

Michigan's  
*Messenger*



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN ~ SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Vol. VIII No. 3

Chartered June 24, 1884

January 2000

*PVT. FREDERICK ALBER*  
*MEMORIAL*

*by William B. McAfee*  
*Department Chaplain*

On July 30<sup>th</sup>, 1896, Frederick Alber, formerly a private in the 17<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry, was awarded a Medal of Honor for saving a lieutenant of his regiment who had been captured by Confederate troops during the Battle of Spotsylvania, VA. Over 103 years later, in the cemetery by the little United Methodist Church in Oregon Township, Lapeer County, this veteran was again honored, but in a much different way.

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Photo No. 1  
no border around photo

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Kent L. Armstrong

## In Memoriam

The Brothers of Gov. Crapo Camp 145 of Flint remember these tried, true and faithful Brothers who have been called by our Great Commander to the Grand Army above:

Harry L. Lamphere - 1993

Donald W. Moline - 1993

John W. Campbell (Real Son) - 1994

Fredrick R. Jones - 1995

William C. Boldt - 1996

Oliver W. Hayes - 1997

Gordon F. McAllister (Camp No. 67) - 1999

O vanished majesty of days! Rise type and mould today,  
And teach our sons to follow on where duty leads the way;  
That whatsoever trial comes, defying doubt and fear,  
They in the thickest fight shall stand and proudly answer "Here"!

Help build the Michigan Department's Memorial Fund and honor someone dear to you at the same time. For a contribution of \$10.00 or more, you may have a two line "In Memoriam" insertion for any one person printed in an issue of Michigan's Messenger.

Please make your check payable to the Department of Michigan, SUVCW and mail it to the address below.

### *Michigan's Messenger*

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## DEPARTMENT ORDERS

*DEPARTMENT ORDERS No. 3**SERIES 1999 ~ 2000*

**1.** It is a privilege to bear you greetings in our first newsletter of the year 2,000! In order to be "Y2K-Compliant," I ask all Brothers of the Department of Michigan to join me in a *Resolution* of recruiting *at least one* new Member, Associate or Junior into the SUVCW in this new year, new century, etc. Those who recommend at least 3 men (who actually become new Brothers of the Order) are entitled to a ribbon of "national color" to place **behind** their Member or Associate Badge. Those who recruit 5 or more new Brothers will receive a *Certificate of Merit* from our Commander-In-Chief. These accomplishments must be reported to the Department Secretary and forwarded in his report to the National Secretary.

We have many things to look forward to this year but first, let's catch up on what's transpired since our last newsletter in 1999.

**2.** The 1999 *Central Region Conference* (10-02-99) was well attended by Brothers from Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Wisconsin and Michigan. Special thanks are extended to Michigan Brothers Paul Hodges (PDC), Gordon McGarey, Mark Pangburn, and Dick Williams for use of their vans to shuttle guests to the State of Michigan Civil War flag storage facility and back to the hotel. Our Department presented *Certificates of Appreciation* to Bro. Steve Michaels of Wisconsin (Chair of the Conference Planning & Training Committee) and to Civil War historian David Finney (our Dinner Speaker).

The Department of Indiana will host the "CRC" in 2000. More details will be shared as they become available.

**3.** On 10-03-99 the Department Commander had the honor to present a *Certificate of Recognition* at the G.A.R. Hall in Sunfield. The dedication text read as follows. "Whereas, October 1999 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Hall at Sunfield, Michigan and Whereas, their combined efforts to restore the Hall and preserve its many G.A.R. artifacts have assured survival of these treasures for the education & appreciation of future generations, the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is proud to recognize the Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17, SUVCW and Helen M. Edwins Tent No. 30, DUVCW."

**4.** The Department of Michigan regrets to report the passing of its most senior Member, Brother **Don Carlos Pace**. He was a Charter Member of Colegrove-Woodruff Camp No. 22 when it reformed in 1992 (having previously been a member of Colegrove Camp 22 in Marshall, from 1922 to its disbandment in 1956). His grandfather, Isaac Grant, served as a Sergeant in Company I, 10<sup>th</sup> Michigan Volunteer Cavalry Regiment. Brother Pace was a veteran of World War I, having served with the U.S. Navy. His grandfather's cavalry saddle and a captured

Confederate sword have been displayed for the education of the public at the G.A.R. Hall in Marshall. All Camps were directed to have their Charters draped-in-mourning for the month of November.

**5.** I commend the memberships of all Camps that were able to take part in Veterans' Day related Parades & Ceremonies across Michigan.

**6.** I salute the Brothers of several Michigan Camps who gathered in Lapeer County on November 13<sup>th</sup> for a tribute to Medal of Honor recipient Frederick Alger (see story elsewhere).

**7.** Effective 11-16-99, Brother Gregory Hayes will serve our Department as Patriotic Instructor for the remainder of the 1999-2000 administrative year.

**8.** My sincere thanks to all from our Department who attended the Remembrance Day Parade and ceremony at Gettysburg on November 20<sup>th</sup>. After the National SUVCW Ceremony, held at the "Woolson Monument," our delegation again paid respect to the volunteers from Michigan who are buried in the National Cemetery there. Brother Richard Micka, of Col. George W. LaPoint Camp No. 76, generously replaced the 8 x 12 inch State of Michigan flags that were sold as a fundraiser and so we once again had a *flag-from-home* placed at each grave.

After our salute to those interred in the national cemetery, we honored the men of the 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Volunteer Infantry and placed a wreath of "Michigan Spruce" at their Monument, near the "Wheatfield" (see photo elsewhere). Brother Micka has also given us a supply of 12 x 18 inch State of Michigan flags to place at the Michigan regimental monuments for years to come.

**9.** Congratulations are extended to the members of Michigan's SVR unit (the 30<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry), Commander Ken Martin, and Adjutant Bill Morris, who all received special recognition awards from General David V. Medert at the annual SVR meeting in Gettysburg.

**10.** Another detail that was taken care of at Gettysburg on November 20<sup>th</sup>, was for the Department Commander to present a *Certificate of Appreciation* to Artist Dale Gallon, formally thanking him for his generous donation of the print, "Men of Iron," that our Department raffled (raising nearly \$2,000 for Civil War memorial preservation in Michigan).

**11.** The Department Commander has regretfully accepted the resignation of Brother Charles J. TenBrink, who

(Continued on page 4)

## DEPARTMENT ORDERS

served us so well as Dept. Webmaster over the past couple years. An increased work-load in Brother TenBrink's profession has prevented him from devoting the kind of time that he often gave to maintaining the Department's web pages and those of many Michigan Camps.

Effective 12-09-99, Brother David F. Wallace, PDC will serve as our Department Signals Officer. Camp and Department web page related communications should be sent to him at 7017 Granada Drive, Flint, MI 48532-3023. The new e-mail address for electronic submissions to the webpage is: [DFWSUVCW@aol.com](mailto:DFWSUVCW@aol.com)

Please join me in welcoming Dave to his new, important role for the Department, AND thanking Brother TenBrink for a job WELL DONE.

**12.** The Department of Michigan regrets to report the passing of Brother **Elwood E. Hawkins**, grandson of Private Abraham Hawkins (Company E, 125<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment). Brother Hawkins supported our organization as a Member of WA-BU-NO Camp No. 53 since January of 1994. All Camps are directed to have their Charters draped-in-mourning for the month of January, 2000.

**13.** All Camps are respectfully reminded that effective January 1, 2000 the annual per capita tax owed to the national organization is now \$12 for each Member and Associate. The annual per capita tax owed to the Department of Michigan for each Member and Associate remains at \$8, annually. This translates into a "break-even" figure of \$20 a year that must be collected.

Needless to say, in order for a Camp to have money to operate on locally, annual dues will have to be set at a figure of \$20 plus the previous amount collected for the "Camp budget."

To help our Junior Vice Department Commander convey the application fee and annual dues rate of the Camp that is closest to a prospective Member or Associate, Camp Secretaries are hereby asked to inform Department Secretary-Treasurer Lee what your Camp's annual dues rate is now set at.

**14.** With annual Camp Officer Installations taking place this time of year, Camps are respectfully asked to announce their new Officers in the local press. Space may be available for a group photo as well. Please include the name & telephone number of your Camp JVC (or other designee) to receive inquiries about the SUVCW. Thank you.

**15.** In addition to sending in two completed Form 22s to Department Secretary-Treasurer Lee, Camp secretaries are asked to please share new officer information with Department Signals Officer David F. Wallace (if your Camp doesn't maintain its own webpage). PDC Wallace can then update your Camp's page on the Department website. Send the info to Brother Wallace at 7017 Granada Drive, Flint, MI 48532-3032

or [DFWSUVCW@aol.com](mailto:DFWSUVCW@aol.com). Thank you.

**16.** Camp meeting information and the name & phone number of your Camp's new Junior Vice Commander (or other officer designated to receive membership inquiries) needs to be sent to Brother John Mann (2495 Washington Road, Lansing, MI 48911 or [Jrm7suvcw@aol.com](mailto:Jrm7suvcw@aol.com)) in order for him to properly update the Department's "Recruiting Brochure."

**17.** New Camp Commanders, Secretaries, and Treasurers (or Secretary-Treasurers) are encouraged to acquaint themselves with the current method of submitting per-capita payments and quarterly reports (via Form 27-28) as soon as possible.

**18.** All Brothers of the Department of Michigan are respectfully reminded that proposed amendments to our Department Bylaws should be submitted to the Department Bylaws Committee, via Senior Vice Department Commander Morris, a.s.a.p. This will allow the committee to evaluate and distribute a full accounting to all Camps, for review, by March 6<sup>th</sup> (ref. Bylaws ARTICLE XIV, Sec. 2).

**19.** All Brothers are encouraged to observe *Union Defenders Day* and attend the Department's *Mid-Winter Conference* on Saturday, February 12<sup>th</sup> (the 191<sup>st</sup> anniversary of President Lincoln's birthday) at the Best Western Midway Hotel & Conference Center, 7711 W. Saginaw Highway, Lansing. For those who haven't attended one of Department's functions at the "Midway," it is located on the south side of Saginaw Hwy., with access off of Canal Road. Take the Eastbound Saginaw Hwy. Exit (93-B) off of I-96, and you'll easily see the facility.

We'll be meeting in the "Eaton Room," which is to the left of the reception desk, as you enter the front lobby. Beginning at 1:00 PM, the schedule will follow the successful format of previous conferences and offer an opportunity for the Department Commander and Vice Commanders to informally discuss matters with their Camp level counterparts from across Michigan. This year's "program-portion" of the conference will be presented by Dr. Weldon Petz. He'll be sharing results of his work to locate and document Civil War memorials in Michigan. His photo-documentary on this work should be published in book form soon.

We'll adjourn at approximately 4:30 PM to allow the staff to set up for the evening "Washington-Lincoln Dinner," hosted this year by the SUVCW. As I reported in the April, 1999 issue of the *Messenger*, Brother Petz is a well known *Lincoln Scholar* and will also speak at our Dinner. Please see meal selection/reservation details elsewhere.

I will ask PDC Jim Lyons to write an article on *Union Defenders Day*.

(Continued on page 8)

## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

*COUNCIL**Dick Williams, Chairman*

The "Men of Iron" raffle held during the spring and summer of 1999 was a huge success. Due in no small part to the efforts of Kent and Doug Armstrong along with their families, \$2237.00 was raised. To be used to fund Camp level Memorial projects, this money may be applied for by any Camp involved in repair or restoration of a memorial (cannon, statues, plaques, flag poles, etc). It may also be used to assist in establishing new memorials. So far \$1000.00 has been allocated for Camp level projects.

Another request for \$500.00 is presently under advisement. Camps wishing to be considered to receive money from this fund for a Camp memorial project should submit a description of the project, an estimated time line for completion, along with a dollar amount that is being sought to the Department Council, in care of Dick Williams, as soon as possible.

Richard Williams  
Dept. Council Chairman  
1917 Teel Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48910

or via e-mail at  
[RAWSUVCW@aol.com](mailto:RAWSUVCW@aol.com)

## *NEW DEPARTMENT SIGNALS OFFICER*

David F. Wallace, PDC has been named to the post of Department Signals Officer (webmaster), following the resignation of Brother Charles TenBrink. All web related communications should be addressed to Brother Wallace via e-mail at:

[DFWSUVCW@aol.com](mailto:DFWSUVCW@aol.com)

or by snail mail:

David F. Wallace, PDC  
Department Signals Officer  
7017 Granada Drive  
Flint, MI 48532-3032

*CHAPLAIN**William McAfee*

You with little faith, listen up! Just about the time I'm ready to give up on getting a topic for the newsletter, the Lord provides something I want to share with you. This issue, it came in the form of my accidentally (Right, Lord!) coming across a 1900 replica of the Old Farmer's Almanac which was included as an attachment to the regular issue we bought for 2000. In it is a poem that MUST have been written for our order. Maybe it's even familiar to some of you who have been around the SUV a lot longer than I; it was new to me. It stuck out as something we can use for memorials, etc., in addition to or in place of When the Boys in Blue are Gone. There was no copyright on it, so I'm assuming it is in the public domain. (I have e-mailed the publisher, just in case permission is needed.) Decide for yourselves:

*The New Memorial Day*

*Oh, the roses we plucked for the blue,  
And the lilies we twined for the gray,  
We have bound in a wreath,  
And in silence beneath  
Slumber our heroes today.*

*Over the new-turned sod  
The sons of our fathers stand,  
And the fierce old fight  
Slips out of sight  
In the clasp of a brother's hand.*

*For the old blood left a stain  
That the new has washed away,  
And the sons of those  
That have faced as foes  
Are marching together today.*

*Oh, the blood that our fathers gave!  
Oh, the tide of our mothers' tears!  
And the flow of red  
And the tears they shed  
Embittered a sea of years.*

*But the roses we plucked for the blue,  
And the lilies we twined for the gray,  
We have bound in a wreath,  
And in glory beneath  
Slumber our heroes today.*

*Albert Bigelow Paine*

The author lived 1861-1937 and was a friend of Mark Twain. Could he have been a member of the Sons?

## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

*SECRETARY*

Richard Lee

First Quarter reports were on time, 11 October, from the following Camps:

|     |                         |
|-----|-------------------------|
| 7   | Austin Blair*           |
| 9   | George W. Howe          |
| 14  | Robert Finch            |
| 17  | Curtenius Guard         |
| 20  | Gen. Benjamin Pritchard |
| 22  | Colegrove-Woodruff*     |
| 43  | Nash-Hodges*            |
| 53  | Wa-Bu-No*               |
| 58  | George W. Anderson*     |
| 67  | Gen. Phil Kearney*      |
| 85  | Frederick H. Hackeman*  |
| 101 | Gen. Ulysses S. Grant*  |
| 120 | Gilluly-Kingsley*       |
| 145 | Gov. Henry Crapo*       |
| 160 | Henry F. Wallace*       |
| 259 | Archibald Stewart*      |
| 266 | Albert & James Lyon*    |
| 427 | Sgt. John S. Cosby      |
| 462 | Russell A. Alger*       |

\*Indicates Camps that have reported on time for the 3 quarters of 1999. The Department sincerely appreciates your efforts, Brothers!

Please return **both** copies of Form 22 that were mailed with the Form 27/28 on December 6<sup>th</sup>, as soon as your Camp officers are installed. List the day of the week and the months that your Camp meets. *For example:* the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of odd numbered months; or, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of even numbered months; or, the last Sunday of the month, except for June, September and December. Don't forget to include the time the meetings normally begin and the address of the meeting place (along with the building name). *Example:* Sgt. Alvin York VFW Hall, 123 West Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI.

*PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR*

Gregory Hayes

Brothers,

With great appreciation to Commodore Armstrong and all the Brothers of Michigan, I have accepted again to serve as the Department Patriotic Instructor. In this capacity please call upon this office for any assistance your Camp may require. As before I will be happy to travel to any Camp to give a few patriotic remarks, assist in ceremonies or other duties.

As we enter the new year we must reach back and pull the ideals of those, who we seek to honor, with us. Let me close this report by drawing on the wisdom of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

*"Thou, too, sail on, O Ship of State!  
Sail on, O Union, strong and great!  
Humanity with all its fears,  
With all the hopes of future years,  
Is hanging breathless on the fate!  
We know what Master laid the keel,  
What Workmen wrought thy ribs of steel,  
Who made each mast, and sail, and rope,  
What anvils rang, what hammers beat,  
In what forge and what a heat  
Were shaped the anchors of thy hope!  
Fear not each sudden sound and shock,  
'Tis of the wave and not the rock;  
'Tis but the flapping of the sail,  
And not a rent made by the gale!  
In spite of rock and tempest's roar,  
In spite of false lights on the shore,  
Sail on, nor fear to breast the sea!  
Our hearts, our hopes, are all with thee,  
Our hearts, our hopes, our prayers, our tears,  
Our faith triumphant o'er our fears,  
Are all with thee, - are all with thee!"*

*CORRECTION*

In the October issue of Michigan's Messenger it was erroneously reported that Brother Adin Shank was 82 years young. He says he wished that were true, but he was born on November 17, 1912, *not 1917*. His correct age is 87. His place of birth was also incorrectly stated; it should be Jackson Township, Indiana.

*INFORMATION WANTED*

I am attempting to compile information on the early days of the Michigan Division (Department), Sons of (Union) Veterans. If any brother who might have in his possession, and is willing to share information on Michigan, (1884-1925), please contact me at email address: [glgsuv@gateway.net](mailto:glgsuv@gateway.net) or by mail at 2339 Harmon Ave, Kalamazoo, 49004. Phone (616) 345-3827.

The information could be encampment proceedings, back issues of the Banner, pre 1993 issues of the Messenger, or even the dates and locations of encampments found on the ribbons/badges from those events. Gary L. Gibson, PDC.

## DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

## CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

*Douglas R. Armstrong, Chairman*

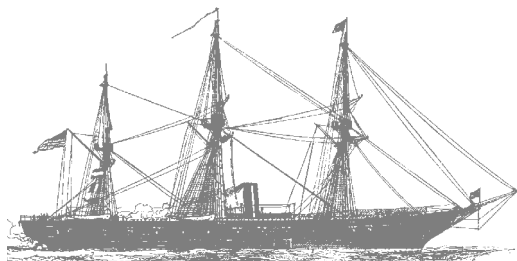
In a recent trip to Petoskey, I visited a park downtown that overlooks Lake Michigan. Within that park sits a IX-inch Dahlgren Cannon. While filling out an assessment form for the memorial, I discovered something interesting about this gun.

The IX-inch Dahlgren was invented and tested by Rear-Admiral John Dahlgren in the 1850's and was designed to be used on naval vessels. The cannon in Petoskey is one of twenty-six that served on the deck of Admiral David Farragut's flagship, the "Hartford". Of those, only eight remain in various locations across the United States.

Our State is fortunate to have three of these historic guns in three Northern Michigan Cities. Petoskey's cannon rests in Pennsylvania Park in Downtown and was dedicated on July 4, 1905. Another is mounted in front of the County Courthouse in Cheboygan. The last sits on the lawn in front of the Otsego County Courthouse in Gaylord. Two more IX-inch Dahlgrens from the "Hartford" were scrapped in Bay City during World War II. All of these cannon have a bronze plaque on the carriage. The plaque reads, "This gun is one of twenty-six nine inch guns composing the battery of Admiral Farragut's historic flagship 'Hartford' during the War of the Rebellion 1861 to 1865 at the battles of New Orleans, Vicksburg, Port Hudson, and Mobile." "Forevermore a silent reminder to the rising generations of the glorious deeds of our Navy during that fierce conflict in which God of Battles watched over our Nation and in which this gun effectively spoke for Liberty and a United Country."

Of the five remaining "Hartford Cannon", one is in Hagerstown, Maryland. Two more rest in Waterfront Park, and Alden Park in Vallejo and Mare Island, California. The last two are on Trinity Campus in Hartford, Connecticut.

I am proud that Michigan was the recipient of five of these pieces of our history and heritage. And grateful to the men who served on the deck of one of the most famous naval ships of the Civil War.



*The U.S.S. Hartford*

## SOME THOUGHTS ON RECRUITMENT

*Greg Hayes, Patriotic Instructor*

As has been stated many times and many places, the future of our Organization depends on recruiting and retaining members. This article deals with the former. I am counting on my Brothers to provide an article on the latter.

In order to bring gentlemen of all ages into the S.U.V.C.W. it is obvious that we must find them. On first glance this should not be a difficult task. With the number of Michigan men that served in the Civil War and the number of Veterans that migrated to our state after the war descendents should be plentiful. And, that is the case. There are thousands of eligible men and boys in Michigan. The problem, as always, is how to get them into the order. To bring them in, they must be found. Or, to put it another way, we must be visible enough for them to find us. So, a few suggestions are presented below.

1. Recruiting Tents. This has always been a quite successful method and the "Brothers in the Tent" deserve much praise. We usually put these at reenactments or local history events. When doing this, one should always be armed with recruiting brochures. Additional copies of the Camp newsletter are good, this gives the prospective member an idea of the Camp's activities. When available, issues of the "Michigan Messenger" make an great addition. When I have done this type of recruiting sometimes I wore a uniform, sometimes not. At a reenactment, uniforms are everywhere and therefore there is no novelty. When I have worked at local history events, I have always tried to appear in uniform, with the accoutrements available for visitors to view and handle.

2. Camp Activities. One of those successful of all Camp meetings is the "Show & Tell" night, where Brothers bring period artifacts and relate the story behind it. A case can be made that such a special meeting, if held on a weekend and given good publicity would draw a fair number of interested parties.

3. Articles and Lectures. Newspapers, especially local ones are generally eager to have submissions. A short article on a notable C.W. soldier from the community makes great reading. Similarly, writing about G.A.R. monuments or related events from the past draw readers. Parts of the text could introduce the local S.U.V.C.W. connection and give a phone number or meeting date/location. I know that among us there are many silver tongued orators (unlike myself). Local organizations are always looking for someone to come in a give a brief (15-30 minute) talk. The historical society is always a safe bet, but consider the other service groups in your area.

## DEPARTMENT ORDERS

(Continued from page 4)

**20.** Nominations for possible recipients of the Department's *Abraham Lincoln Certificate of Appreciation Award* must be submitted to Department Secretary-Treasurer Lee no later than March 6<sup>th</sup>. Up to three certificates may be conveyed annually to individuals or entities that have made an outstanding contribution toward "the furtherance of the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic within the State of Michigan" (ref. Dept. Bylaws ARTICLE XVI, Sec. 3).

**21.** The Department Commander salutes the membership of Gov. Crapo Camp No. 145 for their affirmative vote to authorize the formation of a Division of the Camp (per provision of the National Regulations) to be located in Romeo, Michigan. Camp 145 Brother David Bock, who lives in Romeo, will be working with a number of gentlemen who may come to form the nucleus of a new Camp in our Department - to serve the SUVCW's interests in the Macomb County area.

**22.** Thanks to the talent and skill of Brother Chris Czopek of Colegrove-Woodruff Camp No. 22, we now have both color and black & white photos and negatives of the Department Charter, which dates back to June 24, 1884. Needless to say, I hope that no harm will ever come to this cherished document but if the worst ever does happen (fire, flood, etc.), we now have a visual record of the original, that would aide in creating a reproduction. Duplicate copies and negatives will be placed with the Department archives in Marshall and the Department Secretary files.

I again urge all Camps to photograph their Charters and to store the photos & negatives in two other locations (perhaps Camp Secretary files and Camp Historian files), away from the Charter itself (entrusted to the Commander).

**23.** Most telephone directories do not have a clear border-line drawn between the various "Area Codes" in the

lower peninsula. Therefore, if you live near the demarcation line of the latest change to "231," please confirm your area-code with Bro. Dick Williams, who maintains our membership roster. His address is 1917 Teel Ave., Lansing, MI 48910-3117, (517) 484-2496, [rawsuvcw@aol.com](mailto:rawsuvcw@aol.com).

Please be advised that effective August 19, 2000, the 517 area code will be divided, creating a new "989" designation in the northern portion of the existing area. The proposed borderline will be somewhere north of Lansing / south of Saginaw.

**24.** Full details of our upcoming Department Encampment will be posted in the next *Michigan's Messenger*. However, it is not too early to be thinking about taking a turn in an elected office of the Department of Michigan. With the Encampment taking place on May 6<sup>th</sup>, I encourage all Camp Secretaries to forward a nomination for a member of your Camp to Brother Mark Pangburn (Department Nominating Committee Chair) at 921 Westover Circle, Lansing, MI 48917-4025.

Before *passing on the gavel* in four months, I'd like to declare what a privilege it has been to serve two terms as Commander of our Department and work with you to accomplish things that we can all be proud of – in honor of the *Boys in Blue*.

**25.** The year ahead promises to be very interesting for us. In June, we'll have the opportunity to dedicate a new government issued veteran's headstone for the "Civil War ancestor" of PC-in-C Andrew Johnson and, plans are progressing well for the next National Encampment to be held at Lansing in August.

By Order of:

**Kent Armstrong**  
*Department Commander*

Attest:

Photo No. 2  
Reduce to 75%  
(3 in. x 4.5 in.)  
no border around photo

Members of Michigan's 1999 Delegation at Remembrance Day in Gettysburg, gather to honor the men of the First Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment. The monument stands where the regiment fought on July 2, 1863. Facing the enemy that day, were: 21 officers and 240 men. The regiment suffered a total loss of 42 men that day, (1 officer and 4 men killed; 6 officers and 27 men wounded; 4 men missing).

The monument was dedicated with the other Michigan monuments, on June 12, 1889. Thirty surviving members of the regiment traveled to Gettysburg to bear witness at the dedication.



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 BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
 

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## *CHARLES M. LANGWORTHY*

78 years young on February 7

Chuck has been a Member of Curtenius Guard Camp 17 in Lansing/Sunfield since 1989. He was born on February 7, 1922, in Alma, Michigan. Brother Langworthy is the great grandson of Private Barnard Swope, Company I, 6<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry.

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## *PVT. FREDERICK ALBER MEMORIAL*

*(Continued from page 1)*

Howard Finkbeiner, a member of the Ann Arbor Civil War Roundtable, accidentally discovered that his great granduncle was a Medal of Honor recipient while reviewing *Michigan History* magazine's Civil War collector's edition. Contact with a sister who was working on the family genealogy and with Oregon Township officials, who wanted to recognize the honoree buried in their cemetery, led Howard to develop Alber's history. Howard's discussion of his project brought him in contact with John Delcamp, a member of the 17<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry reenactment group and a member in the newly inducted SUVCW Camp 180. John arranged for a contingent of the 17<sup>th</sup> Michigan to participate in a ceremony at the cemetery. He and I also made contact with the result of our soliciting assistance from PDC David Wallace of the Gov. Henry Crapo Camp in Flint. (John also prepared a very professional program brochure for the event, including history on some other CW veterans buried in the cemetery.) Howard, in the meantime, was finding and contacting descendants of Pvt. Alber to come together for the first time ever to honor their common relative.

All of this culminated in a celebration on November 13, 1999. The Methodist Church was filled to overflowing by family members, interested local residents, members of the SUVCW, re-enactors and living historians. Inside the church, a memorial

service was held, including a biography of Pvt. Alber, followed by messages relating to the 17<sup>th</sup> Michigan, the Medal of Honor, Oregon Township and the GAR & SUVCW. The Alber family descendents used this time to take the initial steps in making contact with one another with the ultimate goal of forming a family association.

Afterward, the assemblage crossed the road to the site where a new military tombstone with the gold Medal of Honor inscription had been erected. PDC Wallace presided over a memorial service he had prepared, taken from the 1907 GAR and the 1920 SUVCW rituals. Mr. Fred Priebe, in the person of President Lincoln, gave the Gettysburg Address. I did the Chaplain's portion, Brothers from Camps 145 and 180 took roles in the dedication; Brother Blaine Valentine of Camp 22 played "Taps". The 17<sup>th</sup> Michigan and Brothers from the SVR fired the three volleys over the cemetery.

At the potluck luncheon held in the township hall after the ceremony, many family members expressed their appreciation for the efforts put forth on behalf of their ancestor. It was truly a team effort and it all came together in a highly professional fashion, thanks to all involved.

## CAMP NEWS

*AUSTIN BLAIR ~ CAMP 7**by Bob Hoffman*

Along with most other Camps, our annual elections were held at our November meeting and the following slate of officers was elected: Camp Commander, Bob Hoffman; SVC, Ken Strickler; JVC, Mike Maillard; Secretary, Ron Tyrl; and Treasurer, Bud Tallman. Camp Council will be Gary Woodman, Don Leatherman, and Mark Heath.

Recently Commander Max Miller had the duty of discharging his grandson, Josh Miller, from the ranks of Junior Members of the Order. Seems that there was a problem. Josh had made himself ineligible to be a Junior by growing too old. Josh was duly installed as a Member. Not wanting all that youth and vigor to go to waste, Josh was appointed Guide by the incoming Camp Commander.

Camp 7 Graves Registration Officer Bill Lowe reports that 85% of the graves registration in Jackson County is now complete. It seems the project received a big boost from a lady named Judy Gross who became interested in graves registration while attending the Civil War Round Table in Jackson. It is reported that Ms. Gross completed many of the cemeteries in eastern Jackson County, as well as helping our Camp Brothers and Sisters in other places around the county.

Being one of the older Camps in the Department, Camp 7 has collected a lot of artifacts over the years. At the October meeting Brother Bill Lowe, who had been storing them, brought many boxes of records and items in. It was most interesting to see books and items that go back to the Camp's beginning in 1914.

A Delegation from Camp 7 recently received a "private" showing of G.A.R. Post 48 artifacts at the Ella Sharp Museum in Jackson. Many of these articles were feared lost. An inventory and a video tape record was made and will be provided to the Department of Michigan's G.A.R. Committee. The museum hopes to exhibit some of these items in the near future.

On November 7 the Camp's Ladies Auxiliary put on a "Veterans Day Dinner" at the Concord Opera House. Members and their guests dressed in Civil War period clothes dined on food that would have been eaten during that era. After dinner the group went to Maple Grove Cemetery where a Memorial Service was held. After the service all returned to the Opera House for entertainment and dessert. It was reported that Brothers and Sisters from all over the State attended.

*CURTENIUS GUARD ~ CAMP 17**by Lavern Aves*

Camp 17 held an open house during the Farmer's Picnic at Sunfield on August 21, 1999. This is the centennial year for the GAR Hall. We had a good turnout of members for the parade. Present were Camp 17 members Dave Calder, Layton Aves, George Roux, Todd Rakestraw, LaVern Aves, Ron Schall, and David Rehkoph. David Johnson from Camp 58 also marched with us. Visitors from other Camps were Thomas Dingler (Camp 58) Dave Hilliker (Camp 160, portraying Gen. Grant) and Gary Granger (Camp 160).

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*Standing, l to r, are Dave Calder, Layton Aves, George Roux, fifer Todd Rakestraw and drummer David Johnson. Kneeling with the muskets are LaVern Aves and Ron Schull.*

*COLEGROVE-WOODRUFF ~ CAMP 22**by Chris Czopek*

When the unmarked grave of a Branch County Civil War veteran was discovered in Vancouver, Washington, Camp 22's famous "history detective" was contacted for help. Case solved! The soldier is Vernon Byron Mathews, 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Infantry, and his war record is outstanding: Enlisted as a Private, was promoted up through the ranks, went home an officer. He was a veteran of almost very famous battle: Gettysburg, Antietam, Spottsylvania, Bull Run, etc. The dedication of his headstone, scheduled for May 27, 2000, will be a major event for the SUVCW's Department of Washington. They have arranged for a bugler from the U.S. Army to play TAPS, and U.S. Senator Patty Murray will in some way be participating.

## CAMP NEWS

*GEORGE W. ANDERSON ~ CAMP 58**By Douglas Armstrong*

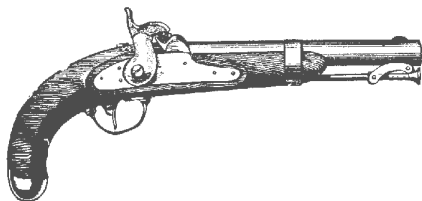
The Camp has been quite busy these past months answering membership inquiries, researching ancestor inquiries and ordering replacement military headstones.

In answering an inquiry from a gentleman in Oregon, whose ancestors served in Company D of the 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Sharpshooters and the 21<sup>st</sup> Michigan Infantry, Co. A, we received in return a photo of his great, great uncle in his G.A.R. uniform. Along with the photo was sent an obituary from the Monday May 16, 1914 edition of the Ann Arbor News that reads:

“Sudden death of Contractor, Arthur B. Edwards, former Lansing man, dies at his home here.

Arthur B. Edwards, a well-known contractor and builder of 203 South Thayer street, died suddenly last night at his home, at the age of 77 years. Mr. Edwards was a resident of Lansing during its early days and was actively connected with the growth of that city. In 1891 he moved here with his family to educate his children. His widow and five children survive him. They are four sons, Dr. G. P. Edwards, a physician located in the State of Oregon; Howard B. of Schaftsborg, Mich.; A. O. Edwards, an architect of Cleveland, Ohio; Irving R., a business man of Gary, Ind., and one daughter, the wife of Professor Loeffler of Detroit. Mr. Edwards was a veteran of the Civil War, serving in the 21<sup>st</sup> regiment of Michigan volunteers, from 1862 to 1865. The G. A. R. conducted the funeral this afternoon at 4 o'clock, at the Methodist Church. Rev. H. R. Rotzel, assistant pastor of the church, officiated.” This was an unexpected bonus to our research efforts.

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Camp 58 was invited to participate in a fundraiser by Watertown Charter Township for the purpose in raising funds for the restoration of the G. A. R. Monument in the Wacousta Cemetery. The event was well attended and well advertised in the media with many area business' contributing donations. Total proceeds of the event were \$1750.00. The membership of the Camp was able to raise \$160.00 for the fundraiser.

*GOV. HENRY CRAPO ~ CAMP 145**by David Wallace, PDC*

The Brothers of the Gov. Crapo Camp 145 of Flint have been busy with numerous activities since the last issue of Michigan's Messenger. We have welcomed a new Brother, David LaForest, into membership and have accepted the deposit of the Transfer Cards of Brothers Gayle Steele and Scott Steele.

Several Brothers of the Camp traveled to Indianapolis as Delegates to the National Encampment. Some also participated as members of the Color Guard for several of the ceremonies at the Encampment. Members of the Camp were also present at the memorial ceremony in Linden during its Civil War Days this past October.

During November, the Camp participated with Brothers from the Carpenter-Welch Camp 180, the Maj. Henry F. Wallace Camp 160, and the John A. Logan Camp 1, in the dedication of a Medal of Honor headstone for Frederick Alber of Oregon Township. Comrade Alber was awarded the Medal of Honor for action at Spotsylvania.

The Camp observed Remembrance Day with a ceremony on the Genesee County Courthouse lawn prior to our November meeting. After the meeting, several Brothers journeyed to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to participate in Remembrance Day observances at the battlefield.

At the November Camp meeting, the following Brothers were elected for the year 2000 term: Commander, Kim Donald Shaw, Senior Vice Commander, Wade Chapman, Junior Vice Commander, Max Newman, Members of the Council, Edgar Dowd, William Morris, PCC, and Kurt Schulze, Secretary, David F. Wallace, PDC, Treasurer, John Homer, and Delegate to the Department Encampment, Floyd Wallace. Commander-Elect Shaw announced the following appointments: Patriotic Instructor, Gayle Steele, Chaplain, Richard Greene, PCC, Guide, David T. Wallace, Color Bearer, Thomas Holmes, Guard, Jack Mellow, Graves Registration Officer, Richard Greene, PCC, GAR Records Officer and Civil War Memorials Officer, Donald Simons, Historian, James Thompson, and Camp Guard Commander, Gayle Steele. Mark Schmidt will chair a Special Committee for Aventine Cemetery. Installation ceremonies are planned for 15 January 2000.

The Camp held a Christmas Dinner in December that was attended by 36 Brothers and their families and friends. We take this opportunity to extend our Best Wishes for a Blessed Holiday and a most Prosperous New Year to our Brothers within the Department of Michigan!

## CAMP NEWS

*GILLULY-KINGSLEY ~ CAMP 120**by Gregory Hayes*

November saw the Camp participate in two events. On Veterans Day, a service organized by Brother Dick Hutchins rededicated the stone memorial to the G.A.R. in Fowlerville. On November 27th Brothers led by Past Camp Commander Gary Ralston marched in the annual Christmas parade in Milford.

In December the Camp held elections at their final meeting of the year. Reelected to Camp Commander was Gregory Hayes; Senior Vice Commander will be Sean Ralston; Junior Vice Commander will be Larry Wall, with Richard Lee as Secretary and Gary Ralston as Treasurer. The January Installation meeting will be held at the Carnegie Library in Howell on January 10 at 7:00 pm.

*CARPENTER-WELCH ~ CAMP 180**by William McAfee*

Greetings for the New Year from Carpenter-Welch Camp 180 (Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti)! We are alive and well, but slowly working toward the future. We have a great core group for starters and we expect to be expanding in due time. I personally want to thank Brother Clair "Bud" Tallman from Camp 7 for the handcrafted gavel he sent us in November. It does a fine job of making those very important "raps" at our meeting!

Three members of Camp 180 participated in the memorial program and monument dedication in Lapeer County for Medal of Honor recipient, Pvt. Frederick Alber. This was appropriate since Pvt. Alber lived in Washtenaw County and enlisted in the 17<sup>th</sup> Michigan from Washtenaw County before settling in Lapeer County after the war. Our Brother John Delcamp was a key man in the organization of the activity and preparing and publishing the memorial booklet. Brother Edward Hall and I took part in the graveside ceremony.

## COMING EVENTS

*JANUARY*

**10<sup>th</sup> — Monday** **Camp Officers**  
Quarterly Reports (Form 27-28) and per capita payment are due in the Department Secretary's office by this date. *Make sure your Camp is not delinquent!*

*FEBRUARY*

**12<sup>th</sup> — Saturday** **Lansing**  
The Department of Michigan's Mid-Winter Conference at the Midway Motor Hotel on West Saginaw Street starts at 1:00 pm. Washington/Lincoln dinner follows in the evening.

*MARCH*

**11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> — Saturday & Sunday** **Grand Rapids**  
6<sup>th</sup> annual Civil War Show at the Grand Valley Armory, 1200 44<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Grand Rapids, Michigan. There is a \$2.00 admission. Hours are Saturday, from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Sponsored by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Infantry, Co. F and the National Guard.

**15<sup>th</sup> — Wednesday** **Newsletter Contributors**  
Deadline for articles for the April issue of Michigan's Messenger. Articles must be *received* by this date. Mark your calendar!

*APRIL*

**10<sup>th</sup> — Monday** **Camp Officers**  
Quarterly Reports (Form 27-28) and per capita payment are due in the Department Secretary's office by this date. *Make sure your Camp is not delinquent!*

*MAY*

**6<sup>th</sup> — Saturday** **Kalamazoo**  
The Department of Michigan's 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment will be held at the Clarion Hotel in Kalamazoo. The encampment will be hosted by the Women's Relief Corps. More information will follow in the April issue of Michigan's Messenger.

*JUNE*

**15<sup>th</sup> — Thursday** **Newsletter Contributors**  
Deadline for articles for the July issue of Michigan's Messenger. Articles must be *received* by this date. Mark your calendar!

*AUGUST*

**17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> — Thursday-Sunday** **Lansing**  
The 119<sup>th</sup> National Encampment of the SUVCW at the Holiday Inn South Hotel, 6820 South Cedar Street in Lansing.

## PAGES FROM HISTORY

~ GAR HALL ~  
*SUNFIELD MICHIGAN*  
 by Max E. McWhorter

This hall is unique in the state in that it is the last and only GAR Hall in Michigan which is still owned and operated by the descendants of the original "Boys in Blue" who fought in the Civil War, 1861—1865. In early 1993 this edifice was honored by having been entered into the National Register of Historical Places. Prior to this, in 1979, the hall was registered in the State of Michigan Register of Historical Sites and a State Historical Marker was installed and dedicated in 1987. Even before, in 1977, the hall had been dedicated as an Eaton County Historical Site, so with these honors—the labors of the old soldiers who built the GAR Hall have been well commemorated.

The local GAR Post No. 283 was formed in 1884 and named in honor of Samuel W. Grinnell, a citizen-patriot who had served in the Mexican War, 1847—1848. Grinnell enlisted in the army soon after the start of the Civil War. He was captured during the Battle of Shiloh and sent to two different Confederate prisons, where his health was broken due to the deprivations suffered there. At length, he was paroled and made his way on foot to the Union lines and after a limited convalescence, returned to duty and finished out the war. Sam Grinnell never regained the health that he lost in prison and died in 1883. The new post held their meetings in various buildings until 1898 when Ransler Peling gave \$25 for the purchase of the building lots for a new hall of their own. Work on the new structure commenced in the spring of 1899, with some of the lumber cut from timber standing on the post lots. Additional lumber was donated by Clark Richard, the original land owner and member of the GAR. Construction on the new hall was completed in the early fall of 1899 and dedication of the structure took place on October 30<sup>th</sup> of that year. Even with donated labor and materials, the cost to the veterans amounted to \$836, which was funded in part by the Women's Relief Corps (WRC), a ladies auxiliary to the GAR. The good ladies served meals at twenty cents each and had ice cream socials and the like to raise money for the building and furnishing the new home.

To provide the desired martial décor for the new building, two surplus cannons were ordered from the Federal government. The cannons, at an arsenal on the West Coast, were available to the post at no charge except for the freight charges. After considerable delay, the two guns finally arrived by road at Sunfield. One cannon was 8,465 pounds and fired a 42 pound ball. The other, slightly smaller, weighed 7,200 pounds and fired a 32 pound shot. Along

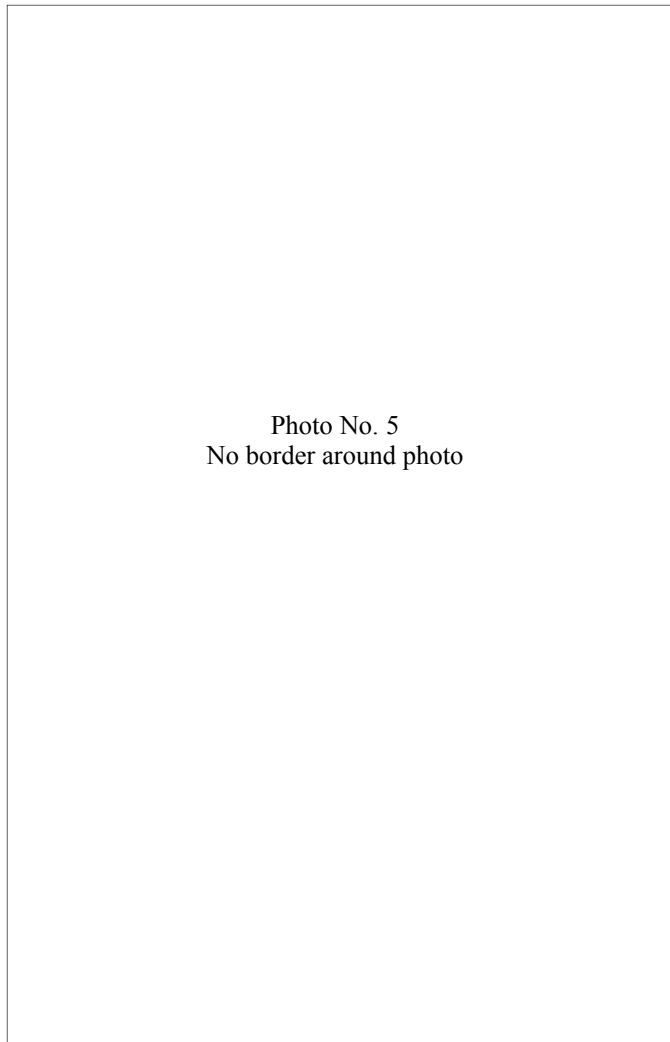


Photo No. 5  
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with the cannon came a monstrous shipping bill of \$303! (In today's terms, this amount seems small, but at the turn of the century, the dollars buying power was perhaps ten or fifteen times that of today; therefore, the bill was staggering.) In addition, the cannons would require a suitable base and this would amount to an additional \$80 expenditure. Again, the membership went to work to raise the additional funds. \$173 was raised by the effort and Clark Richard loaned the post the lacking \$130 to pay the freight bill. The two cannons with new bases were dedicated on October 30, 1900, one year to the day after the dedication of the new GAR Hall.

In front of the hall once stood a flag pole tower, now long since disappeared. The tower consisted of a double-height, angle iron windmill tower surmounted by a length of two inch diameter pipe on which an arrow weather vane was mounted. As the years passed, the vane had become rusted stuck and with its tail to the prevailing wind, pointed to Hiram Cure's woods, northeast of town. Old newspaper

*(Continued on page 14)*

## PAGES FROM HISTORY

(Continued from page 13)

accounts state the flag pole height to be eighty feet, but whatever the height, scaling the tower was a challenge to most young boys of Sunfield. As the Sunfield Fire Department grew, the tower was the logical spot to mount the fire siren and for years, the siren wailed its message of peril and distress from this lofty perch.

In my youth, three Civil War veterans still lived in or around Sunfield. They were: Zalmon "Zal" Slater, J. B. "Bony" Peabody and William "Billy" Edwins. Each year in February, the Daughters of Union Veterans (DUV) would host a dinner in the hall to honor President Lincoln's birthday. Since my grandfather was the son of a Union soldier, he often asked me to attend these dinners with him. Any old Union veteran able to attend these affairs was seated at the head table in a place of honor. It was from these annual dinners that my best memories remain of these gallant old warriors. As the years passed, so passed the "Boys in Blue", with J. B. "Bony" Peabody answering the "final roll call" in October 1934. He was the last Civil War veteran in the Sunfield area. It would not be until August 2, 1956 however, until the last veteran of an army of 2,675,000 Union men would answer the final call to close this momentous chapter in the history of America. The last Union veteran was Albert Woolson of Duluth, Minnesota, who had reached the age of 109 years at the time of passing in 1956. And with him passed the Grand Army of the Republic. Throughout the years, enough credit cannot be given to the Helen M. Edwins Tent No. 30, Daughters of Union Veterans (DUV) for their steadfast labors to maintain and preserve this monument to the veterans of the "War Between the States". In more recent years, the members of the Curtenius Guard Camp 17, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) have rendered invaluable assistance in making much needed repairs and restoration to the GAR Hall.

Before we take leave of the old hall, we are again reminded of the two cannons which have survived the scrap iron drives of two world wars. Old residents of the town used to relate a humorous story concerning these cannons. It seems that on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, many years ago, some of the more rambunctious boys about town wondered if these old cannons would still work. They proceeded to find out. At that time, the cannon bores were sealed against the weather and debris by conical wooden plugs inserted into their bores. On the east cannon, the boys removed the plug, stuffed carbide or giant firecrackers into the bore and replaced the plug. The charge was touched off and with a healthy "boom," the cannon propelled the plug clear across the street and through the front wall of John Morrissey's blacksmith shop, which stood directly opposite! The cannons still worked! Ah, well—boy will be boys.

## THE SENTINEL-STANDARD

Monday December 10, 1890

*This is a portion of an article as taken from the Ionia Sentinel of October 25, 1899 as printed in the Portland Observer. Contributed by LaVerne Aves, Curtenius Guard Camp 17.*

"The Grand Army Post at Sunfield thought it would be nice to have a couple of cannon which Dewey captured at Manila in their village. As they could have them by paying the freight from San Francisco, to which point the government delivered, they ordered them sent on. They received notice the other day that they were at Lansing—and they were glad. But when they knew the amount of freight charges they were sad—the figure was \$303. The guns weigh 17,000 pounds.

The freight bill was more than one-third the cost of the hall itself. And the cannon may have languished in a freight yard for some months. But the post wanted the cannon and raised \$173, although how quickly is not indicated. Perhaps the railroad would wait only so long for its money. At any rate, Clark Richards, instrumental in building the hall, lent the post \$130 for the rest of the freight charges and took a note. Bases for the cannon cost another \$80.

With the freight costs and the installation costs, the cannon were not installed until October 30, 1900—a full year after the dedication of the hall. Regrettably, how the cannon were moved into place is not recorded.

A claim against the railroad was entered for the three missing cannon balls—but the post minute book indicates the cannon balls were never located and the claim never settled. Perhaps railroad officials were heartily tired of Sunfield's cannons. In due time the Post paid the note and burned it."

The cannons are Spanish in origin.

One cannon weighs 8,465 pounds and fired a 42 pound shot. The other cannon weighs 7,200 pounds and fired a 32 pound shot. The government also agreed to send nine cannon balls

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*The Sunfield GAR Hall article was taken from The Sunfield History Seekers, "The History of Sunfield & Vicinity", 1995. Our thanks to its author Max E. McWhorter, the Sunfield Historical Society and its president, Mrs. Rose G. Steward for giving permission to reprint this article. Thanks also to Brother LaVerne Aves for providing the article and getting written permission to reprint it.*

## ANCESTOR VIGNETTE

*STEPHEN HADFIELD*

Private  
53<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry  
Company I

Great Grandfather  
of  
Daniel S. Doyle  
Austin Blair Camp 7

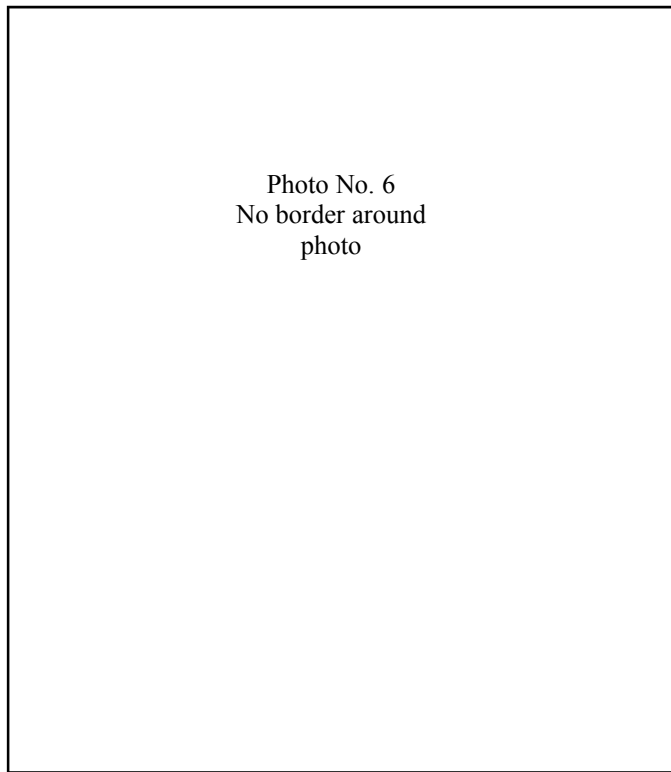


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STEPHEN HADFIELD, was born May 26, 1841 in Cale Green in the District of Stockport, County of Chester, England. He was the son of Joseph Hadfield and Mary Hadfield, formerly Hazledine. Joseph's occupation was Hatter. Stephen emigrated to the United States and joined the 53<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers, Company I, and mustered into service on August 30, 1864 and served until the end of the war. After the war he moved near Guelph, Ontario, Canada and lived to be 95. Stephen died on September 8, 1936 and is buried in St. Joseph's Cemetery within the City of Guelph.

The only known account of his life during the war is in a newspaper article published in the Guelph Daily Mercury on March 2, 1934. The following is that article.

AGED ROYAL CITY RESIDENT SERVED DURING  
CIVIL WAR

Stephen Hadfield at Age 93, Recalls meeting Lincoln  
— Still Retains Clear Memory of Battle Incidents —  
Lived in Wellington Since 1868

By  
A. E. Byerly, D.D.

One of the remarkable old men of Wellington County and

the only soldier of the United States Civil War to live in Guelph, Stephen Hadfield, at the age of 93, possesses a keen memory of the events of 1864 and 1865 when the North and South fought their final battles, and he enjoys the distinction of being one of the survivors who were present at the surrender of General Lee to General Grant.

Mr. Hadfield has been a resident of Wellington County since 1868, where he is one of the very few men now living who engaged in the construction of the Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railway in 1868 and 1869, he being employed on the section between Guelph and Fergus.

Mr. Hadfield has never before told the story of his connection with the Civil War for public notice, but now that so few are left, and especially in Canada where the number must be indeed very small, he consented to go over the story of his early life in America.

Full of vigor, Mr. Hadfield would pass for a man little over eighty. He was born in England on May 26, 1841, a son of Joseph and Mary Hadfield. In 1864 he left Stockport in his native country and emigrated to the United States. In the same year he joined Company I, 53<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania Regiment and served until the close of the war. One incident he recalls was at the fierce but short

(Continued on page 16)

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 ANCESTOR VIGNETTE
 

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*(Continued from page 15)*

battle of Hatcher's Run, where he was in a company of 32 strong, when in a charge he realized that he was the only man for some distance standing. Wondering what the trouble was, he looked about, and those who were not dead or dying were on the run down hill. There was nothing for him to do but to turn and run also.

His company was one that besieged Petersburg during the winter of 1864 and 1865. Earthen breastworks guarded the men on both sides of Petersburg but at times the men would call a halt or truce and exchange sugar for tobacco, and have some conversation back and forth before hostilities started again.

On April 2, 1865, Mr. Hadfield recalls the Southern troops evacuated Petersburg and started their retreat. The Northern soldiers followed. A few more days and the war was over. General Grant's army, in which Hadfield served, marched up from Farnville to Appomattox Court House, where General Lee was making his stand. Mr. Hadfield's company was located near a cross road, and there on the 8<sup>th</sup> of April, 1865, they saw General Sheridan and his cavalry pass along the road between their lines. That night they slept in the field just off the road leading into Appomattox, and their breakfast consisted of what they had in their haversacks, without coffee.

About 9 or 10 o'clock that historic morning of the ninth, a man was seen by Mr. Hadfield to come from Lee's troops

with a white flag, and word was soon passed around that Lee was negotiating with General Grant. A man went from Grant's army into the camp of Lee. After his return Grant himself came along in a carriage drawn by four horses and entered Appomattox Court House, and about mid-day it was announced the war was over.

Young Hadfield stayed in Pennsylvania until 1868 when he came to Canada and located at Fergus, where he was employed by the Wellington, Grey and Bruce Railway in building the road from Guelph to Elora, and from Elora to Fergus. He worked for this road many years, his home being at Fergus, then at Aboyne, near Fergus, and later at Marden, north of Guelph. Mr. Hadfield married Catherine Doherty, and they had four children, of whom one, Mrs. Catherine Myers, is living at Guelph. Mr. Hadfield resides with his daughter.

The aged veteran still can see clearly those closing hours of the war, and has never forgotten the time when he shook hands with Abraham Lincoln, the one and only time he saw the President. This occurred at a place on the Potomac River when Mr. Lincoln shook hands with a few of the men who were marching by.

For more information about the history and rosters of the 53<sup>rd</sup> PA. Vols. visit Dan's web site titled: "The 53<sup>rd</sup> Pennsylvania Volunteers and Veterans of the American Civil War Buried in Canada." It can be found at:

<http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Valley/9931/>

### *F., C. & L., WHAT THE LETTERS MEAN*

*(Continued from page 17)*

to his brother without requiring of that comrade an acknowledgment of the obligation.

As for loyalty, the word as it is employed by the Grand Army is something more than a mere sentiment. It is expressive of a devotion to the Union that, tested in the hot crucible of war, will endure for all time. Whatever evolutions of politics the future may have in store, the fidelity and patriotism of the men who overthrew the rebellion and preserved the integrity of the Union will never change or alter. Loyalty, with the members of the Grand Army, is a living, vital sentiment, looking to the protection of the Nation against the dangers that may yet assail it. When a comrade signs himself "Yours in

loyalty," he pledges his life anew to his country and his comrades for the maintenance of the Republic and its free institutions.

And now that we have set forth, with the clearness of actual knowledge, the principles of the Grand Army, we may well ask why any ex-soldier can be content to remain aloof from it. Why, veterans, this Order is the embodiment of all that you fought for, and the incarnation of all that is worth living for! It is worthy of you and you are worthy of it, and we trust the day is not distant when every man of you will be enrolled in its ranks. We shall be glad to send a blank application for Post charter, with instructions as to organization, on receipt of a request to



## PAGES FROM HISTORY

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## *F., C., and L. What the Letters Mean*

*The following article was taken from the National Tribune  
(newspaper) issue of November 15, 1883.*

*Contributed by David F. Wallace, PDC.*

A subscriber from Naperville, Ohio, writes us as follows: "I notice very frequently in The Tribune the signature, 'Yours in F., C., and L.' Will you kindly tell me what these letters signify?"

We are rather surprised that at this late day any one should be unacquainted with the meaning of these letters, but we shall endeavor, nevertheless, to make clear to our correspondent what these letters stand for, as well as the sentiment they are intended to convey.

To begin with, then, F., C., and L. are the initials of the words Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty, which, as every ex-soldier should know, are the cardinal principles of the Order of the Grand Army of the Republic, and it is the custom of the members of this Order when writing to each other to sign their letters, as a pledge of comradeship, with the formal expression, "Yours in F., C., and L." But while this form of signature is in general use among comrades of the Grand Army of the Republic, it is too often used, we fear, without due reflection as to its full import and without due consideration of the pledge which it implies. What is meant by fraternity, and what by charity and loyalty when the terms are used in this three-fold association? Fraternity, as described by Webster, is the state or quality of a brother - that is to say, brotherhood; and it is the outgrowth, usually, of the association of men together in the same pursuits and for a common purpose. Thus, a fraternity of feeling may exist among tradesmen, or doctors, or lawyers. The fraternity, however, that results from association in business and pleasure is of small import compared with that which binds together the members of an organization like the Grand Army, and for the reason that it has its origin not in mere social companionship, but in that mutual exposure to hardship, and that common hazard of death which the soldiers of our armies ventured for the preservation of the Union. It is common enough for people of all classes, when thrown together under unpleasant conditions, to

form strong attachments for each other, but there are no attachments so firm and enduring as those which have their origin in army companionship — in conditions that made mutual helpfulness a necessity. It is impossible, therefore, to disassociate the from the idea of fraternity, so far as it applies to members of the Grand Army of the Republic, the remembrance of that comradeship which existed between them twenty years ago, when as soldiers, they fought side by side for their country, sharing together the hardships of camp life, the burdens of the march, the perils of the field, the privations of prison and the horrors of the hospital. No one but a soldier, indeed, may be said to know the true meaning of fraternity, for nowhere does the brotherly feeling of man so fully reveal itself in acts of kindness and helpfulness as on the battlefield, when a draught from some comrade's canteen is to the expiring veteran a sweeter boon than all earthly treasures. No one, we are sure, can scan the columns of The Tribune without finding recorded there such instances of brotherly kindness and self-sacrificing comradeship as show the fraternity which existed between our soldiers during the war to have had its origin in the noblest promptings of the human heart. When, therefore, in these days of peace, a comrade signs himself "yours, in fraternity," it is no empty phrase he employs. It means that as in war he was ready to share his last ration with a starving comrade, or the shelter of his only blanket, and would sacrifice his life rather than leave his comrade to perish on the field, so now he is ready to stand by that comrade when fortune misuses him or the country neglects him, or when he is stricken by sickness or poverty.

Nor is the charity which constitutes the second tie between the members of the Grand Army to be confounded with ordinary human benevolence - mere alms-giving. It is its essential characteristic that it avoids the appearance of a benefaction and takes the form, simply, of the acknowledgment of a precious and sacred obligation. Vast as are the charities dispensed by the Grand Army of the Republic, there is nothing in them that smacks of officiousness. It is simply the exemplification of that mutual helpfulness in which the spirit of comradeship had its origin, and the comrade whose needs compel him to accept the aid of the Order does so without loss of manhood or independence. And this, perhaps, is the most beautiful and beneficent characteristic of the Order, that it succors the needy, ministers to the sick, and reclaims the fallen, without leaving behind it the slightest sense of humiliation. The comrade who signs himself "Yours in charity," pledges himself thereby to be helpful

*(Continued on page 16)*

## PAGES FROM HISTORY

## BLUE AND GRAY

### STORIES OF THE REBELLION

by Wallace Putnam Reed  
Chicago Times-Herald, 12/1/1900

contributed by Mike Maillard, Austin Blair Camp 7

Several months after the close of our Civil War Atlanta was the most desolate looking place on the continent.

The entire business center of the city had been laid in ashes by Sherman's torch, when he started on his march to the sea, and the 450 dwellings left standing in a circle around the burned district were more or less damaged by the six weeks' bombardment during the siege.

It was slow work at first, when the people began to clear away the debris, preparatory to the rebuilding of their town. Nobody knew exactly the lines of the main streets. They were buried under piles of ashes and fallen brick walls that there was no trace left.

Finally the rubbish was carted off and some rough streets were laid off. Then buildings began to spring up rapidly, and a two story brick hotel was erected in a central locality. It was a very respectable looking hostelry, and the Federal army officers, who were quite numerous while the city was under martial law, thronged the lobbies day and night.

Whenever a distinguished general or Northern statesman came to Atlanta he always stopped at the National. In fact, there was no other first-class hotel. The others were simply large boarding houses.

One dark, rainy night I was walking down Alabama street with my umbrella drawn well down in front to keep off the sheets of water driven before the gale. It was stormy, and few people were to be seen on the muddy and ragged streets, which had not been repaved. Vehicles had to move with care, as there were holes along their route deep enough to swallow them.

Suddenly, a gust of wind tilted back my umbrella just as a buggy passed me. For half a minute I saw the faces of its two occupants. One was a Federal officer of high rank, and the other was a plain-looking man in the garb of a civilian.

Where had I seen that face before? I asked myself this question as I walked on, but was unable to answer it.

In a vague way I recalled a scene in Boston, in the summer of 1865, when I saw General Grant in a carriage on his way from the depot to the Parker House. The people were wild with enthusiasm, and I saw several respectable citizens gently clubbed by the police to prevent them from taking the horses and drawing the carriage themselves.

The face of the man in the buggy was marvelously like that of the man I saw in the carriage in Boston. It was a square face, covered with a short, dark-brown beard — a face full of resolution and courage and yet a pleasant face — one that inspired confidence.

How like General Grant? Then I laughed at the fanciful thoughts. Of course, Grant was in Washington. He had never visited Atlanta, and I could think of nothing to call him southward at a time when the people were in an angry mood, and the bayonets of the visitors had not entirely restored order.

"Grant, indeed!" I said to myself. "Why, his life would not be safe here an hour. Some desperate fellow with a pint of whisky in him would be sure to go gunning for him, and then we would be worse off than ever."

I did not mention the matter to a single person, for fear of starting some sensational rumor without any foundation. The next morning a newspaper man met me with a frowning face. "What is the matter?" I asked. "Matter enough. General Grant has been in town a day and two nights. He left early this morning, and none of the reporters knew that he was here. I feel like kicking myself."

"You are always around the National," I said; "how did you miss him?" "That's the trouble," was the reply, "he didn't stop there. He went to the Central Hotel, that big boarding-house, you know. It is kept by Mr. Sams, a Baptist preacher. I suppose he regarded as it safer than the National. Probably he had his reasons for not having his presence known, as it might have created too much excitement. At the National he would certainly have been recognized."

I told my friend about the square-faced, brown-bearded man in the buggy. "That was Grant!" he shouted. "Great Scott, if you had told me I would have made a scoop!"

"What was the object of his visit?" I asked. "Don't know. He saw the commander of the post and few other officers, and also three or four citizens—Union men. They were confidentially notified, and called on him. Their conferences were behind closed doors, and nothing has leaked out."

This mysterious visit was a nine days' wonder, but everything was explained a little later. The General had been sent south by President Johnson to observe and report upon the condition of the country, the sentiment of the people, etc.

Shortly after returning to Washington he made his report, and to the surprise and gratification of the Southerners, the magnanimous conqueror not only spoke well of them, but he expressed the opinion that there was less disloyalty and lawlessness among them than had prevailed in other countries under similar conditions. He recommended a liberal and conciliatory policy, in order to speedily restore the southern

(Continued on page 19)

## TAPS ~ OUR DEPARTED BROTHERS

*ELWOOD E. HAWKINS*

Brother Hawkins died November 14, 1999 at his rural home in Shepherd, at the age of 92. He and his brother Burton, who died in 1988, ran the 80 acre farm their Civil War veteran grandfather Abraham Hawkins purchased in 1865.

Grandfather Abraham was born July 3, 1833 in Rutland County, Vermont and died June 13, 1912 in Shepherd. He served in Company E, 125<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry from 1862 to 1864.

Elwood joined Wa-Bu-No Camp 53 on January 13, 1994. He liked to talk about his grandfather, whom he remembered, and the family ancestral home in Wallingford, Vermont, where he and his brother visited several times.

Besides being a successful farmer, Elwood was an excellent cook and a gifted mechanic and carpenter. He wired his home for electric lights, sending away to Montgomery Ward for instructions and materials. He was also an accomplished musician, playing for awhile in a 9 piece band beginning about 1927. He played the saxophone, clarinet, banjo and harmonica.

Elwood and Burton, neither of whom ever married, both loved to hunt and fish. They made several trips north to Canada in the pursuit of their favorite pastimes. Elwood

made his own fishing rods, plus many he sold to others. He sold 14 of his handmade silk-wound rods for \$400 each. He also custom made over 130 ice fishing rods which he sold for \$33.00 apiece.

As a young man, he worked at Gorham's in Mt. Pleasant and later went to work at the Durant Motor Works in Lansing. He was one of 12 men who were still working there when the plant closed for good.

When his eyesight began to fail, Elwood gave up driving. When his driving record was checked, there was nothing against his name, not even a parking ticket.

*DON CARLOS PACE*

Brother Pace passed away Wednesday, October 20, 1999 at the age of 105. Don was the grandson of Sgt. Isaac Grant, Company I, 10<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry. He was a Charter Member of Colegrove-Woodruff Camp 22, joining that Camp upon its formation in 1992. He had been a Member of the SUVCW since 1922.

Masonic services were held at the Kempt Funeral Home, Marshall, with members of the VFW and SUVCW in attendance. Burial took place at Brookside Cemetery in Scottville, near Ludington, where Brother Pace had relation.

Camp 22 will be holding a service and placing a SUV

*BLUE AND GRAY ~ STORIES OF THE REBELLION*

*(Continued from page 18)*

states to the Union, with civil governments of their own. The report was a great disappointment to the extreme or radical element of the Republic party.

Grant's Atlanta visit must have been nicely arranged. Hundreds of Federal officers and soldiers would have recognized him, if they had seen him, but I doubt whether there were fifty ex-Confederates and citizens in the place who had ever met him.

That trip through the South was a hazardous one. Undoubtedly, the great majority of southerners would have felt in honor bound to treat the General well, and protect him from insult and

violence, but it is possible that some crank or murderous ruffian would have made trouble if he had been aware of Grant's presence.

What changes have taken place in the last decade! Three or four years ago General Grant's widow stopped in Atlanta at the Aragon Hotel, and our most distinguished ex-Confederate veterans called on her in a body. They cordially welcomed her to the city, and it was evident that it was a genuine pleasure to them to pay their respects to the widow of the great commander who had granted them such liberal terms at Appomattox. Time works wonders, and his gentle touch heals many wounds.

## WASHINGTON ~ LINCOLN COMMEMORATIVE DINNER

The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual George Washington – Abraham Lincoln Dinner will be held on February 12<sup>th</sup>, following the Department's Mid-Winter Conference at the Midway Motor Hotel in Lansing. This event is sponsored jointly by the Department of Michigan, SUVCW, and the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Michigan for the pleasure of the members and guest of both organizations.

The 2000 dinner meeting will be hosted by the Department of Michigan, SUVCW. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm, with the program beginning at 7:00 pm. The speaker for the evening will be preeminent Lincoln scholar, Dr. Weldon Petz. His topic is titled "*Michigan's Monumental Tribute to Abraham Lincoln*". The cost is \$22.00 per person, with the choice of roast prime rib of beef or stuffed chicken breast for the dinner entrée. Either dinner includes dessert. The Deadline for reservations is February 7<sup>th</sup>. Please use the coupon below or a photocopy thereof.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Grilled Salmon _____ at \$20.00 each, \$ _____<br>Stuffed Chicken Breast _____ at \$20.00 each, \$ _____<br>Total Enclosed \$ _____<br>Name _____<br>Address _____<br>City, State & Zip _____ | Make your check payable to:<br>Department of Michigan — SUVCW<br><br>Mail the check and this form to:<br>Kent Armstrong<br>P.O. Box 618<br>DeWitt, MI 48820 |
| <b><i>RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>!</i></b>   |   |

The Department of Michigan is on the Internet at: <http://suvchw.org/mi/deptmi.htm>

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