



# The Pritchard Press

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

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April, 2021

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## 2021 Camp Schedule

- May 1, 2021 **136th Department Encampment Okemos, MI**
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- May 4, 2021 6:00 pm Camp Meeting-Club Car Grill on D Ave. in Cooper, MI
- May 8, 2021 9:30 am Veteran Flag Installation Mountain Home Cem.-Kazoo
- 
- May 15, 2021 12:00 pm GAR Hall-Eaton Rapids  
2022 Nat. Encampment Planning Meeting
- May 22, 2021 9:30 am-Riverside GAR Monument Cleanup
- May 23, 2021 3:00 pm Commemorative Plaque Dedication-Corporal Crittenden-4th MI Cav.-Macon Twsp. Cem.
- May 30, 2021 7:00 pm Memorial Day Ceremony-GAR Monument-Riverside Cemetery-Kalamazoo
- June 1, 2021 7:00 pm Camp Meeting-GAR Monument-Riverside Cem.
- August 4-9, 2021 **SUVCW National Encampment St. Louis, MO**



## CAMP ACTIVITIES

### April Camp Meeting

The April camp meeting was held on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at the Club Car Grill in Cooper, MI. The first in-person meeting of 2021 was very well attended by Camp 20 brothers and family. The camp meeting was dedicated to Camp 20 Brother David Conklin in recognition of his retirement from 50 years of service to our country. Brother Dave served in the U. S. Army, the National Guard and the Volunteer Defense Force. He saw service in Viet Nam, Iraq and in Operation Desert Storm.



# CAMP ACTIVITIES



Camp 20 Commander John Keith presenting special recognition award to Camp Treasurer Brother David Conklin

The General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was honored to present Brother David Conklin with a plaque (pictured below) in recognition of his many years of service to the country. The plaque reads in part *...(he) has kept the dedication and spirit of our predecessors of the Great Rebellion alive and well.*



Brother David Conklin (holding award) with family and friends



# CAMP ACTIVITIES

## Happy Birthday GAR

Brothers Bill Brennan PCC, PDC, Ron Bellinger and Len Sheaffer SVC joined the Michigan Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum, in Eaton Rapids, in celebration of the 155th anniversary of the formation of the nations first veteran's organization, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). The GAR was the legal predecessor of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and was made up of Union veterans of the Army, Navy, Marines and Revenue Cutter Service. By 1890 the GAR had over 400,000 members throughout the country and served as a fraternal advocacy group in support of veteran's rights.



AMERICAN MEMORY



T

he City of Plainwell, MI honored recently deceased Camp 20 Brother Jack Shoemaker by planting a tree at the Veterans memorial which Brother Jack was instrumental in



creating. Brothers, Delemme, Miller, Culp & Swain represented the camp at the April ceremony.

# CAMP ACTIVITIES

## Poplar Hill Cemetery Clean up

The Hopkins HS FFA, led by Camp 20 Brother Comer Skinner, conducted their annual clean up of Poplar Hill Cemetery on Saturday April 24th. There was an excellent turn out and much was accomplished. Camp 20 brothers focused on raking, cleaning, resetting and preserving Civil War veteran gravestones.



L to R: Brothers James Davis, John Keith, Comer Skinner, Gary Swain, Mike Culp, Bill Brennan and Len Sheaffer.



L to R: Brothers Brennan, Culp, Davis and Keith with Civil War era U. S. flag



Brother James Davis  
cleaned veteran gravestones



Brother Mike Culp  
Raker par excellence



Brother Gary Swain cleaning and resetting  
Civil War veteran gravestone



# GAR

26th National Encampment

Washington, DC

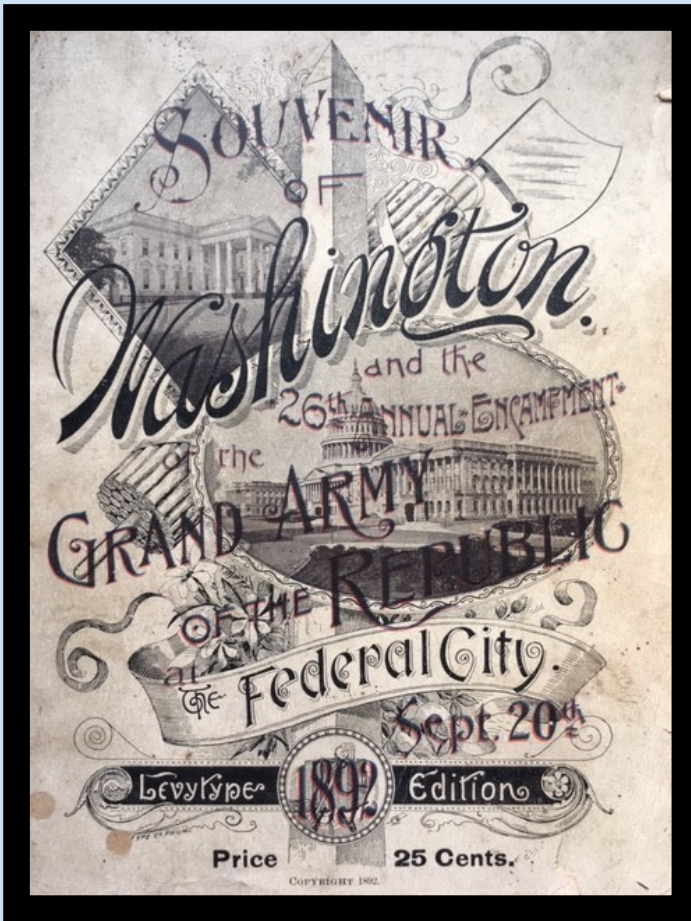
September 20-24, 1892



G A R parade on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington DC, September, 1892

**G**rand Army of the Republic was founded in 1866 as the first national organization of Union veterans of the Civil War. By the time it held its 26th National Encampment in Washington DC, in September of 1892 its membership had peaked at 410,000 (1890). The first GAR National Encampment we held in Indianapolis, IN which also served as the last National Encampment site in 1949.

## GAR Souvenirs of 26th National Encampment



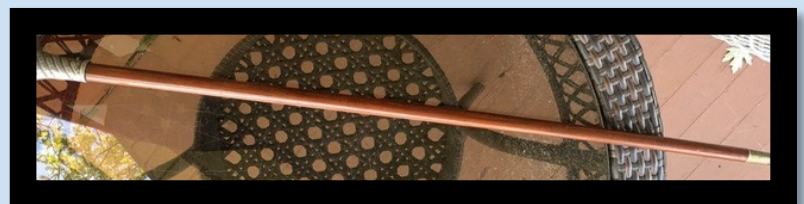
1892 Encampment Program



Encampment Ribbons and Badges



The Union Veterans marching in the front ranks in the photo on the preceding page are carrying GAR canes in lieu of swords. Below is one of those canes and to the left are photos of the handle and end cap.



# General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20

## Department of Michigan

### Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

#### Camp Officers 2021

Commander: John Keith

Sr. Vice Commander: Len Sheaffer

Jr. Vice Commander: Doug Gilchrist

Camp Secretary: Gary Gibson

Camp Treasurer: David Conklin

Guard: Charles Keith

Guide: Robert Townsend

Patriotic Instructor: Mike Culp

Eagle Scout Coordinator: Gary 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

#### Join the Sons of Union Veterans

If you had an ancestor who fought to preserve the Union during the Civil War 1861-1865 or simply share our values and would like to join with other like-minded members in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, **please call Camp 20 Commander John Keith at 269 720-5251 or email to [hardtackcw@aol.com](mailto:hardtackcw@aol.com)**



#### SUVCW Department of Michigan

##### Endorses **Kalamazoo Lincoln Institute**

The SUVCW Department of Michigan has endorsed the project to bring a statue of Abraham Lincoln to Kalamazoo's Bronson Park. Check out the link on the Departments web site home page.

