

GEN. BENJ. D. PRITCHARD

# 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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January, 2022

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*Join the Sons of Union Veterans*



## 2022 Camp Schedule

- March 1, 2022 7:00 pm Camp Meeting- Plainwell-Ransom Library
- April 5, 2022 7:00 pm Camp Meeting Plainwell-Ransom Library
- Spring TBD 2022 Dedication of Pvt. Enoch Robinson-Vicksburg Cemetery
- May 3, 2022 7:00 pm Camp Meeting Location TBD
- May 13-14, 2022 Department Encampment Grand Rapids, MI
- June 7, 2022 7:00 pm Camp Meeting Location TBD
- July 5, 2022 7:00 pm Camp Meeting Location TBD
- July 16, 2022 Dedication of Pvt. Warner Last C W Soldier-Kent County
- Aug. 11-13, 2022 National Encampment Grand Rapids, MI



# CAMP ACTIVITIES

## Final Farewell

### Camp 20 Commander John R. Keith

The funeral for Commander John R. Keith was held on Saturday, December 11, 2021. The camp turned out in force to say a final farewell to Brother John.

After the funeral, the camp held a brief meeting, with Commander Keith’s mortal remains in attendance one last time. The new officers were sworn in to allow the camp to carry on the business that he had so ably advanced. John will certainly be missed by all, but he left the camp in good hands. The new Camp Commander is Len Sheaffer, Sr. Vice Commander is Doug Gilchrist and Junior Vice Commander is Robert Townsend.



## John H. Shelton

### Last Civil War Soldier

Fulton County, Indiana celebrated the life of the county’s last Civil War soldier, Pvt. John H. Shelton (1847-1942). Pvt. Shelton served in the 142nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry.



Brother Alan Hall of John Auten Camp 8 in Rochester, Indiana I.O.O.F Cemetery with Brother Bill Brennan of Gen. Pritchard Camp 20 of the Department of Michigan S.U.V.C.W.

# CAMP NEWS

A November winter storm caused a large limb to fall from an Oak tree onto several grave-stones in the GAR Lot in Kalamazoo’s Riverside Cemetery. Camp 20 Junior Vice Commander Robert Townsend and Sister Patti Townsend discovered the damage. Fortunately, it appears that the limb missed the GAR Monument and only caused minor issues with the veteran grave-stones. The city has agreed to clean up the debris, and the camp will reset the appropriate grave stones in the spring.



# CAMP ACTIVITIES

## ANNUAL CAMP "JANUARY THAW" LUNCHEON

The Camp held our annual January Thaw luncheon on Saturday, January 15th at the Club Car Grille in Cooper, MI. Guests were invited and no formal camp business was discussed. However, this event was an opportunity to enjoy socializing with other brothers and friends of Camp 20.



# CAMP ACTIVITIES

MARY ANN FRAZIER

## CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

The Camp formally recognized the service to our Civil War veterans and the GAR monument by Mary Ann Frazier, Sexton, Lakeview Cemetery, South Haven, MI. Mary Ann retired on December 31, 2021 after many years of management of the cemetery. Over the years she and her mother (a volunteer) gave special care to all veterans buried there. She was especially helpful to the Sons of Union Veterans in our efforts to recognize and preserve these veteran grave-stones. During the week of December 13, 2021 Camp Commander Len Sheaffer, PDC, PCC Bill Brennan and PCC Mike Culp presented her with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Certificate of Appreciation for all of her efforts over the past decades.



L to R: Camp 20 Brother Bill Brennan, Lakeview Cemetery Sexton Mary Ann Frazier and Brother Mike Culp.

L to R: Camp 20 Brother Mike Culp, Lakeview Cemetery Sexton Mary Ann Frazier and Camp 20 Commander Len Sheaffer





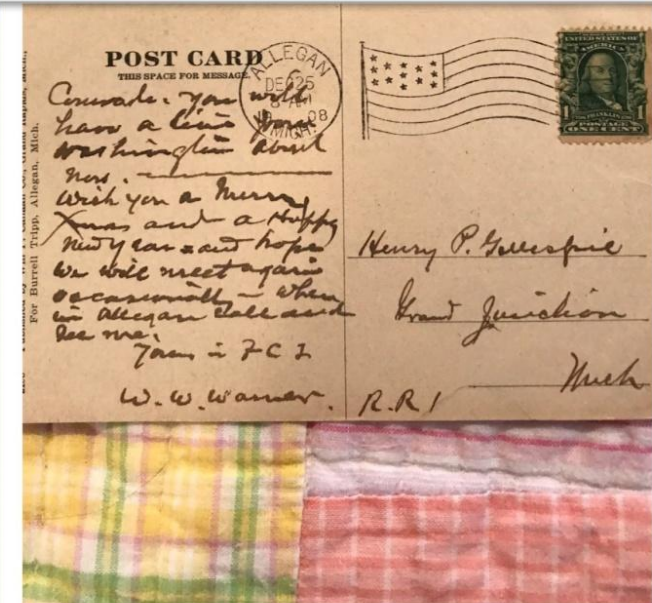
## A Veteran Post Card From Allegan 1908



The postcard on the left is a photo of The Allegan County courthouse with the GAR monument in front. Camp 20 replaced the sword of this monument more than a decade ago.

The card was sent from Allegan to Bill Brennan's Great Grandfather, 13th Michigan veteran Henry Gillespie. Brother Bill writes: *Here's William Warner, a civil war veteran. The info on him is in the 2nd frame. He never became Probate Judge for Allegan County. He was C.J. Post 56 of Allegan's GAR Post Commander for a number of times over the years. He resided over General B.D. Pritchard's Funeral at Oakwood Cemetery using the GAR Burial Ritual. Over 1000 people attended Pritchards funeral in 1907. While W.W. Warner was Post Commander. I read this in the life and times of Gen. B.D. Pritchard. Warner helped many veterans get their Pensions as an attorney.*

The post card was sent as a Christmas greeting and was posted on Dec.25, 1908. Please note that the postage stamp cost one cent. Also the card is signed "Yours in F C L"



# General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20

## Department of Michigan

### Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

#### Camp Officers 2022

Commander: Len Sheaffer

Sr. Vice Commander: Doug Gilchrist

Jr. Vice Commander: Robert Townsend

Camp Secretary: Gary Gibson

Camp Treasurer: Doug Gilchrist

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, Ron Bellenger,  
Jeffry Baker

Quartermaster: Doug Gilchrist

Signals Officer: Gary Swain

Pritchard Press Editor: Gary Swain

#### Join the Sons of Union Veterans

If you have 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 Len Sheaffer at 269 512-2640 or email to [gator0205@yahoo.com](mailto:gator0205@yahoo.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 Department's web site home page or directly at the following web address <https://suvchwmi.org/memorials/Kzoo-Lincoln/Kzoo-Lincoln-Project.php>

