



Michigan's

Messenger

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



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HEADSTONE REDEDICATION FOR PVT. ALFRED WHITE COMPANY B, 102ND U.S. COLORED TROOPS

On 10 August 2002 SUVCW members from Camps 20, 22 and 85, and Private White's Great Grandson, Ross Fowler, a re-enactor with the 102nd U.S.C.T., rededicated Private White's headstone at Base Line Cemetery in Allegan Co., MI.



*Standing, l to r: Bill Costello, CC Del Farnsworth, unidentified SUVCW member, Mrs. Fowler, Ross Fowler, Abraham Lincoln (Bill Veit), Bud Duryea, and Comer Skinner.
Kneeling, l to r: 102nd U.S.C.T. bugler, Blaine Valentine and PDC Bill Brennen.*

TAPS	2
DEPARTMENT ORDERS	3
SENIOR VICE COMMANDER	5
JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER	5
TREASURER	6
GRAVES REGISTRATION	7
HISTORIAN	8

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CENTER PULL-OUT 4 PAGE SECTION
INFORMATION AND RESERVATION FORMS
FOR THE MID-WINTER CONFERENCE AND
DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT.

CHAPLAIN	8
C.W. MEMORIALS	9
A REAL TREASURE	9
ANCESTOR VIGNETTE	10
CAMP NEWS	11
COMING EVENTS	15
VETERAN'S DAY	16

*Department Officers
2002/2003*

Commander

Bruce B. Butgereit
1691 Summerfield St. SE
Kentwood, MI 49508-6499
(616) 827-3369
civil-war@attbi.com

Senior Vice Commander

Philip N. Parks
1228 Minnesota St.
Hancock, MI 49930-2208
(906) 482-7070
jparks@ccisd.k12.mi.us

Junior Vice Commander

Neal Breagh
10230 E. San Remo Blvd.
Traverse City, MI 49648
(231) 947-5873
nbreagh@gtii.com

Secretary

Richard F. Lee
1111 Kern Road
Fowlerville, MI 48836-9257
(517) 223-9497

Treasurer

Richard A. Williams
1917 Teel Ave.
Lansing, MI 48910-3117
(517) 484-2496

Council

Keith G. Harrison, PC-in-C
Howard Streeter
Max Newman

Chief of Staff

Richard Greene

Camp Organizer

Richard Lee

Patriotic Instructor

Lee Stroschine

Chaplain

William B. McAfee

Counselor

E. Lou Hoos

Historian

Paul Hodges, PDC

Guide

Ed Dowd

Color Bearer

Blaine Valentine

Graves Registration

Rick Danes

G.A.R. Records

James T. Lyons, PDC

Civil War Memorials

Douglas R. Armstrong

Communications & Technology

Eric G. Kirchberg

Camp-at-Large Coordinator

Kevin Lindsey

Editor, Michigan's Messenger

John R. Mann

Weekend of Remembrance

Keith G. Harrison, PC-in-C

B.S.A. Coordinator

Bruce Zann

Commander's Group Rep.

Bruce B. Butgereit

Ceremonies & Ritual

Gregory Hayes

TAPS

Vernon Lee Pease

October 31, 1937 ~ October 19, 2002

Albert & James Lyon Camp 266

Brother Vernon Lee Pease died in Munising, MI on October 19, 2002 and was buried in the Maple Grove Cemetery. Born in Gladstone, MI on October 31, 1937, Brother Pease had been a member of the Albert & James Lyon Camp No. 266 since 1997; he served two terms on the Camp Council. He was the great grandson of Sgt. George T. Pease, 12th Wisconsin Infantry.

His wife, Mrs. Barbara Pease, children David in Ionia, MI and Mrs. Barbie (Ken) Bowerman, four grandchildren, three sisters, an aunt and an uncle survive him.

Paul Bachmann

May 18, 1933 ~ October 1, 2002

Governor Henry Crapo Camp 145

Brother Paul Bachmann died October 1, 2002 at the age of 79 in Flint, Michigan. He was born in Detroit May 18, 1933 and was a bachelor all his life. He was a Charter Member of Gov. Henry Crapo Camp and served in the capacity of Camp Counselor. Paul was the Great Grandson of William B. Blashfield, Private in Company E, 6th Michigan Volunteer Infantry.

Michigan's Messenger

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DEPARTMENT ORDERS NO. 3

SERIES 2002 ~ 2003

Department Headquarters, Kentwood Michigan

1. On behalf of my fellow Officers in the Department of Michigan, I trust that this first newsletter of 2003 finds you and your families in good health and that you are energized for another great year of remembering the boys who wore the Blue.

2. The 2002 *Central Region Conference* (10/5/02) well attended by Brothers and Sisters from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, and Wisconsin; there was even a Brother from California. I was the lone representative for the Department of Michigan.

Our Department will host the 2003 "CRC" in conjunction with our own Brother Kent Armstrong serving his term as Commander-in-Chief. Details will be available by our Mid-Winter meeting in February.

3. The Department of Michigan regrets to report the passing of Brother **Hubert Williams** who 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. All Camps were directed to have their Charters draped in mourning for the month of August.

4. The Department of Michigan regrets to report Brother **Paul Bachmann** passed away Tuesday, October 1, 2002 at Genesys Hospice Care Center in Goodrich, MI. Mr. Bachmann was born in Detroit, Michigan on May 18, 1933 and was a resident of the Flint area for over 20 years. All Camps were directed to have their Charters draped in mourning for the month of October.

Brother Bachmann was a charter member of Governor Crapo Camp No. 145 in Flint and as a local attorney served as Camp counselor. His great grandfather was Pvt. William B. Blashfield who served in Co. E, 6th Michigan Volunteer Infantry.

5. The Department of Michigan regrets to report the passing of Brother **Vernon Lee Pease** who died in Munising, MI on October 19, 2002 and was buried in the Maple Grove Cemetery. Born in Gladstone, MI on October 31, 1937, Brother Pease had been a member of the Albert & James Lyon Camp No. 266 since 1997; he served two terms on the Camp Council. He was the great grandson of Sgt. George T. Pease, 12th Wisconsin Infantry. All Camps were directed to have their Charters draped in mourning until mid-November.

6. So that we may pay our respects to all Brothers who are called to their maker, please be reminded to communicate such information as necessary to Department Officers, Chaplain Brother Bill McAfee and Signals Officer Brother Eric Kirchberg.

7. Please be reminded that I would appreciate receiving notification of any Brother or Sister who may be "in distress" and in need of support through prayer. Many of have expressed their gratefulness in not only receiving notice of these needs through the **Prayer List** email but also their thankfulness for your thoughts and prayers.

8. My sincere thanks to all from our Department who attended the Remembrance Day parade and ceremony at Gettysburg on November 16. Brother Neal Breugh (DJVC) and I, with assistance from Chet and Jeannine Trybus of the Grand Rapids Civil War Round Table and WRC (Champlin Corps No. 41) respectively, had the honor of placing the 8 X 12 State of Michigan flags on the graves of the Michigan soldiers buried in the National Cemetery.

After our salute at the "High Water Mark," we honored the men of the 5th Michigan Infantry Regiment and placed a wreath of "Michigan evergreens" at their monument (See photo elsewhere).

9. All Camps are respectfully reminded that effective January 1, 2003 the annual per capita tax owed to the National organization is now \$18 for each Member and Associate. The annual per capita tax owed to the Department of Michigan remains at \$8 annually. This translates to a "break even" point of \$26. The Department Secretary must receive the first *annual* per capita report from each Camp by April 30 or before.

10. By now, each Camp should have submitted a roster of the Camp (due January 1 of each year) and final *quarterly* report (Form 27) for 2002 (due January 10) to Department Secretary Brother Richard Lee. These are considered *required* reports.

11. A reminder to all Camps that a completed Form 22 (Installation of Officers and recently revised) must be submitted to the Department Secretary and include the signature of the installing officer. At the time this edition was going to press, less than 40% of all Camps have contacted me concerning installation of officers and/or requesting I assign the duty to another Brother. This is also considered a *required*

(Continued on page 4)

report.

12. Another important function of the Form 22 is to record the *exact* day, week, month and time each Camp holds its meetings. This information is not only valuable to your Department Officers who try to schedule Camp visits accordingly but also for any new applicant looking on the Department website for Camp meeting information. If your Camp doesn't meet in December (or any other month), then be sure to exclude it from your schedule...be as specific as you can.

13. In addition to the Form 22, please notify Department Signals Officer Brother Eric Kirchberg, 2 N Grant, Galesburg, MI 49053-9529 or through his email address on the Department website, on any changes or additions, i.e., the appointed Camp Memorials and Monument Officer.

14. Please be reminded that all Camps must have accurate and up-to-date By-laws. Each Camp has received a hard copy and a floppy disk for ease of layout and amending. You are encouraged to simply use the format as provided and adjust the content in BLUE accordingly (the content in RED represents changes that have been made in the National and Department By-laws in recent years).

Each Camp is directed to submit your By-laws to me for Department Counselor approval no later than January 31st.

15. Camp Commanders (new or re-elected) are encouraged to provide me with their contact information so that I may update your Camp Flyer. For those of you who have requested I create your flyer, please be advised you haven't been forgotten. I will also have available the Department Flyer available upon receipt of Camp Commander contact information.

16. All Brothers of the Department of Michigan are respectfully reminded that proposed amendments to our Department By-laws should be submitted to the Department By-laws Committee via Department Senior Vice-Commander Brother Phil Parks at your earliest convenience. This will allow the Committee to evaluate and distribute a full accounting to all Camps, for review, by February 4th (ref. Dept. By-laws ARTICLE XIV, Sec. 2).

17. All Brothers are encouraged to attend the Department's *Mid-Winter Conference* on Saturday, February 22. (See inside this issue for more details.)

18. Nominations for possible recipients of the Department's *Abraham Lincoln Certificate of Appreciation Award* must be submitted to Department Secretary Lee no later than February 4th. Up to three certificates may be presented annually to individuals or entities that have made an outstanding contribution toward "furtherance of the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic within the State of Michigan" (ref. Dept. By-laws ARTICLE XVI, Sec. 3).

19. Full details of our upcoming Department Encampment are enclosed in this issue. It is not too early to be thinking of taking a turn at an elected office of the Department of Michigan. With the Encampment taking place on April 5th, I encourage all Camp Secretaries to forward a nomination for a member of your Camp to Brother Bruce Butgereit, II (Department Nominating Committee Chair) at 1691 Summerfield St. SE, Kentwood, MI 49508-6499.

20. This new year promises to be a good one and with our combined efforts in our Camps and in the Department, working together the spirit of Brotherhood, we can make this a great year.

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

- September 8 Visited Camp 3 in Grand Haven
- September 11 Visited Camp 427 in Dearborn
- September 14 Attended Graves Registration Committee meeting
- September 24 Visited Camp 85 in Berrien Springs
- September 26 Visited Camp 9 in Port Huron
- September 29 Visited Camp 259 in Litchfield
- October 5 Central Region Conference in St. Louis, MO
- October 12 Visited Camp 76 in Monroe
- October 12 Held living history event at Sawyer Homestead in Monroe
- October 13 Visited Camp 43 in Blissfield
- October 14 Visited Camp 7 in Jackson
- November 2 Visited Camp 101 in Detroit
- November 16 Remembrance Day ceremony in Gettysburg
- November 16 Memorial service at 5th Michigan Infantry Monument at Gettysburg
- November 18 Visited Camp 58 in DeWitt
- November 23 Save the Flags certificate of appreciation presented to the 27th VA reenactors (Our own Brother Pahl)
- December 1 Visited Camp 139 in Alpena
- December 7 Attended Graves Registration Committee meeting
- December 7 Presented Eagle Scout certificate in Lansing (on behalf of Department and Camp 17)
- December 21 Meeting with Park Director at Andersonville, GA in preparation for Memorial Day 2004 Michigan monument re-dedication

By the order of:

Bruce Butgereit,
Commander,
Department of Michigan

Attest:

Richard Lee

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Philip N. Parks

Greetings for a Happy New Year to all the Comrades and friends of the SUVCW. It is always a challenge to meet the new year with resolve and as many resolutions as we think we can handle. As Commander Bruce pointed out a year ago we should be resolved to open up links to the media. Movies, TV, Books, Magazines, Newspapers or maybe just start with a local Camp Newsletter. Our experience at the start of Camp 266 was that we were fortunate to have Bro. Peterson who was into the print world, had the equipment and was willing to devote the time to history and news. Our first Newsletters were complete with color photos, Civil War history and current news. But Bro. Peterson moved Missouri and the rest of us realized the how much time and money of his own that he had put into that publication. It was great while it lasted but Camp Newsletters don't need to compete with slick high gloss newsstand magazines. Our current Newsletter is good and does the job of announcing and providing current information about both Local and State wide SUVCW activities. It is not costing the Camp an arm and a leg! This type of publication can be sent to all who show interest in the Camp's activities. I would appreciate a copy of any Camp Newsletter that could reach this far North. Starting small is the key to getting in touch with the 'media'.

Richard Spriks, PCSVC now appointed Camp Patriotic Instructor wrote up a short article about Camp 266 and the current meeting agenda for Dec. 7, 2002. It gave the particulars of the place of meeting and a cordial invitation to all those interested in the history of the GAR and the Civil War. He sent it to 17 newspapers in the Upper Peninsula. At our meeting we were able to identify 5 that ran the complete article as it was written and I can't believe that these were the only ones. If each of our 26 Camps in the State of Michigan would do something similar we would perhaps get to the rest of the 83 counties. We plan a follow-up article with the results of our meeting.

Sometimes opportunities must be seized. The Sept./ Oct. 2002 issue of the Michigan Overseas Veteran (MOV) has a short note: "Once Powerful Veteran's Group Faded Into History". The following excerpt stands out: "Today, all that remains of the country's first veterans' organization are a few historical monuments, bronze medallions on gravesites and a few papers in the hands of historical societies". Camp 266 SVC, Gary White, Life member of VFW Post 5670, seized this opening. Gary wrote MOV to explain who are the heirs and 'Torchbearers' of the G.A.R. His letter found a prominent place on the 'Incoming Mail' page in the 19Nov2002 issue of MOV. At least for a few publications of the MOV the G.A.R. was brought into view. This publication generated interest in Detroit area G.A.R. buildings and Michigan Historical Societies. It may not be your thing to write letters to the editor but if you notice any publication that misses the historical significance of the

(Continued on page 6)

JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

Neal F. Breaugh

PROCESSING AND NOTIFICATION OF NEW CAMP MEMBERS

It is vital and most important to our Organization that as soon as you have processed (elected and/or initiated) a new member, that you then immediately notify National Headquarters and our Department Headquarters. This will register a new member at both places, he will be put on our membership rolls and our mailing list, and will also immediately be put on the mailing lists for The Banner and The Michigan Messenger. It is most important that our new members received these two publications as soon as possible as it will be of immense help in making them feel a part of the SUVCW and to become involved in your Camp's meetings and activities.

To accomplish this, please do the following:

Send a notice by e-mail or U.S. Mail that includes the new member's full name, his address (including zip code), his telephone number (including area code) and his e-mail address. If applicable.

Send the information to either (or both) of the following:

National Executive Director Lee Walters
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
P.O. Box 1865

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105
Attn: Ex. Director Lee Walters
E-mail: SUVEXDIR@aol.com
and/or

Richard A. Williams
1917 Teel Ave.

Lansing, Michigan 48910-3117
E-mail: RAWSUVCW@aol.com

Two copies of the application form should then be forwarded to the Department Secretary Richard Lee via U.S. mail as per our Departments Regular Operating Procedures. Currently that is through our Camp's Quarterly Reports; however we will be changing to an Annual Reporting Procedure beginning in 2003. You will be receiving information, instructions, and the proper forms for our new operating procedures in plenty of time to begin using in April, 2003 when our Annual Camp Report will be due at Department Headquarters and also what to do when new Camp Members join a Camp after April 30th.

An additional important note:

When you receive an Application and Dues money that has been processed through the National Organization — probably via the Internet — that will come from Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Steve Michaels to me as the Michigan

(Continued on page 6)

TREASURER

Dick Williams

This is the current income and expenses incurred by the Department from 10/01/2002 through 12/15/2002.

INCOME

7 th Corp Patch	30.00
Camp Per-Capita	2,547.00
Coat-of-Arms Patch	120.00
Emblem Patch	80.00
Hat Badge	-267.00
Interest	<u>12.36</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,522.36

EXPENSES

Central Region Dues	-5.00
Commander Expenses	-63.91
Messenger:	
Mail Preparation	-79.10
Postage	-270.00
Printing	-598.20
National Per-Capita	-\$1,588.00
Supplies:	
Envelopes	-20.76
Paper	-4.99
Postage	<u>-18.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	-\$2,647.96

The figure above for the hat badges is a negative number. That's because we purchased additional hat badges to get ready

for the advertising we are doing in the Messenger and Banner. We spent \$600 on hat badges and took in \$333 so far in the sale of hat badges. The supplies of envelopes and postage is also associated with the cost of mailing the Emblem patch, Coat-of-Arms patch and hat badges.

The figure of \$270 for postage of the Messenger includes the \$150 annual renewal fee for the bulk mail permit required to mail the Messenger. The additional \$120 is part of the postage cost for mailing the Messenger. We keep a postage account with the Post Office and put postage into it each quarter to cover the bulk mail postage for mailing the Messenger. The last Messenger cost \$125.54 in postage.

Overall income and expenses since June 1:

Income:	\$7,001.26
Expenses	<u>\$6,987.61</u>
Net	\$13.65

All Camps remember: The last quarterly per-capita check, covering the period 10/1/2002 through 12/31/2002 is due along with form 27 to the Department Secretary by January 10th, 2003. Your next payment will be for the full 2003 year (\$26 per member) due to the Department Secretary no later than the day ending April 30, 2003. A full Camp roster including names, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses is also required to accompany the Form 27 and per-capita check no later than the day ending April 30, 2003. From then on, one payment, report and entire Camp roster will be required to be sent to the Department Secretary no later than the day ending April 30 each year.

SVC

(Continued from page 5)

SUVCW let someone know who will write. Everyone reads some publication sometime.

A great cost of life and property was paid by those who determined that they would defend the Union against all enemies both foreign and domestic. Now the issue of Homeland Security is one of the most significant challenges of this New Year. As an Order structured along military lines to preserve the Past, it is our duty to offer ourselves to guard the Present to secure a Future for our children and grand-children. The Department of Homeland Security needs the vigilance that the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War can provide.

JVC

(Continued from page 5)

Department's Junior Vice Commander who is responsible for placing these new members into our Department Camp-at-Large or into a Camp that is near the new member, **then also do the following:**

Make a note in your communication of the fact that this new member is a transfer from the Department's Camp-at-Large, in which the new member has already been enrolled. This will alert the Executive Director to remove the new member from the Camp-at-Large list, so we won't have any duplication.

If there are any questions about this procedure, please don't hesitate to contact me. If we can all work together with this procedure, it will make it a lot more convenient for all and allow our new members to be efficiently and properly welcomed into each of our Camps.

GRAVES REGISTRATION

*"Where the green of the memory has a special meaning."
by Rick Danes*

My apologies are extended to the Committee the Membership for missing the deadline on the last Messenger.

First I would like to thank our Commander and this committee for their continuing support and confidence this past year. I hope that their patience with me lasts a few more until we can finish this task. I remind you that the goal of documenting the gravesites of our Civil War ancestor started 134 years ago, and after three years of you listening to me whine about how things were not happening fast enough, I believe that the record will show that more graves have been registered this year than any other single year in the history of our Department.

To summarize our successes this past year:

In December 2001 I reported that we had 28,446 records in the Department database and 30,952 in the National database. In December 2002 I am proud to reflect that we have 39,207 records in the Department database and 35,516 in the National (this includes incomplete, "other wars", and National Cemetery records);

In December 2001 I reported that the fieldwork in 17 counties was complete. In 2002 we have completed an additional 12 Counties and are actively working in 21 more;

During mid-year we audited the National database and removed over 3000 duplicate or incomplete records;

We held four committee meetings this year, one at Mid-Winter, and three with special topics of discussion. Jim Lyons spoke on resources in the Michigan Archives, Bill Lowe spoke on resources both in and outside of the Michigan Archives, and Dick Hutchins spoke on the process that he and wife Mary used to publish their book. We expect to have new subjects throughout the coming year.

This year we have brought the Graves Program to genealogical society, historical society, or other appropriate venues in Berrien, Calhoun, Eaton, Jackson, Kalkaska, Kent, Livingston, Monroe, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties, and at the National Encampment in Springfield, Illinois;

Thirteen different Camps attended committee meetings this year; the down side is that 14 Camps did not attend even one meeting this year.

We certainly have enough chairs for additional Camps to become involved in their areas. This year several Camps finished the work in their own areas and are working on or have completed 25 Counties outside their normal area. We will not be deterred from our goal. This is why it is important that all who have records to submit do so as soon as possible.

I just had a thought...how many of us walk through a cemetery and see the remains of small flags that were placed on veterans

graves during the year? When I find a whole one, I find a veteran's grave and place it there; otherwise I put the damaged ones in a bag and give them to the local VFW for destruction. This is just another small way that we can show respect for that flag.

In closing, I would like to share the kind of success story that makes this all worth it. The names have been omitted, because we have many success stories in our work that go unrecorded and unrecognized:

'...I met the leader of Company B, 102 U.S. Colored Troops, re-enactors in SE Michigan three or four years ago at the Jackson Muster. I told him of our work and particularly Graves Registration. In our conversation he mentioned he sure wished someone would find his ancestor's grave who was in the 102nd, and said family and friends had been looking for over ten years for the location without success. I got the particulars from him and in less than a week was able to call and tell him the exact burial site, cemetery, county, and township. Needless to say he was speechless and most grateful...'

A replacement stone was ordered for this veteran and installed with ceremony during 2002.

On a personal note, Irma and I hope that all Brothers, Sisters, and their families have a happy and safe holiday season, and we look forward to seeing you all next year.

Please Note:

The publication and mailing of the April issue of Michigan's Messenger will be delayed one month to allow the inclusion of timely reports from the Department Encampment, therefore:

The

Deadline

for the next issue of

Michigan's Messenger

is

April 15th

Articles and photos must be *received* by this date to assure their inclusion in the April issue. The mailing date is targeted for the first week in May.

HISTORIAN

Paul Hodges, PDC

Contributions continue to be made to the Department's collection of historical and biographical materials related to the Civil War, members of the Grand Army of the Republic, and members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Several people have responded to the call this year by donating items for preservation and future reference. A brief description of those materials will suggest ways that others can help with this ongoing Department project.

Brother John Mann donated a copy of the book he transcribed, edited and printed: "Biographical Sketches of Civil War Veterans, Osceola County, Michigan."

Brothers James Lyons and William McAfee sent newspaper articles about Memorial Day services conducted in their respective areas.

On behalf of Robert Finch Camp 14, Department JVC Neal Breaugh furnished a folder about the Camp's activities. It contains newspaper items and numerous photographs.

Commander Bruce Butgereit sent a newspaper article of the essay he presented at the rededication of the Kent County Civil War Monument.

Herbert Marshall of Pleasanton, California, provided a photograph of the dedication of the Twenty-second Michigan Infantry monument at the National Chickamauga Battlefield. It shows his great grandfather, John H. Paton, two of John's brothers, and other Civil War veterans at the monument.

Brother Robert Williams submitted copies of records regarding the service of his grandfather, Jacob Williams, in Company A, Seventh Regiment, United States Infantry Volunteers.

What can you contribute to the Department's historical records? Perhaps you can submit photocopies of military records or pension records of your Civil War ancestor. You may have access to a letter of that era and be able to furnish a copy of it. How about supplying copies of the documents submitted with membership applications and retained in the Camps' files? The possibilities seem endless.

All contributions would be beneficial and greatly appreciated. Please bring them to me at the Midwinter Conference or send them to me at 2300 Heights Avenue, Lansing, MI 48912-3514.

CHAPLAIN

William B. McAfee

"Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty" is the complimentary closing I was taught to use for all my official and personal correspondence to other Brothers when I first came into the "Sons". It is a bit too long for our modern "abbreviated" mode of writing, often ending up as "Yrs in F, C & L". Apparently, it was the closing used by our forefathers in the G.A.R. Like many of their traditions, if we aren't careful, it, too, may slip away from us. Therefore, we should use it and use it properly. I am, I've found through self-examination, a traditionalist. I won't go so far as to say I'm reactionary, but I know I'm conservative and a traditionalist. So, I look at how our vocabulary has changed (say "evolved" - cautiously) over the years. When I was in high school, for example, there was a song in our senior class play called "Our Hearts Were Young and Gay". Think about it. What would our current high school seniors expect that title to depict today? Something entirely different, I assure you.

Have the terms in our ancestors' complimentary closing changed? Our answer is, maybe only the one in the middle, "Charity". Today, we think of "charity" as philanthropic giving of donations to people who are less fortunate financially than we are. It is epitomized by the United Way, the Salvation Army and the many other fine organizations that provide us with an outlet to help those in need. I think "Charity" carried a more biblical connotation in the late 19th Century, having come down through the King James Version of the Holy Bible. "Charity" in that context represented the type of unconditional brotherly love that Jesus Christ exemplified in his acceptance of everyone without any strings attached and commanded us to "Love your neighbor as (you love) yourself".* I believe that "charity" was demonstrated by the members of the G.A.R. in the many things they did for their comrades and the widows and orphans of the soldiers of the Union forces. They helped them find employment, apply for pensions, helped them through illnesses, through times of economic hardship. They didn't have to be asked. Many of those in need might have rather cut out their own tongues than to ask for help, but I believe it was there for them, regardless. We saw with Pvt. Pine how a fine coffin and burial were supplied for a veteran who was totally indigent. THIS was the "Charity" of the complimentary closing. This was the unconditional brotherly love for other veterans and their families in which each man shared what he had with those who had commonly experienced the privations of the military life, the trenches of Petersburg, the shot & shell of Shiloh and Cold Harbor. This is the kind of charity that we may forget if we don't remind each other occasionally of what it was all about!

God bless you all and have a wonderful 2003!

*Lev. 19:18, Matt. 22:39, Mark 12:31, Luke 10:27, et al.

CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

Douglas Armstrong, Chairman

The Civil War Memorial Assessment Project has seen increased participation from several brothers within the Department of Michigan this past year. Monuments have been located and recorded by Brothers in 35 of the 83 counties in Michigan. Some Camps have completed their assigned areas and have requested branching out into adjoining counties. In these cases, the local Camps are notified of the communities in which the monuments are assessed so as not to duplicate any efforts by members of those Camps.

Now that all Camps have elected and will soon be installing their officers for the upcoming year, I again ask that all materials relating to memorial's assessments be reviewed and forwarded to the newly elected Camp Commanders and Camp Memorial Officers. This is important in maintaining an easy transition of officers and to bring the Camps up to date with their project's performance. I request that each Camp Commander review their Camp's participation with the assessment of monuments and memorials in their areas and report their progress at the Mid-Winter Conference in February. If your Camp is in need of additional assessment forms, they will be available at the Mid-Winter Conference. Although I have contacted each Camp within the Department and supplied materials to establish a Memorial Assessment Program, there are still those that have not yet initiated such a program. I urge those Camps in need of assistance to contact me with any questions they may have about the project. I can be contacted at the following:

3481 Parkwood Dr., DeWitt, MI 48820
(517) 669-1947
doug24mich@aol.com.

I thank all Brothers who have continued to donate their time to this ongoing project. With the increase of submissions, I have begun to enter the information into our Department database. I ask that when filling out the assessment forms, you enter as much information that you can and leave no blanks. Any additional information, (historical background, dedication ceremonies, newspaper articles, etc.) that you gather about the monument is also appreciated and can be submitted as an attachment to the form. Also, please continue to take photos of all sides of the monument and include them as well. All completed forms can be sent to the address above. I encourage all Brothers to assist us in locating and assessing the condition of monuments and memorials in their communities. With your help we will see to the care and upkeep of these pieces of our history and heritage that were left in our care by the men whom we honor, the soldiers and sailors of 1861-1865. It is for us to preserve their memory by preserving for future generations the monuments that they erected to their fallen comrades.

A REAL TREASURE FOUND

William B. M^e Afee

We seldom expect our research to end up where it sometimes goes. We've had one recently which started when my secretary asked if I could help a friend in Manchester find more information about his grandfather, Samuel John Nichols. It seems Sam Hammond was under the impression his grandfather served in the 20th Michigan, but he couldn't find his name on any of the records. I asked Bill Lowe (Camp 7) for help. He came up with a man by the same name, but with the 20th MAINE. With what Brother Lowe discovered and after another conversation with Mr. Hammond, here's what we learned:

NICHOLS, Samuel John: Born Mars Hills, Maine 1845; d. 15 April 1924. He is buried in Greely Cemetery, Green Twp., Alpena Co. He was mustered on 20 August 1864 into Company C, 20th Maine Infantry. Family tradition indicates he went into the Army as a substitute for his father.

He evidently followed the lumber industry to Michigan and eventually went into farming. His first wife died and the second wife was Alice Charlotte CRAWFORD. She survived him. She was 19-21 when they were married & he was in his 50s. They added two daughters to the three he had with his first wife. He donated the land for the cemetery where he's buried to the township.

He filed for a pension on 1 October 1889 under application number #312875. It was granted on certificate number #313860. Alice filed for a widow's pension on 26 July 1924 on application number #1220883. It was granted on certificate number #955645.

That wasn't all. Mr. Hammond told me his "Aunt Becky", Sam Nichols' youngest daughter, is alive and well, residing in a nursing home in Saline (Washtenaw County). We have now had the privilege of visiting Mrs. Rebecca (Nichols) Manning, a True Daughter of a Union veteran. Her father died within seven years of her birth and her memories of him are sketchy. She does remember him walking the floors at night, groaning over the pain from a shoulder wound, one of two he received during the war. She recalls that it scared her to hear him in such agony.

We at Camp 180 will continue to follow up with the descendants of Pvt. Sam Nichols.

ANCESTOR VIGNETTE

IRA STARKS

PRIVATE

109th Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry
Company A

2nd Great Granduncle
of

Patrick S. McCleary
Robert Finch Camp No. 14



Ira Starks, photo taken circa 1856-1863

Ira Starks was born February 5, 1834 just outside the Village of Newfield, Tompkins County, New York. He was the eldest son of Hurum Starks (1806-1868) and Sarah Ann Wilson Starks (1806-1878). It was on the family farm that young Ira and his eleven brothers and sisters grew into adulthood and where Ira would become a farmer- working alongside his father and brothers. Not far away, in the nearby Village of Newfield, Ira would also learn the trade of cooper. While doing so he also met and later married Miss. Ellen Butler. The Reverend J. A. Saxton performed the September 27th ceremony in 1857. Although her parentage is unknown at present, Ellen had been born on February 7, 1843 at Enfield, Tompkins County, New York.

The young couple made their home not far from the senior Starks residence. On January 6, 1859 their first son was born and christened, Charles Starks. A second son, George Nelson Starks, was born on September 28, 1862. According to depositions made in 1877, Dr. Zalmon F. Chase of Elmira, New York attended both children's births.

It seems that this little family spent the first years of the Civil War quite peacefully on their Tompkins County farm. This may have been due, in part, to the fact that Ira was the eldest son and

was expected to provide for his aging parents. Just two days before his son Charles' fifth birthday, January 4, 1864, Ira Starks enlisted in Captain Benjamin R. McAllister's Company A of the 109th New York Infantry. Company A was recruited mainly from the villages of Newfield, Caroline and Danby, New York. At that time Ira was described as being 5'8", with a dark complexion, gray eyes and black hair.

Along with the other recruits, Ira Starks would travel by train to the railroad depot at Elmira, New York where he was mustered into service on February 18, 1864 to serve three years or until the close of the war. Unfortunately for young Ira his military service would prove to be much briefer.

Soon after his muster date, the Company was assigned to Mason's Island where the 109th had been sent to guard the railroad from Annapolis, Maryland to Washington, DC. Several of the Companies of this Regiment were also assigned to garrison duties in the defenses of Washington, DC. Apparently Company A must have had some part in these latter duties as Ira is found mustered in at Alexandria, Virginia (a suburb of Washington, DC) on March 27, 1864.

(Continued on page 15)

CAMP NEWS

GEN. JOHN A. LOGAN ~ CAMP I

Bruce B. Butgereit, CC

Our Camp is fortunate to have true sons Brothers Edward Blakely and Harold Becker as members; the stories they tell and the friendly banter between them is priceless. On October 16, we had the pleasure of rededicating a bronze memorial tablet on the grounds of Central High School in Grand Rapids. One of the regiments honored on the tablet was the 10th Michigan Cavalry, the regiment in which Brother Blakely's father Egbert served; the other regiments honored were the 6th and 7th Cavalry and Company K of the 13th Artillery Battery.

Originally dedicated some 90 years earlier to the week, this memorial rededication followed the exact program as the original, including witnessing students from Central and City High Schools and from Fountain Elementary. The Junior ROTC unit of Central High provided the Color Guard for the ceremony. Ann Scovell, the great-granddaughter of General James Kidd (6th Cavalry) helped Brother Blakely unveil the newly restored memorial. Michigan Brothers Kent Armstrong, Neal Breough, and Dick Williams were also in attendance.

I returned the compliment when on November 11th, I participated in the Veteran's Day services presented by the Central H.S. Junior ROTC. Later that evening, we were extremely proud of the fact that the United Veterans Council of Kent County had asked Marcia Butgereit, as National Chaplain of the Woman's Relief Corps to give the benediction at the Veteran's Day ceremony. Given the fact that it was a member of the GAR that last spoke at a ceremony such as this, it was truly quite an honor (the Council has since asked her to become the Adjutant of the organization).

Our pet project, the Kent County Civil War Monument Restoration Project has suddenly caught the interest of more people throughout our community. An update:

1. With \$5,000 each from Meijer, Inc., Mr. Hank Meijer, and the Sebastian Foundation, combined with the City of Grand Rapids' \$50,000 and our other efforts, by early October our funds were around \$96,500.

2. I then had a meeting with the Grand Rapids Downtown Development Authority who contributed \$50,000 outright and offered a challenge grant of an additional \$50,000. The headline of this article in the Press read, "DDA Rallies 'Round the Monument!" Since it is absolute that we must raise yet another \$50,000, the challenge grant will come to fruition.

It was at this meeting where I introduced a drawing (created by my son-in-law) of our thoughts on renovating the park in which the Monument stands, Monument Park. The proposal was enthusiastically received and a meeting with all the city

departments involved was scheduled. Of course this means we will have to raise more funds, but this historic tribute to the boys who wore the blue (and the women who supported them) is worth it.

3. It was an unusual partnership, hockey and Civil War history, but a rewarding one. The annual *Hockey Recess*, sponsored by the Grand Rapids Griffins Hockey Club, was called, *Hockey Recess...A Tribute to Histories Past*. The event, held on November 12, offered area students an opportunity to participate in an educational event honoring our nation's history and veterans as well as watching a hockey game. The "reward" was that the Griffins would donate \$1 for every student, business and veteran ticket sold to the Monument Project.

I was responsible for coordinating the educational aspect of the game and put together a hands-on exhibit of over twenty tables with both living history portrayals and displays. They included: Patrick Henry and his: "Give me liberty or give death!" speech – An opportunity for students to answer the question of whether they would "...mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor," by signing with a quill pen and ink an edited version of the Declaration of Independence – Civil War displays of soldier and civilian, north and south – WW I – the Korean War – Vietnam – The National Guard – the Army Reserve Medical Corps – Multiple vehicles parked in front of the Van Andel Arena - The Allied Orders – President Abraham Lincoln (Brother Richard Veit of Camp 85) - and the Monument display.

We shared with over 3,000 students in just under two-hours and Griffins, teachers, and students were very pleased. Each student received a Department of Michigan Flag Facts flyer and learned more about their history that what their history books could provide in months of reading. We received a check for \$3,447 towards the Monument.

4. Annually, Siegel Jewelers create a Christmas ornament of a Grand Rapids landmark and this year they chose to create the Kent County Civil War Monument. They will contribute 10% of the proceeds from the sale of this very beautiful piece.

5. The students of Godwin Heights school district have also continued their efforts for the second year in a row. In a partnership with the Grand Rapids Civil War Round Table and our Camp, 65 middle school students participated in an essay contest on "What Freedom Means to Me." The results of their writing literally blew us away with the depth of their understanding and kudos must be given to Mrs. Deb Conklin and the teaching staff for their dedication.

As this edition of the MESSENGER was going to print, the Middle School students had just completed a weeklong penny drive raising over \$1,400 for the Monument. To date, we have received over \$850 in contributions from letters the students wrote to all the Wyoming (Michigan) area businesses in computer class. Plans are underway to have a "Rock-a-Thon" in February where students seek pledges for the number of hours

they will rock in a rocking chair.

6. Contributions are still pending from the Frey Foundation, Amway, and the Steelcase Foundation, but we have enough now to have the Monument removed for restoration as soon as the weather allows.

In December, the following officers were elected:

Commander	Bruce B. Butgereit
Senior Vice Commander	David Wrightsman
Junior Vice Commander	Tim Kolean
Secretary	Bruce Butgereit, II
Treasurer	Cleon Duryea
Council	Edward Blakely Harold Becker Doug Colley

Appointed officers:

Chaplain	Comer Skinner
Patriotic Instructor	Ed Woodard
Graves Registration	Bill Johnston
Guide/Guard	Colin Butgereit (Jr. member)
Memorials and Monuments	Bruce B. Butgereit

We look forward to meeting the challenges of 2003.

AUSTIN BLAIR ~ CAMP 7

Mark D. Heath, CC

Since our last report in the Messenger, Camp 7's participation at the 2002 Cascades Muster in August, was a complete success. Both time slots for the "Civil War Era Jackson" Bus Tour were full and Sgt. Lyons Medal of Honor Marker Dedication at Mt. Evergreen Cemetery was reported as being enjoyed by all who attended. The Camp was also instrumental in providing a number of articles for the Muster's Program Book and CD, which were sold during the event. I would like to thank everyone once again, for all your hard work and dedication, which helped to insure a successful weekend.

In November we once again had "our" tent at the Waterloo Farm Museum's Pioneer Day. The Camp also provided a Color Guard for a Veteran's service in village of Concord, on the 10th. On Veteran's Day, Camp 7 and Auxiliary participated in Jackson's ceremony, with colors and lying of a wreath at the Whithington Monument at the corner of First and Michigan Ave. Brother Lowe and myself, gave a presentation on the SUVCW Graves Registration program to the Vandercook Lions Club, on the 13th.

On December 8th, The Auxiliary to the Austin Blair Camp had their Christmas annual Holiday "Get-Together". As with last year, there proved to be plenty of food and the afternoon was filled with fun, laughter and sharing in the season's delights. The now infamous paper bag auction, proved again to be more entertainment than one Camp can handle. Thank you Auxiliary for another wonderful "Get-Together"

In 2003 Austin Blair will have some new faces in the positions of Officers and appointees:

Commander	Mark Heath
Senior Vice Commander	Ron Lewis
Junior Vice Commander	Ron Tyrl
Secretary	Darius Heath
Treasurer	Mike Malliard
Chaplain	Don Leatherman
Patriotic Instructor	Henry Hawker

On a personal note, Brother Tyrl, the Camp's newly elected JVC, a.k.a. TSgt Ronald Tyrl left the day before Thanksgiving for a tour of duty in the Middle-East, for an undetermined amount of time. He, along with his reserve unit "The Killer Bees", will help relieve active service forces already there.

Brother Tyrl, joined the SUVCW in 1998 and has served as Camp Secretary for the past three years, during which time he has performed his duties with the utmost efficiency. He has been twice recognized by the Department Secretary with the "Nicolay-Hay Award".

Now as he answers to the call of the United States government. The same government that we as Son's have pledged our lives if necessary "to love, to support and to defend it against all enemies" I am asking that as Brothers and Sisters of the Allied Orders, let's join together in prayer and support for Ron and all of the Military personnel serving this great land. The land that our Ancestors before us help to preserve.

ROBERT FINCH ~ CAMP 14

Neal F. Breaugh, PCC

Our Camp has now officially taken ownership of and possession of the Civil War Cannon that we discovered in Petoskey this summer. We had hoped that their would be an interesting story about this weapon, but we never imagined what exciting and interesting things we would find out, and we have just gotten started. Memorials and Monuments Officer Fred Knoodle has been very busy doing research and contacting people, and as I write this, he is even busier as we receive calls and e-mails from all over. Brother Knoodle has been in communications with several experts in Civil War artillery, and it turns out that this cannon is a Confederate 12 pounder Napoleon, and only three are known to exist. The marking on the right trunnion reads, "Govert. Foundry & Machine Works, Augusta". In communicating with author and national authority Wayne E. Starks, he confirmed that our cannon was an actual 12 pounder Napoleon cast iron cannon made in Augusta, GA., probably "one of a kind." He was very excited about the find and immediately added it to his list of 5,499 Civil War cannons of which 143 are in Michigan. Brother Fred has been in touch with the Augusta Chronicle who is doing a story, and then he received a call from the Curator of the Augusta Museum. He

(Continued on page 13)

stated that this is a "one of kind" and is "priceless" Newspaper articles on our find as far as we know have now appeared in the Petoskey, Traverse City, Savannah, and Augusta, Georgia papers. We have begun to receive inquiries and e-mails from around the country. This has all been very exciting for us, and we are looking forward to discovering more of this priceless cannons history, as well as proceeding with its restoration. We also appreciate the great help and advice that Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Kent Armstrong of Camp 58, Department Memorials & Monuments Officer Doug Armstrong of Camp 58, and Department Commander Bruce Butgereit of John A. Logan Camp 1 have been giving to us.

On another matter of restoration, we are happy to report that we will be working with the County Commissioners and the Department of Veterans Affairs in a campaign to raise money for the repair and restoration of the "Old Soldiers Monument" located at the old Courthouse Building in Traverse City. Our National Organization, through its Memorial Fund, has already contributed \$500.00 and our Camp will kick off the Spring campaign with another contribution of \$500.00

In November, we elected the following Officers and they will be installed by Commander Butgereit in January: Commander, Bill Skillman; Senior Vice Commander, Jim Slis; Junior Vice Commander, Bob Clark, Camp Council, Past Camp Commanders, Al Pifer, Clint Kennard, & Jan White; Secretary/Treasurer Neal Breough; Camp Delegate, Bill Skillman; Graves Registration Officer, Jim Slis; Memorials and Monument Officer, Fred Knoodle; Chaplain, Jim Ribby; Color Bearer, Jan White; Counselor, Neal Breough; Guard, Hal Chase; Guide, Jim Johnson; Historian, George Goodrich; Patriotic Instructor Neal Breough.

Also at our January Meeting, Brother Jan White was presented with a Past Commander's Badge and a SUVCW tie Clasp, and Brother Fred Knoodle was presented with our Camp's "Outstanding Recognition and Service Plaque" for 2002. We are all excited about what we can accomplish in 2003.

CURTENIUS GUARD - CAMP 17

Paul D. Hodges, PDC

The Camp chose officers for 2003 at a meeting at the Samuel W. Grinnell Post No.283 Hall in Sunfield on November 26. The newly elected officers, installed by Past Commander-in-Chief Keith Harrison, were Brian Shumway, Commander; George Roux, Senior Vice Commander; David Neese, Junior Vice Commander; Thomas Emerick, Secretary; Richard Williams, Treasurer; and LaVerne Aves, David Coon, and John Nash, Camp Council.

In other business, the Camp:

Voted to amend the bylaws

Learned that nine Brothers from the Camp had marched in the Veterans Day parade in Lansing;

Received from PDC James Pahl a flag ribbon from the recent Remembrance Day ceremony at Gettysburg; voted to increase the dues to \$30.00;

Gratefully accepted another \$200 donation from Jackson National Life Insurance Company for use toward restoration of the GAR hall;

Received with pleasure three volumes of "Eaton County, Michigan, Newspapers" from Brother John Mann; and

Commended PDC James Lyons for completing another productive year as Camp Commander.

GEORGE W. ANDERSON~CAMP 58

Gordon McGarey, CC

Greetings fellow Brothers. We have been a very busy Camp this last fall doing grave registration work. We have only five more cemeteries left to do in Gratiot County. We will finish them up as soon as warm weather gets here again. The upcoming winter months will be spent researching the names of those we have recorded. Brothers Craig Whitford, Dennis Felton and myself attended the Graves Registration Meeting at the Michigan Library. There was a special program on how to write and get a book ready to be published. It was an interesting program. A report of our work was submitted.

Our Camp, this past year, has had the privilege of attending and bestowing certificates to ten Eagle Scouts at their Courts of Honor Ceremonies. Patriotic Instructor Claude Vail and Camp Commander Gordon McGarey have attended each ceremony and presented the certificates to the scouts personally.

On Veterans Day, Brother Kent Armstrong presented a special grave marker to St. Johns cemetery Sexton Dave Miller. The marker was placed on the grave of Pvt. Marion Case, Company E, 6th Michigan Volunteer Calvary Regiment. He is interred in the mausoleum at Mt. Rest Cemetery in St. Johns, Michigan. The grave marker/flagholder has a unique design that was replicated from the original marker chosen by the members of the George W. Anderson G.A.R. Post No. 58 of DeWitt. Since there are now only a few remaining original markers in existence, a project was conceived by Camp 58 to have replicas fabricated to mark each grave of the members of Post 58 throughout Clinton County. Marion Case was a charter member of Post 58 in 1882 and was later elected to Senior-Vice Commander of the Post. His grave, being set in a mausoleum, posed the question of how to place the marker. A base was made to support the marker as well as a flag to the specific dimensions of the marble shelf of the crypt. We have marked the graves of several members and will continue to mark the graves of each member of the Post with these markers as they are discovered.

We would like to thank Department Commander Bruce Butgereit and Department Junior-Vice Commander Neal Breough as well as Brothers Dick Williams and John Mann for

attending our November meeting.

LOCKWOOD ~ CAMP 139

Bill Kuzenski, JVCC

Happy Holiday Greetings To All, And May Your New Year Become Your Best!!

December 2nd 2002 was an exciting meeting for Camp Lockwood. We held the election of officers for the upcoming year, but the most special was the visiting dignitaries from the Department Headquarters, Commander Bruce Butgereit and Jr. Vice Commander Neal Breaugh. The meeting was packed with reports from our committees to our Camp, and garnering information and knowledge from the visiting Department heads.

Our Camp participated in fall Harvest Days at our local museum in October. There, we promoted the cause as well as soliciting for membership. During this event we were able to acquire over 150 some odd signatures for a petition to save a battleground from development from housing.

Our memorial committee has been diligently working towards our goal of positioning a replica cannon at our county court house lawn. We feel at this time there is light at the end of the tunnel, although there are a few hoops to jump through.

Our graves registration committee has been working steadfast on our appointed area cemeteries and they are gathering impressive numbers. "BRAVO" to those who have given their time.

Our Patriotic Instructor, Brother Don Londo, has issued a copy of "When The Boys In Blue Are Gone" as sung by the SUVCW Will Wythe at the Indianapolis Reunion of 1921. (Tune: When the Mists Have Rolled Away) We would like to share this with all:

When the comrades have departed, when the Veterans
are no more.

When the bugle call is sounded on that everlasting shore.
When life's weary march is ended, when the campfires
slumber long.

Who will tell the world the Story, when the "Boys in
Blue" are gone?

Who will tell about the marching from Atlanta to the
sea?

Who will halt, and wait and listen when they hear the
Reveille?

Who will join to swell the chorus of some old Grand
Army song?

Who will tell the world the Story, when the "Boys in
Blue" are gone?

Sons and daughters of this Nation, YOU must tell of
triumphs won.

When on earth our works are ended, and the Veteran
claims his own.

You must cherish dear "Old glory", and its teachings
pass along.

You must tell the world the Story, when the "Boys in
Blue" are gone.

To that Flag, "Our Country's Emblem", you must pledge
allegiance new;

To its glorious, splendid mission may your hearts be
ever true;

That the Nation be protected 'gainst injustice and all
wrong;

YOU must tell the world the Story, when the "Boys in
Blue" are gone.

You must keep each star unblemished, and its stripes
without a stain.

You must take the Veteran's places and repeat their roll
of fame.

You must keep our country's honor, and the flag above
all wrong.

"WE" will trust you with the Story, when the "Boys in
Blue" are gone.

With this, Best wishes to our comrades, and stay the course.

SGT. JOHN S. COSBEY ~ CAMP 427

Rick Danes, Sec.-Treas.

During 2002 Camp 427 was very fortunate to gain four new members and lose none.

The Camp was able to support several functions sponsored by the Dearborn Historical Society such as the annual Antiques Show, Art on the Avenue, Dearborn Homecoming, Light up the Avenue, and the Victorian Tea all as historical interpreters for the Dearbornville Arsenal. We had representation at the Mid-Winter Conference, and the Department and National Encampments.

We also attended and provided support for the Kalamazoo Living History Show, and the Sportsmen for Scouting Weekend at Gerber Scout Camp in Gerber, Michigan. At each of these events, and at the local events mentioned above we distributed Department and Camp membership materials and Flag Facts.

The Camp is now recognized as a full-fledged member of the Museum Guild of Dearborn.

We held a public Memorial Day Ceremony on May 30 at the Arsenal with full decorum.

Cosbey Camp held bi-monthly meetings in January, March, May, July, September, and November, hosting Department Commander Butgereit and Department Treasurer Williams in

September.

All 2002 Officers are retained for the 2003 year pending the appropriate installation.

During 2003 we look forward to graduating Kyle Olson (grandson of Commander Jerry Olson) to a full member, and to the transfer of Brother Gus Sherwin from Camp 145, as well as continuing our drive for increased membership.

Each of our monthly meetings in 2003 will have a special theme. After the installation of officers in January, we will offer a February program on "Remington Firearms of the Civil War Period" (with real weapons and hands on), and a March program of "The Civil War Experiences of Lt. Curtis Z. Pratt Co. G, 6 MI Infantry" (also 1st Lt. in the 1st Corps de Afrique and 73rd USCT) ancestor of Brother Jon Reed. We will have our calendar on the Department Website updated to reflect future programs.

IRA STARKS

(Continued from page 10)

Both Muster Rolls and Depositions would lead us to believe that Ira Starks remained on Garrison duty in Washington, DC until early May of 1864 when the 109th began its Campaign from the Rapidan River to Petersburg, Virginia. The 109th New York Infantry would participate in a number of now-infamous battles, including: The Battle of the Wilderness; Parker's Store Road; Spotsylvania; Assault on the Salient; Spotsylvania Court House; North Anna River; on the line of the Pamunkey River; Totopotomoy Creek; Bethesda Church and Cold Harbor.

On July 30th, 1864, Ira would fall at what was later termed, "The Battle of the Crater" during the Petersburg Campaign-Petersburg, Virginia. His certificate of death lists the cause of death as "a gunshot wound in the head, received during the charge on 'The Crater' in the front of Petersburg." It wasn't until 137 years after this event that Tompkins County historians and family oral history would shed even further light on the day, stating that "the right side of his jaw was blown off" when the ball (i.e. bullet) struck. Ira was killed instantly and is thought to be buried in an unmarked grave near the battlefield-another "Casualty of the War."

As to his family, both of his sons are said to have lived out their lives in and around Tompkins County, New York. While nothing further is known of George Nelson Starks, we do know that Charles Starks married Miss. Udora Pelham and died in 1940- the father of ten children! Ira's widow, Ellen Butler Starks, would later marry G. Riley Chaffee and go on to have three more children: Edward, LeRoy and Helen. Sadly, all of this second family (except the son LeRoy) would die in 1904 of an epidemic and are buried in Estabrook Cemetery, near Newfield, Tompkins County, New York.

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

22nd

Lansing

The Department of Michigan's Mid-Winter Conference and Washington~Lincoln Dinner. An informal workshop especially for Camp officers but open to all. Please see details in the pull-out section in this issue for place, schedule and reservations.

APRIL

5th

Lansing

113th Department Encampment hosted by the Sons at the Holiday Inn West. Please refer to the pull out section in this issue for details concerning the Encampment, the luncheon and banquet, a pre-registration form, and reservation form for the luncheon and banquet.

15th

Messenger Deadline

All articles and photos must be in the hands of the editor by this date to ensure inclusion in the April issue. Please note that the April issue will be about one month late so that news of the Department Encampment may be included.

26th & 27th

Wyoming, MI

The Third Michigan Inf., Co. F, will be putting on the seventh annual Civil War show on April 26th & 27th, 2003 at the Grand Valley Armory 1200 44th St. in Wyoming, Michigan. Show hours are 9am to 4pm on Saturday and 10am to 4pm on Sunday. Reproduction and original Civil War guns, relics, books and photographs will be on display and for sale. Activities include, student activities (games & crafts), Civil War related videos, Infantry drill demonstrations, door prize drawings, dance demonstrations and more. Refreshments will be available on site. Admission is \$2 and children under 12 are free. For more information contact Kerry Snider at 616-891-9292.

30th

Annual Reports Due

Camp Annual Reports are due in the office of the Department

WASHINGTON~LINCOLN COMMORATIVE DINNER

JERRY D. ROE TO BE DINNER SPEAKER

Jerry D. Roe, a teacher of political science at Lansing Community College, will be the guest speaker at the George Washington - Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Dinner on February 22. He will deliver comments on "*The Politics of George Washington.*"

VETERAN'S DAY 2002

St. Johns (MI) Cemetery Sexton Dave Miller receives a special grave marker for Civil War veteran Pvt. Marion Case, Company E, 6th Michigan Cavalry from Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Kent Armstrong. Pvt. Case is interred in a mausoleum in Mt. Rest Cemetery.



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

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