



# Michigan's

# Messenger

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

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Fall 2018

*John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus*

*Richard C. Danes, Editor*

*Recipient of the Marshall Hope Award for Best Department  
Newsletter of the Order 2002, 2007, and 2011*



*In the Dress of Nast's 1863 Harper's Weekly Style*

*Merry Christmas From Your Department Officers*

**Department Commander**

Robert R. Payne, DC

*Brothers,*

*Once again, I take hand to keyboard and send you Greetings and Salutations. The Department has been moving along and I'm glad to report the camps are well on their way to completing elections and installations. I would like to remind each camp to submit all necessary forms to the Department, including the information for the Department Treasurer to file the appropriate forms with the IRS, as soon as possible. Also, all Camps are reminded to insure their By-Laws are updated with the language required in General Order #18, Series 2017-2018, which may be viewed at [www.suvcwmi.org/hq/previous-go-orders1.php](http://www.suvcwmi.org/hq/previous-go-orders1.php).*

*We have just finished commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armistice which ended the fighting of The First World War. Many of us had relatives who fought during that conflict and the various wars which have ensued since. In 1954, the designation of Armistice Day was changed to Veterans Day, in the United States, to honor all who have served. I would like to extend a thank you from a grateful nation for your service.*

*November 19 also marked the 155<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the dedication of the National Cemetery in Gettysburg, PA, the occasion at which President Abraham Lincoln delivered "a few brief remarks" which became known as "The Gettysburg Address." The Department was well represented at Gettysburg on Remembrance Day, to honor men from the Wolverine State who fought and died in the Pennsylvania farmland. We honored those buried in the National Cemetery. We then traveled to the East Cavalry Battlefield, to the Michigan Cavalry Brigade, laying a wreath at their monument, to honor those who died there.*

*Just a few days ago, our country celebrated Thanksgiving Day. President Lincoln, on Oct 3, 1863, set aside November 26, 1863 as a Day of Thanksgiving, that makes this the 155<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of celebrating a Day of Thanksgiving. I trust each of you were able to spend time with your family or friends in a day of thankfulness for all we, as a Nation, have been blessed with. Christmas will soon be here. I pray blessings on all our brothers in the Department of Michigan and across our Order. May each of you be blessed with the opportunity to spend it with your loved ones. Hug your wives a little longer, your children a little harder, and tell them you love them. The time we have to spend with our family and loved ones is always shorter than we wish, for when the time comes, and they aren't there to spend time with, we always wish for more.*

*The Department Encampment will be here before we know it. Please make every effort to represent your camp at the Department Encampment, April 27, 2019, at The Okemos Conference Center. Details are forthcoming and will be available on the Department Website soon.*

*In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,*

*Robert R Payne, PCC, DC*

  
**Department Orders #11 Series 2018 – 2019**  
**Headquarters, Headquarters, Holt, MI**  
**October 26, 2018**

**Veterans Day**

*Whereas: This being the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Armistice ceasing hostilities in the war known as “The War to End All Wars”, “The Great War”, and twenty years later, “The First World War”.*

*Whereas: Our forefathers and our fore bearers in the Sons of Union Veterans fought in this war.*

*Whereas: The 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month in The Year of Our Lord, 1918, was designated the time to cease hostilities between The Allies and the Central Powers.*

*Whereas: The 11<sup>th</sup> day of November was then designated as Armistice Day until 1954, when it was then re-designated Veterans Day.*

*I hereby urge all Brothers to observe this day and time with a solemn reverence due those who served and lost their lives and their youth in The Great War. I also urge you to attend Services and Parades as afforded the opportunity. May we always remember those who have honorably served this great country, whether in peace or conflict*

/s/

Robert R. Payne

Commander, Department of Michigan  
 Sons of Union Veterans Sons of  
 the Civil War

ATTEST

/s/

Richard Denney, CC

Secretary, Department of Michigan  
 Sons of Union Veterans of the  
 the Civil War

***In this Issue: Officer's Reports, Department Orders,  
 Camp News, The Final Bugle Call, Event  
 Announcements and much more***

**2018 - 2019  
 Department Officers**

**Commander**

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**Chaplain**

Rev. Charles F. Buckhahn, PCC

**Patriotic Instructor**

David Kimble, CC

**Color Bearer**

Edgar J. Dowd, PCC

**Military Affairs**

Edgar J. Dowd, PCC

**Counselor**

Paul T. Davis, PDC

**Guard**

Steven Martin

**Eagle Scout Coordinator**

Nathan Tingley

**Signals Officer**

David Wallace, PCC

**Michigan's Messenger Editor**

Richard E. Danes, Sr. CC

**Historian**

Keith G. Harrison, PCinC

**Guide**

Nathan Tingley

**Graves Registration**

Richard E. Danes, Sr., CC

**GAR Records**

Gary L. Gibson, PDC

**Civil War Memorials**

John H. McGill

**Chief of Staff**

L. Dean Lamphere, Jr. PDC

**Camp At Large Coordinator**

George L. Boller

**Aide de Camp**

Paul T. Davis, PDC

**Department Chaplain**

*Submitted by Department Chaplain Charles Buckhahn, PCC*

Later this month of December, it will be my job to write the annual Buckhahn Family Christmas Letter for 2018. In his book, We Were Marching on Christmas Day, Civil War reenactor Kevin Rawlings shares several Christmas letters written by Union officers and enlisted men during the conflict. Two such letters were by Captain Ralph Ely of Company C of the 8<sup>th</sup> Michigan Regiment, which was raised around the Flint area. The first letter speaks of Christmas, 1861:

“December 25<sup>th</sup>, 1861 – Morning inspection and short skirmish drill; in the afternoon attended the Negro Christmas dance, which they performed with energy and delight common to their race.”

*I would not suggest that the head of the house inspect the children's bedrooms prior to opening presents on Christmas day!*

The second letter from Captain Ely was written in 1863.

“This being Christmas, all feeling well and trying to get up something extra from Army rations for dinner. We had for headquarters mess a boiled pudding made of corn meal, unsifted, and cooks put in a cock and boiled with poor beef and it relished first rate.”

*That Christmas dinner may have been “first rate,” but I will stay with my Christmas ham and yams!*

Many Civil War Christmas letters longed for home and peace. Many of the Boys in Blue found peace in the midst of war in their faith in the Christ Child.

My Christmas Prayer is that you and yours find peace, love, joy, and hope in The Child of Bethlehem's Manger.

Chaplain Charles F. Buckhahn

***A Final Bugle Call***

***Robert John Winnie, Member of Finch Camp #14***

*May 28, 1921 – September 10, 2018*

It is with a heavy heart that I must report that Brother Bob Winnie has passed away on 10 September 2018. Brother Bob always had a smile and was happy to talk with his fellow Brothers around town or at a Camp meeting - always with a smile. He was our oldest living Brother at the time of his passing, at 97 years young. Brother Bob was a World War II Veteran, and in recent years had gone on one of the Honor Flights down to Washington D.C.

Brother Bob's ancestor was his Grandfather, Isaac Gunnison Winnie, who served with the 1st NY Light Artillery, Battery G (Chicago Light Artillery). He was mustered in as a Private in 1861, and mustered out as a First Sergeant in 1864.

A memorial service and graveside service will be held on 26 October 2018. The times and dates of the services can be found in the link below:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/traverse-city-mi/robert->

### Graves Registration

By Department Graves Registration Officer Rick Danes



The Russell A. Alger Mausoleum at Elmwood Cemetery, Detroit

At the December 8<sup>th</sup> Department Graves Meeting, I announced that we have reached another milestone with our database, having 71,059 Civil War, and 3,859 “Other War records represented.

We have very spirited discussions, not always about the Civil War, but in each session we learn something!

Our meeting schedule for 2019 has been set, and confirmed with the State Library, thanks to our member Mark Hoffman, so we have a home for the next year.

The meeting schedule is: March 9, June 8, September 14, and December 8

All are welcome to join us.

### Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp #427 Submitted by Rick Danes PCC

This a photo album of some of the activities of Camp 427 the past quarter.

At the St. Paul's Cathedral Veteran's Day Service



Providing a service for the local Museum

*Continued on page 11*

**Past Commander-in-Chief Elected to G.A.R. Museum Board**

Submitted by Keith Harrison, PCinC

James B. Pahl has been elected to Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Memorial Hall and Museum Board of Directors.

Jim is a life-time resident of Michigan, graduating from Marshall High School in 1971. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Law Enforcement from Ferris State College in 1975 and a Juris Doctor Degree from the Thomas M. Cooley Law School in 1981. He was admitted to the State Bar of Michigan as an attorney in 1982.

He served in public law enforcement from 1972 to 1992, starting as a cadet with the Battle Creek City Police Department and retiring as Chief of Police for the Village of Sunfield. He then served as a full-time attorney/magistrate with the 55th District Court in Mason, Michigan from 1992 to 2013. He later served as the Deputy Trial Court Administrator for the Eaton County Trial Courts, a position that he retired from in 2015.

Pahl has attended courses at the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada and is also adjunct faculty at Great Lakes Christian College in Lansing, teaching classes in American National Government; State & Local Government; Family Law and Non-Profit Law and Governance. He is a member of the Michigan Association of District Court Magistrates serving on its Board of Directors since 1994 in various capacities, including President. He received their Distinguished Service award in 2005.

Jim has been interested in our American Civil War and the life of the typical soldier since elementary school. He is a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), serving as National Commander-in-Chief in 2006-2007. He remains very active in the SUVCW, currently serving as National Counselor, Editor of the national journal, *The Banner*, and Judge Advocate General of SUVCW's Sons of Veterans Reserve. Jim also is a member of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Michigan. Jim has been active in Civil War reenacting since 1980 and has since expanded his impressions to include both World War I and World War II.

Jim currently serves as a volunteer docent for Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum, a volunteer docent with the state of Michigan Historical Museum, and on the Board of Directors of the Michigan History Center Volunteer Docent Guild.

SUVCW Past Commander-in-Chief and Board President of Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum, Keith Harrison stated that *"the Board looks forward to Jim's participation and the insights that he will bring to the Board's deliberations."*

*Located at 224 South Main in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum is a federally recognized 501 (c) (3) Michigan nonprofit museum and is the only museum in Michigan that is dedicated solely to fostering the memory and deeds of the Grand Army of the Republic in the state and country. The museum is open the first two Wednesdays of each month, patriotic holidays, and by appointment.*

**Robert Finch Camp No. 14 – December 2018**

Submitted by: David S. Smith, LM, PCC, PDC

The last quarter of 2018 has been a busy and prosperous time for Robert Finch Camp No. 14. At the September meeting DC Payne was in attendance and presented the Camp with the streamer for the Abraham Lincoln CinC Award for the most outstanding Camp within the Order. Camp 14 also initiated Brother Ed Arnfield at the September meeting.



Above: Commander Mattis and Chaplain Conger performing the initiation ritual, with PDC Davis serving as Guide for new Brother Ed Arnheim.

Brothers of Camp 14 attended and participated in the Gold Star Mothers and Families Ceremony on the last Sunday of September at the Grand Traverse Area Veterans Memorial Park.

On 25 October, Camp 14 along with officials of Banks Township (Antrim County), and the Diocese of Gaylord, rededicated the historic Atwood Catholic Cemetery near Atwood. The cemetery is the final resting place of four Union Veterans. Commander Ted Mattis led the ceremony with PDC David Smith serving as Master of Ceremonies. Grand Traverse Pipes & Drums performed Amazing Grace, and Bugles Across America played Taps and the Star Spangled Banner. The American Legion served as the rifle team. The cemetery was blessed by Bishop Steven J. Raica. The rededication was the culmination of the efforts of Banks Township and support of Camp 14.

Camp 14 paid final respects to our oldest Camp member, Brother Robert Winnie on 26 October at his funeral and graveside services that included a military salute. Brother Winnie was the last World War II Veteran in the Camp.

*Continued*



Above: Bishop Raica giving the blessing of the Atwood Catholic Cemetery



Above: Bishop Raica and Brothers of Camp 14 (missing from picture, Brother Ribby)



With the change in installation window from the National Encampment, Camp No. 14 chose to have officer installation at the November meeting. DC Payne attended this meeting, and installed the Camp's officers. The Camp No. 14 officers for the 2018-2019 term are as follows:

**Commander:** John Lantzer **Sr. Vice Commander:** David Ramsey **Jr. Vice Commander:** Jim Ribby  
**Secretary:** David Smith, PDC **Treasurer:** Dale Aurand, PDC **Council:** Jan White, PCC  
**Council:** Bill Skillman, PCC **Council:** George Goodrich, PCC **Chaplain:** Ted Mattis, PCC  
**Pat. Instructor:** H.G. Smith **GRO:** John Sawyer **CWMO:** Scott Schwander  
**Color Bearer:** Jan White, PCC **QM:** Dale Aurand, PDC **Recruiting Officer:** Joseph Conger  
**Military & Vet Affairs Officer:** Calvin Murphy **Historian:** Geo. Goodrich, PCC  
**Guide:** Rick Schafer (tentative) **Guard:** John Milks **Signals Officer:** Jan White, PCC  
**Eagle Scout Coord.:** Joseph Conger **Newsletter Editor:** David Smith, PDC

During the November meeting, two Brothers were initiated per the ritual by Commander Mattis and Chaplain Conger. Brothers Keith Graham and John Milks join the Camp and are both Veterans. Brother Graham is a US Army retiree and Brother Milks is a USMC Combat Veteran. Additionally, at the November meeting, it was announced that PCC George Goodrich has cleaned over 90 Civil War Veteran headstones in Manistee County this year. Also, Commander Mattis presented the second ever Sharpshooter Award for the most outstanding Brother during the administrative term to GRO John Sawyer.



Above Left: Commander Mattis presents GRO Sawyer with the second ever Sharpshooter Award.  
 Above Right: Commander Lantzer, Dept. Commander Payne, and PCC Mattis after installation.

*Continued*



Above: Brother John Milks and Brother Keith Graham after their initiation into Camp 14.

On 17 November, CWMO Scott Schwander gave a presentation on headstone cleaning and Native American Veterans to the Job Winslow DAR Chapter in Traverse City. At this meeting, Brother Schwander received the 2018 Community Service Award from the Chapter.



Above Left: Sister Lisa Smith (DAR), CWMO Schwander, and Regent Mary Ellen Byrne after the award.



Above Right: CWMO Scott Schwander during his presentation to the DAR.

*Continued*



### Brother Robert J. Winnie, 1921 – 2018

*Brother Bob Winnie passed away on 10 September 2018. Brother Bob always had a smile and was happy to talk with his fellow Brothers around town or at a Camp meeting – again, always with a smile. He was our oldest living Brother at the time of his passing, at 97 years young. Brother Bob was a World War II Veteran, and in recent years had gone on one of the Honor Flights to Washington D.C.*

*Brother Bob's ancestor was his Grandfather, Isaac Gunnison Winnie, who served with the 1<sup>st</sup> NY Light Artillery, Battery G (Chicago Light Artillery). He was mustered in as a Private in 1861, and mustered out as a First Sergeant in 1864.*

*We will miss Brother Bob, and his warmth, kindness, and that ever present smile.*

For more information on Camp 14 activities, please visit our website [www.robertfinch14.org](http://www.robertfinch14.org), where our archived newsletters can be found.

The Brothers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14 wish all of our Brothers across the Department of Michigan a Happy and Safe Christmas Season and a Happy New Year!

### Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp #427 Continued



Many of our families joined for the summer picnic.

Camp 427 was joined by our local DAR group at the 2018 Decoration Day Ceremony



*Continued on page 18*

**General Benjamin Pritchard Camp #20**  
Submitted by John R. Keith PCC, Signals Officer

*Here's hoping for a Merry Christmas and a Safe,  
Happy New Year from all of us at  
General Benjamin D. Pritchard Camp 20*

In September we had 2 "Loss of a Brother Events", one on September 22<sup>nd</sup> for Brother Clifford Burhans and one on October 7<sup>th</sup> for Brother Cleon Duryea. Both events were well attended and we had good weather for only one of them. After we met at the graveside for Brother Burhans we went too the American Legion Post 84 in Otsego for fellowship and a nice lunch. Following the graveside for Brother Duryea, Brother Comer Skinner invited all of us to his home for a "Ice Cream Social", attending were Brother Bruce PDC and Sister Marcia Butgereit Past National President of the WRC and Sister Wenda Fore of DUVCW From Camp 20 attending were Brother Bill Brennan, Brother Len Sheaffer, Brother Comer Skinner and Brother John R. Keith. A good visit ended with all parting ways with our sweet tooth satisfied.

The month of October was a quiet one, with not much going on. Beside our camp meeting, the only other item to mention was on October 28<sup>th</sup>, Brother Bill Brennan and Brother John R Keith attended a Court of Honor to see Jeff Babcock of Portage receive his Eagle Scout Badge and Award. We actually knew about this enough in advance to have a Sons of Union Veterans, Eagle Scout Certificate ready to give him. I want to thank Department Eagle Scout Coordinator, Brother Nathan Tingley for going above and beyond the call so we could have his certificate in time!

On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, we attended Court of Honor for another Eagle Scout. On that date Boy Scout Noah C. Festerling of Allegan, received his Eagle Scout Badge and papers and yes, one of our Sons of Union Veterans Eagle Scout Certificates! Attending were Brother Robert and DUVCW Tent 58 Sister Patti Townsend, Brother Tom Bruce, Brother Bill Brennan, Brother Charlie Keith and myself.

Jeff's Eagle Project was he built a GaGa Pit for the Radiant Church Portage of Portage, MI for the youth group in April 2018.

Noah's Eagle Project involved building a fire pit surrounded By engraved stones to retire the American Flag in a truly honoring way. The stones are engraved with the names of Veterans, past and present that families donated in honor of their service. The project is located at our local American Legion Post 89 in Allegan, MI.



*Continued*



*Brother John R Keith awarding a Department certificate to Eagle Scout Jeff Babcock Jeff's Eagle Project was he built a GaGa Pit for the Radiant Church Portage of Portage, MI for the youth group.*



*Brother Bill Brennan shared some of his vast Civil War collection with interested folks.*

**Nash-Hodges Camp #43**

*Submitted by Gary Bartlett / Camp Secretary*

"On October 14, 2018, the Brothers of Nash-Hodges Camp 43 Department of Michigan, conducted a rededication ceremony at the gravesite of Corporal Martin A. Loop, Company A, 17th Michigan Infantry, honoring him as the last Union Civil War veteran to be buried in Lenawee County, Michigan.

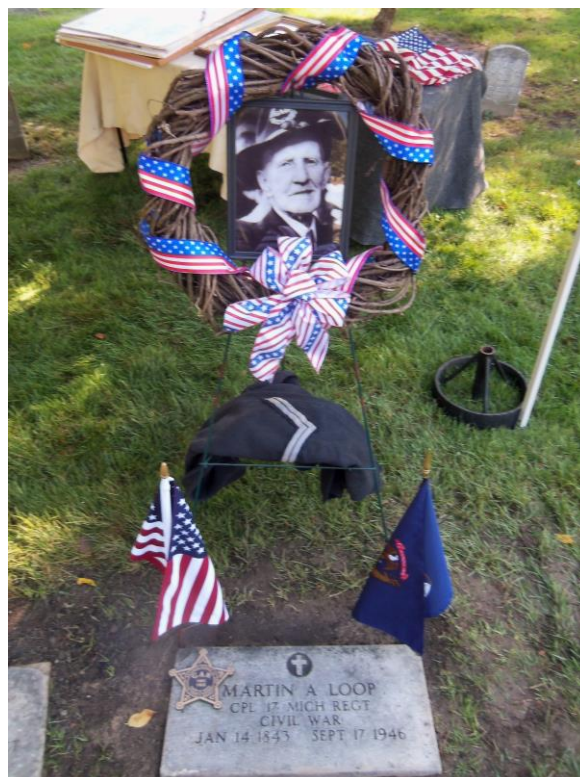
The venue for the event was Oakwood Cemetery, in Adrian Michigan. Corporal Loop was born in Adrian in 1843, and died there in 1946. He was active in most of the battles of the regiment - South Mountain, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Siege of Vicksburg, Knoxville, Overland and Petersburg campaigns. Following the war, he served as Vice Commander of Woodbury G.A.R. Post 45 in Adrian.

A commemorative star has been affixed to his gravestone, identifying him as the last soldier. At the conclusion of the ceremony, Brothers David Ingall and Gary Holmes conducted a walking tour of the graves of selected Union veterans and Civil War era notables interred in Oakwood Cemetery, providing informative commentary.

Brother Donald W. Shaw / National Commander in Chief - Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, attended the event, along with several reenactors."



*Continued*



### March to the Sea Camp 135

March to the Sea Camp 135, with the assistance of brothers from the 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan "Irish Rifle" set up camp for a "Living History" presentation at Camp Fort Hill celebrating its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The day was sunny and brisk as from 300 to 400 visitors toured CFH for a fun filled day of Archery, Rock Wall Climbing, Early American Cooking, Fire Starting, and Civil War life among many other activities. Members of Camp 135 and the 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan presented various displays and examples of life as a Civil War soldier.

Robert May of Gov. Crapo Camp educated visitors on Civil War camp life. The display included "PUP" tents, a half shelter tent, and camp equipment and cooking. Many folks learned that camping during the Civil War was not the fun, family activity it is today.



Brother Robert May PCC Gov. Crapo Camp teaches visitors about Civil War camp life.

*"Sailor" Bob Boquette displayed his extensive collection of Civil War naval arms and prints. The naval struggle of the Civil War is not as well known as the land campaigns so Bob's extensive knowledge and passion for the Naval War was very impressive and well received by visitors.*

Bob Boquette (Sailor Bob) of Co. A 14<sup>th</sup> MI Infantry explaining weapons and tactics of the Naval War.



*Continued*



Sister June Lloyd was dressed in period costume and gave demonstrations on 19<sup>th</sup> century doll making.



Brother Roland Rowe and Sister June Lloyd enjoy the cool October day.

Brother Eric Eishen demonstrated fire starting with flint, charcoal, and shredded cotton. He had many successful pupils who caught on quickly with the hands on method, and no forest fires were started...good job Eric!

Brothers Neal Zabicki and Russ Gordon maned display tables with weapons, equipment, artifacts, and books. Many interested visitors viewed the displays and learned about the war and the SUVCW. In addition, Brother Russ "enlisted" 16 civilians into the 11<sup>th</sup> Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment. After "enlistment", the new recruits were taught the basics of Infantry drill by Capt. Dean Lamphere of the 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan with the assistance of Corp. Chuck Worley, Corp. Dick Denney, Pvt. Howard Lloyd, and Pvt. Bruce Gosling also of the 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan "Irish Rifle". After drills, the now veteran soldiers were officially "discharged" from the service. This activity was a big hit with the kids.

Overall, the day was a big success and great big **Thank You** and "**Huzzah**" to all of the members of Camp 135 and the 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan who participated and made it a great event.

Camp 135 elected the slate of 2019 officers at the November Camp meeting held on November 13<sup>th</sup> at the Nottawa Sone School. Officers for 2019 are as follows:

Russ Gordon – Camp Commander  
Chuck Worley – Sr. Vice Commander  
Dick Denney – Jr. Vice Commander  
Bruce Gosling – Secretary, Treasurer, and Chaplin  
Roland Rowe – Patriotic Instructor and Camp Council  
Chris Herrman – Camp Council  
Eric Eishen – Camp Council

*Continued*

Congratulations to our 2019 officers and thank you for serving. The official installation of camp officers will take place on January 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at Wings Etc. in downtown Sturgis, MI.

Brothers Bruce Gosling, Dick Denney, and Chuck Worley traveled to Gettysburg with other members of the 14<sup>th</sup> MI for Remembrance Day on the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 18<sup>th</sup> of November. I do not have any details at this time but I assume all went well and a good time was had by all. The 14<sup>th</sup> MI took a side trip to Valley Forge this year. The group also traveled to the Hickory Bridge Inn for the annual Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday the 18<sup>th</sup>.

As we settle in to winter camp, I want to thank all for a great year and your support of Camp 135. May your Holiday Season be safe and joyous!

### ***Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp #427 Continued***



At the November meeting, long-time Commander Danes is sent packing and Commander Mc Gill is installed by department Commander Rob Payne.



#### **Camp 427 2019 Officers**

Commander – John H. Mc Gill  
 SVC - Jon Reed  
 JVC - Dennis Fyke  
 Secretary - George Boller  
 Treasurer - Rick Danes  
 Patriotic Instructor – George Boller  
 Camp Council –  
     Chairman – Jerry A. Olson  
     Member - Keith Kushnir  
     Member - Jon Reed  
 Chaplain – Richard O. Bower  
 Monuments – John H. Mc Gill

Graves Registration – Rick Danes  
 Color Bearer and Guard – Aaron Schrader  
 Signals Officer – Dennis Fyke  
 Guide – Ken Roberts  
 Historian – Rick Danes  
 Counselor – Jack Underwood  
 ROTC and Scouting Coordinator – Rick

**Department Of Michigan Attends Gettysburg Remembrance 2018**

*Submitted by Paul Davis, PDC*

Despite the snow and adverse weather conditions, the Department of Michigan, , was well represented at the 2018 Gettysburg Remembrance Activities.



Lloyd Lamphere and Kim Horning clear snow from the head stones



Dick Denney, Joe and Jack Frost placing flags



Jan Davis, David Kimble and Sean Stark Placing Flags on placing flags in frozen turf.



Placing Michigan Flags on Graves.

Members from various Camps and Allied Orders within the Department participated in its annual placing of National and State of Michigan flags on the graves of Michigan soldiers in the National Cemetery which included a memorial service and reading of the soldiers interred there.

Sean Stark was initiated into the SUVCW at Gettysburg and is a new member of Austin Blair Camp 7.

Next on the agenda was serving as the official Color Guard at the Woolson Monument and services held there. SUVCW Commander In Chief Don Shaw was at the podium, while other Brothers, members of the Sons of Veterans Reserve, Company A, 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan stood their post and presented the colors for various individuals and dignitaries.



C-I-C Don Shaw with National Color Bearer Ed Dowd. DC Rob Payne and Jack Frost in the background

Below, Company A, 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan, SVR



BANNER Editor/Photographer hard at work



After the Woolson service, the 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan formed up to march in the Saturday Remembrance Day Parade.



Annually on a rotational basis, the Michigan attendees select one of the Michigan monuments for a memorial service in remembrance of the Michigan men who fought and died there. This year we performed a service at the Michigan Cavalry Brigade Monument in the East Cavalry field.





Harrisburg Civil War Museum



General Joe Wheeler's Revolver

Our excursion to Gettysburg usually includes a side trip or other historically focused activity. This year we made a visit to the Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Following that we visited the Hershey Chocolate Factory and stocked up on various chocolate items for Christmas presents. Some of the chocolates actually made it back to Michigan.

*We have been asked to contribute to a "Save the Flag" project for the National Colors of the 30<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry. If you are interested, please contact Lucille Streeter, National President, Woman's Relief Corps.*

**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 [editor@suvcwmi.org](mailto:editor@suvcwmi.org) or to 2612 Burns Street, Dearborn, Michigan 48124-3204**

**ALL PUBLICATIONS WILL BE MADE ON TIME**

**Please do not send me photos without the names of persons in the photo and a suggested caption. Thanks for your support!**

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Infantry

By James B. Pahl, PCinC

(The account is based upon and quotes frequently from "Michigan in the War" compiled by J. Robertson, Adjutant General.)

*"While there's leaves in the forest and foam on the river,  
The Union, despite them, shall flourish forever."*

The Twenty Third Infantry regiment was recruited in the Sixth congressional district and was rendezvoused at Saginaw. It was mustered into service September 13, 1862 with 983 officers and men under the command of Marshall W. Chapin of Detroit.

The regiment left Saginaw the 18<sup>th</sup> of September and proceeded to Kentucky where it was assigned to the Army commanded by General Rosecrans. They wintered at Bowling Green and moved to Carthage, Glasgow and Thompkinsville. In July of 1863, they started on a long march after the confederate General John Morgan and during this campaign was at Louisville, KY, Jeffersonville, IN, Cincinnati, Portsmouth and Chillicothe, Ohio. At the conclusion of the chase, they returned to Paris, KY. It was then assigned to Second Brigade, Second Division, Twentieth Corps, Army of the Ohio. They started in August on the East Tennessee campaign and arrived at Knoxville September 15. They were then stationed at Loudon to intercept General Longstreet's advance. They came into contact with the confederates who were marching upon Knoxville and heavy skirmishing occurred. Union forces were vigorously attacked and slowly driven back, making an obstinate defense of every foot of ground yielded.

During the battle at Campbell's Station, the 23<sup>rd</sup> lost heavily in killed and wounded. The weather was cold and rainy, the roads almost impassable on account of deep mud and the troops were but poorly supplied with rations. There was great suffering caused by a lack of tents, clothing, boots and shoes. Union forces retired upon Knoxville, with the 23<sup>rd</sup> acting as rear guard and received special commendation for its efficient work under the most trying circumstances.

The regiment was actively engaged in the defense of Knoxville and when General Longstreet swept around the city and marched into East Tennessee, the 23<sup>rd</sup> was one of the regiments that followed him. General Grant decided to allow the confederates to remain in Tennessee during the winter, so the 23<sup>rd</sup> returned to Knoxville, almost destitute of equipments in the way of tents, blankets and clothing.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> shared the hardships of the East Tennessee campaign until May of 1864, when it started upon the Atlanta Campaign with the army commanded by General Sherman. They encountered the enemy at Rocky Face Ridge and it moved through Snake Creek Gap and made a desperate assault upon the enemy's works at Resaca, GA, meeting with loss of sixty killed and wounded in just a few minutes.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> took part in the various movements of the twenty-Third corp and were engaged at Lost Mountain, Kenesaw Mountain, Chattahoochee River and the Siege of Atlanta.

After Atlanta fell, the 23<sup>rd</sup> was sent in pursuit of the confederate General Hood, who marched his army through Georgia, into Alabama and then Tennessee. Upon reaching Columbia on November 25<sup>th</sup> where they joined Union forces to oppose the further advance of General Hood. At Duck River, the 23<sup>rd</sup> heavily skirmished with the enemy and then fell back to Franklin, where a desperate battle was fought. The confederates charged upon the works hastily thrown up and they were repelled by hand-to-hand conflict. Probably there was no more desperate fighting in any battle of the war than at Franklin and the 23<sup>rd</sup> was in the line where the fighting was the fiercest.

Union forces fell back to Nashville and on December 15 & 16, the confederates were completely routed and driven back to Duck River. During the battle, the 23<sup>rd</sup> charged the enemy, securely placed behind a stone wall on the crest of a hill. This demoralized the confederates and the 23<sup>rd</sup> took more prisoners than there were men.

The Twenty-Third Corp was then ordered to Washington, D.C. to co-operate with General Sherman's army then marching north through the Carolinas. The 23<sup>rd</sup> with its Corp embarked on transports at Alexandria, VA and proceed to the mouth of Camp Fear River, disembarking at Smithville, SC. The regiment participated in the attack upon Fort Anderson, carrying the works in gallant style, the 23<sup>rd</sup> being the first regiment to enter the fort.

The regiment marched to Wilmington, NC and upon the evacuation of that place by the confederates, the 23<sup>rd</sup> proceeded to Kingston and then Goldsboro, arriving on March 22 and making junction with General Sherman's army the next day.

The regiment moved to Raleigh, NC and from there, headed towards Greensboro, NC (some 90 miles distant) when General Johnson surrendered his army.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> was at Salisbury, NC on June 28, were it was mustered out of service. They returned to Detroit were they were paid off and disbanded July 20, 1865.

Total Enrollment:1477

Killed in action 38

Died of wounds 21

Died in Confederate prisons 15

Died of disease 214

Discharged for disability (wounds and disease) 150

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

*In 2005 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 all Camp Members.*

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

***I believe that the Camps have the responsibility to report changes, so that we can continue to serve you, 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@suvchwmi.org](mailto:editor@suvchwmi.org).*