



Michigan's

Messenger

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

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Summer, 2020

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*

Commander's Corner - Terry McKinch, Department of Michigan Commander



Brothers of the Department Michigan SUVCW, I appreciate your confidence in electing me Department Commander to the 2020 to 2021 term. I will do my best to serve you and the order well.

I have to admit, it is a challenge trying to keep up with the Department business, but I have a number of Past Commanders and other Brothers such as our Awesome Department Secretary and Treasurer to assist me.

Please review my Department Order number 4, that request your participation in the Abraham Lincoln Kalamazoo project. This project is a great endeavor and I hope we in the Department can make a difference commemorating the memorable event when

Abraham Lincoln came to Michigan on August 27, 1856 and spoke to the State of Michigan. Here is the website for the project <https://kalamazoolincolnproject.org/home>.

We also have information posted by Past Department Commander Payne here <https://www.suvcwmi.org/memorials/Kzoo-Lincoln/Kzoo-Lincoln-Project.php>.

Past C-in-C Don Shaw, my Chief-of-Staff request your assistance in scheduling installation of Camp Officers. We all have busy schedules, and I want to try and attend all of your installations, but it will take your help. Please schedule all Camp Installations by emailing PCinC Shaw at chiefstaff@suvcwmi.org. This will make sure that me or one of other the Department Officers can attend and perform your installation.

One of the other challenges is having a meeting in person. As some of you know, we had a good Department Encampment using electronic media called Zoom. I encourage your camps to review using this form of Camp meeting so that Brothers who are home bound can attend. Brother Rob Payne our Signals officer can answer your questions and assist in setting up a Zoom meeting. For more information, contact Brother Payne via email at signals.officer@suvcwmi.org.

Brothers in closing I wish you all well and hope we keep all of our Brothers safe and healthy.

Department Communication #2  **Series 2020 – 2021**
Headquarters, Lennon, MI
July 2, 2020

1. Brothers of the Department of Michigan I hope you and your family have an awesome Fourth of July 2020.
2. Celebrate our Country's Birthday safely and keep in mind the social distancing and other methods to prevent the spread of illnesses.
3. Be careful driving and watch out for the other guy, while respecting our laws and our fellow men.
4. Keep hydrated by drinking a large amount of water when out in the weather. Remember we are not used to this heat and we need to be aware when participating in strenuous activities.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty
Terry McKinch, Department Commander
Department of Michigan

Department Order #3  **Series 2020 - 2021**
Headquarters, Lennon, MI
July 9, 2020

1. Whereas, I have been informed of the loss of our Brother PCC Neal Breagh of Robert Finch Camp No. 14, Travis City Michigan, who passed on July 6, 2020.
2. Whereas Brother Breagh was not only the Past Camp Commander, he also served as Department Senior Vice Commander and was well respected in both his Camp and the Department of Michigan.
3. I am ordering all Camp Charters and Membership Badges to be draped for a period of 30 days from this order.
4. I am asking all brothers to hold Neal's family in their prayers. May peace be with his family, friends and the members of Robert Finch Camp # 14.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty
Terry McKinch, Department Commander
Department of Michigan

Department Order #4  Series 2020 - 2021
 Headquarters, Lennon, MI
 August 23, 2020

1. **Whereas**, I along with Brothers from the Department of Michigan met on August 15, 2020, to discuss supporting the Kalamazoo Lincoln Project, and
2. **Whereas** Brother Cameron S. Brown, March to the Sea Camp, #135, Centreville, and Brother Gary Swain, General Benjamin Pritchard Camp, # 20, Kalamazoo presented a project that is well organized and a great Lincoln memorial endeavor.
3. **Therefore** I, Terry McKinch, Department of Michigan Commander, SUVCW hereby form the **Kalamazoo Lincoln Project Special Committee**, and appoint Charles Worley PDC as chair and Brother's Cameron S. Brown and Gary Swain as the first of its committee members.
4. **Furthermore**, I request the aid of all Camps to support the **Kalamazoo Lincoln Project Committee**.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty
 Terry McKinch, Department Commander
 Department of Michigan

Graves Registration

Submitted by Graves Registration Officer Rick Danes



Our committee will meet via conference call on September 19.

We have recorded over 75,400 Other War and Civil War records

*Overzealous?
 Same man, two military headstones, same gravesite!!*

Marne Cemetery, Ottawa County

2020 - 2021 Department Officers

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Chaplain
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Patriotic Instructor
 David Kimble, CC

Color Bearer
 Edgar J. Dowd, PCC

Military Affairs
 Edgar J. Dowd, PCC

Counselor
 James B. Pahl, PC-in-C

Guard
 Gene Taylor

Eagle Scout Coordinator
 Nathan Tingley

Signals Officer
 Robert R. Payne, PDC

Michigan's Messenger Editor
 Richard E. Danes, Sr. PCC

Historian
 Keith G. Harrison, PC-in-C

Guide
 Lloyd Lamphere, Sr.

Graves Registration
 Richard E. Danes, Sr., PCC

GAR Records
 Gary L. Gibson, PDC

Civil War Memorials
 John H. McGill, CC

Chief of Staff
 Donald Shaw, PC-in-C

Camp At Large Coordinator
 L. Dean Lamphere, Jr, PDC

Aide de Camp
 Keith Harrison, PC-in-C

Camp Organizer
 James B. Pahl, PC-in-C

Department Order #4



Series 2020 - 2021

Headquarters, Lennon, MI

August 31, 2020

1. **Camp Commanders & Secretaries**, One of the challenges of the times is attending Camp meetings and installations.
2. **Whereas**, In order for me or other Department of Michigan Officers to attend and install Camp Officers, we need to schedule the Camp Installations well in advance.
3. **Therefore**, Please contact Past C-in-C Don Shaw, my Chief-of-Staff who will keep track and schedule all Camp installations. Send Don an email at chiefstaff@suvcwmi.org so that my schedule to attend your installation does not conflict with other Camp installations.
4. **Furthermore**, I request Camp installations be held virtual if possible, to keep everyone one safe during our difficult days. Past Department Commander, Robert Payne, will assist you and answer questions you may have. His email is signals.officer@sucwmi.org.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty
Terry McKinch,
Commander Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attest: /s/ Richard Denney, CC
Secretary, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

WHY MICHIGAN'S MESSENGER IS PUBLISHED ONLINE

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 have tried to keep all articles in the format that they are sent, however, in the spirit of editorial judgement, I will correct spelling or edit for space restrictions. 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@sucwmi.org.

**General Order No. 02 Series 2017- 2018
Issued on 21 August 2017**

1. *I hereby direct, with the concurrence of the members of the Council of Administration, that all departments, camps, and individual brothers refrain from acting as a Media spokesmen or agent for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War or to become involved in the pursuit of any civil actions (legal proceedings), on behalf of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, regarding the removal of veteran's monuments, without first contacting the Commander-in-Chief and receiving authorization from him.*
 - a. *Acting as a spokesman is defined as making statements written or oral using the organizations name, symbols, letterhead, or while in the branded attire of the organization to include SVR uniforms and symbols.*
 - b. *This Order in no way is intended to preclude the exercise of your rights as an individual outside of the SUVCW.*

2. *The Commander-in-Chief will serve as the primary point of contact on all media inquiries involving the removal of veteran's monuments. Media outlets should be directed to forward their inquiries to the SUVCW National Headquarters at
1 Lincoln Circle at Reservoir Park, Suite 240, Harrisburg, PA 17103-2411 Telephone:
(717) 232-7000 Fax: (717) 412-7492.*

Ordered this 21st Day of August 2017. Mark R. Day



Commander-In-Chief
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Attested:

Jonathan Davis
Secretary, National Order,
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Robert Finch Camp 14

Submitted by: David S. Smith, LM, PDC

IN MEMORIAM – The Brothers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14 are mourning the passing of our **Brother, PCC Neal Breagh**, on 06 July 2020 at the age of 86. Brother Neal was truly an icon within the Camp and the Traverse City community, and the Camp was often known as being “Neal’s Camp”. His efforts and passion to perpetuate the memory of the GAR and the Union Veteran were second to none. In addition to serving Camp 14 so diligently for so many years, Brother Neal also served the Department of Michigan reaching the office of Senior Vice Department Commander, as well as serving on the Department Council. While we can never replace Brother Neal and what he meant to so many; we can strive to carry on the work and passion that he embraced in the SUVCW and everything else that he touched during his life. A wonderful video of Neal was produced by his children and can be seen at: <https://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com/obituaries/Neal-Breagh/#!/PhotosVideos/b68f1907-c0b3-4017-a2c2-961511b87959/1215744e-092b-4e6c-b3d9-c43111b21888> The video is really worth viewing; it is an excellent tribute to a great Brother. Please keep Neal’s bride Sister Emily in your thoughts and prayers. A ceremony will be conducted at a future date.



PCC Neal Breagh and PAP Emily Breagh



PCC Breagh in 2011 at the Calkins Ceremony

The Brothers of Camp 14 mourn the loss of Sister Marian Solem. Sister Marian passed away on 14 August 2020 at the age of 89. The Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 conducted their memorial rites at the graveside of Sister Solem by AP Dorothy Rongey, PAP, PAP Lisa Smith, and PAP Mary Rose. PDC Aurand, PDC Smith, and PCC Mattis attended in support of our Sisters and to honor Sister Solem.

Robert Finch Camp No. 14 continues to soldier on during the summer of 2020 with the pursuit of honoring all Last Veterans Buried in the Camp’s 19 counties. In addition to the great amount of research that is being conducted towards this end, the purchase of all 19 Last Veteran Buried in the County bronze grave markers has been completed and the ceremonies have begun.

On 13 June after a brief meeting at a park pavilion in South Boardman, Brothers of Camp 14 moved to the cemetery in South Boardman to honor Porter Sherman, the Last Veteran Buried in Kalkaska County. Mr. Sherman served with Company I, 45th Pennsylvania Infantry during the war. CC Lantzer led the event with PCC Mattis serving as Chaplain, and GRO Sawyer acting as the Memorial Officer for the ceremony per the SUVCW Last Veteran Buried Ritual.

Continued of the next page

Porter Sherman passed away at his home in South Boardman at the age of 99 on 27 July 1940. Mr. Sherman took part in the siege of Vicksburg, was wounded in the Battle of the Wilderness, and was a prisoner of war being captured by the Confederates 9 months before the end of the war. He was lodged in the infamous Libby Prison. Mr. Sherman saw service in 23 battles/engagements throughout the war.



Gravesite and Picture of Porter Sherman, Co. I, 45th PA Infantry

On 08 August, Brothers of Camp 14 conducted the SUVCW Last Veteran Buried Ritual for Samuel Amandus Phillips of Lake City. Mr. Phillips served in the Company E, 3rd Michigan Infantry, mustering in near the end of the war, and mustering out in 1866. Mr. Phillips passed away at the age of 88 on 06 September 1934. JVC Ribby led the event with Brother Conger serving as Chaplain, Asst. Secretary Welliver as the Guard, and GRO Sawyer acting as the Memorial Officer for the ceremony. Brother Jones, PDC Aurand, and PDC Smith were in attendance for support. In addition to the Brothers of Camp 14 in attendance, the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion served as the Honor Guard for the event. The Missaukee County Sheriff's Department was in attendance, including Sheriff Yancer. Several individual descendant branches of Mr. Phillips were in attendance, which made the event even more special.

General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20

Submitted by Gary Swain, CC

The summer 2020 camp meetings were held in a non-traditional location due to the government Covid-19 regulations and in an abundance of caution by the camp. The meetings have been held at the GAR monument in Kalamazoo's Riverside Cemetery. This location provided a shaded open-air setting where we could exercise social distancing, wear face masks and conduct camp business. This unexpected change of venue proved to be a popular option and will be our temporary meeting location as long as weather permits and health concerns remain.





Camp 20 teamed up with Eagle Scout candidate Caelem C. and the Marine Corp League in late July to clean and preserve veteran gravestones in Kalamazoo's Riverside Cemetery.

The camp provided the instruction and all of the cleaning tools and chemicals and the Scout recruited the manpower and labor for the project.



This project resulted in 68 veteran gravestones cleaned and preserved and also cleaned dirt and debris from the base of 54 veteran gravestones. Two broken veteran gravestones were repaired.

Brother Gary Gibson (PDC) (PCC) discovered and researched Civil War nurse Mary Penfield's gravestone located in Kalamazoo's Mountain Home Cemetery. She served as a nurse in the U. S. Medical Department and cared for Union soldiers after the Battle of Vicksburg and later in Louisiana. She was awarded a pension in 1888 and passed away in Kalamazoo in 1897 at the age of 70.



Her gravestone had originally set upon a base of fieldstones. However, over time, they had shifted and deteriorated to the point where the gravestone was in danger of falling.

So, Brothers Gibson (PDC) (PCC), Culp (PCC) and Swain (PCC) dug out the stone, prepared and poured a new concrete base and reset and leveled her gravestone which should last, at a minimum, another century.



In Memoriam - Howard E. Fite 1935-2020

Howard Edward Fite passed away peacefully on July 22, 2020 at his home in Southgate, MI.

Howard was born June 28, 1935 in Wyandotte, MI to Herbert J. Fite and Almyria Handley Fite. He grew up in Wyandotte and graduated from Wyandotte High School in 1953. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps in July 1956 and served for 2 years. During that time he was stationed in Okinawa from 1956-1957.

Howard was an avid snow skier. That led to a chance meeting with his future wife, Patricia [Pat] Butler, of Lincoln Park, in a Wyandotte ski shop, where Howard worked part time.

Howard initially worked in steelmaking and later in sales, primarily wholesale foods.

Howard is survived by his wife of 55 years, Pat, sons Jeffery [Nancy] and Jason [Darlene], granddaughter Piper, grandsons, Kraig Hohf III and Nate Hohf, and his sister Rosalie. He was predeceased by his parents and his sister Ruth Ann Noble.



Howard & Pat were married on October 29, 1965 in Lincoln Park, MI. They are the parents of two sons, Jeffery Edward Fite and Jason Howard Fite.

Howard was an avid history and family heritage student. He uncovered many ancestral family associations which led him to become a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, War of 1812, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Marine Corps League and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War [SUVCW].



Howard was a 15 year member of Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp 427, Department of Michigan of the SUVCW. He had served a number of years as Junior Vice Commander of Camp 427. For as long as his health allowed, Howard was an active, enthusiastic, dedicated member of Camp 427. He could often be heard talking to a stranger at an event the Camp hosted or participated in, saying, "Great, you'll have to come over and join us....".

His cremation took place at "The Witness Crematory" located inside of Michigan Memorial Funeral Home in Flat Rock, MI. A family funeral service was held on Saturday, August 1, 2020, followed by burial in Michigan Memorial Cemetery in Flat Rock with full military honors and committal service. A memorial event will be held at a future date.

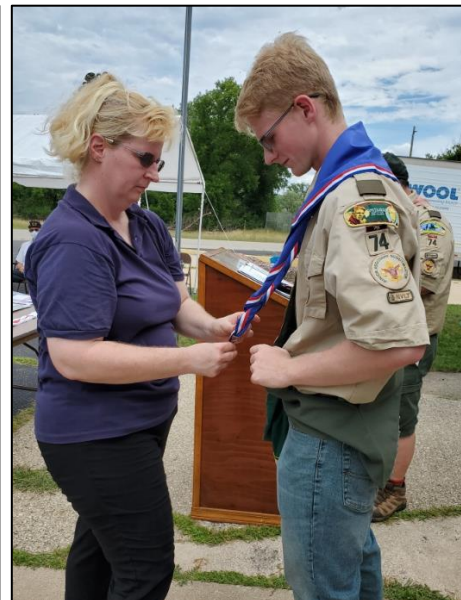
Alexander French Camp 28

Submitted by: Brent Sible, CC

Camp 28 is proud to announce that our Brother Dalten Sible has completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review on 20 May 2020. Brother Dalten is a member of BSA Troop 74 of Reed City. Brother Dalten Eagle Scout Project consisted of rebuilding the Tustin AYSO Soccer Fields sign. The original sign at the soccer fields was painted 15 years ago, and the sign needed to be rebuilt. Brother Dalten and his parents are involved with AYSO, so the need for restoring the sign was very well known by him. Brother Dalten recruited and oversaw 5 Scouts and 8 others to work on the project along with him.

Upon obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout, Brothers Ted Johnson and Gerald Lintemuth of Camp 28 presented Brother Sible with the SUVCW Eagle Scout Certificate. Brother Dalten also received awards and celebratory letters from the Sons of the American Revolution, Governor Whitmer, President Carter, President Bush, President Clinton, former State Representative Potvin, and Congressman Amash.

Congratulations Brother Dalten Sible on a job well done!



Left: Brother Dalten receiving the SUVCW Eagle Scout Certificate from Brothers Ted Johnson and Gerald Lintemuth

Right: Brother Dalten's Mother aiding him with his new Eagle Scout Scarf and Slide

***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@suvchwmi.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!

Former home of Ulysses S. Grant heads to new site at Detroit's Eastern Market

[Christine Ferretti](#)
The Detroit News

Detroit — A beloved piece of Michigan history — the former home of Ulysses S. Grant — was lifted Thursday from the old Michigan State Fairgrounds for a move to Eastern Market.

The decaying home, once occupied by the 18th U.S. president who led Civil War Union forces, is being relocated to the northeast corner of Orleans and Wilkins where it will be revived.

"We want it to be a living space that really celebrates the legacy of Grant and all of the work throughout his entire life," Tobi Voigt, an engagement director with the Michigan History Center, said Thursday morning just before two sections of the house headed down State Fair Street on Detroit's east side.

The two-story white clapboard house was last used as a storage facility when the fairgrounds closed in 2008. The house has long sat neglected with its windows boarded.

The move was arranged under a partnership of the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the state of Michigan History Center and Eastern Market Corp., the nonprofit that manages the historic market.

When it arrives Thursday, the first story of the house will be put on footings and the foundation will then be built up around it. Officials said the second level is expected to be placed on top in about a week.

The house is expected to be used as a public education center. The specifics are still being debated. Officials expect to engage residents, businesses and cultural institutions as well as Civil War enthusiasts.

The move had been anticipated last year, but the arduous process was delayed. Three permits were required to facilitate the move, the city's acquisition of land at the fairgrounds site and the COVID-19 pandemic also played a role, Voigt said.

The new location is part of the Eastern Market garden project, which will include gardens and a small orchard.

The Michigan State Housing and Development Authority provided grant funding to support the move. Restoration costs have been pegged at upwards of \$200,000.

Grant is one of three presidents known to have lived in Michigan. The others are Gerald Ford and George H.W. Bush, stationed briefly at Naval Air Station Grosse Ile at the end of World War II.

Grant, who was born and raised in Ohio, lived in the home with his wife, Julia Dent, from April 1849 to May 1850. It was built in the 1830s and its original location was at 253 E. Fort, near Russell and Rivard streets in the area now known as Lafayette Park. At the time Grant lived there, military barracks were located at Russell and Clinton.

The move comes after Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan last week announced the potential \$9 million sale of 142 acres at the former fairgrounds site at Eight Mile and Woodward.

Amazon is looking at the fairgrounds property as a potential location for a distribution center that the city has said could create 1,200 jobs. The state land bank sold the acreage to Detroit last year for \$7 million.

The Grant home was saved from demolition in 1936 when the Michigan Mutual Liability Co. insurance company bought it and presented it as a gift to the fairgrounds.

It had been in its most recent spot since 1958.

"He's my hero," Laura Raisch of the Michigan History Foundation said Thursday. "Ulysses S. Grant and his what, what they did, who they were, is just a fantastic story to be told."

cferretti@detroitnews.com

(See the excellent coverage of the Grant House move in Camp 20's "Pritchard Press".)

26th Michigan Infantry

By James B. Pahl, PCinC

(The account is based upon and quotes frequently from "Michigan in the War" 1882, compiled by J. Robertson, Adjutant General.)

"What flag is this you carry
Along the sea and shore?
The same our grandshires lifted up,
The same our fathers bore"

The 25th Regiment was able to supply places for all of the surplus companies which had been offered to the Congressional District regiments, the 26th was organized and ordered into rendezvous at Jackson. To complete the Regiment, two additional companies needed to be recruited, which was speedily accomplished. The Regiment was mustered into Federal service on December 12, 1862 under the command of Col. Judson Farrar of Mt. Clemens, having 903 officers and men.. While at Jackson, the ladies of Jackson presented a magnificent silk flag of blue with letters of gold. This flag was borne by the Regiment through many fields and what is left of it is now in the archives of the State.

The Regiment left Jackson on December 13 for Washington. Soon after arrival in Washington, it was ordered into Provost duty at Alexandria, Virginia, where it remained until April 20, 1863, when it was ordered to Suffolk, Virginia to aid in the defense of that place then threatened by forces under Longstreet. This involved two weeks of heavy fatigue duty, including constructing defenses and occupying trenches until the enemy withdrew. Thereafter, the Regiment participated in several expeditions to the Blackwater and was involved in skirmishes.

On June 20, the regiment moved to Yorktown and joined the command of General Keyes, marching then to Bottom's Bridge on the Chickahominy. They returned to Yorktown July 11 and then on the 12th, were ordered to Washington and then to the city of New York to assist in sustaining the laws during the draft in that city. They were stationed at Fort Richmond on Staten Island until October 13, where it was ordered to join the Army of the Potomac. Upon joining the army, it was assigned to 1st Brigade (Miles), of the 1st division, 2nd army Corps, where it remained for the remainder of their service. It was quickly recognized as the skirmish regiment of the division.

The Regiment took part in movements and engagements around the Rappahannock, including the movement on Mine Run, crossing the Rapidan at Germainia Ford on the 27th. They returned to Stevensburg December 3rd and remained quietly in winter quarters in the performance of the usual picket duty until May of 1864.

On May 4, the Regiment crossed the Rapidan at Ely's Ford and covered the flank of the division in the march to Chancellorsville. On the 5th, the enemy was encountered on the road toward Orange Court House, but the Regiment did not become engaged. On the 7th, they charged the enemy's dismounted cavalry and drove them over two miles, taking many prisoners and important dispatches.

On the 8th, the regiment marched to Todd's Tavern and then moved towards Corbin's Bridge and engaged the enemy. The next day, they crossed the Po river and advanced about two miles. The enemy attacked and the Regiment withdrew and re-crossed the Po. On the 11th, they again crossed the Po and made a reconnaissance of the enemy's position. They participated in the memorable charge of the 2nd Corps on the enemy's works on the 12th, which were carried after fierce hand to hand fight with the bayonet. The 26th was the first to plant their colors on the rebel works and in so doing, captured two brass guns with gunners. The battle continued in desperate struggle and assisted in the capture of a large number of guns, colors and prisoners. They lost 27 killed, 98 wounded and 14 missing in this engagement.

Leaving its position at Spottsylvania Court House on the night of the 20th, they marched on the North Anna river, arriving on the 23rd. They crossed the river on the 24th under heavy fire from the enemy artillery and after a spirited skirmish, the enemy was driven into their works. The regiment then recrossed the North Anna and moved toward Pamunkey. They crossed that river on the 28th and moved towards Hawe's Shop and threw up breastworks. On the 29th, they moved down the Richmond road and drove in enemy pickets near Tolopotemy creek.

Continued of the next page

The regiment arrived at Cold Harbor on June 2, 1864 and advanced as skirmishers on the enemy near Gaines's Hill. They charged the enemy works but were forced to withdraw being under fire of grape and canister.

At midnight on the 14th, the Regiment crossed the James river at Wilcox's Landing and arrived at the front of Petersburg on the 16th, participating in the assault of the 16th in which the first line of the enemy's rifle pits were carried. They participated in another charge on the 17th, capturing a line of works. They were engaged as skirmishers on the 18th and assisted in repulsing an assault near the Williams House on the Weldon railroad on the 22nd.

The Regiment continued in fighting, being commended in orders by General Hancock for gallant and dashing operations on the 28th, when they had captured four guns and prisoners.

The Regiment occupied positions in the entrenchments in front of Petersburg, daily engaged until March 25, 1865. The army commenced a flanking movement to the left on March 29, the Regiment asking as skirmishers. On the 31st they again took the skirmish line and participated in a running fight with the enemy until relieved. From the 1st of April until the 6th, the regiment was engaged in pursuing the retreating army, fighting every day. On the 6th, the Regiment took a very active part in the capture of a train of 260 wagons, containing baggage, provisions and ammunition. The pursuit of the enemy continued until the 9th and was in the skirmish line at the surrender of Lee's army. It was through the regiments lines that General Grant operated with his flag of truce in arranging the terms of surrender.

After the surrender, the regiment (with its brigade) was detailed to remain at that point until the paroling of the rebel army was accomplished and was engaged in guarding the trains employed in bringing off the captured arms and ammunition and in parking the artillery. On the 18th, the Regiment again joined the army and moved to Washington, D.C., arriving on the 13th. They participated in the review of the army of the Potomac on the 23rd and remained at that point until June 4th, when they were mustered out of service. They immediately started for Michigan, arriving at Jackson on June 7th. On the 16th of June, 1865, the Regiment was paid off and discharged.

The 26th had a total membership of 1,210, which its losses were 1 officer and 61 men killed in action, 2 officers and 37 men died of wounds and 3 officers and 155 men died of disease.

"You, whose lives cold set,
Like a winter's sun ill-timed,
Whose hearts ran down ere yet
The noon of your lives had chimed."

Therefore, I, Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States, do appoint the last Thursday in September next, as a day of humiliation, prayer and fasting for all the people of the nation. And I do earnestly recommend to all the People, and especially to all ministers and teachers of religion of all denominations, and to all heads of families, to observe and keep that day according to their several creeds and modes of worship, in all humility and with all religious solemnity, to the end that the united prayer of the nation may ascend to the Throne of Grace and bring down plentiful blessings upon our Country.

Abraham Lincoln, August 12, 1861, prior to his Thanksgiving Proclamation on
October 3, 1863