequate for an attack, but the loss of Mobile would have been such a severe blow to the public mood that he would not send his guns or spare troops to support other missions.

This was particularly important to Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, who was at that time engaged in the Atlanta campaign. Because Mobile remained unconquered the significance of Farragut's victory initially had little effect on Northern public opinion. As time passed and a sequence of other Union victories seemed to show that the war was winding down, the battle began to loom larger.

When Atlanta fell, in the words of historian James M. McPherson, "In retrospect the victory at Mobile Bay suddenly took on new importance as the first blow of a lethal one-two punch." The dispersal of Northern gloom assured President Abraham Lincoln's re-election in what was regarded as a referendum on continuation of the war.

With the capture of Fort Morgan, the campaign for the lower Mobile Bay was complete. Canby and Farragut had already decided before the first landings on Dauphin Island that the army could not provide enough men to attack Mobile itself; furthermore, the Dog River Bar that had impeded bringing Tennessee down now prevented Farragut's fleet from going up. Mobile did come under combined army-navy attack, but only in March and April 1865, after Farragut had been replaced by Rear Adm. Henry K. Thatcher. The city finally fell in the last days of the war.

A number of Civil War-era shipwrecks from the battle and its aftermath remain in the bay into the present, including American Diver, CSS Gaines, CSS Huntsville, USS Philippi, CSS Phoenix, USS Rodolph, USS Tecumseh, and CSS Tuscaloosa.





## The Grand Army of the Republic in Michigan

The Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) was the first truly national veterans organization in the country. Membership was limited to veterans of the American Civil War who served as soldiers, sailors or marines during 1861-1865.

The structure included the National Organization, State level organizations known as Departments and local units known as Posts. All members belonged to a Post. The Post usually met twice a month. Delegates represented the Post at annual meetings of the Department known as Encampments. The Department Encampment elected delegates to attend the annual National Encampments.

Those seeking membership completed applications stating their background and military service. Upon acceptance this information was recorded in a Post Descriptive Book. Financial records, including payment of dues and other related information were kept. Many Posts purchased, or were presented, large bound volumes known as Memorial Books. A page was provided for each member and contained personal background information and the reminiscences of the member about his military service and his closest friends in the service and obituary comments upon his death. Minute Books contain the history of the actions and activities of the Post.

All of the above noted materials are “one of a kind” records. The Post was not required to file copies of this material elsewhere.

Each Post filed Quarterly Reports (later semi-annual, and finally annual reports) of new members, suspensions, drops, transfers and deaths of their members. The Department copies of these reports are found at the State of Michigan Archives. Department headquarters were located in the Capitol Building in Lansing from 1897 to 1956.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is the heir and successor organization to the Grand Army of the Republic. We are chartered by Act of Congress and are one of the five Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Among the charges given to us by the GAR was that we were to preserve and make available, for research, the records of their Order and information on all who served during the Civil War. In this fashion we would keep alive the memory of the sacrifices they made to secure the future of the country and keep green their memory in the eyes of the nation.

## The GAR Records Project

Among the key objectives of this committee is to do a complete county by county search for materials of the type described.

The results of this activity will lead to the development of a definitive list, by Post, of the surviving records by type, their location and information on a contact person for research purposes.

It is hoped that whenever possible that we will be allowed to make copies of these “one of a kind” materials to assure that the contents of the records are not lost. Copies can then be placed in several locations for preservation. There is no way that these materials could be reconstructed if the originals are lost.

We need to create awareness that in those instances where the holders of these records decide to dispose of them, that they call us first. They need to know that someone is interested in maintaining this important portrait of our history for future generations.

Anyone having information on the location of GAR records, or questions about the project are asked to contact the Chairman:

Gary L. Gibson, PDC  
PropeciaMD  
G.A.R. Records Officer  
Department of Michigan, SUVCW

## Donations to SUVCW Can you write off donations to a 501 C 4?

Contributions to civic leagues or other section 501(c)(4) organizations generally are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. They may be deductible as trade or business expenses, if ordinary and necessary in the conduct of the taxpayer’s business.

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