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Messenger

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



Vol. X No. 2

Chartered June 24, 1884

October 2001

2001 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI ~ AUGUST 9TH—12TH

by Department Senior Vice Commander Bruce B. Butgereit

The Department of Michigan was well represented at the 120th Encampment of the SUVCW with 17 delegates attending; the largest of all Departments represented. In the absence of Commander Hayes, unable to attend due to the sudden hospitalization of his mother (who at this writing is resting back in her home), as Senior Vice, I headed the delegation. I must say that it was a real treat to be surrounded by such a supportive and knowledgeable group of Brothers and a big “thank you” is due them. Those Brothers in attendance were PC-in-C Keith Harrison, National Counselor Jim Pahl, PDC Kent Armstrong, PDC Gary Gibson, Neal Breough, Dale Calder, Rick Danes, Ed Dowd, Del Farnsworth, Rick Greene, Bob Grove, Richard Lee, Bill Lowe, John Mann, Max Newman, Dick Williams, and myself. A special “thank you” goes to Brother Neal Breough for the excellent notes that he took during the encampment and which I am using as the basis of this report.

The encampment, which officially opened with registration on Thursday afternoon, was not without a few moments of apprehension. First off, several Departments were not on record as turning in their quarterly reports and thus being placed in a position of not being able to be “officially” represented. This was the result of the sudden resignation of the Executive Director who had these needed reports and payments as well. Secondly, since Commander Hayes was

going to provide a lap top computer for use by the registration committee and he wasn’t in attendance, there was an immediate search for a lap top computer with the proper software applications on it.

The search for the computer ended with using one I had with me, the result of a last second thought to keep on top of my email and to work on a few projects. The interesting note about that computer was this – although billed as an Allied Orders Encampment, the Woman’s Relief Corps (WRC) was not represented, yet in actuality, it was the WRC again supporting our Order as they did in times past with the GAR, as the computer belongs to the WRC Department of Michigan Secretary and Deputy Treasurer, Sister Beverly Hoorn. The missing paperwork was also delivered by express mail Friday morning thus eliminating doubt of participation.

On Friday and Saturday, the business of the Order was conducted which included Officer and Committee reports, recommendations, proposals, amendments, times of debate, confusion, and humor, nominations of officers and election of officers. Brother George Powell of Pennsylvania was elected as Commander-in-Chief.

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Richard Lee

The 4th Quarterly Reports (April thru June) were received on time from the following Camps: 1, 7, 14, 17, 20, 22, 28, 43, 58, 67, 85, 120, 145, 147, 160, 250, 259, 266, 427 and 462.

The Department appreciates the good work of those Camp officers.

The 1st Quarterly Report forms were mailed on 7 September. They are due in this office on 10 October..... please keep a carbon copy for your Camp records.

Also mailed was a copy of the "27" with notes to aid in completing the form. Please put it in the "Red Folder" to assist present and future Camp Officers. If you don't have the "Red Folder", talk to your past Camp Secretary..... if it can't be found, contact me.

Richard F. Lee
Department Secretary
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(A carbon copy? Someone out there actually remembers what carbon paper is, let alone still uses it? Gee Richard, you're really showing your age! Maybe this explains the one cent stamp on the envelope and why your editor had to pay 33 cents postage due. At least you've got one of those new fangled contraptions called the telephone and don't have to rely on Western Union.)

Michigan's Messenger

is a quarterly publication of and for the membership of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. This publication is copyrighted and may not be reproduced in whole or part, in any manner without the expressed written consent of the Department of Michigan, SUVCW. Non-member annual subscriptions are available at a cost of \$8.00 per year. Foreign address subscriptions higher.

Make checks payable to: Department of Michigan, SUVCW.

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DEPARTMENT ORDERS NO. 2

SERIES 2001 ~ 2002

Department Headquarters - Linden, Michigan

1. The Department Commander takes great pride in congratulating our Michigan Brothers that have assumed National Offices during the recent National Encampment in Missouri. PDC Kent Armstrong was elected Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief and will do an outstanding job in that role. Camp Commander Max Newman was elected National Treasurer to succeed our own PDC James Pahl who continues as National Counselor, and PCC Keith Harrison will continue his fine work as National Webmaster. We in Michigan are proud to call these gentlemen our Brothers.

2. I wish to thank the Brothers of the George Anderson Camp in Dewitt for their fellowship and hospitality during my visit. It was also very pleasing to see the Camp gain a new member that evening.

3. As with the previous item, my thanks go to the Brothers of the Albert and James Lyons Camp of the Upper Peninsula for their kindness during my visit to their Camp in Marquette in August.

4. With the fall here and winter approaching, I urge all Camps to submit their requests for Installing Officers to this Office as soon as possible. We are working to have the Degree Team in place for installations. Further word on this will be forthcoming.

5. I urge all Camps to place a high value on Grave and Monument registration before winter comes. It would be quite pleasing to have the Department Officers overwhelmed with submissions to keep their winter nights active.

By the order of:

Gregory Hayes,
Commander, Department of Michigan

Attest:

Richard Lee,
Secretary, Department of Michigan

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Bruce B. Butgereit

Some say that life can be our greatest teacher - if we learn from the experience. On August 10 & 11, as Department SVC, I, had the responsibility of leading the Michigan delegation at the 120th National Encampment in Springfield, MO in the absence of Commander Greg Hayes. It was truly a rewarding experience for me and made solely possible by the talents and wisdom of the men in our delegation. I thank all of the Brothers present for your advice and encouragement.

If you recall, in the July 2001 issue of the Messenger, I wrote about the need for us as the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to promote ourselves in the media. I am continually amazed at how little the public really knows about our Order, although I shouldn't be, as I myself had studied the Civil War for most of my life and attended countless re-enactments and had never heard of the SUVCW.

The reward for promoting the activities we participate in or sponsor not only helps educate the public but also can lead to improving our membership numbers. Our purpose is to "keep green the memory..." How do we keep green a plant? We water it and apply fertilizer. As we must make an effort to help the plant grow, we must also make an effort to advertise who we are, what we represent, and what we do and today, that is not always easy to do.

Case in point; as the month of April was approaching this year, I thought it would be good to create a series of "140 Year Ago" articles for the Grand Rapids Press. My goal was to not only remind the public of the Civil War and the efforts of those from our community, but to also raise awareness of the efforts we have underway to restore the Kent County Civil War Monument.

I received assistance from Marcia Bruin of the Champlin Corps, No. 41, WRC in preparing the articles, a proposed schedule of release, children's activity pages, and information on the many Civil War related events going on in this area. We put this together in a formal proposal and took it to the Editor - who did nothing. We then approached the Publisher - who did nothing. We were then sent to another editor who sat on the information for several weeks and never did return any calls. We finally were given five minutes from another editor who summed up their (the Press) thoughts on the Civil War:

1. First of all, if you want money, we're not going to give any. A reminder - printed space is money.
2. The Civil War happened a long time ago - it was easy to get things done then as the men were still alive.
3. The Press must be aware of the readers' interest in any topic.
4. Is the Civil War really newsworthy anymore?

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

Marcia and I left feeling somewhat defeated and speechless. It then took me a week to draft a reply to this man, which included the following thoughts and could be applied to any community throughout Michigan when you run across the same type of thinking.

Newsworthiness:

- The Civil War was the first “test” of our government in which the people governed themselves – we passed the test
- It began 140 years ago this year
- It touched the lives of millions and still has an impact on each of us today in the freedoms we enjoy – and sometimes take for granted
- There are once-in-a-lifetime events taking place throughout our community
- The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are working to locate, assess, and preserve Civil War memorials as well as recording the graves of all Civil War soldiers here in our community

Is your readership interested?

- My living history presentation company, Bruce B. Butgereit & Co. – Civil War Presentations just completed three months of sold out programming at the Grand Rapids Public Museum – and turned others away. (I’m sure any of you sharing living history programs are the same.)
- Local communities have scheduled Civil War parades, ceremonies, events, and activities for every weekend through this fall.
- For my twenty-sixth year, I have booked the month of May solid in offering area schools a look at Civil War history.
- The membership of local historical and patriotic groups including the Grand Rapids Civil War Roundtable is at its highest number ever.
- Re-enactment attendance is at an all-time high at places such as Blandford Nature Center, the Grand Rogue Camp, the Grand Rapids Veteran’s Home, and Charlton Park in Hastings. (The same could probably be said of your community.)
- National stories concerning the flags of South Carolina, Georgia, and Mississippi held our attention for months.
- Stories of the recovery of the ironclad Monitor and the Hunley submarine, reparation, and more have been on national television.

I closed my letter with this –

The “cost” to you and I for remembering and honoring our Civil War heroes – some research, time, energy, gas, busy weekends, and newspaper print. The “cost” to the Civil War soldier – sacrifices of leaving home, poor food, little pay, cold, sickness, and sometimes the loss of a limb or maybe even their life. Do the “costs” compare? No. Can we repay them? Probably never, but we can **remember them and share their story as well as restoring the memorials dedicated to honoring them.**

I never received a reply but to the credit of the Grand Rapids Press, they have covered everything we have informed them of and included many pictures. But it took effort and perseverance.

How do you inform them? By continually sending out a media release for every event you want covered. By meeting with the local television and radio stations to introduce whom you/we are. Will this work every time? You never know but it is sure to be missed if you don’t get the word out. Does this take effort and is this time consuming? Yes! But, remember the plant we work so hard to help grow? The same effort must be given to the memory of the soldier in our Civil War.

FROM THE JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

Dear Brothers:

My sincere appreciation is hereby expressed to everyone in the Department of Michigan who supported my candidacy for the office of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. In particular, I wish to thank our Department’s Brothers who comprised the largest delegation at this year’s 120th National Encampment at Springfield, Missouri. They can tell you that I had the honor of being given one of the most unusual, yet truly memorable nomination speeches – courtesy of our *talented & gifted* Bro. James B. Pahl, PDC.

Hence, the references that you may hear toward a certain sergeant in the French Foreign Legion’s “*Camel-Corps.*” This is indeed one of those stories that you had to “be there” for, and hear firsthand, in order to fully appreciate.

On a more serious note, those who could not attend the Encampment are respectfully advised that a motion was approved to lower the minimum entry age for a **Junior**, to **six**. Therefore, please make notation on all previously printed applications, that the age range for Juniors is now **6 – 14 Yrs.** Thank you.

Please join me in accepting the challenge of bringing at least one new Member, Associate, or Junior into the SUVCW between now and our next National Encampment. Each of us should have this as a personal goal *each* year. EACH of us can make a difference, gentlemen. Working together, we could literally double our membership! Let’s work toward the Department of Michigan being recognized at the 2002 National Encampment as having recruited the most new Brothers.

Please look for the article on recruiting and retention (titled “Growth”) that I respectfully submitted for the next BANNER.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

Douglas Armstrong, Chairman

I would like to thank all those brothers who have continued to participate in the Department's Civil War Memorials Assessment Project. I'd like to encourage all new brothers and also those seasoned veterans of the Order to "Get involved" with the work of locating and assessing the condition of Civil War Monuments and Memorials in their areas. If your Camp has a memorials program or needs assistance in creating one, please contact this office with the progress of the Camp's efforts.

Soon after the Civil War, many communities across the North began erecting monuments and memorials to honor the deeds of their citizen soldiers. The State of Michigan was one in particular, which wasted no time in recognizing the service and sacrifice of its soldiers. While researching some history of local monuments in Clinton County, I came across an article that states that the effort began as early as the summer of 1865. The August 25th, 1865 edition of the Clinton Republican reads; "While other counties throughout the State are erecting costly monuments as tokens of respect for their departed heroes, the idea forces itself upon us that Clinton County will do less than her duty if she neglects to emulate the noble example of her more thoughtful sisters. We propose that the several towns of the county unite in purchasing a tract of ground in the cemetery at this place, or at some more central location, and erect thereon a handsome monument for our departed patriots. In no way can our people more appropriately acknowledge the services of those who have yielded their lives that the country might live,

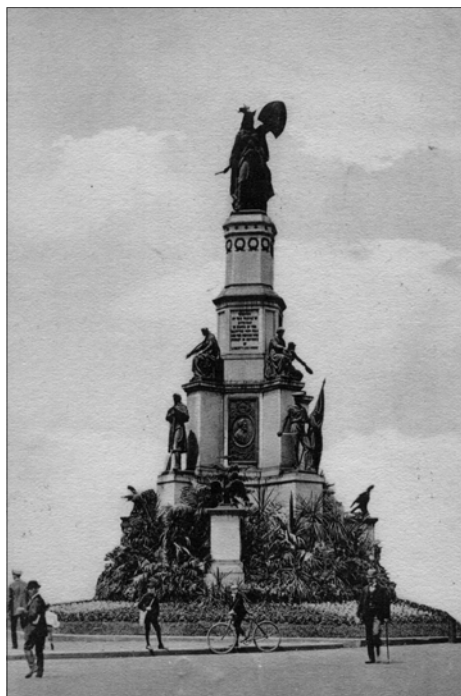
than in the manner above indicated. The bosoms of all patriots will glow with pride at the opportunity of presenting at least a pittance towards so noble a thank-offering. Let the project be carried into effect at once."

The article goes on to mention the City of Detroit's idea to erect a State Monument in that city. It seems to be somewhat controversial at the time.

"A meeting was held in Detroit a short time since, for the purpose of taking steps to erect a monument in that city, to commemorate the valor and heroic deeds of our brave Michigan soldiers, who sacrificed their lives on their country's altar, to maintain inviolate this fabric of human liberty. With this object in view a committee was appointed, composed of about half a dozen citizens of Detroit, and one gentleman from each county in the State, who are to act a directors of the Monument Association. Charles Kipp, Esq., of this village, was appointed for Clinton County. The object is a very good one, but we are inclined to believe that the proposed scheme will not prove very popular throughout the State for two reasons. First, because a number of the counties have already taken steps to erect suitable monuments to perpetuate the memory of their "fallen dead" which will sufficiently tax their means; and secondly, if the people of Detroit want a monument to adorn their city, they are abundantly able to erect one without calling on the rural districts for aid."

Throughout the remainder of the 19th century and well into the 20th, several veterans' organizations, the G.A.R. and W.R.C. in particular and other civic and community groups formed monument associations for the purpose of erecting a "Soldier's Monument". In most every city, small town and village in Michigan you are able to find some form of monument or memorial, from the elaborately decorated ornamental statue to the simple bronze plaque commemorating a local regiment or a

Civil War era cannon as part of memorial display. These pieces of our history and heritage, dedicated by surviving veterans, the men whose memory we honor, merit the right to be preserved for the education of future generations. With your help in locating and assessing the condition of the monuments in your area, we can better see to the care and upkeep of these memorials by bringing it to the attention of the public and proper authorities. Please contact this office if you or your Camp need the necessary forms.



Far left — The Soldier's Monument in Portland.

Left — The Soldier's and Sailor's Monument in Detroit.

PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Neal Breagh



Hello, Remember Me?

Some people call me Old Glory, others call me the Star Spangled Banner, but whatever they call me, I am your Flag, the flag of the United States of America. . . Something has been bothering me, so I thought I might talk it over with you. . . because it is about you and me.

I remember some time ago people lined up on both sides of the street to watch the parade and naturally I was leading every parade, proudly waving in the breeze, when your daddy saw me coming, he immediately removed his hat and placed it against his left shoulder so that the hand was directly over his heart. . . remember?

And you, I remember you. Standing there straight as a soldier. You didn't have a hat, but you were giving the right salute. Remember little sister? Not to be outdone, she was saluting the same as you with her right hand over her heart . . . remember?

What happened? I'm still the same old flag. Oh, I have a few more Stars since you were a boy. A lot more blood has been shed since those parades of long ago.

But now I don't feel as proud as I used to. When I come down your street you just stand there with your hands in your pockets and I may get a small glance and then you look away. Then I see the children running around and shouting . . . they don't seem to know who I am . . . I saw one man take his hat off then, look around, he didn't see anybody else with theirs off so he quickly put his back on.

Is it a sin to be patriotic anymore? Have you forgotten what I stand for and where I've been?. . . Anzio, Guadalcanal, Korea, and now Vietnam. Take a look at the Memorial Honor Rolls sometimes, of those who never came back to keep this Republic free . . . One Nation Under God . . . When you salute me, you are actually saluting them.

Well, it won't be long until I'll be coming down your street again. So, when you see me, stand straight, place your right hand over your heart . . . and I'll salute you, by waving back . . . and I'll know that . . .

YOU REMEMBERED!

(Author Unknown)

Reprinted from the Banner

HISTORIAN

Paul D. Hodges, PDC

The Department of Michigan continues to seek, collect, and preserve historical and biographical items regarding the Civil War, the Grand Army of the Republic, and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The materials include photographs, newspaper articles, meeting minutes, and printed programs.

Recent additions to the Department's collection illustrate the variety of materials of interest. There are, for example, copies of Department Orders from the 1930s, 1940s, 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. (As Department Secretary, the late Brother Thayne LaBanta, PDC, attested to some of the earlier ones.) Another contribution consists of a series of photographs of the ceremonies of the re-interment of Private Daniel Pine. A newspaper article reports on the recent restoration of a Civil War monument.

The historical items may date from any of the past 140 or even 150 years. Objects from the Civil War of course are noteworthy. But so are written reports, photos, and videotapes of past and present projects of the Camps and the Department.

All members are urged to be alert for materials of historical interest for contribution to the Department. They all help in our efforts to carry out the purposes of the Order.

Please Donate!

Our national organization has many worthy funds for tax deductible donations, but I hope you will consider the Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Fund in particular. Contributions to this fund are used to promote our Order – an effort that all of us can help with.

Please make your check payable to "SUVCW" with "SVCinC Fund" on the *Memo* line. Mail your donation to:

Max Newman
National Treasurer, SUVCW
4995 East Wilkinson Road
Owosso, MI 48867-9616

Thank you!

Kent Armstrong, JVCinC

ANCESTOR VIGNETTE

CHARLES PEARSALL PARKS

Second Assistant Engineer
"Tinclid" Steamer *Cricket*

Great Granduncle
of
Philip N. Parks, *DJVC*
Albert and James Lyon Camp 266

RED RIVER CAMPAIGN

The Red River flows from north of Shreveport near the Texas border across the state of Louisiana emptying into the Mississippi below Natchez, Mississippi. A Rebel artery of supply of goods and services from the West.

ADM. David D. Porter reported, "The vessels approached within about twenty yards of the shore, when nineteen shells crashed through the vessel from concealed artillery, shattering the "Cricket" in all her parts. The Admiral immediately hastened to the pilot-house and entered the door just as a bursting shell wounded the pilot and killed all the guns' crew forward. By this time the engine had stopped; but the current, running at the rate of four miles per hour, was bearing the "Cricket" rapidly down the stream. Going below the Admiral found the engineer had been killed with his hand on the throttle-valve, and as he expired he had shut off the steam. Steam was turned on, and the engine once more started. In the four minutes the "Cricket" sustained the enemy's fire, she had twelve killed and nineteen wounded, most of the latter severely." The unidentified engineer is recalled again in **American Biographical History of Eminent and Self-Made Men** – Michigan Vol. 1878. "The youngest son, (of Robert Parks) Edward W. Parks, enlisted in the War of the Rebellion, as First Assistant Engineer of the ironclad steamer (Mississippi Squadron) "Ozark", and remained until after the Red River Expedition. While at the mouth of the river, waiting for the rest of the fleet, he learned of the death of his nephew, Charles P. Parks, son of (River Boat)Captain R.S. Parks. He was Chief-Engineer of Commodore Porter's flag-ship and was killed by a twelve-pound shot from a rebel battery while standing at his engine, descending the Red River."

Charles Pearsall Parks was born in Oakland City., Michigan in 1834, married Mary Cole in Lodi, Wisconsin and was the father of three children. He learned his river boat skills while working with his father on the Grand River. Robert S. Parks built and

operated several river boats on the Grand both above and below the Rapids. "As on the Mississippi, there were boat races on the Grand. One such race took place between the Algoma and the Michigan in May 1853, while heading down-river. The Michigan was two lengths behind as they rounded the bend at Spring Lake. Capt. Robert S. Parks was desperate. He left the pilot house, raced to the engine room, grabbed a mass of tallow from a barrel and threw it into the fire. Up went the pressure and the Michigan pulled ahead to the Algoma just as they reached Grand Haven." **Story of Grand Rapids**

Charles enlisted in the U.S. Navy on Jan. 26, 1863. In a letter to the Honorable Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy, he accepted an appointment as Second Assistant Engineer on Temporary Service with the Mississippi Squadron on Oct. 5, 1863. His service was with ADM. D.D. Porter on the U.S. Steamer "Cricket". The "Cricket" was a lightly armored (tinclid) shallow draft stern wheel gun-boat. It became the Admiral's flag-ship due to the lack of maneuverability of his primary vessel the "Black Hawk".

The report of the casualties of the battle, April 26, 1864, on board the "Cricket" was given by Acting Assistant Surgeon from Mound City May 27, 1864. The first person and the only engineer was Charles P. Parks, Acting Second Assistant Engineer. I was able tell Ed Bears recently on a trip up the Mississippi, that he need not refer to the unidentified engineer of Porter's report, but as Charles P. Parks, a Grand Rapids, Michigan volunteer.

Charles was laid to rest at the Fulton Street Cemetery in Grand Rapids but was later moved to the Parks Family plot in the Oak Hill Cemetery. Edward W. died of sever dysentery in Grand Rapids on January 21, 1866 less than 18 months after he left the Mississippi Squadron.

Edward W. was buried in the Beach Road Cemetery, established 1859, in Troy, Michigan.

Congratulations!



“Sergeant” Kent Armstrong
Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief



Max Neuman
National Treasurer

*to our Michigan Brothers
elected and appointed to National Office
at the 120th National Encampment
in Springfield, Missouri.*

Hon. James B. Pahl, *PDC*
National Counselor
and

Keith G. Harrison, *PC-in-C*
National Web Master

with the "Birds" they received
from C-in-C Ed Kreiser



*The camel would also like to take
this opportunity to
congratulate Sgt. Armstrong.*

GEN. JOHN A. LOGAN ~ CAMP 1

by Bruce B. Butgereit, Commander

Mr. Steve Watson of ARCO Engineering, Louisville, KY gave a rather impressive cleaning demonstration on June 9 – at no charge! Using the latest in “blasting” materials, Steve demonstrated on two of our Civil War memorials what the ARMEX (Arm & Hammer baking soda) system could do for our memorial cleaning and restorations. We thank Brother Doug Armstrong, Department Memorials officer for his



attendance.

On Father's Day weekend, June 16/17, our Camp, with assistance from Bruce B. Butgereit & Co. – Civil War Presentations and the Champlin Corps, No. 41, WRC, set up an educational camp at the Kent County Civil War Monument/Fountain to create more awareness of our fund-raising efforts. Brother Blakely was in attendance both days in honor of his father.

At the June 20 meeting of the Grand Rapids Civil War Roundtable, I presented two Certificates of Appreciation from our Camp – one to Jeannine Trybus of the GRCWRT and WRC for her efforts at obtaining a new grave marker for Brig. Gen. Stephen G. Champlin and the other to Marti Cook of the Grand Valley Blood Program for having a special blood drive in honor of all veterans. At this meeting, the RT also donated an additional \$300 to the Monument Restoration effort, raising their total to over \$800.

June 23rd found us in Montcalm County to place and re-dedicate a headstone for the descendants of Cpl. Israel Reynolds of the 151st Indiana Infantry. The Champlin Corps, No. 41, WRC and the Third Michigan Infantry., Company K assisted us in this effort. The family was deeply moved and donated \$80 to the Monument on behalf of their ancestor.

Brother Blakely was again active in trying to raise funds for our Monument on the weekend of June 23 & 24 at the Blandford Nature Center. As part of the Log Cabin and Civil War Days festivities, Ed and WRC Sisters Marcia Bruin and Bernadette Butgereit shared some of the items used by the soldier on top of our monument with the public. They raised \$58 for the cause.

The Advance Newspapers, a community weekly publication, ran a great story on June 26 about our work in the Civil War Memorials program and the work done by Mr. Watson on the Sand Lake, MI monument/statue (to better understand this topic, see my article under the Dept. SVC) and our July 4th re-dedication service.

We had our Monument fund-raising display set up at the Hyser River Museum in Plainfield Township on July 1 as part of Bruce & Co.'s annual July 4th holiday presentation. Dr. Hyser was a Captain in the 5th Michigan Cavalry and was known by Brother Blakely...”Old man Hyser,” as he referred to him.

As part of the Civil War memorials program, I have driven hundreds of miles in an effort to locate the memorials in Kent, Ottawa, and Montcalm counties. This work has been such a blessing to me as I usually take my two youngest children, Cally (14) and Colin (12 and a Junior SUVCW member) with me. Not only have we experienced the reward of finding these historic treasures (we're not done though!), but we have shared some family time as well. The kids usually take turns taking the pictures.

But, as I have told Brother Doug Armstrong, I do not want to simply find these memorials and take a picture. I want to research the story behind each one. And for some of the ones I have found so far, no one seems to know anything. The Sand Lake monument was sadly also in this category – but it isn't any longer!

My search began by asking the Village if they knew anything – they did not. I asked the local VFW – they did not. I went to the State Historical Library – nothing there. I looked in the Grand Rapids Public Library – nothing there. I asked if any newspapers existed from the community – they did not. I went to the Sand Lake Museum – nothing there...or so it seemed. I asked whether they had any pictures archived – they did. Their archives consisted of a small cardboard box with nearly one hundred pictures just thrown in there. Of these, I found about eight pictures pertaining to the Civil War. They included several pictures of a local GAR Encampment, several of what appears to be Sisters of the WRC, and a couple of the monument itself.

Having just this to work with, I took one of the pictures of the monument out to the cemetery and looked at what stones existed in the cemetery at the time the picture was taken. I determined that the stones dated from 1894 to 1907. With this knowledge, I then proceeded to look through the newspapers (microfilm) from Cedar Springs, just six miles south. This effort was made easier with the help of Marcia Bruin of the WRC and Sharon Jett of the Cedar Springs Museum, who opened the Museum at odd times to accommodate our search.

Finally, on Monday, July 2nd, I found the one paragraph we had been searching for. The history is as follows:

This unique piece of history located in the Sand Lake Cemetery on Ritchie Road was first erected and dedicated on September 26, 1907 by the M. H. Whitney Post No. 350 of the GAR and the M. H. Whitney Corps No. 144 of the WRC.

According to various snippets from the Cedar Springs Clipper, these two groups raised funds using a variety of methods for nearly a year prior to the original dedication.

For example, the WRC of Sand Lake raffled a quilt, served suppers for 10¢ and sponsored a fishpond for only a nickel. The GAR Post held Dances and Masquerade balls charging their guests 50¢ or 75¢.

By September they were ready and the people came to the ceremony from all over. The Cedar Springs Clipper reported the special dignitaries included: Senator Wm. Alden Smith, Congressman G. J. Diekema, the Hon. Huntley Russell, Mr. F. S. Shattuck, Mr. J. H. Brayman, and Mason Cowles.

While this search had been ongoing, a Mrs. Richard Schick had also contacted us regarding her ancestor, John Schick, being buried near the monument and a Mrs. Schick who was the President of the WRC (probably the Whitney Corps) during the early 1900s. How was she able to do this? By reading the article in the Advance Newspaper!

Nearly 75 people turned out that beautiful July 4th morning to witness the ceremony conducted by Camp No. 1, the Champlin Corp, No. 41, WRC, the Eva Gray Tent No. 2, DUVCW, the Third Michigan, Co. K, and the 12th South Carolina. Emotions of pride and honor ran high as well as tears of remembrance were evident on the group of about a dozen Shick family members. A local TV station covered the ceremony in full and interviewed the family as well.

At the ceremony, I also presented the Village and Museum a poster-sized picture frame with copies of all the pictures I had found as well as a description of each. It also included some "before and after" pictures and a copy of the re-dedication program. Hopefully, Sand Lake will always have some history on their monument now. This was followed with a small educational display set up in the Museum with Bruce & Co. and then we marched in their parade.

Both true sons Brothers Blakely and Becker attended the re-enactment at Charlton Park in Hastings, MI Saturday. While Ed was introduced to the crowd as a "veteran" of this event, it was Harold's first ever re-enactment. He left truly impressed. Both men were introduced to the crowd and were saluted by the troops. Brother Blakely returned for Sunday also.

At an event called "The Carnival," held at the Grand Rapids Veteran's Home for the residents and their families, we (the SUVCW, WRC, DUVCW, Third MI, Co. K) were able to give a little something back to the Home by volunteering to assist some of them in chairs who did not have family. It was a rewarding experience and as I stood there looking around, I was

able to reflect back to a time in their lives when they were 18, 19, 20-years-old and fighting on some distant land for our freedoms and beliefs. On that day, many did not have family show and it was sad to know that many of these men, now in the late years of their lives, had been forgotten or ignored.

The Ceremony of Remembrance was held on August 4. There was a fair turnout of Brothers from other Camps in attendance but I'd sure like to see more. The program ran smoothly and the weather was cooperative. We even picked up two new members at our information tent. This year's event also included some twentieth century portrayals and re-enactment.

On August 25 & 26, Brother Blakely attended his second Jackson re-enactment and was saluted by the troops in the Grand Review. We also participated in a field initiation of a Brother from Camp No. 180, held at the Austin Blair, Camp No. 7 tent at the event.

The Monument Restoration Project committee held a meeting on Aug. 30 and laid down some groundwork for reaching out to the people and organizations that we will need to reach the top. There are several very influential men now signed on to the project as co-chairs. We have received \$12,000 of our goal to date. Our goal is still to have the re-dedication ceremony next Memorial Day, 2002.

AUSTIN BLAIR ~ CAMP 7

by Mike Maillard, JVC

Civil War Days In Hudson — We, as a Camp, were honored in representing SUVCW at the Civil War festivities in Hudson Michigan, Lenawee County on August 11, 2001. We were invited by the community to participate along with reenactment members of the 18th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, the 1st Michigan Light Artillery and 1st US Sharpshooters. A parade was held in the morning with our colors represented and also participation by the Camp's Auxiliary.

The day was spent in interacting with some 80 to 100 citizens that were greatly interested in our graves rehabilitation program and wanted to learn more about our Civil War. Regimental books on Michigan soldiers and sailors were available to assist many curious citizens on their own Civil War heritage. A number had many relatives in that war with some bringing along artifacts of those participants. The end result was that more people were going to do further investigation in their family heritage and return back to this annual event and see what the Jackson Muster is all about.

A special thanks to the other Camps for sharing their food with our members. I would like to acknowledge Ron Lewis, Bud Tallman, Ron Tyrl and Gary Woodman who all pitched in, in erecting the tent and displays and interfacing with the citizens that walked by on that very warm day. Special acknowledgement to Brenda Walters from the Camp's

Auxiliary in participating in the activities and assisting the citizens that came by our tent.

ROBERT FINCH ~ CAMP 14

by Neal F. Breaugh

We joined with the Elks Club and many other Veteran and Patriotic Organizations at their Flag Day Ceremonies on June 14th. We were proud to provide drummer and re-enactor Josh Kuckmuk who provided the musical cadence for the entrance procession.

On July 4th, we were represented in the 4th of July Parade in downtown Traverse City, riding on the Elks float along with Navy and Army personnel.

We were very proud to have representation from our Camp at the 120th National Encampment of the SUVCW in Springfield, Missouri as part of our Department's Delegation of 17, the largest at the Encampment.

We now have pictures of Civil War cannons in Traverse City and in Northport and will be completing the paper work soon and forwarding them to Doug Armstrong. We are also working with Leelanau County Commissioner Richard Schmuckal who is trying to locate the owner of the tiny Round Top Cemetery in Kasson Township. 30 people are buried here including 3 Civil War Veterans. We have provided Mr. Schmuckal with information about one of the CW Veterans. We are working with him to have ownership of the Cemetery transferred to the County so that this cemetery can be preserved and maintained.

We were very pleased to receive a check in the amount of \$500.00 from the SUVCW Memorial Fund for restoration of the "Old Soldiers Monument" located at the Courthouse in Traverse City. The check has been given to the Grand Traverse County Treasurer; however a more formal presentation will be held later.

Our Raffle to raise money to purchase a Camp Flag and to match the \$500.00 Grant to help restore the Traverse City Monument is going well. We have sold 52 of the 100 tickets we are hoping to sell for the raffle that will be held at our November 10th Meeting. We really appreciated the help of our Brother Department Members who bought 7 tickets at the National Encampment. *(For further info & how to purchase tickets, see page 19.)*

CURTENIUS GUARD ~ CAMP 17

by Dale F. Calder, Camp Chaplain

Among the many Michigan SUVCW Camps to participate in the reburial of Pvt. Daniel W. Pine in Hillcrest Memorial Park in Jackson, MI with fanfare and full military honors, our Camp played a major role, firstly by providing a Color Guard, and

secondly by the presence of PC-in-C Keith Harrison as commander of the firing squad.

It was a beautiful Saturday afternoon in Jackson when, at 1:30 pm, Curtenius Guard Camp 17 Color Guard, composed of Brothers Ken Rousseau, LaVerne Aves, Joshua Rousseau as guards, PDC James Pahl as Camp Flag bearer, Mike Neese as New York State Flag bearer, Sgt. Thomas Paton as U.S. Flag bearer and Color Guard Commander Sgt. Dale Calder marched just behind the Drum and Bugle Corp and just ahead of the horse drawn black hearse containing the remains of Pvt. Pine.

We, the Curtenius Guard Color Guard are proud to have participated in honoring this hero and congratulate Camp 7 for an excellent and most fitting ceremony.

Our Color Guard mustered June 14, 2001 in full uniform at the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing at 11:00 am, accompanied by Brother Thomas Emerick on the drum for a Flag Day Celebration at the museum. The ceremony was under the direction of Brother Marc Bennetts. At 12:00 noon, our Color Guard composed of Brothers Ken Rousseau and LaVerne Aves as guards, with Bosin Mate Jeffery Adams and Sgt. Dale Calder as flag bearers, under the command of Sgt. Calder, marched out of the air-conditioned museum at the beat of Brother Emerick's drum into 90 degree heat. After having marched around the flag pole in front of the Library/Historical Museum, the Color Guard conducted ceremonies in honor of Old Glory. Brother Bennetts requested Brother Calder to give an informative talk to a group of school children, addressing the importance of reverence toward Old Glory and her role in American history. This was followed by a musket salute that performed poorly when all the muskets refused to fire. Nevertheless, both Brothers Rousseau and Aves demonstrated to the children how to load a cap and ball musket.

The ceremonies concluded, our Color Guard marched back into the air-conditioned museum and disbanded. Mrs. Calder, wife of Brother Dale, represented the DUVCW at the ceremonies.

At 7:00 pm in the intense heat of the evening of Flag Day, June 14 our Color Guard again participated in a ceremony, alongside American Legion Post 148, at the Historical Flag Rock Rededication Ceremony at Maple Grove Cemetery in Mason. At the hill-top grave site of six Union Veterans, our Color Guard, along with many other units, played a major role in the rededication of a large flag rock standing like a silent sentry, graced with a newly painted Old Glory on it.

The ceremony opened with all units called to post by the Legion Commander followed by all units entering the ceremonial area accompanied by period music by the Curtenius Guard Camp Fife and Drum Corps, composed of Brothers Todd Rakestraw and Thomas Emerick. Company B, 8th Michigan Infantry re-enactors formed ranks between the Flag Rock itself and the Civil War headstones, flanked on the right by our Color Guard composed of Brothers Jeff Adams, LaVerne Aves, Ken Rousseau and Sgt. Dale Calder commanding.

A stirring rendition of the National Anthem was played by our Fife and Drum Corps followed by the posting of Colors, first by Company B, then by American Legion Post 148 and lastly by VFW Post 7309 of Mason. Comments about the Rock, the men and the tradition were expressed by the commanders of both the American Legion and VFW posts.

Mr. Scott Shattuck of Mason, guest speaker, offered much insight into the history of Mason in the War of the Rebellion and the veterans of GAR Post 53 who established the Flag Rock tradition on Memorial Day. A Memorial Day essay entitled, "What Memorial Day means to me" was written and read by student Ryan Kussmaul, followed by the presentation of three U.S. Savings Bond Certificates to the middle school students by the VFW Commander. Three selections of period music were then offered by our Fife and Drum Corps to the pleasure of all.

Company B, 7th Michigan Infantry Firing Squad executed a three round musket salute followed by our Fife and Drum Corps giving their rendition of the Battle Hymn of the Republic. Taps echoed the closing of the ceremonies. Afterward, the Master of Ceremonies expressed his gratitude to all for attending, followed by dismissal of troops. In spite of the tremendous heat, about 100 people were in attendance, including Brothers James Pahl and Marc Bennetts.

It was a bright and sunny Saturday morning in downtown Grand Ledge, June 16 at 10:30, when entry number four, being our Color Guard, assembled just behind Uncle Sam for the Yankee Doodle Days parade. Our Color Guard for this occasion was composed of Brothers LaVerne Aves and Ken Rousseau as guards, Josh Rousseau and Sgt. Dale Calder as Flag bearers, under the command of Sgt. Calder. As we marched smartly down Bridge Street over the river and up the hill, we received several rounds of applause from those in attendance, as well as being videotaped. Afterwards, several residents and spectators expressed their personal appreciation to Brother Calder for our participation in the parade. The crowd was much larger as was the parade much longer this year than last. It was most gratifying for us in the Color Guard.

However, the Grand Ledge Independent did not, I believe, do a very good job in reporting the parade. Nevertheless, we are looking forward to participating in next year's event. I wish to congratulate all Brothers who participated in this and the other events, for their outstanding performance.

CAMP 17 (cont.)
by Paul D. Hodges, PDC

The Memorial and Graves Registration Committee has been very busy this summer. Brothers Nash and Shumway conducted field surveys of Barry County cemeteries. Brothers Aumaugher, Hodges, and Williams undertook service verification for the more than 1,000 Civil War veterans buried in Eaton County. When that work is completed, Committee members will work on the Ingham County survey files. Brother Williams will commit the data to electronic format to furnish the completed

information on computer disks to the Department.

The Order was represented by Paul Hodges, PDC, at an Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Michael Carl Lessa on June 29 at the SS. Cornelius and Cyprian Church near Leslie. Michael became the 71st Eagle Scout of Troop No. 63.

COLEGROVE-WOODRUFF ~ CAMP 22

by Chris Czopek

When Camp 22's Graves Registration officer flew to Anchorage, Alaska to attend his grand-daughter's graduation, he couldn't resist visiting the local cemetery. The caretaker assured him, "There are no Civil War soldiers buried here." But John persisted, and his persistence paid off. Among the veterans of the 1898 Span-Am war, Brother John Lohrstorfer spotted the gravestone of Pinkney McMahill, who served in the 7th Kansas Cavalry.

The Anchorage historical society has been contacted, and Camp 22's well known "history detective", Chris Czopek, will mail them a copy of the service record for this Civil War veteran. This grave will be registered in the national Sons Of Union Veterans data base - making it one of the first graves recorded in the state of Alaska!

THE RUSSELL A. ALGER ~ CAMP 462

by Bruce B. Butgereit, Coordinator

About the time this publication reaches the membership, there should be a new Camp in Michigan, the Major Robert Anderson, Camp No. 139, derived solely from Brothers in the Camp-at-Large in the Alpena area. A special thank you and congratulations to several of the Brothers in the area for their perseverance and patience in helping get this done. The ancestor of Brother Robert Brookbank was Major Anderson of Fort Sumter fame and the G.A.R. had a post No. 139 in Alpena.

Our attention will now be turning to the Oakland County area for the possibility of getting a Camp going there as well. Several brothers in the Camp-at-Large have shown an interest in working with me in getting this underway. We'll see what transpires.

The Camp-at-Large finally seems to be on the right path in terms of organization and membership. There have been five more names added to the roster; some by simply paying their dues and some new. A big "thank you" goes to Marcia Bruin of the Champlin Corps, No. 41, WRC located in Grand Rapids for her assistance in getting the data entered and mailings sent out.

GEORGE W. LAPOINT ~ CAMP 76

John Reaume, CC

While researching the burials in our local cemeteries, an article in our local newspaper, the Record-Commercial of March 30, 1916 was found that tells of Major Soleau's 51 year quest to get pay allowance (*article follows, ed.*). Major Soleau is one of the Civil War veterans we have placed headstones for. After reading the article, I thought that maybe the Major wouldn't have wanted a "free" headstone from the government. His entire family plot has only the new marker installed by our Camp on it, although someone else has honored him with a floral wreath. I don't ever remember seeing any tribute there but our annual Memorial Day flag.

I don't know when we'll be done identifying the Civil War veterans in our two city cemeteries, but I keep thinking we're done and then another obscure note or obituary is found leading to another Civil War veteran discovery. Just this past week I identified the unmarked grave of Robert McIver of the 4th Michigan Infantry in Woodland Cemetery. He died in 1916 at the Monroe County Infirmary, although his obituary states he was *not* a charity case, but a paying patron, having no family to live with. So far he is the second veteran I've found from the



*Above: Maj. Soleau's new headstone being set by Bros. Neisen, Ryland and CC Reaume.
Right: Pvt. Durocher's stone set by CC Reaume and Bros. Neisen and Ryland.*

County Infirmary.

Record-Commercial (Monroe), Thursday March 30, 1916

**HALF CENTURY OLD CLAIM OF MONROE SOLDIER
REFUSED
GOVERNMENT REJECTS BILL OF MAJOR SOLEAU
SIX YEARS AFTER DEATH**

The undying character of any sort of claim against Uncle Sam's treasury is illustrated by a report of the committee on claims of the house denying Maj. Francis X. Soleau, of Monroe, Michigan, three months' pay claimed to have been due March 3, 1865. For 51 years the major has sought to collect the \$210 he claims to be due him only to finally lose out in the present decision. Mr. Soleau served as a member of the Fifteenth Michigan Infantry from January 28, 1862 to February 2, 1865, when he was retired because of physical disability. A few weeks later the volunteer army was discharged and three months' pay allowed each man who served until the end of the war. Later three months' pay was allowed to all men who retired after March 3, 1865, 31 days after Maj. Soleau's discharge. The major has contended that because he was discharged for disability he should receive the same extra compensation as the men who were able to remain to the finish. He was over-ruled. - Detroit News-Tribune

Ever since the close of the Civil War and up to the time of his death, which occurred March 6, 1910, Major Soleau was a prominent citizen of this city. He enlisted shortly after the outbreak of the war and served practically until the end, being promoted many times for gallantry and conspicuous service until he attained the rank of major. His discharge from the service was because of disabilities occurred in the line of duty from three years of the hardest kind of service, which included many battles and numerous long, weary marches. It was because of his record and strict attention to duty that his comrades in arms and his many friends have always contended that he should have been allowed the same compensation as



those of his regiment who were discharged a month later.

SUBMITTING ARTICLES

Do's and don'ts when writing articles for submission:

Do - use the tab settings when forming columns of figures or words. Don't use the space bar to form columns. Using spaces instead of tabs forces me to remove all the extra spaces and create tabs in their place when copying and pasting the text into the Messenger. Why? Because invariably the column width I use is completely different than what was used when the article is originally composed and your columns will not line up when pasted into the Messenger, causing me extra work.

Don't - indent at the beginning of paragraphs. Instead, leave a blank line between paragraphs. Why? This is the style used in the Messenger and it causes the editor extra work and time to remove the indents and replace them with blank lines.

Do - be consistent when abbreviating words. Common abbreviations that our members should be familiar with, SUVCW, WRC, GAR and state abbreviation such as MI, OH, PA, etc., need no explanation and can be used without giving a first example, i.e., Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) and thereafter abbreviating it as SUVCW. Other non-familiar abbreviations should use the full name followed by the abbreviation in parenthesis, then the abbreviation throughout the rest of the article. And, the abbreviation needs to be consistent, i.e., don't use SUVCW in one place, S.U.V.C.W. (periods after letters) in another and maybe S. U. V. C. W. (periods and spaces after letters) in another. Use either SUVCW or S.U.V.C.W. This applies to ALL abbreviations in the article.

Don't - get carried away with the use of bold, underling, italics, etc. Too much stress on too many words in a given article creates confusion to the eye and actually negates the importance of what you are trying to get across. Use word stress sparingly. Underlining words should be kept to an absolute minimum and probably should only be used when totaling columns of figures. Underlining was originally used in the era of the typewriter to stress words as only one style of type was available and underlining was the only way to add stress to a word. Another unnecessary carryover from typewriter days is the use of a double space at the end of a sentence. Use a single space.

If you want to see *approximately* what your article will look like when it is printed in the Messenger, use the following settings: Margins — left 2.5 inches, right 2.5 inches, top 1 inch, bottom .75 inch. Text — Title line 20 point Times New Roman, byline (your name) 10 point Times New Roman, body (the article itself) 10 point Times New Roman. This will give you an approximation only, as it may be necessary to increase or decrease text size to fit the space available or the column width may have to be altered to fit either space available or to accommodate the article style.

COMING EVENTS

OCTOBER

10th Quarterly Reports Due
Camp Quarterly Reports are due in the office of the Department Secretary, Richard Lee.

11th — 14th Grand Rapids
General John A. Logan Camp 1 will be setting up an educational camp in the park in front of the Gerald R. Ford Museum Thursday, October 11 thru Sunday, October 14. For further details please see the announcement on page 18.

13th Chicago, IL
Central Region Conference. Full details will be posted on the National SUVCW web page by the time this reaches your mailbox. You may also find the following web site helpful:
www.execpc.com/~kap/suvcw-wi/crc/crc.html

NOVEMBER

10th Grand Rapids
On Saturday, November 10, at 2:00 pm there will be a re-dedication ceremony for the Civil War monument/statue in the cemetery at the Veteran's Home. See announcement page 18.

17th Gettysburg, PA
Remembrance Day. No details at this time. Please check the National SUVCW web page for information.

DECEMBER

7th Messenger Deadline
All copy and photographs should be in the hands of the editor by this date.

FEBRUARY

23rd Lansing
Midwinter Conference and Annual Washington-Lincoln Commemorative Dinner at the Best Western Midway Hotel. All members of the Order are urged to participate. More details will be furnished in the January issue of Michigan's Messenger.

If your Camp is planning an activity and wishes to have other SUVCW members in attendance, why not report it for inclusion in Coming Events? Please keep in mind the mailing dates though and plan ahead. The mailing dates for 2002 will be January 2, April 2, July 1 and October 1, and that the post office usually takes at least a week to deliver it. Remember though that the info needs to be submitted by the deadline date, normally three weeks prior to the mailing date.

(Continued from page 1)

One highlight for our delegation came when Commander-in-Chief Edward Kreiser presented the Cornelius Whitehouse Award, symbolic of the year's outstanding individual member to both Jim Pahl and Keith Harrison of the Department of Michigan, as the Commander-in-Chief could not clearly decide between the two Brothers who was the most outstanding. The award was a beautiful "eagle in flight" on a fine wood base. Last year, we had Brother Blakely dancing – this year, Keith and Jim "got the bird!"

Another highlight of the Encampment was when Jim Pahl nominated Kent Armstrong for the JVC-in-C with a most unusual story about a remote military outpost, the French Foreign Legion, a desert in a far distant land, a grizzled old sergeant, a young new lieutenant, and a ragged, emaciated camel. It was clearly the ability of Kent that led to his election as the Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief...or was it the story? Only time will tell (just kidding Kent), but I can tell you this, oh excuse me; I need to make a quick note to remind myself to get Brother Armstrong a lint brush, the next time you see "Sgt." Kent, be sure to ask just what his role was with the camel!

Jim Pahl also nominated Max Newman, Commander of Gov. Crapo Camp No. 145 of our Department, for the position of National Treasurer, to which he was elected and who will replace Brother Pahl in that position.

A well-earned Meritorious Service Award was also presented to Doug Armstrong, Camp Commander of George W. Anderson, Camp No. 58 and Department of Michigan War Memorials Officer. Since Doug was promoting the SUVCW back home, his father, PDC Kent Armstrong, proudly accepted the award.

Commander-in-Chief Kreiser of Indiana reported that The Order is financially sound and continues to grow. For the most part, our members all over the nation are tirelessly performing the duties of citizenship and the work of the Order. The search for a permanent and qualified Executive Secretary/Director continues to progress and hopefully we will have success sometime soon.

The National Secretary reported that we now have 6,368 Members including 536 Associate and 80 Junior members in the organization. We have 25 Departments and 6 new Camps were created in those during the past year.

MAJOR ACTIONS AND CHANGES

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS: The Constitution and Regulations were amended so that a new 2001 Life Member Program was created. With this program a member under the age of 65 must pay a fee of \$500.00 and those 65 and over would pay \$250.00. These monies will be placed in the Permanent Fund; however no reimbursement will be paid to the Life Member's Camp. Associates and Juniors are not entitled to become Life Members. It was also pointed out that Camps can charge Life Members a fee for local Camp Dues.

The age for Membership as a Junior was lowered from 8 to 6.

A donation of \$5,000 was authorized for the WW II Memorial Fund. This donation will be processed through the VFW because they will provide a matching donation to bring our gift up to \$10,000.

The Dunmore Publishing, Inc. of Olyphant, PA has been selected as the new Publisher of The Banner. For the first time you will see paid advertising in the Banner. We want to produce a quality product as well as hold the line on costs. It is hoped that eventually the revenue received for the advertising will cover the entire cost of the Banner allowing us to fund other projects.

RESOLUTIONS PASSED

That we oppose the new National Park policy on adding a "new" interpretation of the Causes of the Civil War. This was based on the many qualified historians who currently disagree on these causes, the concern about whose interpretations will be presented as facts, and on the possibility of misinformation.

That we support legislation currently in Congress to have 24/7 security at Grant's Tomb and that an interpreter be provided.

That since President George W. Bush has ancestors from the Civil War, that he be extended an invitation to join our Organization. (This was amended from the original proposal that the President be given a Life Membership).

Several other Resolutions were sent to the Constitution and Regulations Committee for study and possible consideration next year.

GENERAL INFORMATION

There was much discussion about the policy and regulations regarding the War Medal. Many are advocating that this Medal be changed to a Military Service Medal and it be awarded to any Brother who served honorably in any branch of our Military. No change was made, and it was referred to Committee for study and possible recommendations next year.

Six Memorial Grants have been awarded—four in the last year. Since this Fund was meant to be exhausted each year, we were able to authorize an immediate contribution of \$1,349 (an amount over the \$500 limitation of the Fund) to the Auxiliary of the SUVCW to provide them with the final amount needed for restoration and perpetual care of the Albert Woolson Monument at Gettysburg which was originally donated by the Auxiliary.

National Webmaster Keith Harrison reported that 150 new web pages have been added bringing our site up to 1,450 pages. Our site is now averaging 9,886 hits per day through the first 7

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months of this year; double the amount from 1998 statistics.

It was also reported that there are still two Civil War Widows; one Union widow living in Tennessee and one Confederate widow living in Illinois.

We were again honored to have the Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Confederate Veterans of the Civil War as a guest at this Encampment.

Newly elected Commander-in-Chief Powell was directed to send a letter to the Corporate Headquarters of the Adams Mark Hotel as well as the two Adams Mark Hotels that the SUVCW have stayed at in the past suggesting that they solve their staff problems with better methods than discriminating against our Confederate Brothers of the SCVCW. It seems Mark Hopkins, Inc. has announced that they will not permit the SCVCW Encampments at their Hotels because their staff in Atlanta objected to the Confederate Flag and Symbols and many employees refused to work or called in sick in opposition.

An interesting letter was received from an African-American in Florida who urged us to join him and take a strong stand against any Federal Reparations being paid to the ancestors of former slaves. If any reparations are to be paid, he stated, they should go to the ancestors of the many Union soldiers who had lost their lives freeing the slaves. His letter was well documented. It was sent to Committee.

The 2002 Encampment will be held in Springfield, Illinois on August 7-10. 2003 will be hosted by the Departments of Ohio and Kentucky in Fort Mitchell, KY—just South of Cincinnati. 2004 will be in either Texas or Iowa. 2005 is open—possibly in California (they had 11 delegates in attendance this year, as opposed to the usual 1). There is a good possibility of Pennsylvania for 2006.

COMMUNICATION

There were many Brothers asking where our true son Brother Ed Blakely was this year and to answer everyone's questions, I simple prepared a communication to be read by National Secretary, Brother Todd Shillington. It was as follows:

True son, Brother Edward Blakely, 97-years-old, sends his regrets at not being able to attend this year's National Encampment. Since joining the Gen. John A. Logan, Camp No. 1 in May of 2000, Ed had participated in nearly three-dozen events relating to the Order and the Civil War. In fact, he has missed only one function, and that was due to the fact that he has volunteered to be a security guard for the National Seniors Golf event, The Farmers Classic, held in Grand Rapids for fourteen years running.

But all that activity has caused Ed to not spend as much time with his wife as he would have liked. So, while we are attending to the business of the Order, Brother Blakely is

attending to the business of his relationship by taking his wife Chelsea (age 90) to a cottage on Lake Michigan for two weeks beginning today. He will though be cutting the vacation short by one day in order to prepare for the Civil War re-enactment in Jackson, MI August 25 & 26.

Our Department's other true son, Brother Harold Becker (age 84), also sends his regrets at not being able to attend his first National Encampment. Having joined the Gen. John A. Logan Camp in May of this year, Harold has found some trouble in balancing his family life, his golf game, and the work of the Order given the fact that he has a close family, loves his golf, and still wishes to honor his father. This weekend finds him in Idaho visiting a new great-granddaughter.

Brother Becker's father, Conrad Becker, served in the 128th Indiana Infantry and after the war became the Post Commander of the Lyon GAR Post in Chicago, boasting at one time nearly 700 members and a female adjutant.

Both men, who live only 10 minutes apart, have stated it is their intention to be present next year.

THE CLOSING BANQUET

The event closed with an "Allied Orders Banquet." The food served was excellent but the most memorable item on the program was the musical entertainment from a group known as "Echoes of the South." This group was four children of a family of nine children who were performing publicly only for the second time and they were fantastic. They consisted of what appeared to be the four oldest children, two boys and two girls. They played a variety of songs – both Northern and Southern as well as instruments. They were sincere in their endeavor and were completely taken aback by the fact that we would love their program, in fact, they were surprised that we even applauded. They were even more amazed that we asked for CD's or tapes. Their father helped with the stage set-up and organizing and after the banquet, I approached him to ask if he indeed was "Dad," to which he replied that he was. I introduced myself also as a "Dad," and told him that he should be proud of his children and that they sounded wonderful. The smile on his face was indeed the smile of a proud father and I told him so. When I asked him if I could have their address, he had his daughter Hilary give it to me and they were even more tickled that they were "giving autographs." It was a special treat for me because of the sharing I do with my children in re-enacting and I love to see other families interacting.

Goodbyes were said to all and we each made preparation to head back to Michigan. I caught the shuttle to the airport at 5:00 am Sunday morning. I'm not sure because of the fog as we were leaving the hotel, but I believe I may have seen a camel and a stocky, grizzled old Sergeant standing in the distance.

THE GERALD R. FORD MUSEUM PRESENTATION:

LINCOLN: A PERSONAL JOURNEY

The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum will be site of a Smithsonian-style exhibit called *Lincoln: A Personal Journey* beginning October 11, 2001 and running until February 2002. You personally will not want to miss this and there is an excellent opportunity for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Department of Michigan to "introduce" us to the public.

What does this mean to the Dept. of Mi, SUVCW?

Commander Greg Hayes would like to take advantage of this historic opportunity and encourages as many Brothers to attend and/or participate in this event. How can you help?

Bruce B. Butgereit, Dept. SVC and Commander of the Gen. John A. Logan, Camp No. 1 will be setting up an educational camp in the park in front of the Ford Museum on Thursday, Oct. 11 – Sunday, October 14, 2001. Thursday night is set-up, Friday is reserved for area schools to visit and Saturday and Sunday is open to the public.

This Camp will include the tents of Bruce B. Butgereit & Co. – Civil War Presentations, set up in a "station-style" tour. One tent will cover ladies' fashions, including undergarments, and the rules of etiquette and manners of politeness. Another tent will share a look at schoolwork during the Civil War and children's toys and games. Another large section will share a look at the life of the soldier – his uniform, equipment, weaponry, personal items including foods, and artifacts. Another area will include a Southern perspective. There has been an offer to include some stations or displays inside the Museum but the details have not yet been finalized.

There will also be an area reserved for MOLLUS and the Allied Orders of the G.A.R. – the Daughters, Woman's Relief Corps, and the SUVCW. In this area, we will be able to share who we are, what we represent, and what we do. This will be an excellent opportunity to "get the word out" about our efforts in Grave Registration and Civil War Memorials. It is possible that some could even offer "look-ups" on our Department database for Graves Registration.

Please contact Bruce B. Butgereit by for any further questions or with something you would like to share or display. All decisions concerning participation are being looked at very closely by the Ford as every effort is being made to present a professional atmosphere for a professional event.

The Gerald R. Ford Museum is located at 303 Pearl Street NW, Grand Rapids, MI.

GRAND RAPIDS VETERAN'S HOME

3000 Monroe NW
Grand Rapids, MI

On Saturday, November 10, at 2:00 PM there will be a re-dedication ceremony for the Civil War monument/statue in the cemetery at the Home. Mr. Watson, of ARCO Engineering of Louisville, KY recently received the contract to clean the monument using the ARMEX (Arm & Hammer) baking soda method and did so on August 29. The Home will be trimming the overhanging trees surrounding the monument in an effort to keep the memorial cleaner.

There is an interesting story that accompanies this monument and since this Home was the first in the State of Michigan, dedicated in 1886, and its cemetery holds the largest number of Civil War dead in the State, it is only fitting that the SUVCW be present for this ceremony.

All are welcome. Please inform Bruce if you will be in attendance for program recognition purposes.

Bruce's contact information:

Ph: (616) 285-0693

Email: civil-war@mindspring.com

The

Deadline

for the next issue of

Michigan's Messenger

is

December 7th

Articles and photos must be *received* by this date to ensure their inclusion in the January issue. Articles may be submitted by e-mail either as a part of the e-mail message or by attached file, or by U.S. postal service. Due to the extra processing necessary to convert electronic images (scans or digital photos) to a halftone suitable for printing, no electronic images will be accepted.

Please send your submissions to:

John Mann, Editor

Michigan's Messenger

2495 Washington Road

Lansing, MI 48911-7216

E-mail: Jrmsuvcw@aol.com

Fund Raising Raffle
ROBERT FINCH CAMP 14
Traverse City, Michigan

Tickets are \$25.00 each

Only 100 tickets to be sold

FIRST PRIZE

Choice of the Following:

\$500.00 in Cash

or

One week in 2002 at Vistana Resort

Orlando, Florida

or

One week in 2002 at Tahoe Seasons

South Lake Tahoe, California

SECOND PRIZE

Hand Crocheted Afghan

50 x 62 inches

THIRD PRIZE

Several smaller prizes will be available

Proceeds will be used to purchase a Camp Flag and to help restore the Civil War monument in Traverse City. The drawing will be held at the South City Limits Restaurant in Traverse City, on November 10, 2001 between 1 and 2 pm. Michigan Raffle License #R63185.

Please make your check out to *Robert Finch Camp 14* and mail to:

Neal F. Breaugh, Sec./Treas.
10231 East San Remo Boulevard
Traverse City, Michigan 49684

If you have any questions, please contact Neal Breaugh, (231) 947-5873 or nbreaugh@gtii.com



The Michigan Delegation at Springfield, MO

Left to right, Robert Grove (Camp 250), PDC Kent Armstrong (Camp 58), Rick Danes (Camp 427), DSVC Bruce Butgereit (Camp 1), Richard Lee (Camp 120), Bill Lowe (Camp 7), PC-in-C Keith Harrison (Camp 17), PDC Jim Pahl (Camp 17), John Mann (Camp 7), PC-in-C Ed Kreiser of Indiana, hiding behind PC-in-C Kreiser is Ed Dowd (Camp 145), Neal Breagh (Camp 14), Rick Greene (Camp 145), Max Newman (Camp 145), PDC Gary Gibson (Camp 20) and Del Farnsworth (Camp 1). Missing from the picture are Dale Calder (Camp 17) and Dick Williams (Camp 17).

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

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Michigan's Messenger
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