



Michigan's Messenger

The Newsletter of the Department of Michigan – Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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Fall 2006

John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus



Department Orders #2



Series 2006- 2007

Department Headquarters, Mayville, Michigan

1. On behalf of the entire Department of Michigan, I extend the heartiest congratulations to Brother James B. Pahl, PDC, of Curtenious Guard Camp #17. At the 125th Annual National Encampment in Harrisburg, PA Brother Pahl was elected and installed as Commander-In-Chief of our Order. Jim, we are proud of you. We salute your many achievements and contributions to the Order that make you so richly deserving of the highest honor that the Order can bestow. Have a great year.
2. Thanks to the 18 Michigan Brothers who attended recent National Encampment. Thanks to you, the business of the Order was well tended and the Department was well represented. Save for the host Department whose membership is many times that of Michigan, ours was the largest delegation in attendance. Attending from Michigan were Brothers Matt Adair, Dave Arnold, Neal Breough, Bruce Butgereit, Rick Danes, Ed Dowd, Dennis Felton, Rick Greene, Bob Grove, Keith Harrison, Dean Lamphere, Bill McAfee, Max Newman, Jim Pahl, Don Shaw, Ron Shull, Bill Truss, and Chuck Worley. Brothers, well done.
3. Be sure to check the next issue of "The Banner" for updates of policy and procedures of our Order. Whenever we meet in Annual Encampment changes can be, and often are, made to our Constitution and Regulations. These changes are spelled out in the Banner.
4. Congratulations to the LeValley- Heusted Camp #255, of Mayville. The Camp has received its Charter, it having been endorsed by the Department and the National Organization.
5. Congratulations to the William A. Kent Camp #83, of Greenville. As the first official act of his administration, Commander-In-Chief Pahl signed the Camp into existence by endorsing the Camp's Charter application. The Charter is now being prepared and will be presented to the Camp soon.
6. I am pleased to announce that Camp formation efforts are underway in Centreville, Michigan. To be named "March To The Sea" Camp #135, the Camp is being organized by Brother Charles Worley. Those interested may contact Brother Worley at (269) 651-8077 or by e-mail at worleyc@net-link.net.
7. I am pleased to announce that our license to market merchandise bearing SUVCW logos has been extended by the Council of Administration.

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8. Development continues toward offering online sales of SUVCW merchandise that is currently offered via magazine ads. In the near future, you will be able to buy hat badges, breast patches, Corp badges, mouse pads, and the like by using Pay Pal. For the moment Brothers may contact Brother Dave Arnold at (517) 321-6013 or via e-mail at hockeyboy121@sbcglobal.net with their needs.
9. I extend a big thank you to the Brothers of Austin Blair Camp #7 for their help and hospitality during the recent Jackson Civil War Muster. An especial thanks to Brother Mark Heath for his tireless efforts to make everything go smoothly and everyone comfortable. With his help the Department Hospitality Tent was a success again this year. It was visited by scores of Brothers, Sisters of the Allied Orders and visitors. Led by Brother Bill Lowe, the Brothers of Camp #7 hosted their popular program that offers the public information about the military service and grave location of many of the "Boys In Blue". In addition to a number of prospects for their own Camp, the Camp provided a list of seven names of interested prospects from three different states for follow up. These names have been forwarded to the Camps nearest their homes. Well done Camp #7.
10. All Camps are reminded of the Order's Eagle Scout Recognition Program. All Camps should have an Eagle Scout Coordinator who can be called upon to generate and present Eagle Scout Recognition Certificates in their prime area of service when called upon.
11. Camps should be aware of changes made at the National Encampment which will necessitate the reporting of Election and Installation of Camp Officers (Form #22) by no later than February 15, 2007. Camp rosters and Annual Reports (Form 27) are still due no later than April 30, 2007.
12. Hats off to Department Secretary, Dennis Derr II. Brother Derr has inaugurated a regular article in "The Banner", relating the activities and concerns of the Department of Michigan. This is something that we used to do but have not done in several years. Dennis, thank you for taking on this important project which is pursuant to General Orders #1, Series 2006-2007.
13. Camps are reminded that General Orders #4 of last year called for each Camp to generate a history of the Camp to be forwarded to the Department who will compile all of these histories into one composite history to forward to the National Organization. One year later, here in Michigan, only Camp #14 has complied with this General Order. Camps should designate a Brother or Brothers to see to this requirement, forthwith.
14. Brothers are encouraged to plan to participate in the 50th Annual Remembrance Day parade and services in Gettysburg, Pa. on November 18, 2006. Lodging should be arranged right away. It is hoped that we can improve on last year's small Michigan contingent. Please make every effort to adjust your schedules to allow your attendance and participation in this extraordinary experience. This year we have the honor to escort and guard the Commander-In-Chief. Don't miss out on the chance to participate in this high honor. Assistance with finding car pool partners is available at Department Headquarters.
15. I wish to thank the Department Officers and others who have, thus far, forwarded lists of Department property in their custody to either Department Historian, John Keith or myself. Department Orders #1, Series 2006-2007 call for all such officers or committee chairmen to participate in an inventory of all property owned by the Department by submitting a list of Department owned items that are currently in their care to the Department. Items of an historical nature should be reported to Brother Keith. Currently used items should be reported to the Department Commander.

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16. All Camps are encouraged to open and close their meetings by the Ritual and Ceremonies. Of course, initiation of new members, Camp Officers and much more are also included in our "Ritual". This is part of our link to the Grand Army and adds much to the "experience" of being a member of the SUVCW. With the approach of a new administrative year, it would be a good time for Camps which may not be in the habit of using the Ritual to start doing so.

Submitted in F, C, & L,
September 1, 2006

/s/

Richard Greene, Commander
Department of Michigan, SUVCW

Attest:

/s/

Dennis C. Derr II
Department Secretary

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Joining newly elected Commander-in-Chief James Pahl (front, center) in Harrisburg, PA at the National Encampment were (left-to-right, front-to-back) Don Shaw, Keith Harrison, Bob Grove, Matt Adair, Max Newman, Neal Breaugh, Dennis Felton, Dave Arnold, Chuck Worley, Rick Danes, Bruce Butgereit, Bill Truss, Bill McAfee, Dean Lamphere, Ron Shull, Ed Dowd, and Department commander Rick Greene.

Editor's Note: I have tried to include every article that was sent to me prior to publication, so that all future issues will be timely. If your article was not published, it will be in the next available space. I welcome all constructive suggestions, and encourage all of you to submit relative news about your committees, your Camps, and your ancestors. This is your newsletter, and its success depends on you. Rick Danes, Editor mimessrd@aol.com.

2004-2005**Department Officers**Commander

Richard Greene, PCC
9245 Willits Road
Mayville, MI 48744-9535
(989) 843-5967
rgreene@tds.net

Senior Vice Commander

Robert C. Groves, Sr.,
PCC
611 N. Washington Street
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858-
1567
(989) 330-1503
wilgrove@msn.com

Junior Vice Commander

Jeff Baker
P. O. Box 32
Augusta, MI 49012-0032
(269) 731-4379
sturmwarnung69@aol.com

Recording Secretary

Dennis C. Derr II
4033 Horizon Drive
Davison, MI 48423
(810) 653-0859
dderr@chartermi.net

Treasurer

Brian Shumway
127 West Walnut Street
Hastings, MI 49058-2260
(616) 945-2942
brianne127@sbcglobal.net

Department Council

Max L. Newman, PCC
Howard Streeter, PCC
Kris Kuhlman

Chaplain

William B. McAfee, PCC

Patriotic Instructor

Kevin Lindsey

Color Bearer

Blaine Valentine

Counselor

VACANT

Chief of Staff

Kim Donald Shaw, PCC

Signals Officer

Matt Adair

Messenger Editor

Rick Danes

Historian

John Keith

Guide

John McFeaters

Guard

Ed Dowd

Graves Registration

Rick Danes

GAR Records

James T. Lyons, PDC

Civil War Memorials

Douglas R. Armstrong,
PCC

Eagle Scout Coordinator

Charles Worley

Camp At LargeCoordinator

Robert Mitchell

GAR RECORDS OFFICER REPORT**CONSERVATION and PRESERVATION**

By James T. Lyons, PDC

The records of the Michigan Department, Grand Army of the Republic are housed at the Archives of Michigan at the Historical Center in Lansing, Michigan. The collection consists largely of the reports filed by Posts on the prescribed schedule and report changes in membership. These reports cover the period from 1879 to 1948.

The reports are grouped and filed by Post and include occasional correspondence regarding the need for changes or corrections in the reports filed. The Application for Charter and the report of the Post Mustering Officer, following the organization of a Post, are also included in many instances.

Occasionally the Post Charter was included, folded, in the file for a given Post. Another collection of Department records included a series of Charters organized and filed in numerical sequence, open and flat, in eight oversize folders.

The quality of paper used and the condition of the Charters varied greatly over the range of this collection. Some Charters were in almost mint condition while others were in pieces and extremely fragile, most falling somewhere in a range of condition from the extremes. I discussed the situation on a number of occasions with the staff at the Archives.

Finally last fall I did an inventory of the Charters in these two groups of records. There were 112 Charters in the group filed flat. A search of the 77 archival boxes of records for the Posts added another 86 Charters to the count. (A listing is posted on the G.A.R. Records Project page of the Michigan Department site)

Several significant items were found as a result of the inventory. Included were three Charters from Posts from which no other records appear to have survived. At least now we have the names of the Charter members. Perhaps the most interesting find was a Charter for a Post that operated in the first, failed, attempt at Department operations from 1867 to 1872. This Post 50 Charter was dated Oct. 12, 1869. All other records from this time period are lost.

The finding of the survey, and subsequent discussion with Mark Harvey, State Archivist, has led to the development of a conservation and preservation program at the Archives. The Department of Michigan has provided funding of \$900.00 to get the project started. The first task is to conserve and preserve the Post Charters.

Repair of tears and broken folds is being accomplished using special Japanese rice paper. Some of the Charters have been treated to reduce the level of acidity in the paper. Those most severely damaged will be pieced together, reinforced and encapsulated in polymer sheets to provide stability but still allowing them to be handled if needed. Obviously missing pieces cannot be replaced, but this treatment will allow these important documents to survive long into the future.

Each of the Charters will now be stored flat in individual folders.

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN REPORT

By John Keith

**GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
FLAG-HOLDER RETURNED TO A PROPER PLACE**

I received an email from Mr. Kirk Walstedt who lives in Essex, Ontario. He found my email on the Department of Michigan SUVCW website as Department Historian.

He wrote the following-

"An elderly friend of mine, who was a fellow antique collector, passed away a short while ago and his wife gave me a number of Civil War items he had collected over the years. One of the items is a very old iron spike grave marker with "Grand Army of the Republic" embossed in a circle. There is a star in the middle with 61 above 65 written on it. It also has "post" embossed in the bottom of the circle. There is also slot in the back of the marker, which I believe would have been for the placement of a small flag.

I would very much like to return it to the proper authority so it could be placed back in a veteran's cemetery where it belongs."

It wasn't long before it arrived in the mail. After being sandblasted it looked almost new again.

Please see picture

Mr. Walstedt's family moved to Canada from Malden Illinois, which is near Princeton, in 1913. His Great Grandfather and Grandfather bought the family farm where his parents and siblings still reside. His Great Grandfather was born in Sweden in 1858 and immigrated to the US in 1878.

Mr. Walstedt writes, "I'm still in the process of researching my Great Grandmother's family who had been in the mid west for quite a number of years prior to my Great Grand Father's arrival. Her maiden name was Carlson and there appears to have been a large number of residents in Illinois in the mid 1800s with that surname. I haven't yet, however, found any record of the Carlson's Family involvement in the Civil War that I can connect to my family."

I believe this is to be a most admirable act. Most folks surely would not have gone to the trouble Mr. Walstedt did to insure this item went back to it's proper place of honor, now guarding over the grave of a very deserving United States Armed Forces Veteran Captain Henry Stark an United State's Military Veteran. Captain Stark is interred in Mountain Home Cemetery, Otsego, Michigan. We can all learn from Mr. Walstedt's example.

The following is from a 1933 newspaper article about Captain Stark-

**ALLEGAN GAZETTE 1933
TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN STARK
ONCE COMMANDED FORT DEARBORN,
SITE OF CHICAGO**

*Was officer in Regular Army—Saw much Service There—Commanded Co. G. of Sixth Michigan
Infantry in Civil War—Man of Finest Quality*

Everything relating in any way to A Century of Progress seems to be of interest to everybody today. So the Gazette in this issue gives an account of the massacre by Indians of the garrison of Fort Dearborn, which stood, close to the site of the great exposition. The fort existed many years before there was any settlement of consequence there. After the massacre it was rebuilt and stood until it's site was needed by the growing town. It was about the time of the rebuilding that this fort was commanded by a man long afterward a respected resident of Otsego village and township. He was Captain Henry Stark.

He held that rank when commanding the fort, for he was an officer of the regular United States Army. He also took part in the Black Hawk War when that capable Indian Chieftain was driven out of Illinois solely because the white man desired his lands of his tribe.

Retired from the Army Capt. Stark went to Otsego, Michigan where he worked in his shop as a cooper. In those days every sort of industry was carried on in every town. Manufacture on a large scaled had not begun. When the Civil War broke out, Capt. Stark organized in Otsego, Company G of the Sixth Michigan Infantry. He was already showing gray hair and beard; but he served to the end of the war. At Port Hudson, Miss., his regiment was so decimated in battle that instead of filling it with recruits it was changed into a battery of heavy artillery.

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Capt. Stark was more than once offered promotion, but he declined, saying he felt himself too old to take further responsibility; that he would serve in his capacity as Captain, which he did until the close on the war.

Soon afterwards he moved from the village of Otsego to a farm half way to Allegan on what is now the paved road where his son, Arthur T. Stark, now resides, only that the house was on the opposite side of the highway. Arthur was his only child. Capt. Stark was a lineal descendant of the famous Gen. John and "Molly" Stark of the American Revolution and so came naturally to his inclination to be a soldier.

Along late in his life Chicago held a big celebration of it's beginning. Capt. Stark was invited to it and was shown great honors for he was the only man still living who had commanded Fort Dearborn.

Henry Stark was born in Pawlett, Vermont and was the youngest of a family of fifteen children. Both his father and grandfather were wounded in the battle of Bennington in the Revolutionary War, his father losing a leg there. Henry Stark enlisted in the regular Army in Oswego, New York and went thence by sail to Chicago. At that time there was not a framed house there. He was stationed at Fort Dearborn just one hundred years ago!



This picture of Capt. Stark is from a photograph taken in New Orleans whence his regiment was ordered in the army and navy expedition, which captured that city and the two forts below it on the Mississippi River. Some of his men died there of the fevers which followed their encampment in or near swamps. Western troops believed that discrimination was made against them and in favor of the eastern men as to sanitary campsites. This was blamed to Gen. Williams of New York.

A little later he was killed in battle and it was believed he was killed by his own men in revenge for this alleged discrimination. Among the fever victims were Milo Hawkes and Edward Parkhurst, both of Otsego, the latter a brother to the late Mrs. H. B. Peck of Allegan.



Flag holder from Mr. Walstedt now guards the grave of Captain Stark.

DEPARTMENT GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER REPORT

By Rick Danes

At the September 9 Graves Registration Committee Meeting, I announced that we now have over 56,200 individual records in the department database. Thanks to the efforts of Communications Officer Matt Adair, the database has been re-designed and we are getting more queries and adds than ever before. I have also accepted a two year appointment by C-in-C Pahl to serve on the National Graves Committee. I would welcome any help available to start inputting the records that are not in the National Database. We still have much work to do, as we consider a county done, we find that in spite of our predecessors, some and in certain cases, many omissions were made in initial surveys. The best time of the year to survey a cemetery is the fall, after the "bugs" are dead, so if you are looking for a cause, let me know!

ANCESTOR VINGNETTE

Transcribed from an Escanaba Daily Press article dated 20 August 1922 entitled; "Seven Veterans of Civil War Survive in Escanaba." (With a few additions)

HIRAM WELLMAN

Hiram Wellman, born at Jackson, Michigan, October 8th, 1847, and entered the United States Army at the age of 17 years enlisting in Company A of the 15th Michigan Infantry under Major General John A. Logan. William T. Sherman was Commander-in-Chief and O. B. Bouton, of Tecumseh, was Captain of his regiment.

The first battle in which he was engaged was at Resaca, Georgia in June of 1864. The real battle, which he considers, was some fighting at Ketersal Mountain, in the vicinity of Atlanta, Georgia. He was in four heavy battles at Atlanta, one at Johnsborroughs, one at Fort McAllister, near Savannah, Georgia when they had to take Fort McAllister.

Quoting Mr. Wellman; "This was a fierce battle; it only lasted for fifteen minutes, but it was hot while it lasted. Fifteen minutes from the time we opened fire we had taken down the rebel flag from the big flag staff at the hospital and replaced it with the Stars and Stripes."

"Were you wounded?"

"Never a scratch; I lost an eye, but that was only a few years ago. Once they had me counted dead; a bullet hit me on the head and I was stunned for about twenty minutes. It raised a blotch on my forehead, but I came to and got on my feet and continued to fight."

Mr. Wellman is a charter member of the C. F. Smith Post No. 175; Grand Army of the Republic located in Escanaba and is proud of the fact.

With Sherman to the Sea

He was one of the men who took part in Sherman's march to the sea; it took 45 days from where they started. They had rations for only five days, but they lived off the farmers on the route.

"Did the farmers give you food?"

"No, we just helped ourselves as we went along. We had chicken and potatoes that was all we had."

"How about the drinking water?"

"Well, some days we had some, and some days we did not. I recall one time we had marched for a long way and it was hot and dusty. We came to a pond where the water was covered with a green scum about two inches thick. I immediately lay on my stomach and began to push the scum away with my hands and took a drink. One of my comrades hollered to me: "My God, Hiram, you are not drinking that water are you?" I said why not, I am so thirsty. He said: "Look over there." and only a few feet away from the stream we saw the body of a dead mule."

"We walked a distance of three or four miles and found a nice clear river which emptied into a small lake. We drank and not fifteen minutes from the time, we struck that spot there were 150 men in swimming. We were so tired and warm the bath cooled us and we proceeded on our way. We could not get a drink of water at the farmhouses as the farmers had cut the ropes from their water buckets and left the buckets at the bottom of the wells. They did all in their power to prevent us from getting along."



From Left, Back row: Theodore, Eurette, William James, Philip, Edward
From Left, Front Row: Sarah, Simeon, Hiram, Eurette, Joseph, Thomas Ardee

* PROUDLY WEARING HIS G.A.R. BADGE

Mr. Wellman was married to Miss Eurette Cornell at Washington Island, July 3, 1869. They lived at Washington Island for some time. Later, they moved to Green Bay, (Brown County) Wisconsin, after which the family moved to Escanaba where they lived for forty-two years before going to their farm at Misery Bay. Mr. Wellman's occupations over his life included teaching, being a fisherman and farming.

Twelve children were born to the couple, four of whom died young. The following is a list of their family: Mrs. Sarah (James) BERGEON of Ludington Street, Escanaba, Ardee WELLMAN of Ford River, Mrs. Eurette (Charles) KIRBICK of Saginaw, Michigan, Phillip WELLMAN of North Escanaba, Simeon WELLMAN of Ford River, and Joseph WELLMAN of Lansing.

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Ardee and Edward, their two sons, served in the Spanish-American War. They both served in the Company B, 35th Michigan Volunteer Infantry.

Working on Roof

Mr. Wellman is hale and hardy for a man of his age (74). When interviewed at Misery Bay he was working on the roof of a large chicken coop, which is being built at the Shallows, the summer home of Attorney J. C. Baker. He came down as quickly as a boy of fifteen years old and gladly answered all questions and told of his experiences as though they only occurred yesterday. Mr. Wellman works about the farm every day and drives to this city often. He attends all patriotic programs, which take place in Escanaba, and never misses an occasion to march with the boys when they are asked to do

so.

Mr. and Mrs. Wellman and their family are members of the First Methodist church.

Hiram Wellman died on April 25, 1928 at Ford River, Michigan. He is interred at the South Ford River Cemetery, Delta County, Michigan. Several proud descendants survive him; he has left them a legacy to be proud of!

Private Hiram Wellman is the 4 Great Grandfather of my daughter-in-law, Kerry Beth (Krause) Keith and he is a 5 Great Grandfather to my grandson Charles Leland Keith.

Submitted by-
John R. Keith
Commander
General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20
SUVCW

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HENRY E. PLANT CAMP #3 NEWS

BY Daniel Grable
Camp Secretary

This summer Henry E. Plant Camp #3 was busy. In May we celebrated Memorial Day by participating in the Spring Lake community ceremony. There we participated in the parade. Those who were able provided a color guard for the veterans who could march the 1 ¼ mile parade route, while the Harbor Trolley with the camp Emblem on the side was provided for those who could not. At the cemetery Camp Chaplin explained the history of Memorial Day, and read John A. Logan's Order # 11. The Camp provided firing squad duties, and the Camp held an annual picnic to end the day.

In June the Camp made a presentation for the second straight year at the Spring Lake Heritage Festival. A cemetery walk in the old part of the cemetery conducted by Commander Richard Scott, and a dissertation by myself about the Civil War veterans who are buried at Spring Lake Cemetery preceded Chaplin Baldus' description about the beginnings of the GAR and SVC Donald Ogden III's talk about the history of Perkins GAR Post #279 in Spring Lake.

During July the Camp opted to continue Graves Registration projects, and we adopted the Robinson Township Cemetery where we found over 20 Civil War veterans buried.

During 2006 we worked with Robinson Township during their Sesquicentennial in many events. A Memorial Ceremony at the Township Cemetery and dedication of a new flagpole. The event was memorialized in print by the Grand Haven Tribune with photos and text.

Please offer your prayers for Commander Richard Scott and son Jon Scott who are dealing with the loss of Richard's mother (and Jon's grandmother) recently.

ROBERT FINCH CAMP #14

April-July 2006 Report

Submitted by W. E. Skillman, Camp Commander

The Camp #14 roster shows 48 Members; 1 Junior Member and 10 Associates. Visiting Brothers are invited to join us for the September 9th meeting at the Elks Club 625 Bay St. (intersection Grandview Parkway/Division).

July was a very busy month for Camp 14. On Independence Day, 11 Brothers (Breagh, Winnie, Watson, Gray, Slis, Herringa, Jeff and Jim Morse, Smith, and Skillman), rode the Elks float or marched in formation behind it. The city streets were lined 2-3 deep with visitors and citizens who loudly cheered the Camp along the entire route. SVC Jeff Morse preceded the formation with a large placard with the Camp name emblazoned on it, while Dutch Herringa proudly carried his g-g-grandfathers cavalry saber.

Earlier that day, Brothers Ribby, Breagh, Gray, Watson and Skillman attended the Métis (the descendents of early French fur trappers and their Native American wives) ceremony at Heritage Park. PCC Al Pifer was honored for serving as the mentor of that organization for over 30 years. Al was bestowed the tribal honor of being named: 'Chief Great Bear'. The Frances Finch Auxiliary was present with President Emily Breagh and members Mary Rose, Marge Pifer, Rev Tamara Pifer (master of ceremony), Naomi Carlson, Jessica Harrand, Holly Pifer. Judith and Reagan Pifer, participating.

The Summer Picnic was held on July 15th at Al and Marge Pifer's home. Despite the hot and humid weather over 40 Brothers and guests attended. In addition to the delicious vintage CW food, Frances Finch Auxiliary President, Emily Breagh, invited Camp 14 as guests for the installation of new members Margaret Wilke, Sally Pilon, and Kimberly Reinink. Guest speakers were Brother Tyler Putnam (describing his archeological dig at Johnson's Island-CSA POW camp), Dutch Herringa (displaying his ancestor's CW sword) and H.G. Smith. Brother Smith talked about his tour of, sometimes hard to find, Civil War battlefields in the Deep South. Also in attendance were PDC Bruce Butgeriet, and Brothers Clint Kennard (up from Florida) and Al Pifer (ran the guard at Tendercare, again). The good mood prevailed with a rowdy chorus of 'Happy Birthday' for Brother Bill Watson, celebrating his "21st year of his 40th birthday". Fortunately, a strong southerly breeze came up at the same moment Brother Bill had to blow out the candles.

Camp 14 received a unique invitation from the Manitou Island Memorial Association to perform the 1917 GAR ceremony for Aaron Sheridan (13th Illinois Infantry and chief lighthouse keeper from 1866-1878) on South Manitou Island. Sheridan, his wife, Julia (Assist. Keeper), and infant son were lost at sea during a March storm in 1878. Camp 14 members who attended were:

- Neal and Emily (representing the Frances Finch Auxiliary) Breagh
- Bill Watson
- Dale Aurand
- Jim Ribby
- Tyler Putnam
- Chris Skillman (Co. A. 26th Michigan/Co. B. US Sharpshooter re-enactors)

On July 30th, despite a 12 mile, roller-coaster cruise in Lake Michigan, followed by a bone-jarring truck ride to the cemetery; this merry band joined 60 descendents, guests and 'Blue Shirt' volunteers of the Memorial Association to commemorate the life and service of Cpl. Sheridan and his family. The Brothers performed their roles with such dignity and reverence that at the close of the ceremony descendents repeatedly stepped forward to shake hands and thank us for the touching tribute to their ancestor. Many informed me that it was the most moving remembrance ceremony that they had ever attended, and one woman clasped both of my hands with a tearful and heartfelt: "what your Camp did today for us will last with me forever".

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Camp 14 was busy again the next weekend at the Sleeping Bear Dune National Lakeshore's Port Oneida Fair. Brothers Jeff and Jim Morse Jr. assisted CC Skillman conducting the 1917 GAR observance to honor Cpl. Chester McIntyre (10th Michigan Cavalry) buried at the Kelderhouse Cemetery. The ceremony was enhanced by the North Winds Brass Band, who played patriotic and martial airs before and after the observance; the Honor guard comprising members of the 14th and 26th Michigan Infantry reenactors. Over 110 participants and park visitors were present, and many stopped after the ceremony to express their appreciation. Many had no previous knowledge of the Sons or their duties. At least two persons expressed an interest in joining the SUVCW.

Neal and Emily Breaugh traveled east to participate in the National Encampment at Harrisburg. There they visited with many old friends and comrades. President Emily had the pleasure to inform the other attendees that the Frances Finch Auxiliary is now the largest in Michigan, with 28 members.

A number of Camp 14 members traveled south to participate in the Jackson Cascades Muster on August 26-27. Brother Ribby performed period poetry, while CC Skillman and son Chris took to the 'battlefield' as sharpshooters. Neal Breaugh manned the sales booth and visited with new C-in-C Jim Pahl and Brothers of Camp 7. President Emily Breaugh met with Austin Blair and Nash-Hodges Auxiliary members to bring them up to date on the proceedings from the National Encampment.



At 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 16th, Camp 14 will be in Mancelona, Michigan. Local resident George Ouvry, single handedly, has spent the past 2 years to document and restore CW veteran Id Mancelona cemetery. Through his pain-staking research, Mr. Ouvry discovered over 100 Civil War (and numerous Indian War, Spanish-American, WW1 & 2) veteran gravesites in the near-forgotten cemetery. Camp 14 has sent out invitations to all Department and Camp commanders to attend the GAR ceremony which will recognize 24 newly restored graves of Civil War veterans, and to honor the selfless devotion of Mr. Ouvry. I invite all of the Officers and Brothers to bring their Camp colors and be part of this memorable celebration.

10th Michigan Cavalry and early homesteader.
 Port Onieda Fair, Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore Park.
 CC Skillman places 'Symbols of the Soldier' on the grave while
 the North Winds Brass band plays a musical tribute.
 (photo by Len Overmyer III)

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***Future Michigan's Messenger Publications
 Submittal Dates and Publication Dates***

***Spring - March 1 for a March 15 Publication
 Summer - June 1 for a June 15 Publication
 Fall - September 1 for a September 15 Publication
 Winter - December 1 for a December 15
 Publication***

***Send all articles to Rick Danes, Editor, preferably at
mimessrd@aol.com or to 2612 Burns Street,
 Dearborn, Michigan 48124-3204***

GENERAL BENJAMIN PRITCHARD CAMP #20*John R. Keith, Commander*

REMINDER- our next camp meeting will be Tuesday, September 5th, 2006 at 7PM. Camp 20 meets on the first Tuesday of the month, March through November, at the Oshtemo Branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library, located at 7265 West Main Street. Please come and join us! Bring a friend! We will be conducting the Full Ritual at our meetings this year; officers need to be ready to represent their stations. Handouts of this ritual will be passed out at the meetings.



On July 1st, 2006 in Sturgis, Michigan, Camp 20 sponsored the Phillip Schlachter Medal of Honor Gravestone Dedication. Featured speakers were Michigan State Representative, Mr. Rick Shaffer, Mayor of the City of Sturgis, Robert Sisson, Sturgis VFW Post 1355 member, Mr. Peter McPherson, Lt. Col. USAF (RETD), and SRVC-in-C James Pahl.

Also please note that—

Dave Delemme, American Legion Department of Michigan District 4, SRVC, he is also member of the American Legion post 84 in Otsego. Mr. Delemme attended the Schlachter Medal of Honor Gravestone Dedication Camp 20 sponsored on July 1st in Sturgis and after learning all that Private Schlachter endured during his service has presented a original Grand Army of the Republic cast iron flag holder in behalf of the American Legion to Mr. Ron Abbs a descendant of Private Phillip Schlachter to be place on this soldiers grave. (See picture below)

SRVC Delemme received this flag holder a few years ago from items left when the American Legion Post 289 in Otsego dissolved over 30 years ago.



Camp 20 Commander J. R. Keith, District 4 SRVC D. Delemme, Mr. R. Abbs, Camp 20 Brother D. Gosling

WELCOME

We added two new members to Camp 20 at our August meeting.

Bro. John Hansen joined as an Associate member and his grandson, Bro. John Brewster joined as a Junior member. Please join us in giving them a warm welcome to our organization!

Also please join us in congratulating Camp 20 Brother Gary Gibson PDC on being appointed National Patriotic Instructor.

JOHNSON'S ISLAND DIG*BY Tyler Pulman**Submitted by Neal Breagh*

Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2006 7:52 PM

Subject: Field School Update

An update on the Field School. Some of you might have heard some of this before, but I thought I would send it out to all who might be interested.

The college has two of us housed in a "Senior Apartment" which would hold 4 seniors during the school year, so it is pretty roomy with just the two of us. The house is very new and nice, well equipped with appliances, and the cost is the same per week no matter how much air conditioning, phone service, and electricity we use.

I've been here for almost three weeks. Each morning I wake up at 6:30, get ready, and get some breakfast. We meet our instructor at his house and then drive to Johnson's Island (about an hour from campus). The island itself is in Lake Erie but connected via a causeway. It is heavily developed with very posh homes on the exterior, but pretty woodsy on the interior (it's maybe 500 acres). The site is that of a Prisoner of War camp used to house Confederate officers during the Civil War. Nothing remains of the buildings, but the land itself is preserved through a nonprofit group. We are currently digging in the area of what was once the camp hospital. We divide the area being excavated into squares of 2 meters on each side. Then we scrape the dirt out in layers (scraping away, say 2 cm across the whole unit, and then going back and going another 2 cm down, etc.). The dirt we scrape out is then put through screens to pick up artifacts. At this stage we find window and bottle glass shards, brick pieces, nails, a few ceramic chips, and lots of flint (the site was also used by prehistoric Indians long ago, so we find signs of their living there in the same ground as the Civil War stuff). At this point the location of an artifact has no significance since the ground here has been turned over by plows (i.e. stirring up artifacts from their original locations). Once we get down to a certain level, we hit undisturbed soil, in which "features" are visible. A feature is some sort of discoloration in the soil, often indicating where the location of some object once was (i.e. a foundation, fireplace, or post). These features are then excavated to a further depth to pick up things that might be in them. The more notable things we find both in the screens and in the ground are called "field specimens." In the past three weeks some of our field specimens have included an 1862 penny, two human teeth, prisoner-crafted shell and hard rubber (sort of like the plastic of its day) items (often prisoners would carve things into buttons and trinkets), a pipe stem, silverware pieces, a musket ball marked with an "x", a percussion cap (which makes the spark needed to ignite the powder and fire a musket), as well as numerous other interesting items. We get back here around 4:30, and before I know it it's time for dinner and bed.

And so that's how I've been spending my weekdays – quite an interesting and scientific way to dig holes for a living.

You can go here for some photos...http://www.heidelberg.edu/johnsonsisland/students_scrapbook_fieldschool.html

And here for photos of the FS's (the ones we've found during the field school start towards the bottom with "FS 6525"...http://www.heidelberg.edu/johnsonsisland/students_scrapbook_FieldSpecimens.html

Best,

-Tyler

SGT. JOHN S. COSBEY CAMP 427

By Rick Danes, Commander

Camp 427 finished our busy summer by co-sponsoring and scheduling History Hill at the Dearborn Homecoming.

This year's historical timeline featured over 100 re-enactors, craftspeople, and historical interpreters covering military periods from the 1740's to the Viet Nam War.

We have an interesting fall planned, as we are scheduling guest speakers for each meeting with a variety of subjects, ending with our Annual Dinner and election of Officers in December.

This year we have stepped out of our traditional service in Dearborn-only to displays and other presences at Traverse City, Crossroads Village, Holly, Monroe's Civil War Days, and Wyandotte's Heritage Days.

As a result, we have 6 potential members to approach for recruitment into the Order.



Camp 427 Members Gus Sherwin, Keith Kushnir, Aaron Schrader, and friends John Britt, Tom Berlucci, and Ken Roberts prepare to fire a volley in a demonstration.



Lining up for the cause are Tom Berlucci, Ed Binkley, Jerry Olson, Ian Kushnir, Ken Roberts, Keith Kushnir, Gus Sherwin, John Britt, and Aaron Schrader, some of the Dearborn Homecoming History Hill volunteers.