



Michigan's

Messenger

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



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REPORT ON THE 121ST NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

Edited by DC Bruce B. Butgereit

As was the case at last years National Encampment, when then Department Patriotic Instructor and Robert Finch Camp 14 Commander Neal Breagh took notes for me on the business of the Order, I was again honored when he repeated his offer. I am proud to say that his skills have only improved this year as our Department Junior Vice-Commander – Neal, thank you! (As to his offer to chauffeur me to the Gettysburg Remembrance Day, I'll have to report on the quality of that exercise in another report!)

The Michigan Mafia - The Department of Michigan was honored in three different ways at the Encampment this year. First, we helped elect and then witnessed Brother Kent Armstrong installed as the Senior Vice Commander-in Chief. Secondly, our Department was presented with the Marshall Hope Award for the best Department Newsletter, The MICHIGAN MESSENGER – way to go Brother Mann! And also for the third straight year we had the largest voting delegation with 18 Michigan Delegates in attendance, including True Son Brother Edward Blakely. In addition, Brother Max Newman, Commander of Gov. Crapo Camp 145 will be in his second year, as National Treasurer and Brother Jim Pahl of Curtenius Guard Camp 17 will be staying on as National Counselor. PC-in-C Keith Harrison, also from Camp 17, will be leaving the post of National Webmaster but staying on as the backup Webmaster. All of these Michigan Brothers will be a great help to newly elected Commander-in-Chief Bob Grim from the Department of Ohio.

Officer reports - In his State of the Order Report, Commander-in-Chief George Powell of Pennsylvania reported that for the first time in five years, four issues of the BANNER were published with the quality that the members had been requesting. This did come with a cost that will be discussed later in this report. This year, Charters were signed for 11 new Camps, and at this Encampment, C-in-C Powell presented a beautiful new Charter to the new Department of Oklahoma. PDC Gary Gibson of Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20 did a great deal of the work in getting this new Department started. Work is currently underway to organize a Camp-at-Large in the State of Oregon.

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TAPS

BOYD A. VEENKANT

Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20

Born 7 March 1917, Allegan, MI. Died 14 June 2002, Allegan, MI. Buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Allegan, 18 June 2002. Member of the SUVCW since 30 November 1993, joining initially in Kalamazoo. A member of Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20 at the time of his death.

Grandson of Ralph Towner, Co. F, 186th N.Y. Volunteer Infantry Regiment and GAR Department of Michigan Commander in 1944. Comrade Towner was the last surviving Civil War veteran in Allegan Co., MI, dying in 1946.

Survived by wife, Jessie and three children, Raymond, Allen and Corinne, their spouses, five grandchildren and one great grandchild. His brother, Ralph, also survives.

Information provided by Wm. A. Brennan, PDC, Camp Chaplain, Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20.

LAYTON AVES

Curtenius Guard Camp 17

Brother Layton Aves, of Lakeview, MI, Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17, died on 3 May 2002, in Lansing. Born there on 3 November 1923, he was initiated into the SUVCW on 26 July 1994, by virtue of his relationship to a great uncle, Thomas Dissinger, a private in Co. E, 3rd Michigan Infantry. While a member of Camp No. 17, he served in the Camp Color Guard and was involved in GAR Hall restoration projects.

Brother Aves was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, serving in the Pacific in WWII. He participated in many community activities, including the Boy Scouts, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, American Legion, Sons of the Revolution and the Marine Corps League.

His wife, Phyllis, a son, Steve, a daughter, Sherry, brothers Otto and LaVerne, and a sister, LeVetta, survive him. A son, Stan, and daughter, Judy, preceded him in death.

HUBERT WILLIAMS

Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20

Hubert Williams died Thursday, July 25, 2002, at his home in Kalamazoo. He joined Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20 of Kalamazoo on April 26, 1994. He was a very active member of the Camp Council and in Memorial and Veterans Day ceremonies. His Great Grandfather was PVT David E. Williams, Co. B, 5th Michigan Infantry, serving from 22 June 1864 to 5 July 1865.

Brother Williams was a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict. He was a member of many civic and patriotic organizations and served as the Veterans Affairs Service Officer in Kalamazoo County for several years. In 2002, he was named Marine of the Year in the State of Michigan.

His wife of 45 years, Elaine, a daughter, Claudia, and a sister preceded him in death. A son, Daniel of Kalamazoo, a daughter, Jennifer Ward of Royal Oak, four grandchildren, a sister and several nieces and nephews survive him.

A Memorial Service was held on July 27 with interment in the Grand Prairie Cemetery.

DEPARTMENT ORDERS NO. 2

SERIES 2001 ~ 2002

Department Headquarters, Linden Michigan

1. The Department of Michigan regrets to report the passing of Brother **Layton Aves**. He was a member of Curtenius Guard Camp 17; initiated into the SUVCW on July 26, 1994, by virtue of his relationship to a great uncle, Thomas Dissinger, a private in Co. E, 3rd Michigan Infantry. While a member of Camp No. 17, he served in the Camp Color Guard and was involved in hall restoration projects. Brother Aves was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, serving in the Pacific in WWII. He participated in many community activities, including the Boy Scouts, the Fraternal Order of Eagles, American Legion, Sons of the Revolution and the Marine Corps League. All Camps were directed to have their Charters draped-in-mourning for the month of May.

2. The Department of Michigan regrets to report the passing of Brother **Boyd A. Veenkant**, a member of the SUVCW since Nov. 30, 1993, joining initially in Kalamazoo. Grandson of Ralph Towner, Co. F, 186th N.Y. Vol. Inf. Regt. and GAR Dept. of Michigan Commander in 1944. Comrade Towner was the last surviving Civil War veteran in Allegan Co., MI, dying in 1946. All Camps were directed to have their Charters draped-in-mourning for the month of June.

3. So that we may pay our respects to all Brothers who are called to their maker, I have requested DSO Brother Eric Kirchberg to create a three-step process on our Department web site to accomplish such. It includes:

- A. Upon notification of either Department Chaplain Brother Bill McAfee or Brother Kirchberg, the badge of the Order with a black band of mourning will be placed on the Home Page for 30-days with a link to the "In Memoriam" Page
- B. On this page, the Brother's bio will be shared for the same 30-days
- C. At the conclusion of the 30-days, the Brother's name will be placed on "The Bugle Call" Page for one year. The other two pages will then be removed.

4. I have also instituted an email "Prayer List" so that Brothers and Sisters (and family) "In Distress" may be remembered in prayer by all. Galatians 6:2a – *Bear ye one another's burdens...* Please feel free to send me your concerns and your victories so that I can share them with all.

5. I would like to thank all the Brothers who attended the 2002 National Encampment at Springfield, Illinois on August 8, 9 & 10 (see photo elsewhere). "True Son" Ed Blakely was recognized by Commander-in-Chief George Powell for his

attendance and thanked Ed for the memory of he and "True Son" Brother Adin Shank (deceased) dancing the night away at the 2000 National Encampment in Lansing.

6. Please join me in congratulating Brother Kent Armstrong on his election to the Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief. A table is included elsewhere in this issue listing the National Offices held by Michigan Brothers.

7. As mentioned in my report from the 2002 National Encampment, the recent action taken concerning the increase in per capita will most likely affect the annual dues collected by all Camps. It was also voted upon to move the position of Camp Civil War Memorials Officer from that of an appointed position to that of elected. Given these changes, and some changes made in recent years that may have been overlooked, every Camp will be required to review their By-Laws to insure that they are accurate and current. To assist towards this goal, I will soon be providing each Camp Commander with a hard copy and floppy disk of approved By-Laws so that you can review and compare and insert the appropriate wording or delete any unnecessary. Once that task is completed, each Camp will then be required to forward 2 (two) copies of your By-Laws to me and I will work with Dept. Counselor Brother E. Lou Hoos in approving; one copy is then filed with the Department Secretary and the other returned to you. It should be noted that any time your Camp By-Laws are amended, they need reproved by the Department. Currently, the Department Secretary is missing By-Laws from Camps 3, 76, 101, 139, 147, and 427.

8. Verbal approval was given to the amended Department By-Laws of 2002 by then C-in-C George Powell at our Department Encampment and a copy has been forwarded to current Commander-in-Chief Robert Grim for his signature. Once this is received, a copy will be posted to the Department website and a hardcopy mailed to those with no Internet access. Work will soon be underway with the By-Laws Committee for proposed amendments, including the Department *Operating Guidelines* for the 2003 Encampment. Serving on the Committee is DSVC Brother Phil Parks (Chair), Brother Rick Greene, and Brother Bruce Butgereit, II.

9. I would like to thank all Camps that have given "extra time" to sharing information on our Order and our work at the many events I've heard about. I have had the privilege of

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attending some of these informational/educational/recruiting activities and am pleased with the "professionalism" of our presentation. The members of Camp 7 have volunteered to represent the Department at several events outside their local area and deserve recognition for doing so.

10. Our newly designed Department, Camp and Flag Facts Flyers have been a great success in giving the public something to read and take with them from an event. I again extend my offer to assist you in creating an advertising/recruiting flyer personalized for your Camp – just provide me the information you desire and I'll return the master copy to you for reproduction. To date, Camps 2, 120, 14, 17, 28, 427, and 139 have requested them. Should you need copies of the Department and Flag Facts flyer, please contact me.

11. October 5, 2002 will be date of our next Central Region Conference; held in St. Louis, MO. This one-day workshop is an excellent tool for meeting Brothers and Sisters from neighboring Departments and learning ways to better fulfill our goals and purposes within the Order. The day includes a sightseeing trip to a local Civil War site, the conference, and an evening dinner. I highly recommend your attending if at all possible. More information can be found at: <http://suvcw.org/inquiry.htm>

12. Having never attended the Remembrance Day Parade/Ceremony in Gettysburg, PA, I am anxiously looking forward to doing so this November 16. Every *Member, Associate, and Junior* is invited to take part in this special day at Gettysburg; your "uniform" may be of a soldier or modern. This year, we of the Michigan contingent will be honoring the 5th Michigan Infantry monument. For more information, please contact me.

13. Department Secretary Brother Richard Lee has completed the minutes from the Department Encampment and will soon be distributing a hardcopy to each Camp Commander and Department Officer. Please share this work with the members of your Camp.

14. With annual Camp elections about to take place, please remember and advise each Brother who may be elected or appointed, that while we are a "volunteer" organization, there comes with the title of Commander, Treasurer, Secretary, and more, a *duty* to perform the responsibilities of that position and a *higher standard* of volunteerism. This includes the filing of reports, communication, the return of email and the answering of letters, the updating of your Camp information, whether it is on the Department web site or your Camp roster, the sharing of upcoming events to the Department or other Camps, and etc. The Brothers of your Camp have elected you because they had faith in your abilities and leadership; don't let them down. If you need help or have a question, please ask of your Department Officers.

15. Please advise me of your Camp schedule for the installation of new officers. Department Secretary Brother Richard Lee will be distributing a newer **Form 22, Installation of Officers**, one that allows for the inclusion of email addresses, to each Camp. This form is one of your most important as it helps greatly with communication.

16. As we get closer to the time when requests and reminders for the payment of annual dues are sent out, please remember to have your Council review the amount of your Camp dues to insure that, **annual dues shall be, at a minimum, the total of the National (\$18) and Department (\$8) per capita assessments.**

17. Please be sure any literature you have, whether created by you or me, is updated to reflect any Camp Officer or dues changes you might make. Also be sure to send an update to Department Signals Officer Eric Kirchberg for your website. Send changes to your Camp flyer to me and I'll amend and return another master copy.

18. All Camps are respectfully encouraged to host, support, or join in other patriotic organizations next month in observances of *Veteran's Day* on the 11th and *Remembrance Day* on the 19th. Asking to share something patriotic and meaningful at your area schools would go a long way in helping educate our youth in the understanding of truth, sacrifice, freedom and our flag.

19. As Department Commander, I have participated in the following events (Camp No. 1 Commander events not included):

- A. June 6 – Visited Camp 22 in Marshall
- B. June 30 – Had dinner/Commander Tour meeting with DJVC Brother Neal Breough and his wife in Ludington
- C. July 20/21 – Helped organize SUVCW presence at the reenactment at Charlton Park in Hastings / created program flyer for the event
- D. July 30 – Visited Camp 17 in Sunfield with DJVC Brother Neal Breough after fellowship dinner
- E. August 3 – Coordinated Ceremony of Remembrance at Grand Rapids Home for Veterans
- F. August 6 – Visited Camp 120 in Howell, again with DJVC Brother Neal Breough after fellowship dinner
- G. August 8, 9, 10, 11 – Escorted True Son Brother Edward Blakely to the National Encampment
- H. August 10 – Created and printed headstone dedication service program for Alfred White, 102nd USCT
- I. August 19 – Created mailing for Camp Commanders, Secretaries and Department Officers
- J. August 24 – Attended Jackson Muster and helped serve in Department tent display
- K. August 24 – A Michigan "Save the Flags" program

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SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Philip N. Parks

The events of summer begin to fade as we reach September. I am sure that each Camp in its own way has let their communities know that the SUVCW is a historical service organization ready to preserve and perpetuate the memory of those who gave their all to keep the Union of States in America in the face of enemies both foreign and domestic.

The outreach in the UP started the weekend of June 15th and 16th at the Butler Building on the Fair Grounds in Escanaba. Jim Decremer, JVC of the Albert and James Lyon Camp 266, managed the Second Annual Gun and Knife Show where the SUVCW was given a prominent display area for literature and artifacts. The newest contribution to the display is a three-foot long oak tree trunk from the Gettysburg battlefield, studded with cast iron shell shards and grape shot. It may be from Little Round Top where oak has been known to grow.

The weekend of July 13th and 14th the sixth annual Civil War Living History Encampment was erected at Ludington Park in Escanaba. Mark Karweick of the 2nd Wisconsin Infantry reenactors invited Camp 266 to participate again this year. The 10th Tennessee Infantry was there to do battle Saturday afternoon with the 2nd Wisconsin Infantry. We were given a tent area with easy public access to meet people, answer questions and distribute our literature. As the representative of the SUVCW, Department of Michigan I was asked to give the Sunday morning memorial address at the Lakeview Cemetery Remembrance Ceremony where more than fifty Civil War veterans are laid to rest. It was my first memorial service message as the DSVC! There were more than dozen Wisconsin

SUVCW participants in the program including the Department of Wisconsin Commander Randy Novak and his wife Teresa, Vice President of the SUVCW Auxiliary. The presence of "Abe Lincoln", AKA, William R. Veit, of our own Frederick H. Hackeman Camp 85 of Bridgman, hovered over the all our activities.

The Michigan Iron Industry Museum, Department of History, Arts and Libraries of the State of Michigan in Negaunee hosted their second annual event "Iron Ore and the Civil War". Our invitation gave us display and presentation space in the Museum building.

The firing of cannon was under the direction of Battery D, 1st Michigan Light Artillery, while the Civil War period music was provided by "Homegrown Strings". Several lectures were presented, one titled "Forging America's Armies: Lake Superior Iron Ore and the Civil War" by Dr. Robert Rosentreter, Editor of "Michigan History" magazine.

I met and talked with Dr. Rosentreter after his lecture as a representative of the Department of Michigan SUVCW and thanked him for his publication of Civil War articles. The "Michigan History" magazine has also published "Michigan History for Kids", the winter 2001 issue Volume 1 No. 3 is all about Michigan in the Civil War. It would be a great addition to our display tables and suggests an avenue of education for us to pursue.

The summer newspapers here in the UP have furnished a reasonable amount of ink to cover Civil War activities while mentioning the SUVCW. The "Soo Evening News" of Sault Ste. Marie, "The Mining Journal" of Marquette, "The Daily Press" of Escanaba and "The Daily Mining Gazette" of Houghton while "The Mining Journal" even carried pictures of



Section of oak tree with grape shot and shell fragments embedded in it from the Gettysburg battlefield. The log is held by members of Battery D, 1st Michigan Light Artillery at the "Iron Ore and the Civil War" event at the Iron Museum of Marquette.

HISTORIAN

Paul D. Hodges, PDC

Veterans Records. A new program has been inaugurated for the Department to perpetuate the memory of the men who saved the Union in 1861 to 1865 and to preserve documents pertaining to them. It consists of the collection and preservation of copies of their military files and their pension files.

Many if not most of us have obtained copies of our ancestors' files from the National Archives and Records Administration. Those of us with files for Civil War veterans now are asked to send photocopies of them to the Department Historian. They should be sent to me at 2300 Heights Avenue, Lansing, MI 48912-3514.

Brother Michael Nick of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant Camp 101 suggested this program and was the first contributor to it. His material pertains to William C. Bates of Company A, Twenty-fourth Michigan Volunteer Infantry of the famed Iron Brigade. Sergeant Bates enlisted as a corporal on August 12, 1862, in Detroit, was captured at the Battle of the Wilderness on May 5, 1864, and was honorably discharged June 8, 1865, at Camp Chase, Ohio.

The files of Sergeant Bates illustrate the types of materials these files contain. His has copies of his enlistment record, company muster-in roll, company muster rolls, memorandums from prisoner of war records, detachment muster-out roll, certificate in lieu of discharge certificate, record of marriage, claim for pension, pension declaration, and declaration for widow's pension.

Any member who has not obtained copies of his Civil Wars ancestor's files should consider getting them for an insight into the family history. Then send a copy for the Department's reference and use.

Fire-resistant Storage. The provision of fire-resistant storage facilities for the Department records has been a topic of discussion at recent annual encampments. An appropriate file cabinet for that purpose, when obtained, presumably would be placed at the GAR hall in Marshall. But that has changed.

For the past few years, the Department has had storage space for its records in that GAR hall and museum, courtesy of the Marshall Historical Society. Department documents fill a storage cabinet and take up other space there. Still other materials are in a variety of different places.

Early this year, Brother Charles LaBar of Henry W. Quigley Camp 147 learned about some secondhand fire-resistant file cabinets for sale at Cadillac. The Department Council authorized the purchase of one which would be moved to Marshall. We thought that space for it could be arranged on the main floor (rather than in the attic where the other storage space is) and offered to install a steel post in the basement to help

support the 500-pound weight.

However, when Brother Roger Graves of Colegrove-Woodruff Camp 22 discussed the plan with the Marshall Historical Society, its Board declined to provide space other than what already is in use. The weight of the cabinet was a concern, and modifications to the building would not be acceptable.

Thus the Department needs not only fire-resistant storage but also a suitable location for them. To this end, our search will remain ongoing in the hope that we may find, not only a fire-proof location but one that will still be within a reasonable travel distance for most Camps. We thank the Marshall Historical Society and our Brothers and Sisters of the Marshall Allied Orders for allowing us the use of the GAR Hall for storage and for the preservation of the artifacts respectively.

Thus the Department needs not only fire-resistant storage facilities but also a suitable place for them. Commander Butgereit is pursuing some possibilities. He and I would welcome any suggestions for them.

DEPARTMENT ORDERS

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in Lansing (1st MI Cav.)

L. August 24 – Attended and represented Department at headstone dedication of MOH recipient, Sgt. Frederick Lyon in Jackson

M. August 25 – Attended Jackson Muster and helped serve in the Department tent display

N. September 3 – Visited Camp 28 in Big Rapids

O. September 5 – Meeting in Lansing with Dept. Secretary Richard Lee and Treasurer Richard Williams on By-Laws and Department business

P. September 7 – Attended and represented Department at the 100th anniversary rededication of the GAR Hall in Marshall

20. My sincere Best Wishes to you and yours, for the holidays ahead.

By the order of:

Bruce Butgereit,
Commander,
Department of Michigan

Attest:

Richard Lee
Secretary,

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Neal F. Breaugh

It is a stated goal of Commander Butgereit and myself that we visit and attend a meeting of all 26 Camps in our Department. The Commander may well do it, and based on the schedule that Commander Butgereit worked out, I hope to be with him about 75% of the time. We are already off to a good start. On July 30th, we visited Curtenius Guard Camp 17 in Sunfield. What a privilege it was to be meeting with them in their historic G.A.R. Hall with all its history and all the historic pictures, articles, and various items on the wall. They were gracious enough to invite us to join them at The Old Timers Club where many of them have dinner before their meeting. I am looking forward to joining them when they celebrate their 20th anniversary next year. It was easy to tell why Camp 17 has supplied so many outstanding Department and National leaders over the past several years.

On Saturday, August 3rd, I was at the Veterans Home in Grand Rapids to attend an early 8:00 A.M. meeting of John A. Logan Camp 1, where Brother Butgereit is also that Camp's Commander. Camp Chaplain Comer Skinner made this a special meeting by providing a wonderful breakfast of bacon, sausage, eggs, potatoes, biscuits, muffins, coffee, and juice. I wanted to think that this was all in my honor, but really knew that this was done in honor of their Camp and our Department Commander's recent marriage to the lovely Marcia Bruin. Camp 1 did present me with a pair of white gloves to wear during the very impressive Ceremony of Remembrance and Old Soldiers Picnic on the grounds of the Veterans grounds. Many other of our Camps were represented at this Ceremony and everyone had a great time. Also attending this meeting was one of the Camp's two True Sons, Mr. Edward Blakley. It is always a great privilege to attend any event with Brother Blakley

On Tuesday, August 6th, Commander Bruce and I were treated to a great dinner at Leary's Pub prior to attending the Gilluley-Kingsley Camp 120 meeting. Here we were please to witness the induction of two new members into Camp 120, one, Neil Dorsey, whom I had processed the paper work from then Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Kent Armstrong. This Camp was already talking, on this hot night, about participation in participation and a Color-Guard for the Christmas Parade right after Thanksgiving. Patriotic Instructor Glenn Fincham and Chaplain Mike Taylor joined together for a very interesting and educational presentation.

We have several other Camp visits scheduled between now and the end of March, about 3 a month for the next seven months. This means a lot of time and a lot of miles on our cars, but it is worth it. Our purpose is to offer encouragement, help, and suggestions where needed, to meet as many of the members that we can, to help Camps get back to basics where necessary, and most often, to give our thanks for the great job that is being done. We feel that it is important that the Camps see us and hear from us, but it is just as important that we hear from the

Camps and get input from the many fine leaders who have done and are doing such a great job. So far it has been a tremendous learning experience for us, and we hope that we are able to return that experience to each of our Department's Camps.

On the Membership front, so far I have received five membership applications from Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Armstrong and all have been processed. Two have been assigned to Camp 120, one to Camp 180, one to Camp 3, and one to Camp-at-Large 462

It was also a great privilege to help represent our Department at the 121st National Encampment in Springfield, IL. in August. I can assure you that all of you can be proud of the representation you received from the 18 Michigan Delegates who were present. Commander Butgereit and I are also looking forward to representing you and our Department at Remembrance Day in Gettysburg on November 16th.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

FEBRUARY 22, 2003

The Department Mid-Winter Conference

An excellent opportunity for both returning and new Camp Officers to meet with their Department counterparts and discuss ideas, ask questions, and share camaraderie in a workshop-style meeting. To be held at the Midway Hotel in Lansing (M-43/Saginaw Hwy); further details and registration information will be available in the next MESSENGER. This event is co-sponsored each year by the Sons of the Revolution and it is their turn to host. The day concludes with a combined SUVCW/SR banquet and special guest speaker. I highly recommend this event.

APRIL 5, 2003

The Allied Orders Department Encampment

Hosting this year's Department Encampment will be our Sisters of the Woman's Relief Corps. The event will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (28th Street and US 96) in Grand Rapids. The rooms, schedule, and menus have been decided upon by the representatives of each of the three Allied Orders Committees in just two meetings. Registration and more information will be in the next MESSENGER.

TREASURER

Dick Williams

This is the current income and expenses incurred by the Department since the beginning of the fiscal year 6/1/2002 through 9/10/2002.

INCOME	
7 th Corp Patch	\$30.00
Camp at Large	22.50
Camp Per-Capita	2,344.00
Coat-of-Arms Pocket Patch	90.00
Emblem Pocket Patch	40.00
Hat Badge	799.50
Interest Inc	14.38
Mouse Pads	20.00
Wine Glasses	<u>57.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$3,417.38
EXPENSES	
Badges & Insignia	\$802.60
Department Encampment	53.00
Messenger	911.66
National Encampment	34.27
National Per-Capita	1,596.00
Secretary Expenses	103.12
Supplies	<u>43.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,543.65
OVERALL TOTAL	-\$126.27

We are running slightly in the negative for finances since June. We are building up our supplies for future sales. The hat badges, emblems and coat-of-arms will be advertised in the upcoming Banner and Messenger.

CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCES:

Alger Medal of Honor	\$731.22
Checking	\$389.57
Savings	\$12,495.76

Soon each Camp will have paid its last quarterly per-capita. Starting early next year the National and Department will be collecting per-capita from Camps on an annual basis. National has increased their per-capita to \$18 a year. The Department will remain at \$8 a year. Camp dues starting next year must be at least \$26 to cover the National and Department per-capita.

Please read all articles in the Messenger and Banner in regards to the new per-capita collection and reporting and don't hesitate to contact Department officers for clarification of procedures.

CHAPLAIN

William McAfee

Everyone likes to hear things that make them happy, give them joy, lift their spirits, especially when they are down in the dumps, disheartened, apathetic. Why is it then that most of the news we read in the public media, be it newspapers, magazines or tabloids, is all negative? It is said that "that's what sells newspapers", so there must be some satisfaction or draw to that type of news. Frankly, I'm tired of reading the negative reports. When I take a break at work, the first section of the paper I read is the comics. When the "Reader's Digest" arrives, I first read the jokes. Many of us start with the sports, looking for good news about our favorite teams, unless we are Lions or Tigers fans, of course... but we still look.

One of the most encouraging (to me, at least) bits of news in the past few months was the public outcry against the West Coast court's ruling to declare the Pledge of Allegiance unconstitutional because it contained the phrase "under God". From our President on down to the local level, people of power and status put down that court ruling in no uncertain terms. None of us can imagine singing "X Bless America" or "X shed His grace on thee" in "America the Beautiful". Past experience tells us that this may not be the end of it. Atheists such as the late Madeline Murray O'Hare, backed by the ACLU, will continue to promote their "cause" just as they did to get prayer and Bible reading out of the schools. We have to be diligently watchful to see that this doesn't continue.

Unfortunately, there was a ruling in May from Federal District Judge Jennifer Coffman that never got the publicity of the California ruling. She ruled that displays of historic American documents in eastern Kentucky schools and courthouses were unconstitutional and had to be removed. She said they had the effect of "conveying a very specific government endorsement of religion." She included, as examples some of the following:

- An excerpt from the Declaration of Independence "All men...are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights...."
- The national motto, "In God we trust."
- A proclamation by President Reagan marking 1983 the "Year of the Bible."
- A proclamation by President Lincoln designating April 30, 1863, a "National Day of Prayer and Humiliation", plus several others which were listed and footnoted by James C. Dobson, President of "Focus on the Family" in the August 2002 "Family News...."

There is little doubt that the good news can easily be overridden by the bad. Nevertheless, we all need to be ever vigilant and stand up for what we hold to be important to us, to our families and to the generations which we pray will come after us. I see this as another way we can protect and preserve the memory and sacrifices of our ancestors who served from 1861 to 1865.

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

A MICHIGAN PERSPECTIVE

(Continued from the July 2002 issue)

by Michael Maillard, Austin Blair Camp 7

Joseph Keen Sergeant Company D, 13th Michigan Infantry

Mustered in on February 27, 1862 in Detroit, Michigan. He became a prisoner at the Battle of Chickamauga on September 20, 1863. The official record simply indicates he escaped and monitored (observed) troop movements and on October 1, 1864, that he crossed the Chattahoochee River, with great personal danger, and reached Union lines and conveyed information to Sherman's Army.

The details of his exploits over that one year period was presented by him to the GAR Post No. 384 in Detroit in June, 1895. It was put in print as one of the classic tales of the Civil war.

In detail, after being captured, he spent time at Richmond, Danville and Andersonville prisons where he escaped on September 10, 1864. Trying to cross the Chattahoochee River to reach the Union lines he witnessed on September 29, from the late morning, until dark, the movement of Hood's Army by pontoons to the north bank. He and a companion were hiding in a tree when two rebel officers in a boat ventured close to them and came ashore to pick grapes. They then heard intentions of General Hood as these two officers conversed. He subsequently boldly walked through the enemies columns, camps and pickets, while avoiding cavalry scouts. He finally reached the Union line in the early morning on October 1. He reported to General Kirkpatrick of Hood's crossing which was intended to move his force directly in the rear of Sherman's Army. Because of the report, Sherman took steps to protect Allatoona where the Union supplies were stored. Neither Kirkpatrick or Sherman mentioned who provided that information to them. It wasn't until a General Ludlow, in February 21, 1899 recalled the incident and supported Keen's story.

Keen stated on June 15, 1899 that he did not know, up until just two years prior, that medals were issued during the service. He was subsequently awarded the Medal of Honor on July 31, 1899.

William Whitney Lieutenant 11th Michigan Infantry

Whitney enlisted on August 24, 1861 at Quincy, Michigan. As with many of the recipients, he received his medal much later in life, October 21, 1895, to be exact. His being honored was due to the persistent efforts of a Mr. Alfred Milnes, then Congressman from Coldwater, Michigan.

The official report indicated that on September 20, 1863, at the Battle of Chickamauga, that this officer went outside the Union works to recover cartridge boxes and returned after great exposure and returned in time for his men to repulse an attack. The action was an heroic move as that sector of the line had exhausted their ammunition as the result of several attacks and repulses of the rebels.

Another equally heroic action happened on August 7, 1864 near Atlanta when an advancing skirmisher was wounded and cried for help. The man was some 60 yards in front of the line. Fellow soldiers said it was suicidal to attempt to rescue the soldier and implored Whitney not to attempt to rescue him as he was to be discharged soon and he was sacrificing his life for a stranger. He never-the-less went over the defenses and brought the wounded soldier back while exposed to heavy fire.

In the deliberations by the War Department, they decided not to consider two medals to be awarded and recognized his heroism in recovering the cartridge boxes at Chickamauga.

Newsletter Editor Wanted

The search is still on for a new Michigan's Messenger editor. If you are interested in the job, please contact either Department Commander Bruce B. Butgereit, e-mail civil-war@attbi.com, phone (616) 827-3369; or present editor John Mann, e-mail jrmsuvcw@aol.com, phone (517) 694-1440.

GRAND ARMY POST IN ZEPHYRHILLS, FLORIDA

From an article in the Zephyrhills Colonist, Jan. 19th, 1911

Post No. 38 instituted by Dept. Commander Thompson

“Dept. Commander J.O. Thompson arrived in Zephyrhills on the evening train of Jan. 6, and on the morning of the 7th. Notice was sent to as many Comrades as could be quickly reached and a Grand Army Post was forthwith organized, officers chosen and the Dept. Commander instituted the Post and installed its officers, with the aid of Comrade T. H. Wood as A.A.G., and Comrade W. N. Siggins as Field O.D. There were just 50 members mustered into the Post. They came from every quarter of the Union and represented from perhaps every loyal state. Had there been more time the spread notice of the meeting through the Colony there would probably been double the number to muster. It was not a good day for sending messengers about the Colony or Comrades to come to town or gather from their homes in town, indeed, as there was a brisk and industrious rain engaged in active discharge of it’s duties.

Notice had been given two days before that the Post would be organized at 1:30 pm, Jan. 6th (1911), but before the arrival of the train by which the Dept. Commander was expected, a telegram was received stating that because of delayed arrival of the boat from St. Petersburg to Tampa he had missed the train. That caused indefinite postponement, of course, but it all came out right – except for those who were not reached by the hurry-up call to report to the hall for muster.

No name for the post was decided upon and it was simply mustered as **Number 38**, The Dept. Commander assured the Comrades that he will approve any name they decide upon, if a name is wanted, and one not already existing in the Dept. is chosen. He was greatly pleased with the event and highly pleased with Zephyrhills.”

The G.A.R. post in Zephyrhills was named the Garfield Post in honor of the slain President. The marker attached to the hall incorrectly dates the hall “about 1910” and this story illustrates that it was after 1911 before the hall was constructed. The building is still in excellent condition and is being used as a meeting place for the V.F.W. An addition was built on the rear of the building, consisting of office rooms. The windows have been updated but the building appears much as the Civil War veterans left it. The original curtain for the stage is in the possession of the Historical Society of Zephyrhills and is being restored. The Garfield Post is located across from the City Hall and Library on 5th Street.

Comments by Roger L. Heiple, misterG.A.R.@prodigy.net

MICHIGAN BROTHERS IN NATIONAL POSITIONS

- Kent Armstrong Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief / Council-of-Administration (v) / Committee on Program and Policy
- Jim Pahl Counselor / Council-of-Administration (n/v) / Committee on C & R / Committee on Digest / Legal Staff
- Max Newman Treasurer / Council-of-Administration (v)
- Keith Harrison Assistant Web Master / Council-of-Administration (n/v) / Aide to Committee on Communications and Technology / Committee on GAR Post Records
- Gary Gibson Camp & Department Organizer / Committee on Digest / Committee on SUVCW Alternative Funding
- Richard Williams ... Committee on Communications and Technology
- John Mann National Encampment Credentials Committee (Chair)
- Roger Heiple Committee on GAR Post Records
- Kim Shaw Legal Staff

GEN. JOHN A. LOGAN ~ CAMP 1

Bruce B. Butgereit, Commander

Ashland Cemetery in Grant, Michigan was the scene of a very special Civil War monument rededication on June 22. Sponsored by the William Barstow Chapter, Colonial Dames of the XVII Century and the Muskegon Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, this project was truly a community affair.

The two ladies organizing the project, Judy Corrigan and Dawn Robinson, had called Sister Joanne Bailey-Boorsma, President of Eva Gray Tent No. 2, DUVCW asking for assistance with a Civil War presence; Joanne then called me. Over the next several months, I had the pleasure of many meetings and phone calls with these ladies. It is a rewarding experience when a non-Civil War organization gets involved and behind a special project such as this.

The story of the memorial was as follows: On November 15, 1885 the Charles E. Wendell Post No. 316, Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), Ashland, Newaygo County, held a meeting at which it was voted to have a Civil War monument placed in the Ashland Cemetery in honor of those comrades who had fought during the late great war. They held basket socials, dance socials, and the wives of the members made quilts and sold them to raise the necessary funds.

At a regular meeting on May 28, 1887 thanks was given to Dr. M.E. Earl and John W. Brown for their services in building the Civil War monument. The monument was dedicated on Memorial Day 1887. A unique feature of this monument is the corn cob used as a stopper for the soldier's canteen. (The monument is made of Bedford Limestone and similar in design to monuments in Sand Lake, Cedar Springs, and Rockford, Michigan.)

A band was hired for ten dollars for this special event along with invitations to local schools for the teachers and students to attend, different societies and organizations, and churches. A basket social was held that day so that the multitude of people could be fed. It became a regular Memorial Day event until 1901.

The Muskegon Monument Company was hired to power-wash the memorial for \$500; the Boy Scout Troop 1134 and Cub Scouts 4136 cleaned by hand the headstones within 40' of the monument. Mr. Larry Veihl, cemetery sextant, cleaned up the grounds, poured a slab of concrete around the base of the monument for additional support, laid new sod, and also played Taps at the service.

The service performed was a joint effort by the Grand Rapids Allied Orders; Gen. John A. Logan Camp No. 1, SUVCW, Champlin Corps No. 41, WRC, and Eva Gray Tent No. 2, DUVCW. We had additional participation from the Newaygo VFW Post 4249 as a Color Guard. Four ladies playing

dulcimers added an extra Civil War-feel to the event. Additional color and support was provided by the uniforms of the Northern Michigan Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and our Brothers from Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20.

Well over 200 people turned out for the service; some coming as far away as Paw Paw, MI. Following the ceremony, a celebration picnic was held as a recreation of the original picnic in 1887; nearly 30 businesses and relatives of soldiers to whom the monument was originally dedicated donated foodstuffs, utensils, food and more.

One final tribute to Judy and Dawn, as well as others in the community would be to acknowledge their effort and dedication in sharing the history of this monument and of the Civil War soldiers from the area. During the time leading up to the rededication, much time was spent gathering information, pictures, documents, and etc. on the soldiers, including a day spent with the ladies at the Newaygo Library by PDC/DGAR Historian Jim Lyons and I. All this was shared with the public and then given to me.

A little bit closer to home, Brother Ed Blakely and I were invited to spend several hours over several days, filming for a program on WOOD TV8 called *Positively Michigan*. The program is a short 3-4 minute spot in the 5:30 news and covers things throughout Michigan. Using our Civil War monument as a backdrop and the tie to the Civil War Brother Blakely has, we became the first item to run four consecutive days on the show.

While our fundraising is taking as long as it took the Union army to get to Richmond, we did receive our first major contribution; \$50,000 from the City of Grand Rapids, the owners of the monument. Another push is about to be made with an area school district joining in the effort. In fact, the monument was used by one elementary student of this district as the subject of a web site she created, which is going to Lansing for a special contest.

Marcia Bruin became Marcia Butgereit when her and I were married at the Charlton Park Civil War reenactment in Hastings as part of the event. Chaplain Comer Skinner of Camp No. 1 and Bill Brennan of Camp No. 20 performed our authentic Civil War wedding service; my Union best man (I also had a Southern best man) was "True Son" Brother Ed Blakely. The service was well attended and included many Brothers and Sisters of the Allied Orders – we thank you for sharing our day with us.

That same weekend, Brother Bill Johnston, our Camp GRO assisted Camp No 17 and 7 in sharing the Department GR database with the public.

The day dawned bright and early for us at the Ceremony-of-Remembrance on August 3. In order to prepare for the day, our meeting was again scheduled for 8 AM and well attended. We

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had three special events happen that day – DJVC Neal Breaugh attended our meeting (on time after driving down from Traverse City that same morning), Camp Chaplain Comer Skinner brought a home-cooked breakfast with about six-dozen scrambled eggs, five pounds of sausage links, five pounds of bacon, three-dozen biscuits, coffee, and apple and orange juice (all cooked by his mother starting at 4 AM that morning in honor of Marcia's and my marriage), and a visit from PC-in-C Keith Harrison. With no disrespect shown to our fellow Brother Neal and Keith, I believe that Comer's treat was the highlight of that morning meeting.

The event was much different than in the past but I believe we enjoyed the day a bit more as there were only a few residents of the Home that attended and the public was almost non-existent. Much of the day was spent sharing with each other and the picnic was wonderful. We also shared our Department Graves Registration information with those that did attend and the tent was a busy one all day.

This year we had our largest turnout of Brothers with over 25 in attendance. We thank all who attended and our Sisters for their support. Because the event has changed over the years as well as the expectations of the Home, plans are underway to revise our strategy for the future and I'll keep you posted.

Brother Ed Blakely and I attended the National Encampment in Springfield, IL and enjoyed the time together and the Encampment; next year, we hope to get Brother Harold Becker, Michigan's other "True Son," to the Encampment in Cincinnati, OH. While we were away, several of our members and Sisters of our Grand Rapids Allied Orders attended a headstone dedication of Alfred White of the 102nd USCT at the Baseline Cemetery in Allegan County. Camp 20 and several reenactor units, including the 102nd, conducted the service. I created a printed program for the service.

In searching for our Civil War memorials, I have spent countless hours driving countless miles, trying to find these treasures. Here in Grand Rapids, there existed five GAR Posts and we had found four of their memorials, but finding the memorial dedicated to and by the Gen. John A. Logan Post No. 1 had always come up with a dead end – until the Ceremony of Remembrance.

My son Bruce II, Camp Secretary, had been asked by a wheelchair-bound veteran to push him up to his room in the Home, to, which he did. For whatever reason, Bruce decided to leave the building through a back door and as he was crossing the yard, there lying under a tree, was the long lost marker of Post No. 1. The list of memorials that the State had provided in 1965 had listed this memorial as being on a boulder and in the front yard of the Home, and it probably was until 1970 when they tore down the old Home and built the new one. I had asked the grounds crew many times if they had any knowledge of the marker...now they do!

Our September meeting will be on the anniversary of the tragedy of 9-11 and a special prayer service is scheduled to be held. Last year, our Camp meeting was on September 11.

HENRY E. PLANT ~ CAMP 3

Daniel Grable, Secretary/Treasurer

This year the Henry E. Plant Camp has been active and growing. First, in January we held our 2nd Annual Holiday Muster. A time where the Camp goes out to a local restaurant for holiday socializing and fun. Besides the Brothers of our Camp, we also invite our "better halves", family and friends. This year we all had a great time and the weather that day was beautiful.

In February Commander Richard and Jon Scott attended the Department Mid-Winter Conference.

At our April meeting we had the initiation of our newest member, Samuel Bishop. He is the grandson of our Junior Vice Commander, Council Member and Chaplain, John Bauldus. Brother Sam traces his ancestry back to Charles Bauldus who served in Company K of the 134th New York Infantry. Charles was wounded during the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg. After the war Charles lived in Eastmanville, Michigan and is buried in the Eastmanville Cemetery. During the same meeting we were informed that Brother Donald Ogden's mother had recently passed away.

On Memorial Day the Camp participated in the parade and ceremony in Spring Lake. We had one member marching in the parade, and seven participating as the firing squad. And flag bearer during the ceremony at the Spring Lake Cemetery. Camp Chaplain and the John Zimmerman AMVETS Post 1994 Chaplain, John Bauldus, read John Logan's General Order 11 and an appropriate poem from the AMVETS newsletter. He also explained the reasons behind General Logan's Order 11 starting Memorial Day. A picture of Chaplain Bauldus (in his Civil War uniform) reading the order appeared above the fold of the front page of the next day's local Grand Haven Tribune newspaper.

This summer, besides our Brothers involvement in re-enacting groups, some have worked on graves registration. Recently I have researching information and writing a book on our Camp's namesake and Medal of Honor recipient Henry E. Plant's life and family. He came from Crockery Township of Ottawa County. Also in the book I am including information on Ottawa County GAR Posts and some of the veterans who served from the county during the Civil War. I also included many of the veterans buried in the cemeteries in the northern part of the county. I hope to get this book into the local libraries and genealogical collections, and some state genealogical collections and libraries (and maybe in the Department of Michigan SUVCW's archives). The object is so people will know of the local Civil War hero (which very few do) and preserve the memory of other local Civil War veterans.

Finally, we were informed that our Past Camp Commander and SUVCW Life Member, Max Rieske and his wife had a baby boy (a possible future Brother) in April. It's their first child. Max is running for State Senator here in western Michigan and will be on the ballot as an Independent. The district covers Muskegon, Mason, Oceana and Newaygo Counties. Besides being our Camp's first Commander, he also is Past President of the Michigan Sons of the Revolution, a hereditary Life Member of the New York Society of the Cincinnati, and a Life Member of both the Society of Colonial Wars and the Society of the War of 1812. Max has five Michigan Civil War ancestors, with their service encompassing the 3rd Michigan Infantry, the 8th Michigan Infantry and the 10th Michigan Cavalry. Max is running on a platform of "lower taxes and less government." Max is a government and history teacher for the Walkerville Public Schools and a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves. If you want to give him a hand, his phone number in Fruitport is (231) 865-3238 and the address is 710 Brooks Road, Fruitport, MI 49415.

Our next meeting is November 10th at the Tri-Cities Historical Museum in Grand Haven at 1:30 pm. This meeting will be followed by our 3rd Annual Holiday Muster in January of 2003.

CURTENIUS GUARD ~ CAMP 17

by Paul D. Hodges, PDC

The Camp held a regularly scheduled meeting on July 30, 2002, at the Samuel W. Grinnell GAR Post 283 Hall in Sunfield. The membership heard reports of recent Camp activities and discussed future projects.

Department Commander Bruce Butgereit and Department JVC Neal Breagh were special guests for the evening. Each addressed the group briefly.

Camp Commander James Lyons, PDC, commended Brothers Jeff Adams, Verne Aves, John Nash and Dick Williams for priming and painting the cannons in front of the hall. He noted that a modified railing for the porch also had been installed and painted.

Commander Lyons reported on the Camp's participation in the dedication of the recently completed Ranney Skate Park in Lansing. The color guard for the affair consisted of Brothers Verne Aves, Dave Coon, Dave Rehkopf and Dick Williams. Commander Lyons addressed the gathering about Dr. George Ranney, a Medal of Honor recipient during the Civil War. Dr. Ranney donated the twenty-acre park to the city and provided a fund for maintaining it as a playground for children.

Brother Paul Hodges, PDC, reported on his presentation of an Eagle Scout certificate to Christopher Hastings at a Court of Honor at the Christ United Methodist Church in Lansing.

Commander Lyons encouraged the membership to attend a

variety of events in August including the Ceremony of Remembrance and Old Soldiers Picnic in Grand Rapids, the National Encampment in Springfield, Illinois, the Farmers Picnic in Sunfield, and the Jackson Muster.

The Camp began planning for a celebration in 2003 in recognition of the twentieth anniversary of its formation.

ROBERT FINCH ~ CAMP 14

by Neal F. Breagh

Camp 14 is proud to report that we adopted By-Laws at our July Camp Meeting. They were forwarded to Department Commander Butgereit and Department Secretary Lee for their signatures and the Official Department Seal and have been returned to us making everything very official. Our Camp probably had By-Laws prior to this, but we were unable to locate any in the records that did survive the move from Grand Rapids to Northern Michigan in 1988.

Thanks to the hard work of War Memorials Officer Fred Knoodle and his wife Jimmie, we have submitted Civil War Memorial Assessment Forms to Department Civil Wars Memorial Officer Doug Armstrong on all the monuments that we are aware of in our four county area. We are aware of some monuments outside our geographic area that is not being covered by any other Camp, and we hope to get some of these registered in the not too distant future. An exciting thing that has happened is the discovery of a damaged Civil War Cannon in the possession of the D.P.S. in Petoskey. We are presently investigating the history and ownership of this cannon and are looking to the possibilities of becoming involved in its restoration and placement in an appropriate area.

Our Camp also participated with many other veterans and patriotic groups at the Flag Day Ceremonies at the Traverse City Elks Lodge on June 14th and carried our Camp Flag and the Flag of Michigan on their float in the 4th of July Parade in Traverse City. For years our July 4th Parade has been very small since the National Cherry Festival usually begins around the 4th of July. But this year, many community leaders decided that this parade should stand on its own and be an entirely separate event from the Cherry Festival.

GEORGE W. ANDERSON ~ CAMP 58

by Gordon McGarey

Greetings fellow Brothers. We have had a very busy Camp this summer and have gotten a lot of work done on the Graves Registration Project. We have finished up all of the registration work in Clinton County and have now started doing Gratiot County. So far we have done about half of the cemeteries in

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that county. We hope to get all of them done by the end of the year.

In August we had our annual SUVCW information tent and display set up at the St. Johns Mint Festival. Throughout the three-day festival we shared information and some of our community projects and activities in honoring the memory of Civil War Veterans from Clinton County. The weekend also provided new member prospects for Camp 58.

Brother Leroy Fladseth and I went to the 121st National Encampment at Springfield. We had a good time there and took in the Lincoln sights. Anyone that has never attended a National Encampment should try to get to the one next year in Kentucky. It is worth the time to attend. The members of Camp 58 would like to congratulate our Brother Kent



Camp 58 Brothers pose at the G.A.R. Monument in Fulton Cemetery during a graves registration outing in Gratiot County. Pictured left to right are Camp G.R.O Craig Whitford, Camp Commander Gordon McGarey, Dennis Felton, Mark Pangburn, Claude Vail, with Douglas Armstrong is behind the camera.

SUV Merchandise

The Department of Michigan SUVCW still has a supply of Emblems, Coat of Arm pocket patches, and SUV hat badges. Both pocket patches are suitable for wearing on the breast pocket of a blazer. Both are made with gold and silver bullion thread. The emblem sells for \$20 and the Coat of Arms for \$30. The gold color SUV hat badge sells for \$28.



SUV Hat Badge
\$28.00



SUV Emblem
\$20.00



SUV Coat of Arms
\$30.00

Please make checks out to: Dept. of Michigan SUVCW

Please mail orders to: Dick Williams, 1917 Teel Ave, Lansing, MI 48910

*ANCESTOR VIGNETTE***Hylon E. Heaton***July 1847 – 21 July 1868*

Private
 Co., C, 9th Michigan Cavalry

1864-1865

Corporal
 Co., G, 25th U.S. Infantry

1867-1868

*Ancestor of Hylon E. Heaton III
 Governor Crapo Camp 145*

Hylon E. Heaton was born to John C. Heaton and Adeline I. Norton Heaton in July of 1847. According to his post Civil War enlistment papers he was born in New Haven, Connecticut. His birth place is named in a couple of different census records as Orleans co., New York. He was named after his mother's brother, Hylon E. Norton. I believe his middle initial "E" stands for Elias, after his grandfather, Elias Heaton. In the 1860 census for Michigan, he is 13 years old and living with his parents and brothers George, age 14 and David, age 7 in the village of Quincy, Branch Co., Michigan.

He joined the service to fight for the North in the Civil War on August 17, 1864 at the age of 17. In his service papers he is described as being five feet three inches tall, with blue eyes and a light complexion. He was a wagon maker by trade, as was his father John. He was mustered into service at Bunkerhill, Ingham County, MI. However, volunteer credit was given to the town of Salem, Washtenaw County, MI. He was detached as a Private in Company C of the 9th Michigan Cavalry. He served until the end of the war and was mustered out at Lexington, North Carolina on July 21, 1865. When he left the service, he took with him his gun, his saber and his saber belt.

After leaving the service his whereabouts is a mystery, until I found the obituary for his mother, Adeline Heaton Miller. In the May 31, 1901 weekly published newspaper titled *The Local Republican* (Leslie, Ingham County, MI and found on microfilm in the Library of Michigan at Lansing) is written a lengthy obituary for Hylon's mother. Using the information in

the obituary, I was able to find his enlistment papers and death records. Six months after mustering out of service, he re-enlisted as a soldier in the Army of the United States for three years. Enlistment took place in Jackson, MI. He served as Corporal under Captain John T. MacKey in Company G of the 25th U.S. Infantry. He was ill with diarrhea and hospitalized in Columbus, KY from July 14 to July 16, 1867. He again fell ill with dysentery and was hospitalized in Humboldt, TN from August 7 to August 28, 1867. Dysentery again had him in the hospital from October 11th through October 14th. In February of 1868 he was hospitalized for 7 days with Catarrh (bloody diarrhea.) On July 18, 1868 he was once again in the hospital at Humboldt, TN where he was treated for "Remitted Fever". He died on July 21, 1868 of Remitted Fever resulting in "Perryiston" (paralysis) of the brain. (Description of the death fits that of Yellow Fever, rampant in the area at the time.) The inventory of his possessions is as follows: One hat, one great coat, two flannel sack coats, one pair trousers, three flannel shorts, one pair of boots, one pair of socks, one blanket and one rubber poncho. These items and the sum of \$20 were sent to his mother in Fitchburg, MI. Cemetery records in Memphis, TN say he was interned in the National Cemetery in plot 3929 of Section F.

It is interesting that Hylon's cavalry saber ended up in the hands of Hylon Heaton, Jr. It was possible to trace the history of the saber by its manufacturer, the Ames Manufacturing Co., of Chicopee, Massachusetts. Some 2,600 of these light cavalry sabers were manufactured for the U.S. Army during the Civil War.

(Continued from page 1)

PC-in-C and National Secretary Edward Krieser of Indiana reported that we now have 6,150 Members, 489 Associates for 6,639 members plus 85 Juniors. This is an increase of 298 over last year or a 4.69% gain. Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief Kent Armstrong reported that 277 Members, 10 Associates, & 12 Juniors for a total of 299 had been processed via his office in 2001-2002; fifteen of these were in Michigan. An interesting breakdown of ages shows that 4% were between 6-13; 8% were between 14-30; 53% were between 31-60; 23% between 61-70; 11% between 71-80; and 1% between 81-90.

Retiring National Webmaster and PC-in-C Keith Harrison of Camp 17 reported on the tremendous growth in the use of our National Web Site since 1998. It has grown from 1,799,918 visits in 1998 (average daily visits of 4,931) to 4,642,572 in 2001 (average daily visits of 12,719). During the first 6 months of 2002, we have had 1,889,533 visitors for an average of 11,693 hits a day. (If you haven't visited our National, Department or Camp Web site, it is worth a visit.)

National Graves Registration Officer Leo Kennedy of Rhode Island reported that we have increased our database to 152,366 records, an increase of over 50,000 from last year. The work of Michigan Graves Registration Officer Rick Danes in reinstalling all the Michigan Records into the Data Base and removing the duplicate records was specifically mentioned in Brother Leo's Report. The work being accomplished by the Michigan Graves Registration Committee and its members is exceptional – for Camps that have not yet started your GR program, please inquire of Brother Danes how he can help you.

New business - After some lengthy and animated debate, two major changes that will have an impact on all Departments and individual Camps in how we will conduct the business of the Order were passed at this Encampment. They are:

1. We changed from a Quarterly reporting system to an Annual reporting system.
2. We increased the Per Capita amount for the National Organization by \$6.00.

While National works on the actual wording and institution of these changes, here in the Department, Brother Dick Williams (Dept. Treasurer), Brother Richard Lee (Department Secretary), and myself will be putting together the information necessary to make the transition as easy as possible for each Camp. It is certain that your Camp By-Laws will require changing (and subsequent approval by the Department Counselor) and that your Camp dues may change also. National requires a per capita of \$18/year and the Department \$8/year (we are not raising our per capita fees at this time), it means that the minimum each Camp charges for annual dues will need to be at least \$26.

These changes were implemented to help reduce the amount of paperwork being created and to help keep our Order in the

black, while increasing the amount of money available for Memorials and for the BANNER publication. NOTE: These changes do not take affect until next year and our Department By-Laws and Per Capita fees will not be addressed until our Department Encampment in April. This information is shared in preparation.

National Regulations were changed to add Camp Civil War Memorials Officer as an elected officer, rather than appointed. The Membership Application Form (available on-line) has been updated and the size increased to allow for larger print. After at least two year of discussion and debate, The War Medal regulations were left as they are; however direction was approved to develop a Service Medal for those Brothers who served our country during time of peace.

Wisconsin Department Commander Steve Michaels was elected as Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief and Bob Petrovic of Missouri was elected to serve a 3-year term on the Council of Administration.

Next year - The 122nd National Encampment will be held at Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky from August 7-10th and will be hosted by the Ohio Department with the cooperation of the Department of Kentucky. I highly encourage your attendance, for in spite of some tense moments in debate in the business meetings, it is really a good opportunity to share some fellowship with your Michigan Brothers and others.

Miscellaneous - 137 years after the end of the conflict, there are still two living Civil War widows: a Union widow in Tennessee, and a Confederate widow in Alabama. Brother Blakely received special recognition as the only True Son in attendance.

The 2004 Encampment will be held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa on August 12-15. In one of the closest votes of the Encampment, the Delegates voted 61-59 to have the 2005 Encampment in New Hampshire rather than being hosted by the Department of California/Pacific in Las Vegas. However, this decision is not binding and was for Delegate input only and could be changed. The Encampment Committee will make the final decision after receiving more information from both Departments.

We were all urged to contact our U.S. Congressman urging him to support House Bill 2155, the Battlefield Preservation Bill.

For those Brothers who may not know the reason for using the term *Michigan Mafia* - years ago, Michigan seemed to have a Brother serving in every important National position. This year, Department Guard Brother Ed Dowd, serving on the National Credentials Committee, was first identified as a member of the Michigan Mafia and then addressed by his name. To that end, we are still in discussion as to whether or not the Michigan "uniform" at the next Encampment will be pinstripe suits, fedoras, and violin cases or what...I guess it depends on what the camel is wearing!



Congratulations are in Order!

by Bruce B. Butgereit, DC

Deserving congratulations is Michigan Brother Kent Armstrong for his election into the position of Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief. Kent is one of those outstanding Brothers who always carry the banner high and now he will literally do so by publishing THE BANNER, our National publication. Please be sure to congratulate Kent the next time you see him – oh and by the way, that camel odor does fade after a while and the hair just brushes off!

Swearing in of the National Officers

In the foreground, left to right:

Michael Stevens, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Department of Wisconsin

Robert Grim, Commander-in-Chief

Department of Ohio

Kent Armstrong, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief

Department of Michigan

Robert Petrovic, National Council of Administration

Department of Missouri

In your hands, you hold a copy of the best newsletter in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, MICHIGAN'S MESSENGER! Brother John Mann, Editor, was the recipient of the National *Marshall Hope Award* for his efforts in creating and editing this wonderful publication. Now while John will try to tell you that the award should really go to those that submit the articles, we know that the ingredients in a prize-winning pie are just ingredients until blended together by a quality chef. So, if you like the "taste" of this newsletter, be sure to let John know by continuing to send in your articles – he'll do the rest!



Receiving the Marshall Hope Award for Best Department Newsletter from Commander-in-Chief George Powell are Michigan's Messenger Editor John Mann and Department Commander Bruce B. Butgereit.

DIMONDALE GAR HALL UPDATE

by James T. Lyons, PDC



Since we first wrote about the G.A.R. Hall in Dimondale, sitting vacant in April of 2001, the structure has been sold. Actually, it has been sold twice.

Built in 1897 and managed by a Board created by the Tim Lewis Woman's Relief Corps No. 132 the hall was a two story store front structure with the meeting rooms on the second floor. A separate side entrance for access to the second floor meeting room was provided.

On May 5, 1942 the Corps sold the Hall to Windsor Township, for one dollar, and it was used as the Township Hall until a new facility was built in 1999. The Hall was then placed for sale. Because the deed contained an access provision reservation for kitchen facilities and storage for the WRC, they had to sign off on those rights to clear the title for sale.

The first purchaser, in 2001, was James Perkins, a Professor of Architecture at Lansing Community College. He has restored several historic buildings in Lansing over the years. Work began immediately on the Hall. Improvements were made to the roof to take care of water flow on a mostly flat roof. Interior work began in earnest with the removal of the paneling and drop ceilings installed on the first floor

The windows on the second floor had been boarded for many years, and were replaced with modern windows that retained the historic appearance. The window frames and other trim had been carefully removed and marked, to be replaced after the walls were redone. Old plaster was stripped away.

Restoration of the "store front" was a major change to the

appearance of the Hall that most had become accustomed to in recent years. The 1897 store windows and entrance were recreated and period paint schemes were applied.

The plan was to develop the first floor as office/ retail or restaurant space with a single loft apartment on the second floor. Professor Perkins indicated that he was in hopes of selling or leasing the building to someone who would maintain the historic integrity and appearance of the building.

This past summer Great Lakes Renewable Energy Association has purchased the building and will continue the renovation to suit their needs. The Program Manager, Aileen Gow lives in Dimondale. The Hall will be their headquarters and they plan to establish an Energy Demonstration Center there.

They announce in their Fall 2002 newsletter that they have been awarded a \$12,500 grant from the State of Michigan Energy Office for the establishment of the Center. They go on to say;

“ The GLREA Energy Demonstration Center will not only be home to our offices and serve as a training facility, but will also feature a renewable energy resource library and exhibits and displays. The historic structure itself will be a fine example of a 21st century retrofit of a 19th century building and will showcase innovative ideas for using renewable energy, saving energy, water, and other natural resources.”

At this time we have not had the opportunity to meet with these folks to learn what the final outcomes will be for the Hall. Will keep you posted as things develop.

Coming Events

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 and plan ahead. The mailing date for the January 2003 issue is January 10th..

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

16th Gettysburg, PA
Remembrance Day at Gettysburg, parade and dance. This year the Department of Michigan will have a ceremony at the 5th Michigan Infantry Monument. Please contact Department Commander Bruce B. Butgereit for further details.

DECEMBER

15th Messenger Deadline
All copy and photos should be in the hands of the editor by this date. **Do not** use the return address on the back cover for submissions. Please mail or e-mail all submissions to the address at the bottom of page 2.

JANUARY

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

FEBRUARY

22nd Midwinter Conference
The Midwinter Conference and Washington-Lincoln Commemorative Dinner at Best Western Midway Hotel, Lansing. See notice on page 7

MARCH

10th Messenger Deadline
All copy and photos should be in the hands of the editor by this date. **Do not** use the return address on the back cover for submissions. Please mail or e-mail all submissions to the address at the bottom of page 2.

APRIL

5th Department Encampment
At the Grand Rapids Crowne Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids. See notice on page 7.

The Deadline

for the next issue of
Michigan's Messenger

is

December 15th

Articles and photos must be *received* by this date to assure their inclusion in the January issue.

Due to the Holidays, the mailing will be approximately the 10th of January.

Notice!

Camp Officers and Camp Members

Because of changes adopted by the National SUVCW at the National Encampment in August, per capita assessment for Members and Associates has been increased and **per capita assessments (Department & National) will be payable in January for the entire year**, based upon Camp membership as of December 31, 2002.

National per capita is now \$18.00. Department per capita remains at \$8.00. **Camp dues therefore must be a minimum of \$26.00 per Member and Associate**, plus whatever dues your Camp assesses. Juniors are exempt from National and Department per capita.



The Michigan Delegation at Springfield, Illinois

Front rank l to r: Ed Blakely, Keith Harrison, Bruce B. Butgereit, John Mann, Max Newman

Middle rank l to r: Bill Lowe, LeRoy Fladseth, Jim Pahl, Neal Breough, Bob Grove

Rear rank l to r: Richard Lee, Ron Bellinger, Ed Dowd, Gary Gibson, Rick Danes

Missing: Dick Williams, Kent Armstrong, Jim Johnson and Gordon McGarey

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

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