



Michigan's Messenger

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

Volume XXV, Number 3

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Fall, 2007

John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus



Department Orders #3



Series 2007-2008

Headquarters, Davison, Michigan

1. Effective 27 September 2007 General Ulysses S. Grant Camp No. 101 of Detroit, MI is hereby reinstated.
2. A reminder to all Camps, that per the Department By-Laws and the Constitution & Regulations of the Order, Camp Officer Installations must be completed by 31 January 2008.
3. Camp Commanders and Camp Secretaries are reminded that Form 22, Certification of Election and Installation of Camp Officers is due to the Department Secretary by February 14, 2008. Please, be sure to use the current version of the form which is available on the National SUVCW Website at <http://suvchw.org/ftp.htm>. Previous versions of Form 22 are void.
4. I also want to remind Camp Commanders and Camp Secretaries that Form 27, Camp Annual Report is due to the Department Secretary by April 30, 2008. Please, be sure to use the current version of the form which is available on the National SUVCW Website at <http://suvchw.org/ftp.htm>. Previous versions of Form 27 are void.
5. I would like to commend the Brothers of Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17 for their work in the Mt. Hope Cemetery in Lansing, MI and for putting on a first rate rededication ceremony. Well done, Brothers!
6. The Department Encampment is scheduled for 26 April 2008 in Lansing, MI. Location and other detailed information will be announced as soon as possible.
7. By order of Commander-in-Chief Charles E. Kuhn, Jr. in General Order No. 9 and due to changes by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), all Camps are required to file with the IRS in 2008. For more information, General Order No. 9 is posted on the National, SUVCW Website at: <http://suvchw.org/go/go.htm>. I strongly encourage all Brothers, especially, Camp Commanders, Camp Secretaries and Camp Treasurers to familiarize themselves with this new requirement.
8. The **Charge Bayonets!** Project:

The Department is establishing a program to actualize the goals envisioned by those who adopted the Strategic Plan at the Department Encampment in 2006. Those goals are:

1. Development of Camps in areas of low service.
2. Development of the Talents of Brothers in order to better serve the order.
3. Invest in the Technological Tools needed to advance into the future.
4. Recruit new Members.

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5. Expand Relationships with Other Veteran's Organizations.
6. Foster and Maintain Our Relationship with the Community.

I have established a team to review ideas coming from camps to carry out projects designed to achieve these objectives. The Department Review Team will be composed of the Department Commander, the Department Treasurer and the Chairman of the Department Council. Brothers are invited to submit ideas to their Camp Commander for adoption by the camp. The camp, then, should complete the application for a Charge Bayonets! Grant and submit it to the review team.

The Department Team will consider proposals and I will announce funded projects on Remembrance Day. Amounts of project grants are not restricted, but please understand that a limited amount - \$2,000 - has been approved for this program for MY2007-2008, and that I would like to fund 3 or 4 projects.

Once an idea has been submitted to the Department, the camp agrees that the Department may make these ideas available to other camps in the Department.

Those projects that are funded are agreeing by accepting to present their project and their results to the Department Encampment next following its conclusion. Such results will be distributed for use by other camps at the conclusion of their project.

Charge Bayonets! Project Proposal:

1. Camp Adopting this Project:
2. Brother Who Will Be Responsible for the Project:
3. Strategic Plan Objective to be advanced through this project (from above)
4. Description of the Project:
5. Duration of Project, as appropriate (i.e. the start and end dates):
6. Date of Event, as appropriate:
7. Total Budget of Project:
8. Amount Requested Through Charge Bayonets!:
9. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of my Michigan Brothers and their families!

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,
/s/
Dennis C. Derr II
Commander
Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest: /s/
Kevin J. Lindsey
Secretary
Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Commander Derr has announced that the following persons are the 2008 Nominating Committee: Robert Mitchell, Chairman; Richard Danes, Member; Rick Greene, Member; John R. Keith, Member; Jeff Morse, Member

If you are interested in serving, please contact Chairman Mitchell.

Department Historian Report

John R. Keith, Chairman

2007-2008 Department Officers

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Edgar Dowd

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James Pahl

Chief of Staff

Guard

Eagle Scout Coordinator

Signals Officer

Matt Adair

Messenger Editor

Rick Danes

Historian

John R. Keith

Guide

John McFeaters

Graves Registration

Rick Danes

GAR Records

James T. Lyons, PDC

Civil War Memorials

Douglas R. Armstrong, PCC

Camp At Large Coordinator

Robert Mitchell

Another year has almost passed; it goes to show how fast present day becomes past history.

I would imagine all of us who belong to the SUVCW have a great interest in the years of 1861 through 1865 and of course the participates in that time, our fathers and mothers in that era.

This era of course known as the Civil War is one of the most fascinating of our country's history. It shaped what our country is today and was the only war our country fought against itself, I thank God for that!

The Civil War was a very unpopular war as was the leader of the Union, Abraham Lincoln. During the years he lead our nation, he made some very unpopular decisions, some, that experts today still debate on the legality of them.

We look back on him today, as a great man, as he was, but in his time several of Americans never thought of him as such! But he did what he thought should be done to save the Union. He never acknowledged the Confederate States of America as a country, because in his thinking they could not legality secede so the new country could not and did not exist! As all leaders, Lincoln had his critics and some just hated him, but he didn't hesitate to make unpopular decisions that needed to be made.

The men serving in the Civil War were just like those that have served our country before and after it. Today, young men and now women volunteering to step up like others before them, to support our country, our way of life, giving back to the United States some of what they received from it! We should hold these people in the highest esteem, just like we honor the soldier's of the Civil War.

My point is as we enter another year of the unpopular war in the Middle East, we should support our President, agreeing with him or not, but above all supporting the troops of our United States of America in all aspects.

Please keep our troops in your prayers, send them letters, and if you see one, give them a hearty handshake and pat on the back to let them know they are appreciated by a grateful nation! This applies to all servicemen and servicewomen, past and present!

At this time I want to say to all our SUVCW Brothers who are United States Armed Forces Veterans and those who are serving our country today, Thank you for you service, we owe so much you!

ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

Department Graves Registration Committee

Rick Danes, Chairman

The Graves Registration Committee held their 4th Quarter meeting in Lansing on December 8. Attending were Matt Adair (145), George Allen (120), Chris Czopek (22), Rick Danes (427), Dick Hutchins (120), Mark Keller (255), Bill Lowe (7), and Dick Williams (Camp 58). The Department Database now has 5,300 records in it, and although not perfect, progress is being made to make the necessary corrections to make it so. A major decision was made to insert an added field to note aliases in addition to other names. Bill Lowe reported that the survey work in the UP is now complete, with the exception of a few small island cemeteries. We were saddened by the news that DSVC, Brother, and Committee Member Bob Groves recently suffered a heart attack, but is recovering. We wish him well.

Lastly, I hope that all Camps include in their 2008 Programs an effort to start or complete graves registration in their areas. If you are not sure of them, please ask.

Irma and I wish each of you the very best during the Holiday Season.

General Israel B. Richardson Camp #2

Submitted by William Nash, JVC



JVC Nash and Carl Becker

Camp #2 Brothers David Hall, Carl Becker, Christopher Nash, and JVC Nash attended the Civil War themed Wolcott Mill event representing Camp #2 on October 20th 2007 also participated. Brother Hall also was engaged in the reenactment skirmish that took place as a member of the Michigan Calvary Brigade. The special day provided a great opportunity to talk with the general public as well as the re-enactors, about the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War.



Nash and Member David Hall with friend. Hall participated in the skirmish as a member of the Michigan Cavalry Brigade.

ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

Henry E. Plant Camp #3

Submitted by Daniel Grable, Secretary – Treasurer

This Summer and Fall the Henry Plant camp was very active. A high point of the year was our 3rd participation in the annual Spring Lake Heritage Festival. At the festival we spotlighted our Camp's namesake, Sergeant Henry E. Plant, who was a resident of the Spoonville – Nunica area, and Brother Clifford Owens presented the life of his ancestor Charles Owens. The event was well covered by the local press, and we came away with a list of prospective members.

On Flag Day, Camp 3 participated in the dedication of a new flag and flagpole at Mill Creek Park. The pole and flag were donated by the Spring Lake Heritage Committee. In August, the Camp went to Pilgrim Home Cemetery in Holland for Graves Registration work, followed by a trip to Brother Ronald Bellanger's home to view his SUVCW collection of memorabilia.

The Camp dedicated a POW-MIA Flag at Veteran's Park, and Brother Paul McDonald served as the ceremonial firing squad. The ceremony was officiated by the Fruitport VFW, Vietnam and Iraq Veteran Max Riekse (PCC) and Milt Mockerman.

The Camp is initiating the effort to offer War Medal Service Bars for Afghanistan and Iraq. Camp 3 is now spearheading the effort to restore the Noah – Perkins GAR Post #279 monument in Spring Lake Cemetery and the Benjamin K. Weatherwax GAR Post #75 monument in Lake Forest Cemetery, Grand Haven. The Perkins Monument Committee is seeking a picture of the monument. I am the Chairmen of that committee, and any picture or donation can be sent to me at: Daniel Grable, Committee Chairman, 15944 Graves Avenue, Apt. B, Spring Lake, MI 49456-1833; emailed to danielgrable@yahoo.com; or sent to the Camp Signals Officer Richard Scott, at rscott@chartermi.net.

ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

Colegrove – Woodruff Camp #22

Brother Chris Czopek was the speaker this year at the annual Veterans Feast at the Soaring Eagle Casino in Mt. Pleasant. Talking to a group of more than 300 Native-American veterans in the banquet hall, Chris told the story of Company K in the Civil War. First he described how the soldiers came from all the tribes in Michigan. Then he told stories about its heroes: Lt. Graveraet at Petersburg, Chief Mwa-ke-wenah who urged the men in his tribe to join the army and - at the age of 40 - went along with them to share their fate, Louis Muskoguo who survived the Sultana disaster, and Jacko Penaiswonquot who died at Andersonville. A recently restored picture of Payson Wolfe was put on display. For some of the veterans, this was the first time they had heard the story of Company K. Many talked with Chris afterwards, inviting him to visit their tribe and give the same program.

Robert Finch Camp #14

Submitted by W. E. Skillman, Patriotic Instructor

Camp #14's roster shows 36 Members, 9 Associates, 1 Junior Member. Visiting Brothers and Auxiliary Sisters are cordially invited to attend our next meeting on Saturday, January 12, 2008 at the Elks Club 625 Bay St. (intersection Grandview Parkway/Division) in Traverse City. Our special guest will be Department Commander Dennis Derr III, who will preside over the installation of officers.

Camp 14 is sad to report that one of our Graves Registration officers, Brother Charles LaBarr, has requested and been granted an honorable discharge due to health problems. Brother LaBarr was a past camp commander of the Cadillac Camp 136 until its dissolution, when he and the remaining Brothers transferred to Camp 14. He has been a faithful servant to the memory of the 'Boys in Blue' and he will be missed.

History Detective' Chris Czopek was the featured speaker in September's meeting. His topic was about the Odawa and Chippewa Indians who had served with the First Regiment Michigan Sharpshooters during the Civil War. Chris discussed the post-War lives of these citizen-warriors and displayed a number of old photographs of them.

Len Overmyer was November's speaker. Len is completing a soon to be published book on the 26th Michigan Infantry. Len's focus was on the 125 men of the Grand Traverse region who served in Company 'A'. Also attending November's meeting was Brother Josh Kuchmuk. Josh informed the Camp that his National Guard unit had just received orders to report for duty in Iraq and he wanted to visit his family and old friends before shipping overseas. For those Brothers who wish to communicate with Josh while he is overseas, his email address is: joshua.r.kuchmuk@usarmy.mil

Camp 14 was active in local patriotic observances this quarter. In September, Brothers Winnie, Breough, Aurand, participated in the annual MIA-POW ceremony. On Veterans Day, Brothers Winnie, Aurand, Breough, Conger and SVC Jeff Morse (having just finished responding to an EMS call) stood in formation as the USCG cadets lowered the National colors to half staff.

Camp 14 proudly displayed three new handsome flag staffs at the November meeting. The original telescoping aluminum staffs had been slowly wearing out, and a few Brothers who borrowed them were sometimes baffled by the 'mechanical monsters'. Each new staff consists of pair of 4-foot long wooden poles with brass fittings. The new staffs are easier to assemble, carry and transport. Color Bearer Joe Conger led the Camp in a cheer of appreciation for JVC Dale Aurand's effort.

SVC Jeff Morse reported on his expanded duties as Eagle Scout Coordinator.

The election of officers was held in November, and the Camp roster will remain same for next year:

On behalf of the Officers and Brothers of Robert Finch Camp 14, and the Officers and sisters of the Frances Finch Auxillary, we wish to extend to all of our comrades and friends a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

TAPS

Brother Paul Wilson Roof Charter Member Camp No. 58

Paul Wilson Roof was born 6/29/1919 in Lansing and was a longtime resident of St Johns until his passing. Bro. Roof was a charter member of G.W. Anderson Camp No. 58 having joined the order the summer of 1995 when the camp was installed. Bro. Paul had his lineage derived from his Great Grandfather Nathaniel Roof who mustered into service 1/9/1864 in Co. H of the 9th Ohio Cav Regt as a Pvt. He was honorably discharged at the rank of Sergt on 7/20/1865 after the end of the war. Bro. Roof also actively served in support of WWII with the US Army in the Pacific Theater during 1944-46 including the Philippines and Okinawa. He served as a Tech Sergt with 706th Tank Battalion, he was 87 at his death.

Curtenius Guard Camp 17

By JVC Dave Arnold

The day was gloomy, however spirits showed bright as the Lansing/Sunfield Curtenius Guard, Camp #17 (Camp 17) rededicated the graves of 48 soldiers and sailors, concluding a (5-month restoration project) of the Civil War Burial Plot at Mount Hope Cemetery in Lansing Michigan. The project was started immediately after Memorial Day 2007. Upon examination, it was found that the brothers of Camp 17 had their hands full. The bulk of the Civil War Veterans headstones had sunk and were covered with black mold and lichens, the 35-foot monument was in dire need of cleaning with its base so dirty that moss had started growing on parts of the relief carving. The paint on the 75-foot flag pole erected in 1909 was extremely worn with the primer showing through. Finally, the area around the burial site was choked with weeds.

Undaunted, Camp 17 partnered with the Lansing Board of Water and Light; the local utility company in the Lansing area to begin the needed work. Work crews volunteered their time and skill and the 75-foot flag pole was primed and painted restoring its original splendor. The 35-foot monument was power washed. Camp 17 raised, reset, and cleaned the majority of the 48 headstones. One particular headstone had a foundation of almost 6 foot and had to be raised with a power boom truck. A local turf grass organization worked throughout the summer to restore the grass to its present lush green state.

With the project completed the camp looked forward to the rededication date scheduled for Sunday afternoon, October 14, 2007. The Soldiers Lot was originally dedicated in May 1877. The week leading up to the event was beautiful, with bright sunshine. As the date drew near the weather turned gray and overcast.



Approximately 100 people turned out for the rededication.

As the time grew near for the ceremony to start a faint drum cadence was heard in the distance as approximately 40 Civil War attired soldiers and civilians in period dress headed by PCinC Keith G. Harrison, marched up to the burial site from the front of the cemetery. The color bearers had their camp and unit flags on proud display. Vehicle traffic on the adjacent roadway slowed to a snails pace as drivers watched as the formation made its way up to the plot, lead by a Civil War Fife and Drum. A replica 34-star Civil War flag donated by the American Legion looked down on the event as Camp 17 Commander Ronald Shull opened the rededication introducing PCinC James B. Pahl, who conducted the ceremony patterned after the 1917 Grand Army of the Republic memorial dedication program. Special Tributes were presented to the camp by State Representative Rick Jones and the Lansing Mayor's office.

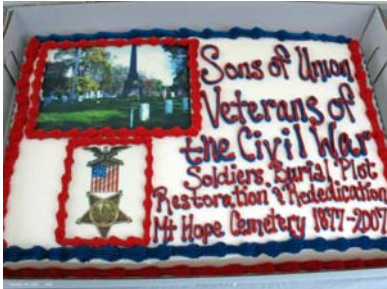
Wreaths were laid at the four corners of the monument base by representatives from Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States,

Michigan Department of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the National Organization of the Woman's Relief Corp and Camp 17. The symbols of the Soldier were presented by Camp 17 as well as representatives of the Michigan Departments of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

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A 44-page booklet was given out to attendees containing biographical sketches of all soldiers buried in the Soldiers Lot, including 5 indigent soldiers resting in heretofore unmarked graves. Camp 17 has ordered replacement stones & is waiting for them to arrive. As time drew near for the combined firing squad guard consisting of members from Camp 17, 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, 102nd US Colored Troops and local Lansing Post 201, Veteran of Foreign Wars to fire their volleys, a light rain began to fall. This, perhaps, was fitting taking into effect the type of ceremony. Taps was then sounded by a period Civil War attired bugler from the Jackson, Michigan Austin Blair Camp #7. After the ceremony traditional Civil War music was played by the Civil War Fife and drum as guests snacked on cake donated by Walmart. Later as the crowd began to thin and the hallowed ground grew quiet, you could almost hear a faint voice whisper "Well Done Comrades, Well Done". *Photos by Brian Shumway*



(More photos follow later in this publication.)



More from Mount Hope



ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

Editor's Note: Why Michigan's Messenger is now distributed electronically:

Two years ago the Department was faced with rising printing and mailing costs for the nationally recognized Michigan's Messenger. Very few options were available to Department Officers, so the issue was put on the floor at the Department Encampment.

The Members voted to publish Michigan's Messenger in an electronic format, with each edition being forwarded to one person in each Camp (thereafter called a Camp Signals Officer), who would then distribute the newsletter to Camp Members.

As a result of this action by the Membership, dues have not been raised.

I believe that the Camps have some responsibility to report changes, so that we can continue to serve you, so you must provide me with a current contact for electronic mailing.

I have tried to include every article that was sent to me prior to publication, so that all future issues will be timely. 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

General Benjamin Pritchard Camp # 20

Submitted By John R. Keith CC

Greetings from the General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20

We are happy to announce the initiation of a new member to our camp.

Bro. Harold W. Peters lives in Battle Creek, Michigan and has joined the SUVCW in honor of his Great Great Grandfather Johnathon Fast, who was in Company G of the 21st Ohio Infantry. Please join us in welcoming him to our great organization!

On September 8th 2007, at Lindsley Cemetery, Cheshire Township, Allegan County, Michigan we at Camp 20 honored Private Robert Smith, he was a long time resident of Cheshire Township. Around 120 people attended the ceremony, including members from 4 SUVCW Camps, members of 102nd United States Colored Troops re-enactors and members of the Eva Gray Tent #2, DUVCW. Also in attendance were 45 or so relatives of Private Smith. Michigan State Senator Cameron Brown spoke; he is also a member of SUVCW Camp 135 of Centerville, Michigan. Thanks for all the support!

Robert Smith born on August 28th 1840 in Harlan County, Kentucky. He enlisted in Company F of the 102nd United States Color Troops on August 20th, 1864 at Kalamazoo for 1 year. He mustered in on August 23rd, 1864. He joined the regiment at Beaufort, South Carolina on September 24th, 1864 and he mustered out at Charleston, South Carolina September 30th, 1865. He joined Company F along with 3 brothers, and all served till the end of the war. He died on May 13th 1900 in Antwerp Township, Van Buren County, Michigan.

NOTE:

Camp 20 is responsible for setting 38 new Civil War military gravestones in 2007.

Bro. Gary Gibson PDC and Bro. Bill Costello PCC report 18 more new stones were set in Riverside Cemetery, in the City of Kalamazoo this year, bringing the overall total to 51 new stones set by those Camp 20 Brothers in Riverside!

Other places where new stones were set by Camp 20 in 2007 are: Oakwood Cemetery in the City of Allegan (2 stones), Sacred Heart Cemetery (1 stone), Lindsley Cemetery (7 stones) and Baseline Cemetery (Union Burial Grounds) (9 stones) all three cemeteries being in Allegan County. Also one stone was set by Camp 20 in Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, Jefferson Township, Noble County, Indiana.

Other Camp 20 members that helped set stones were Bro. John C. Keith, Bro. Bill Brennan PDC, Bro. Tom Bruce, Bro Mike Stone and Bro. John R. Keith.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF GENERAL PRITCHARD'S DEATH

On December 1st, 2007, at 11 am, in recognition of the 100th anniversary of his death, Camp 20 is holding a brief ceremony at the grave of Benj. Pritchard located at Oakwood Cemetery in Allegan Michigan and then we will meet for lunch at the Village Inn Restaurant, 1520 Lincoln Road, Allegan, Michigan. This is an event for the whole family.

Those who plan on attending please contact Bro. John Keith CC or Bro. Bill Brennan PDC for directions.

Mr. B. D. Pritchard, died at his home on Tuesday, November 26, 1907 at 5:30 pm, his funeral was attended by 600 people and was held on the 29th.

IN A RELATING NOTE:

Camp 20 member, Bro. Joe Orbeck who was born in Allegan Michigan in 1925, states he remembers when he was 6 or 7 years old seeing their family doctor, Dr. E. D. Osmun for some ailment.

Dr. Osmun was Benjamin Pritchard's family doctor also, and treated him during his final days!

So if we shake Bro. Orbeck's hand we are only one handshake away from General Pritchard, the man who helped capture Jefferson Davis, the past is not really that far behind us!

CONGRATULATIONS

To the ladies of the newly forming Cornelia Stockbridge Sheldon Tent #8, of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, of the Kalamazoo, Michigan area.

Good luck ladies, Camp 20 and the SUVCW are looking forward to having Tent #8 join us in honoring the "Boys in Blue"!

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At the November meeting, nominations and elections were conducted for Camp 20 officers for 2008. The motion was made and passed by the camp to nominate the officers from 2007 to retain their positions for 2008. This was passed by the camp.

It was decided to hold the Officer Installation dinner on January 12th, 2008 at 6:30 PM at the Blackhawk Bar & Grill, located at 8940 North 32nd Street, Richland, Michigan, Family members are encouraged to attend. Make up date if needed will be January 19th. Please join us if you can! For more information please contact John R. Keith at Hardtackcw@aol.com.

ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

This letter was received to thank Camp 20 for their efforts on behalf of Private Robert Smith

To:
The Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20
Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

As a great granddaughter of Private Robert Smith, I want to express my sincerest thanks to his brothers who volunteered their time to organize and participate in his Gravestone Dedication at Lindsley Cemetery on September 8.

During the ceremony, as I expected, I was able to mourn my great grandfather just as did those who stood by his grave so long ago. However, I was pleasantly surprised to feel as though I was attending a funeral service in the Civil War era. Those of us in attendance were transported back in time, surrounded by a Civil War Chaplain, Bugler, Soldiers and Abraham Lincoln all of whose presence brought the comfort of knowing that here lies a soldier of the Grand Army of the Republic who was loved by his comrades and a grateful nation.

The memory of my ancestor was further honored by the attendance of officials of the state of Michigan which he so proudly represented in his Union uniform. The selection of Amazing Grace was especially appropriate and thanks to Mrs. Colegrove for her moving rendition.

Also, a special thank you to Private Robert Smith's brother in the 102nd United States Colored Troops, Maurice Johnson who took us through the formation of the troop up to fighting strength, their train journey from Detroit to Kalamazoo and on to the South, their marches and skirmishes in the field of battle in the grand effort to secure liberty for all and defend and preserve the Republic. And finally, a very special thanks to Camp Commander, John Keith who I will be forever grateful to for organizing this honor for my great grandfather.

To spread the grave of Private Robert Smith with the rich soil of Kentucky, the soil from which he sprang helped to bring him full circle. At his journeys end he was surrounded by those who honored him and loved him. After taps and the honor of a three gun salute, his march is truly over.

Thank you for honoring my great grandfather, Private Robert Smith.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Debra Smith McIntosh
Union City, California

ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ



More from Mount Hope



George W. Anderson Camp #58

Submitted by Doug Armstrong and Craig Whitford

History of the Ingham County Courthouse Cannon

The cannon on the northwest corner of the Ingham County Courthouse is a Model 1861, 4.2 inch, 30 PDR, Army Parrott Rifle. The 4.2 inch denotes the diameter of the cannon and the 30 PDR. represents the projectile weight. It was invented by Robert Parker Parrott, who graduated 3rd in the class of 1824 at West Point.

During the Civil War this gun, with its higher projectile weight, was used primarily as a seige weapon in both a fixed and mobile position. Both the Union army and Navy used it. A crew of nine would serve the rifle. The gun could fire a 29lb. shell at a range of 6700 yds with a 27-sec. time of flight.

During the seige of Charleston one of these cannon fired 4606 rounds before it burst.

This particular cannon in Mason was cast at the West Point foundry in New York in March of 1865. The markings on the muzzle and trunnions represent the following. W.P.F. stands for the foundry.

R.P.P. for the inventor, Robert Parker Parrott, which appeared on nearly all Parrott's rifles. The initials J.G.B. are for John Gazzam Butler, who inspected this gun prior to its release. The registration and foundry numbers, 383 and 461 are stamped on the cannon. Its weight of 4190 lbs is also included on the muzzle.

Of the 391 cannon of this type produced between 1861 and 1865, only 198 survive today. Many were lost to the scrap metal drives of WWI and WWII. The Mason cannon is one of 22 that were donated by the U.S. Government to veteran and patriotic organizations across Michigan in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The village of Stockbridge also has a 30 PDR. Parrott.

The cannon was donated to the Steele Bros. Grand Army of the Republic Post 441 in Mason. It came to Mason from Ft. Warren in Massachusetts on February 8, 1900. On March 12, 1900 the Post also received from the New York Arsenal (10) 24 PDR shells and (30) 8" shot. Members of the G.A.R. dedicated the cannon on July 12, 1900. The original ceremony was planned for July 4th, but was postponed due to a storm.

Originally located on the southwest corner of the Courthouse square, the cannon was relocated in 1944 to the northwest corner in order to make room for the memorial which was to be erected honoring the men and women of World War II.

The foundation is 4 x 7 feet at the base and constructed of cut field granite and Bedford stone.

2007 Restoration



Doug Armstrong tuck-pointing the joints of the cannon base.

Armstrong, Dennis Felton, and Ed Murray resetting the cannon.



In 2006 the Ingham County Historical Commission contacted SUCVW Memorials Officer and Mason, Doug Armstrong in regards to the possibility of restoring the cannon and its base. During the early part of 2007 plans were underway for the restoration to occur. During the week of July 11, 2007, SUCVW Brothers Doug and Craig cleaned, tuck-pointed and restored the cannon base. On Saturday, July 14, 2007 the large Civil War cannon that graces the northwest corner of the Courthouse Square, in Mason, was lifted from its base, by Doug's co worker, Ed Murray, and transported to Schiffer Mason Contractors in Holt (Schiffer Mason Contractors provided services, equipment and facilities during the restoration the cannon.) for sandblasting, primer and painting.

On Sunday, August 19, 2007 a light rain fell as preparations were made to remount the cannon on its base. A handsome new block of Indiana limestone was installed, replacing the original one which, through time had become deteriorated by the elements. As with the original, the new block was inscribed "Presented by U.S.A. - 1900" and "Steele Bros. Post, G.A.R., No. 441". Greater Lansing Monuments, Inc. of Lansing cut the lettering. Within a short period the new block was installed and leveled. Once the block was in place, the cannon was lifted from the semi-trailer and moved into place within its mount.

The Ingham County Historical Commission is planning a rededication of the cannon on July 4, 2008, keeping in mind the date in 1900 when it was originally scheduled to be dedicated. Once the plans are finalized for the ceremony an announcement will be made.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding the Steele Brothers cannon restoration and rededication, please feel free to contact Craig A. Whitford, Chairperson, Ingham County Historical Commission at cawhitford@aol.com. Photos by Whitford

Sgt. John S. Cosbey Camp 427

By Rick Danes, CC



Camp 427 has continued to expand our opportunities to spread the good word and honor those fallen heroes. In September Camp members Jerry Olson, Aaron Schrader, Ian Kushnir, Howard Fite, Gus Sherwin, Keith Kushnir, Ed Binkley, and CC Danes and friend John Britt provided the Color Guard for the rededication of Huron Township Cemetery after an extensive renovation by the Huron Crusaders.



October's efforts included an invitation by Monroe's Custer Days Celebration to serve as a Color Guard and Escort for the reenacted Custer Wedding. The Camp also provided a ceremonial Saber Salute to end the ceremony. Participating were Members Bob Zimmerman, Jerry Olson, Gus Sherwin, Keith Kushnir, Jerry Radloff, Ian Kushnir, Jon Reed, Jerry Jacobs, Aaron Schrader, Ed Binkley, Howard Fite, and CC Danes.

A November 11 activity found the group at the Dearborn Veteran's Day Ceremony. The Camp held elections, and reaffirmed the 2007 Officers with the exception that Howard Fite and Ed Binkley will share Chaplain duties, and Jerry Olson and CC Danes will handle the Eagle Scout Recognition Program. In December the Camp held the 9th Annual Dinner, and CC Danes presented the Department of Michigan Graves Registration Program to the Dearborn Genealogical Society.

Future Michigan's Messenger Publications Submittal Dates and Publication Dates

Winter - March 1 for a March 15 Publication

Spring - June 1 for a June 15 Publication

Summer - September 1 for a September 15 Publication

Fall - December 1 for a December 15 Publication

**Send all articles to Rick Danes, Editor, preferably at
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Michigan 48124-3204**

ALL PUBLICATIONS WILL BE MADE ON TIME

1st Michigan Volunteer Infantry (90 day regiment).

By Jim Pahl, Past Commander-in-Chief



In compliance with President Lincoln's requisition upon the State of Michigan for military aid to uphold the constitution and maintain the Union of the States, Governor Austin Blair issued a proclamation, dated April 16, 1861, for one Regiment of Infantry to be mustered into the service of the United States. Preference was given to those militia companies already formed.

Ten of these companies were accepted to form the First Michigan Regiment. Those companies accepted and received the following company designation:

Detroit Light Guard, Company A
 Jackson Grays, Company B
 Coldwater Cadets, Company C
 Manchester Union Guards, Company D
 Stuben Guard (of Ann Arbor), Company E
 Michigan Hussars (of Detroit), Company F
 Burr Oak Guard, Company G
 Ypsilanti Light Guard, Company H
 Marshall Light Guard, Company I
 Hardee Cadets, Company K.

Orlando P. Wilcox, formally regular army, was appointed Colonel of the Regiment. The regiment formed on Campus Marcus in Detroit, where the ladies of that city presented the regiment with silken flag of very fine material. The regiment left Detroit on May 13 and arrived in Washington, DC on May 16.

The regiment was dispatched to cross the long bridge into Virginia and capture Alexandria. The regiment crossed the bridge, while the New York Zouave regiment of Col. Ellsworth crossed by steamer.

While camped at Sutor's Hill near Alexandria, Lt. Thomas Rix presented them with the National standard, presented to the regiment by the citizens of Michigan then residing in Washington DC. Corporal Thomas Flynn of Company G carried this flag. He saved this flag from capture and returned it to Michigan. Flynn was afterwards a captain in the 11th Michigan Infantry and killed at Stones River, Tennessee, January 1, 1863.

At 1st Bull Run, the Union army was divided into five divisions. The 1st Michigan was in the Second Brigade of the Third Division. The third division was commanded by Col. S.P. Heintzelman (who was wounded). The second brigade was commanded by Col. O.B. Wilcox (who was wounded and captured). During the battle, the regiment was actually commanded by Major Bidwell.

While no mention appears to be made in official reports and records, the flag presented by the ladies of Detroit on Campus Marcus, was captured at 1st Bull Run by the 27th Virginia Infantry, part of the Stonewall Brigade. It was returned to the state in 1886.

The regiment returned to Detroit under the command of Major Bidwell, where they were mustered out of federal service on August 7, 1861. Total enrollment: 798 officers and men. Losses 9: three killed in action, three (all officers) died later of wounds received and three of disease.

This installation will become a regular feature of the **Messenger** by PCinC Pahl, providing a thumbnail sketch of each Michigan Regiment. (information for this article gleaned from Michigan in the War, compiled by John Robertson, Adjutant General, published by the state of Michigan in 1882.)

HE DUG THE GRAVE FOR MICHIGAN'S LAST CIVIL WAR SOLDIER!

Submitted by Chris Czopek



*Burt Wright with Brother Chris Czopek of Camp 22
Taking the picture was Brother Jon Phillips of Camp 14*



Orlando Le Valley Michigan 23rd & 28th Infantry

*Died April 19, 1948
Buried in Brookside Cemetery
Fairgrove, Mich. (near Caro)
When he died, Orlando was
Michigan's last living Civil War
soldier. Burt Wright was the man
who dug his grave.*

You never know what you'll find on a research trip! Last September, two members of the Sons of Union Veterans explored Charlevoix county. A knock on the door of the United Methodist Church in Horton Bay led to a chance meeting with the Pastor's father, Burt Wright.

"I dug the grave for the last soldier of the Civil War" he said with a smile. Then he told this story: "When I was a boy we lived near Fairgrove. My father was in between jobs. To make ends meet, he worked as sexton for the cemetery. When the last Civil War soldier died, my Dad wasn't feeling well, so he asked me to come with him and dig the grave. I was just a teenager then, but I got the job done".

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The last from Mount Hope