

# The Pritchard Press

*The Newsletter of the General Benjamin Pritchard, Camp 20, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

Vol. XXXV, No. 6

November, 2019

## Camp Officers 2019

Commander: Michael Culp  
 Sr. Vice Commander: Gary Thomas  
 Jr. Vice Commander: Steve Rossio  
 Camp Secretary: Gary Gibson  
 Camp Treasurer: David Conklin  
 Guard: Charles Keith  
 Guide: Vacant  
 Patriotic Instructor: Vacant  
 Eagle Scout Coordinator: J. Keith/G. Swain  
 Memorials and Monuments: Gary Swain  
 Graves Registration: Gary Swain  
 Color Bearer: Glenn Hall  
 Historian: Gary Gibson  
 Chaplin: Bill Brennan  
 Asst. Chaplin: Jeffry Baker  
 Council: Bill Costello, Robert Townsend, Jeffry Baker  
 Signals Officer: John Keith  
 Pritchard Press Editor: Gary Swain

## 2019 Camp Schedule

Nov. 5, 2019	Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
Nov. 11, 2019	Kalamazoo County Veterans Day Ceremony-Kalamazoo's Rose Park Veterans Memorial 2:00 PM
Nov. 23, 2019	<b>Remembrance Day-Gettysburg, PA</b>
Dec., 2019	No Camp Meeting

## 2020 Camp Schedule

January 25, 2020	January Thaw Fellowship Luncheon-Location to be Determined
February, 2020	No Camp Meeting
March 3, 2020	Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
April 7, 2020	Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
<b>April 27, 2020</b>	<b>135th Department Encampment-Okemos</b>
May 5, 2020	Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
May 9, 2020	Veteran Flags at Mtn. Home Cemetery
May 16, 2020	Riverside GAR Monument Cleanup
May 25, 2020	Federal Holiday-Memorial Day
May 30, 2020	Memorial Day Ceremony at Riverside
June 2, 2020	Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
July 7, 2020	Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
August 4, 2020	Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
Aug. 13-16, 2020	<b>National Encampment-Atlanta, GA</b>
Sept. 1, 2020	Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
Oct. 6, 2020	Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
Nov. 3, 2020	Election Day
	Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM

# 2019 Veterans Day Ceremony

## Kalamazoo's Rose Park Veterans Memorial

November 11, 2019, 2:00 PM

General Benjamin Pritchard, Camp 20, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to provide Color Guard for Veteran's Day ceremony.



## Join the Sons of Union Veterans

If you had an ancestor who fought to preserve the Union during the Civil War 1861-1865 and would like to join with other like-minded decedents in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, please call Camp 20 Commander Mike Culp at 269- 342-4741 or join us at our monthly camp meetings held at the Portage, MI Library at 7:00 PM on the first Tuesday of the month, March to November.



## BY THE NUMBERS

# 60,000

The number of books that have been written about the Civil War. That's nearly one book per week since the war.

# 6,000

The number of books that have been written about the 72 hours of battle at Gettysburg

# 15,000

The number of books that have been written about Abraham Lincoln. That's more books written about a single person except Jesus Christ.

Photo of a 34 foot tower containing less than half (6800) of the books written about Abraham Lincoln



# Upcoming Events

## Kalamazoo Civil War Roundtable

Westwood Methodist Church

538 Nichols Rd.

### Schedule of Speakers

Next Meeting: Friday, October 18, 2019, 7:00 PM-Bill Grandstaff-"The Men of Fort Sumter"



## Grand Rapids Civil War Roundtable

Kuyper College-Room 213 (New Location)

3333 East Beltline Ave. NE, Grand Rapids

### Schedule of Speakers

Wednesday, October 16, 2019, 7:00 PM-Jim Pula "The 11th Corps at Gettysburg"

Wednesday, November 20, 2019, 7:00 PM-Steve Soper "Grand Rapids Soldiers that died in the Civil War"

Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 7:00 PM-Jerry Berg "Hand to Hand Combat"

Wednesday, February 19, 2020, 7:00 PM-GRCWRT Membership Open Roundtable

Wednesday, March 18, 2020 7:00 PM-John Branden "Treatment of Confederate Colored Soldiers"

**Thursday**, April 30, 2020 7:00 PM Special Meeting with the G.R. Historical Society

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 7:00 PM-Steve Hawks "Battle of Cedar Creek"

Wednesday, June 10, 2020 7:00 PM To Be Announced



Sunday, February (TBD), 2020, 3:00 PM- Cameron Brown- "Abraham Lincoln"

## Michigan's GAR Museum

Located at 224 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids, MI , the museum is open the first and second Wednesday of each month from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Below is the schedule for the first half of 2019

October 19th (8 PM - Midnight) - Ghost Tour at Museum

November 6th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

November 11th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Veterans Day

November 13th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

November 19th (7 PM) - Speaker Program: (Quita Shier - Warriors in Mr. Lincoln's Army: Stories of Native Americans who fought in the Civil War

December 4th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

December 7th (Noon - 8 PM) - Eaton Rapids

Hometown Christmas

December 11th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

### 2019 Seminar Programs

Saturday, October 19th, 8:00 PM to Midnight: **Ghost Tour of Museum**

Tuesday, November 19th (7 PM) - Speaker Program: **Warriors in Mr. Lincoln's Army: Stories of Native Americans who fought in the Civil War** (Quita Shier)



## "Harriet"



The experiences of abolitionist, underground railroad conductor and women's rights advocate, Harriet Tubman, read like the exploits of a fictional super hero. The deeply religious and seemingly fearless Tubman escaped slavery in Maryland without assistance. She then returned 19 times to lead over 70 family members and others to freedom. In her words, "*I never lost a passenger.*" She also helped John Brown plan his famous raid on Harpers Ferry which played a significant role in the start of the Civil War. During the war, she served as a nurse, cook and spy for the Union Army. Also, she was the first woman to lead an armed assault during the Civil War which resulted in the freeing of 750 enslaved people. She then recruited many of these former slaves and others to join the Union Army. Later, she served with the famed 54th Mass. Colored Regiment and is said to have served Col. Robert Gould Shaw his last meal before the assault of Fort Wagner.

Finally, this November, film director Kasi Lemmons will bring America's most revered and formidable abolitionist to the big screen with the new movie **Harriet**. Surprisingly, this is the first major film exploring her life. Those interested in events leading to the Civil War and a heroic American's amazing story will not want to miss this film.





## CAMP ACTIVITIES

**A** key objective for Camp 20 was to enlist additional outside organizations to help in our efforts to clean, repair and preserve veteran gravestones and monuments within our area of responsibility. There are approximately 9,000 Civil War graves within the four-county area of our responsibility, yet the maintenance was beyond our resources. However, early this spring, the Sunrise Kiwanis helped us clean Civil War veteran gravestones in Riverside Cemetery in Kalamazoo. Further, in September we initiated an outreach to the Boy Scouts which resulted in a tremendous start with helping to preserve gravestones. We are grateful to everyone who participated in the following events.

### Eagle Scout Veteran Gravestone Project



Eagle Scout candidate Josh D. Standing in front of 170 freshly cleaned veteran gravestones in Riverside Cemetery.

On Labor day weekend the Camp worked with Eagle Scout candidate Josh D. and Portage Troop 244 which cleaned 170 veteran gravestones in Kalamazoo's Riverside Cemetery. This was Josh's Eagle Scout project and he recruited sixteen additional scouts, plus several parents and scout leaders to provide the labor for this project. The scouts and volunteers worked diligently and did an outstanding job of cleaning and helping to preserve the veteran gravestones.

Camp 20 Brother Gary Swain provided the training and the camp provided all of the cleaning materials and cleaning solutions. Brothers Culp, Gibson, Gilchrist, Keith, Townsend and Sister Patti Townsend worked alongside the scouts and volunteers to provide additional help and expert advice when needed.

# Labor Day Weekend Eagle Scout Project Continued

Josh was successful in recruiting approximately 20 volunteers including other scouts in his troop plus parents and leaders. They learned a great deal about the proper care of veteran gravestones and made significant progress towards the preservation of the veteran gravestones.



Portage Troop 244 during training



All Scout volunteers working diligently to clean and repair veteran gravestones

# September Eagle Scout Project

The Camp worked with a second Eagle Scout candidate, from Portage, MI Troup 244, Matt. K. as he recruited another dedicated work force of volunteers to continue our large project in Riverside Cemetery. This group of dedicated volunteers, under the leadership of Matt, was successful in cleaning another 150 gravestones.



## September Eagle Scout Project Continued



Eagle Scout candidate Matt, also leading by example



Industrious volunteers

## October Eagle Scout Project

**T**he third Eagle Scout project of the year was held at Riverside Cemetery on Saturday, October 19, 2019. Matt W. was the Eagle Scout-elect and the supervisor of the grave stone cleaning project. His efforts were focused in the Spanish American War (the original Sons of Union Veterans) section of the GAR lot. The scouts and volunteers cleaned and preserved 70 gravestones and removed the overgrowth from the bases of the graves. This was the first preservation project in this section and the results were outstanding.



The sod was removed from the bases of gravestones and the stones were cleaned and preserved

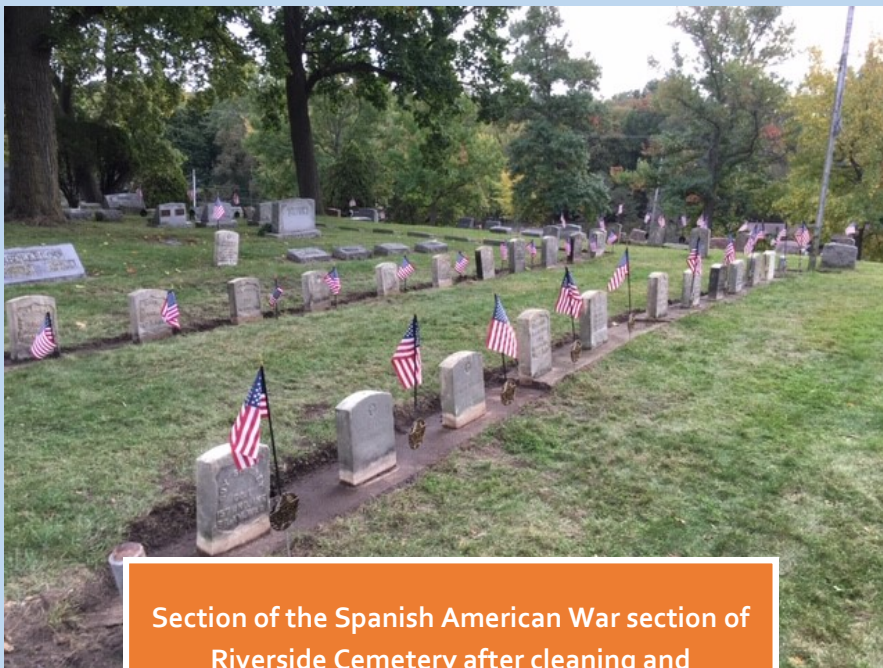
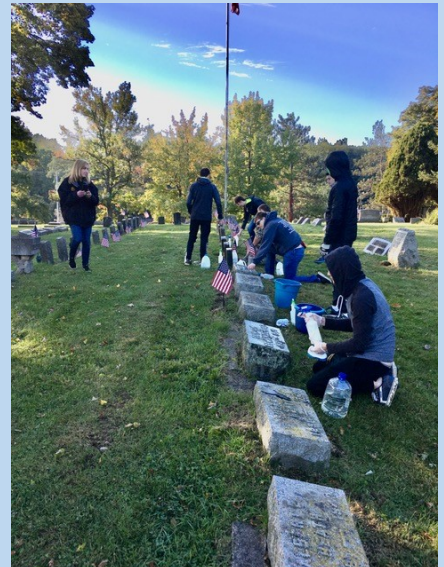
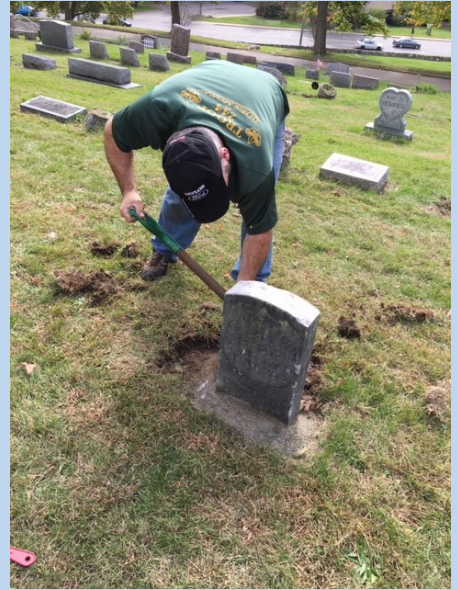


All graves were provided with flag holders and new or refurbished flags

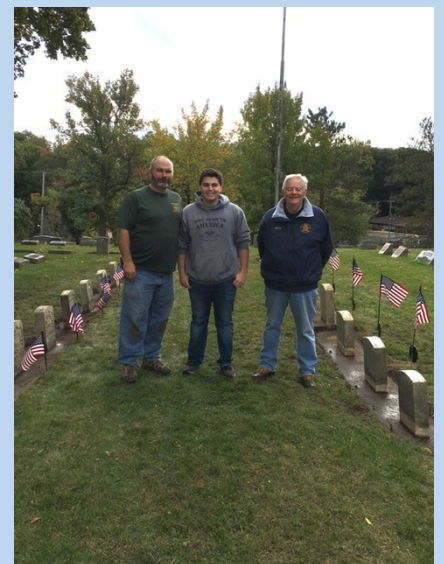
# October Eagle Scout Project Continued



Matt W. supervising his team of volunteers cleaning and preserving gravestones



Section of the Spanish American War section of Riverside Cemetery after cleaning and preservation





# General Benjamin Pritchard Sign Installation



**T**he eagerly anticipated sign for the grave of our camp's namesake, General Benjamin Pritchard, was installed at his gravesite in Allegan's Oakwood Cemetery in late September. The sign was designed with the intent of both honoring General Pritchard and keeping his memory alive within the local community. It reads:

**General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20  
General Benjamin Pritchard Gravesite  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
September 2019**

Final installation was completed by Camp 20 Brothers: Mike Culp, John Keith, Jay Miller, Glenn Hall, Robert Townsend, Gary Gibson, and Bill Brennan



Newly installed two- sided sign in front of General Benjamin Pritchard grave marker

# “Last Soldier”

Camp 20 Brothers Bill Brennan and Len Sheaffer represented our camp at a Last Soldier rededication for George R. Streeter of St. Joseph County, IN, who is buried in New Carlisle Cemetery in New Carlisle, IN. The ceremony of rededication was conducted by the John Auten, Camp 8, Department of Indiana in South Bend.



Fife and Drum. Camp 20 Brother Bill Brennan PDC PCC provided the fife music for the occasion.



Last Soldier Monument to George S. Streeter.



Taps played by student musicians from New Prairie High School



Brothers of John Auten, Camp 8, South Bend, Department of Indiana



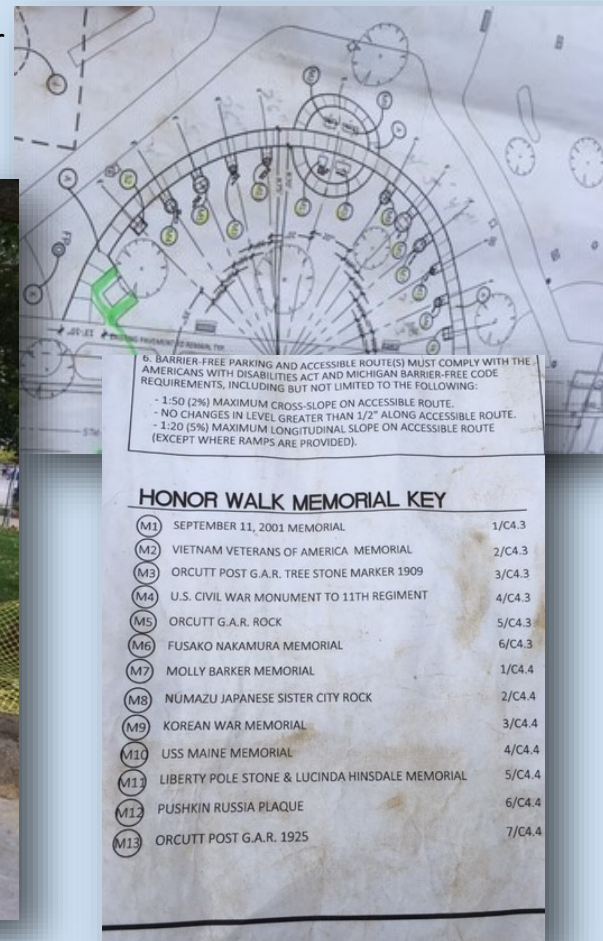
American Legion Post 297 and Sons of American Legion. Also participating were the SUCVW of IN Camps 116 & 117, SUCVW of MI Camps 20, 85 & 135 as well as the Mich.14th and the Ind.27th SVR

# Bronson Park Memorials

**K**alamazoo's Bronson Park has recently been the subject of controversy over a number of issues including the removal of the Fountain of Pioneers and the homeless protests of last year. With these events behind us, Kalamazoo Director of Parks and Recreation, Sean Fletcher, has embarked upon a plan to redesign some elements of the park to upgrade infrastructure and to make the park more user-friendly. Included in this effort was the creation of an Honor Walk which would utilize an arched walkway at the east end of the park where most historical and veteran monuments would be relocated. This arched walk would be anchored by the 10" Columbiad cannon dedicated to the GAR Orcutt Post on the southeast corner of the park and the Spanish American War Memorial in the northeast corner of the park. These two important monuments will remain in their original locations. The remaining monuments will be relocated to the Honor Walk. They will also add interpretive signage using QR codes which will link to the Parks Department website.

At the beginning of this process, the Parks Department committed to work with the community stakeholders to assure as much community input into this process as possible. To that end, our camp and other veteran organizations were invited to the park this past spring to discuss this project and to solicit our advice. Once the work started in mid-October, they again asked us to be present as the relocation of the memorials began. Additionally, they have requested that the Son's write the copy for the signage relative to the six monuments within our sphere of interest.

Below and right are photographs of the design blueprints for the Honor Walk and a photo of the initial work begun in mid-October, 2019.



# Veterans Day

November 11, 2019



Veterans Day, originally called Armistice Day until 1954, honors all veterans who served in the U. S. Military. Its origin goes back to the formal signing of the armistice in World War I which was signed on the 11th hour, of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. **Please join the Brothers of Camp 20 on November 11th, at 2:00 PM, at the Rose Park Veterans Memorial in Kalamazoo in honoring all veterans.**



The Veterans Day National Ceremony is held each year on November 11th at Arlington National Cemetery . The ceremony commences precisely at 11:00 a.m. with a wreath laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns and continues inside the Memorial Amphitheater with a parade of colors by veterans' organizations and remarks from dignitaries. The ceremony is intended to honor and thank all who served in the United States Armed Forces.



U.S. World War I veteran Joseph Ambrose (1896–1988) attends the dedication parade for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial holding the flag that covered the casket of his son, Clement, who was killed in the Korean War