



Michigan's Messenger

Official Newsletter of the Department of Michigan - Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Volume XXXII, Number 1

Chartered June 24, 1884

Spring, 2023

John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus



Richard E. Danes, Sr. Editor

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



2023 – 2024 ELECTED AND APPOINTED DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

DEPARTMENT ORDER #7  **SERIES: 2022-2023**

HEADQUARTERS
2620 S. DECKER RD MARLETTE, MICHIGAN 48453
28 March 2023

CHANGE OF DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

By the authority vested in me as Commander, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered:

Effective Friday, March 31, 2023, the headquarters of the Department of Michigan shall be transferred to the Holiday Inn Express of Midland 810 Cinema Drive, Midland, Michigan, to allow for the transaction of business for the 139th Annual Department of Michigan Encampment.

Thereafter, Sunday, April 2, 2023 it shall revert to the address designated by the Department Commander within his Department Orders.

Brothers are reminded that the encampment registration begins at 8:00 a.m., with the Encampment beginning at 9:00 a.m.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,



Nathan L. Smith, PCC
 Commander, Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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



2023 Department Encampment – Taking the Oath (All Encampment Photos by Jim Pahl)

2023 - 2024
Department Officers

- Commander**
 Gary Swain, PCC
 697 Wynding Oaks
 Kalamazoo, MI 49006
- Senior Vice Commander**
 Steven S. Martin, PDC
 400 Catholic Church Road
 Leslie, Michigan 49251
- Junior Vice Commander**
 David Kimble
 910 Queen Street
 Owosso, MI 48867
- Recording Secretary**
 Richard Denny
 30090 Orla Eagle Road
 Colon, Michigan 49040
- Treasurer**
 Bruce S. A. Gosling, PCC
 20388 US Hwy. 12
 White Pigeon, MI 49099
 bgosling@charter.net
- Department Council**
 Robert R. Payne, PDC Secretary
 David S. Smith, PDC, Chair
 Nathaniel L. Smith, PDC
- Chaplain**
 Rev. Charles Buckhahn, PCC
- Patriotic Instructor**
 Terry McKinch, PDC
- Color Bearer**
 Edgar J. Dowd, PCC
- Military Affairs**
 Edgar J. Dowd, PCC
- Counselor**
 Nathan L. Smith, PDC
- Guard**
 Lloyd Lamphere, Sr PCC
- Eagle Scout Coordinator**
 Lloyd Lamphere, Sr. PCC
- Signals Officer**
 Robert R. Payne, PDC
- Michigan's Messenger Editor**
 Richard E. Danes, Sr. PCC
- Historian**
 David F. Wallace, PDC
- Guide**
 Leonard Sheaffer, CC
- Graves Registration**
 Richard E. Danes, Sr., PCC Chair
- GAR Records**
 Gary L. Gibson, PDC Chair
- Civil War Memorials**
 Leonard Sheaffer, CC Chair
- Chief of Staff**
 Gary L. Gibson, PDC Chair
- Camp At Large Coordinator**
 L. Dean Lamphere, Jr, PDC
- Aide de Camp**
 L. Dean Lamphere, Jr, PDC
- Camp Organizer**
 James B. Pahl, PC-in-C
- Ceremonies and Rituals**
 L. Dean Lamphere, Jr, PDC

DEPARTMENT ORDER #1  **SERIES: 2023-2024**

HEADQUARTERS
697 WYNDING OAKS, KALAMAZOO, MI 49006
DATE: 3 APRIL 2023

2023-2024 TERM OF OFFICE/STAFF AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

By the authority vested in me as Commander, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered as follows:

1. Having been duly elected and installed as Department Commander for the 2023-2024 term, on 1 April 2023, I hereby assume command of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.
2. Headquarters for the Department is hereby transferred to:
697 Wynding Oaks, Kalamazoo, MI 49006
3. General correspondence to the Department should be sent to Department Secretary Richard Denney, 30090 Orla Engle Road, Colon, MI 49040, or emailed to: secretary@suvcwmi.org
4. Correspondence to the Commander should be sent to Gary L. Swain, 697 Wynding Oaks, Kalamazoo, MI 49006 or emailed to: commander@suvcwmi.org
5. I want to extend my appreciation to all of the newly elected and appointed Officers and Brothers serving on the various committees of the Department.
6. I would also like to extend my appreciation to this past year's Officers and committee members for their service to the order.
7. The Department would like to extend our appreciation to CinC Bruce D. Frail for joining us at our Encampment and for installing our Department Officers for the 2023-2024 term.
8. The Department extends the highest appreciation for the Brothers in attendance at the 139th Department Encampment.
9. Memorial Day will be observed on Tuesday, 30 May 2023. All Camps and Brothers are highly encouraged to attend or participate in services or other acts of remembrance in Keeping Green the Memory of our Union Ancestors, and all American Veterans no longer among the living.
10. Camps are reminded to please send information on Camp events to the Department Signals Officer for posting on the Department's Website.
11. I hereby make the following Staff, Committee and Special Committee Appointments:

Chief of Staff	Gary L. Gibson, PDC*
Counselor	Nathan L. Smith, PDC*
Chaplain	Rev. Charles Buckhahn*
Patriotic Instructor	Terry McKinch PDC*
Color Bearer	Edgar J. Dowd, PCC*
Signals Officer	Robert R. Payne, PDC*
Editor, "Michigan Messenger"	Richard E. Danes, PCC*
Historian	David F. Wallace PDC*
Guide	Leonard Sheaffer CC*
Guard	Lloyd Lamphere, Sr., PCC*
Graves Registration Officer	Richard E. Danes, PCC*
Civil War Memorials	Leonard Schaeffer, Chair, CC
Eagle Scout Coordinator	Leonard Sheaffer CC*
Camp-At-Large	Lloyd Lamphere Sr. PDC*

Coordinator	
Camp Organizer	L. Dean Lamphere, Jr. PDC*
Aide-de-Camp	James B. Pahl, PCinC*
Military Affairs Officer	L. Dean Lamphere, Jr. PDC*
Ceremonies & Rituals Officer	Edgar J. Dowd, PCC*
	L. Dean Lamphere, Jr. PDC*

STANDING COMMITTEES

BY-LAWS	
SVDC; Chair	Steven S. Martin, DSVC*
Department Secretary; Member	Richard W. Denney, PCC*
Counselor; Member	Nathan L. Smith, PCC*
Member	Paul T. Davis, PDC*
Member	James B. Pahl, PCinC*
LEGISLATIVE	
DC; Chair	Gary L. Swain, PCC*
Department Secretary; Member	Richard W. Denney, PCC*
Member	Dale L. Aurand, PDC
Member	Gary Naugle PCC
Member	James B. Paul, PCinC
MEMBERSHIP	
JVDC; Chair	David Kimble, JVDC*
Member(s)	All Camp JVC's
GRAVES REGISTRATION	
GRO Officer; Chair	Richard E. Danes, PCC*
Member(s)	All Camp GRO's
CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS	
CW Memorials Officer; Chair	Leonard Sheaffer CC*
Member(s)	All Camp CWMO's
CEREMONIES & RITUALS	
CR Officer; Chair	L. Dean Lamphere, Jr. PDC*
Member	James B. Pahl, PCinC
Member	Paul T. Davis, PDC
G.A.R. RECORDS	
GAR Records Officer; Chair	Gary L. Gibson, PDC
Historian; Member	David F. Wallace PDC*
Member	Tom Bruce
Member	J. Douglas Park, PDC
Member	Blaine Valentine, PCC
COMMUNICATION & TECHNOLOGY	
Signals Officer; Chair	Robert R. Payne, PDC*
Member	David F. Wallace PDC*
Member	Dennis Fyke

Member	Patrick D. Wallace
CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE	
Chair	L. Dean Lamphere, Jr., PDC*
Member	Robert R. Payne, PDC*
Member	Charles L. Worley, PDC*
NOMINATING COMMITTEE	
Chair	Richard E. Danes, PCC
Member	Dale L. Aurand, PDC
Member	Charles L. Worley, PDC
Member	Gary Naugle PCC
OUTREACH COMMITTEE	
DC; Chair	Gary L. Swain, PCC
Member	David W. Kimble PCC
Member	James Jackson PCC
Member	Gary L. Gibson PDC

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

102nd USCT MEMORIAL	
Chair	Leonard Sheaffer CC*
Friend of the Committee; Member	Geoff Blair
Member	Robert May, PCC
Member	David F. Wallace PDC
EAGLE SCOUT QUESTION REFERRAL	
Chair	Nathan Tingley, CC
Member	James B. Pahl, PCinC
Member	Roy Richard
MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS	
Chair	Edgar J. Dowd, PCC
Member	Lloyd D. Lamphere, Sr., CC*
Member	Calvin Murphy
Member	Paul A. Nelson, PCC
Member	Max Riekse, PCC
Member	Richard Schafer
KALAMAZOO LINCOLN PROJECT	
Chair	Charles L. Worley, PDC
Member	Gary L. Swain, PCC
Member	Terry McKinch, PDC

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

*Gary L. Swain PCC
Commander, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

ATTEST:

*Richard Denney, PCC
Secretary, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

DEPARTMENT ORDER #2  **SERIES: 2023-2024**

GARY L. SWAIN DC, PCC
+HEADQUARTERS+
697 WYNDING OAKS, KALAMAZOO, MI 49006
DATE: 30 APRIL 2023

SUSPENSION OF CAMPS FOR FAILURE TO FILE FORM 27

Whereas, it has been reported that Camps within the Department of Michigan have failed to file a FORM 27 as required by the Charter, Constitution and Regulations by the April 30, 2023 filing deadline, and

By the authority vested in me as Commander of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered:

1. **The Wa-Bu-No Camp No. 250** of Shepard/Mt. Pleasant shall hereby be suspended for failure to file Form 27 as required by Chapter 1 - Camps, Article 1, Section 16 of the Charter. Constitution and Regulations of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.
2. **The Sgt. Henry E. Plant Camp No. 3** of Grand Haven shall hereby be suspended for failure to file Form 27 as required by Chapter 1 - Camps, Article 1, Section 16 of the Charter.
3. The suspended camps shall remain so suspended until Form 27 has been appropriately filed with the Department Secretary.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

ATTEST:

Gary L. Swain

Gary L. Swain PCC
Commander, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Richard Denney, PCC
Secretary, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

DEPARTMENT ORDER #3  **SERIES: 2023-2024**

GARY L. SWAIN DC, PCC
+HEADQUARTERS+
697 WYNDING OAKS, KALAMAZOO, MI 49006
DATE: 01 May 2023

SUSPENSION OF CAMPS FOR FAILURE TO FILE FORM 27

Whereas, it has been reported that the Sgt. Henry E. Plant Camp No. 3 has filed all required forms with the Department Secretary and is now in Compliance with the Charter, Constitution, and Regulations of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

By the authority vested in me as Commander, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered:

1. That the suspension of the Sgt. Henry E. Plant Camp No. 3 for failure to file required forms is hereby lifted and the Camp is fully reinstated.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

ATTEST:

Gary L. Swain

Gary L. Swain PCC
Commander, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Richard Denney, PCC
Secretary, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

DEPARTMENT ORDER #4  **SERIES: 2023-2024**

GARY L. SWAIN DC, PCC
 +HEADQUARTERS+
 697 WYNDING OAKS, KALAMAZOO, MI 49006
 DATE: 10 May 2023

ESTABLISHMENT OF WEBSITE REDESIGN COMMITTEE

Background:

At the 139th Annual Department Encampment, Signals Officer Robert R. Payne PDC proposed the following recommendations which were subsequently approved by the Encampment:

1. The Department needs to move to a new style of Website.
2. The Department (must) discontinue active support of the Michigan Graves Database and direct brothers to the National site.
3. The Department needs to actively seek brothers with a desire to assist in the technology areas of the Order.
4. Recommends that every Camp in the Department, submit to the Webmaster, no later than 2 weeks after the installation of their Camp Officers, the information they want published on the Department Website for their Camp.

By the authority vested in me as Commander of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered:

1. That as allowed under the Department of Michigan Bylaws, Article IX-Committees-Section 2 & 3, I hereby establish a Special Committee to be named the "Website Redesign Committee."
2. The primary objective of the Website Redesign Committee is to produce an updated, modern looking, well mapped website which offers a professional portal to the Department of Michigan, SUVCW. This will include, but not limited to, a content managed system site to enable the ease of maintenance by brothers less skilled in website coding.
3. The Website Redesign Committee will include: Robert R. Payne PDC-Chairman, David Smith, PDC, Sean Willett, Camp 145, Rick Sible, Camp 28 and David Wallace, PDC.
4. It is also ordered that each Camp, within the Department of Michigan, submit to the Webmaster, no later than two (2) weeks after the installation of Camp officers, all information that they deem appropriate for publication on the Camp page of the Department website.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Gary L. Swain
 Gary L. Swain PCC
 Commander, Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

ATTEST:

Richard Denney, PCC
 Secretary, Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Department Travels – The USS Alabama (All "travels" photos submitted by Paul Davis)

DEPARTMENT ORDER #5  SERIES: 2023-2024

GARY L. SWAIN DC, PCC
+HEADQUARTERS+
697 WYNDING OAKS, KALAMAZOO, MI 49006
DATE: 23 May 2023

PASSING OF JUNE LLOYD

- Whereas, we have just learned of the loss of June Lloyd of the ASUVCW on 20 May, 2023.
- Whereas, she was an integral part of the Michigan Department Auxiliary SUVCW and served her order well.
- I am ordering all Camp Charters and Membership Badges to be draped in black for a period of 30 days from this order.
- I am asking all brothers to hold her husband Howard Lloyd of Austin Blair Camp #7 and her family and loved ones in their prayers.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Gary L. Swain
Gary L. Swain PCC
Commander, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

ATTEST:

Richard Denney, PCC
Secretary, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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!*

DEPARTMENT ORDER #6  SERIES: 2023-2024

GARY L. SWAIN DC, PCC
+HEADQUARTERS+
697 WYNDING OAKS, KALAMAZOO, MI 49006
DATE: 25 May 2023

MEMORIAL DAY 2023

Whereas, this being the 155th year since General John Logan called for a national day of remembrance for Civil War dead and issued General Order No. 11 instituting the observance of Memorial Day on May30th:

By the authority vested in me as Commander, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered as follows:

- I hereby call all Brothers and Camps, to the observance of Memorial Day, both the observed on Monday May 29th and the true Memorial Day on Tuesday, May 30th.
- I ask that all Brothers encourage this observance, not only through our activities, but also by actively reminding others of the real reason we commemorate this day.
- I call on all Brothers to visit the graves of our forefathers in the Grand Army of the Republic and veterans in all conflicts, in an expression of gratitude, where so many Americans gave their last full measure to keep America united and free.

This is so ordered, on the twenty-fifth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty- three and the one hundred and fifty-seventh year since the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Gary L. Swain
Gary L. Swain PCC
Commander, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

ATTEST:

Richard Denney, PCC
Secretary, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

As the Department and National Organizations continue to evolve, a change has been made to how we report graves registrations in Michigan. The procedure for reporting new entries, changes, and other graves related business has not changed, and should be routed through Rick Danes, the Department Officer. He will administrate further action.

The official statement is:
"...we are no longer updating the Michigan Graves Database. It will still be available to utilize (view), and we recommend using the National Graves Database at www.suvcwdb.org (which is updated). As always, we are continuing to support and update the National Graves Database."

DEPARTMENT ORDER # 7  **SERIES: 2023-2024**

GARY L. SWAIN DC, PCC
 +HEADQUARTERS+
 697 WYNDING OAKS, KALAMAZOO, MI 49006
 DATE: 6 June 2023

ESTABLISHMENT OF SOCIAL MEDIA OFFICER

Background:

The Department of Michigan recognizes the need for increasing public awareness of the SUVCW and expanding our membership. Social Media is a useful tool in achieving that objective. The Department currently has a Facebook account but is not currently active in other forms of media. Thus, we are not taking full advantage of these opportunities to assist in the accomplishment of those stated objectives.

Therefore, by the authority vested in me as Commander of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered:

1. As allowed under the Department of Michigan Bylaws, Article III-Officers and Their Duties- Section 2, I hereby establish the position of Social Media Officer in the Department of Michigan.
2. Sean Willett, of Governor Henry Crapo Camp 145, is appointed as Social Media Officer for the Department of Michigan.
3. The primary objective of the Social Media Officer is to manage the day-to-day activities of existing social media sites and to establish new media outlets for publicizing Camp and Department activities. The responsibilities of this position will include management of the input from all Brothers and Camps for posting in the respective media outlets
4. It is also ordered that each Brother and Camp, within the Department of Michigan, submit to the Social Media Officer, at socialmedia@suvchwmi.org all information that they deem appropriate for publication on the current and future sites.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

ATTEST:

*Gary L. Swain
 Gary L. Swain PCC
 Commander, Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

*Richard Denney, PCC
 Secretary, Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*



Camp 427 celebrated Decoration Day with members of the DAR and 102nd USCT Reenactors

Brothers;

First, a request for your forgiveness for getting this notice out so late. I have had some trouble with my email and have finally solved the problem.

It is my sad duty to inform the camps of the passing of two Brothers.

First, **Brother James Harris** of Israel B. Richardson, Camp 2, passed away on April 14th. Second, **Brother Gerald Richard Watson** of Wa-Bu-No, Camp 250, passed away on February 18th. Their obituaries are given below. Please keep the families and the Camps in your prayers. May God our Heavenly Father say to both Brothers, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant!"

Finally, a note: I discovered Brother Harris' death on Facebook back in April, and Brother Denney received notice of Brother Watson's death just last week. Please, Camp Secretaries, notify the Department of any deaths as soon as possible.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
 Chaplain Charles Buckhahn, PCC
 Department Chaplain, Department of Michigan, SUVCW

James O. Harris, age 88, passed away on April 14, 2023. Born on February 5th of 1935 to Franklin and Florence Harris; beloved husband to the late Adelle Harris; dear father to Abigail Harris and Tim Harris; cherished brother to Barbara and the late Joan.

James was a member of the Knights of Columbus as well as the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

It is with great sadness that we announce the death of **Gerald Richard Watson** of Mount Pleasant, Michigan, who passed away on February 18, 2023, at the age of 78, leaving to mourn family and friends. Family and friends are welcome to leave their condolences on this memorial page and share them with the family.

He was loved and cherished by many people including : his parents, Gerald Watson and Mary Watson (Lesh); his sister Cecelia Askegard of Dewitt; his nephew Scott Askegard (Caroline) of New York, N. Y.; his nieces, Cherie Sussman (Brent) of Peachtree City, GA and Marci DeWitt (David) of Columbia, SC; and his great-nieces and great-nephews, Joshua, Jonah Sussman of Peachtree, GA, Jacob Sussman of Atlanta, GA, Kathleen Lohrmann (Jonathon) of Hebron, KY, Emily Scott (Derek) of Brownsboro, AL and Sarah DeWitt of Forest, VA..



Encampment - Gibson, Swain, and Frail



Encampment – Past Department Commanders

March 2023 National Patriotic Instruction

*Submitted by Terrance McKinch,
Department Patriotic Instructor*

Brothers,

As you might have noticed by now, most of my monthly instructions are about how we can grow the order through Patriotism. Whether it is showing our Patriotic ways to the community, on social media, or with other organizations that are like-minded. However, this month I have decided to dedicate the National Patriotic Instruction to the 160th Anniversary of the 1st Medal of Honor being presented. On 25 March 1863, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton on behalf of President Abraham Lincoln, awarded Pvt. Jacob Parrott of the 33rd Ohio the Medal of Honor for his actions during the Andrews' Raid, also known as the Great Locomotive Chase. The Medal of Honor is the highest decoration anyone in the United States Armed Forces can receive.

Since its inception in 1861, there have only been 3535 Medal of Honors that have been issued to members of the military. A vast majority of these were issued to those during the American Civil War, including the only female to have ever received the Medal of Honor, Dr. Mary Edwards Walker as well as the youngest to ever receive the Medal, Drummer William Johnston of the 3rd Vermont Infantry, who was 11 years and 358 days old at the time of his actions. The citations vary in detail and the level of bravery, but they all share one thing in common, they were willing to do everything in their ability to not only serve the Union, but to be there for their fellow soldiers, sailors and Marines.

In 1916 a review board was created to examine every Medal of Honor recipient, as until then there was no other medal to be issued for valor in the US Military and the standards one had to do to receive the medal had increased. The review board found that of the 2625 medals they reviewed, 911 did not meet the new standards and were rescinded. Of those 911, 1 was re-issued after a second review in 1977, that being for Dr. Mary Walker, and 5 additional ones were re-issued after a third review in 1989 Scout William H. Woodall being the only Civil War recipient, both were originally rescinded because they were civilians working for the Army, not soldiers. After these review boards, the total issued to those from the American Civil War is 1523.

My challenge to all of you this month is simple.

Learn more about a local Medal of Honor Recipient and share their story. Don't let their sacrifices be forgotten, as this is part of our mission. I look forward to seeing and hearing about these brave souls in the coming months, whether it be in face to face conversations, seeing posts on social media, or by seeing their grave stone and doing a little digging...that is poor phrasing but you know what I mean.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Br. Ben Frail, PDC
National Patriotic Instructor

"On the Road" - Chalmette National Cemetery



THE CIVIL WAR I GREW UP WITHby [R. EMMETT TYRRELL, JR.](#)

March 14, 2023, 11:09 PM

WASHINGTON — With all the talk about the [discovery](#) of mass burial graves in faraway Ukraine, there is little thought of such graves being discovered here in America. Yet in recent weeks, archeologists [have found](#) their own mass grave in bucolic Williamsburg, Virginia. It is a graveyard that they believe is associated with the Civil War's [Battle of Williamsburg](#), fought in 1862. There in the peaceful soil of Williamsburg, the remains of hundreds, perhaps thousands, of soldiers lie buried. Some wore the gray of the Confederacy. Some wore the blue of the Union. Now they all lie in a recently discovered pell-mell heap to be disentangled by authorities armed with DNA and the hope of returning the dead to their respective states.

The Confederate forces fought the oncoming Union army to end the Union's advance on the Confederacy's capital, Richmond. The Confederates pulled back, but the Union too retreated. All told, both sides contributed to a general casualty list that amounted to [3,800 killed and wounded](#). The battle must have been somewhat like the bloody [Second Battle of Manassas](#), in which both armies lunged at the other, bayonets unsheathed, rifles being fired at point-blank range. Somehow, a fire broke out, engulfing both forces. It must have been a horrid conflict. Yet if the Union was to be saved, the war had to be fought, and, for the ultimate integrity of our democracy, the North had to win.

Now, the greatness of President Abraham Lincoln is being questioned by little figures who will never be heard from again. The greatness of Gen. Ulysses S. Grant has already been questioned by his puny critics, whose knowledge of the Civil War is utterly passé. Both men saved the Union. Had they not won, we modern-day Americans might well be speaking German today. Even more ghastly, we might be speaking President Vladimir Putin's language. The Civil War is one war that all Americans should agree on. It had to be fought and won. God bless old Abe and the memory of U.S. Grant.

Now, however, the monuments to only one side remain, and many of the ignoramuses who are tearing down monuments have their eyes too on Union leaders whose reputations they sully with the slander of racism. There was racism to be sure on both sides in times past, and there were other forms of intolerance: religious intolerance, ethnic intolerance, and intolerance of immigrants, for instance. Today, intolerance is still around, but it is being taught in the nation's classrooms. There, intolerance is being taught under the guise of progressivism with perfumed words such as [diversity, equity, and inclusion](#). Intolerance, apparently, you always have with you.

I do not know whose side your family took in the Civil War, but my family lived in the North, and they sided with the Union. My great-great-grandfather was the head of the Secret Service in Chicago. He broke [the plot to steal](#) Lincoln's body from its crypt in Springfield, Illinois, in 1876. His son, my great-grandfather, saw to it that his family fought the Civil War in our household until well after World War II. There was no bosh talk about the South's Lost Cause in the Tyrrell household, but there was also no talk of tearing down statues to Robert E. Lee or Stonewall Jackson or, much less, the lone Southern soldier standing in the street near my home in Alexandria and looking to the south, looking to Richmond. That atrocity took place just a few years ago.

My grandfathers hated the Civil War, but they honored the bravery of the soldiers that fought in it. None would desecrate those soldiers, especially the soldiers of the North. The statues being torn down were part of American history. By tearing them down, you diminish the greatness of that history. The peril that Black Americans faced with whole states pitted against them is lost. The greatness of Lincoln and Grant is lost. The bravery of the senators, congressmen, and governors who staked their careers on opposing slavery and opting for war to save the Union is lost. It was an era of greatness, and now some pipsqueaks are going to erase it. I say balderdash.

April 2023 National Patriotic Instruction

*Submitted by Terrance McKinch,
Department Patriotic Instructor*

Brothers,

The time has now come, and I don't mean first pitch at Fenway Park or puck drop on the Stanley Cup Playoffs, I mean it is the time where the weather has turned, and we can finally get outside and do some of our most meaningful work. Where we can get outside in our communities and hold educational programs or clean ups and ensure that those who fought to preserve the Union are not forgotten. I have already seen Camp and Department social media pages flooded with these efforts and I could not be prouder. I am seeing Camps and Departments teaming up with local groups and towns to work together in these endeavors and genuinely feel that you all have been hearing the message I have been preaching for the last few months. For that I want to personally thank each and every Brother. With that being said, there is always more that we can do it help further our mission. This Patriotic Instruction I want to focus on Recruiting, a goal that each Camp and Department should always be focusing on.

At every event that we host, or assist with, we come across people who are of like mind and want to ensure that the memories of our ancestors are not forgotten. In today's day and age, we must leverage the technology at our fingertips, literally, and get the information about our Order, and the Sisters of the Allied Orders, into their hands. Most people have smartphones these days where we can quickly email them the National Website (www.suvcw.org) or share with them the National Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Reddit, or YouTube pages with them. We also have free pamphlets through the National Quartermaster Store ([SUVCW Pamphlet \(suvcw-qm.org\)](http://SUVCW Pamphlet (suvcw-qm.org))) that you can order, and bring with you to events and hand out, I would suggest ensuring you have your Camp or Departments contact information ready to hand out with the pamphlet as well. Once they see the great work we do across the United States and abroad, or the great work we are doing right in front of them, it is an easy segway to ask if someone wants to join our ranks, or the ranks of the Allied Orders. By growing our ranks, we ensure that our mission continues, and by continuing our mission we are being Patriotic.

A little known fact in the Order is that there are a few recruiting awards and individual Brother and Department can earn:

- The David R. Medert Award – Presented to the Individual Brother that recruits the greatest number of new members during the period from 1 April through 31 March
- The Augustus P. Davis – Conrad Linder Award – Presented to the Department with the greatest number of members during the period 1 April through 31 March
- The U.S. Grant Cup – Presented to the Department with the greatest percentage increase in membership during the period of 1 April – 31 March
- The Under Forty Award – Presented to the Department with the greatest number of new members under age forty (40) during the period of 1 April – 31 March
- The National Aide Award – Presented to a Brother who has recruited five (5) or more new members during a Commander-in-Chiefs term in office.

My challenge to you all this month is to recruit! By growing our ranks, we ensure our Order will long exist and we will carry out our mission by preserving their memory!

In Fraternity Charity and Loyalty, Br. Ben Frail, PDC
National Patriotic Instructor

The Vicksburg Campaign and Siege

Submitted by

Todd Cordill, George W. Anderson Camp No. 58

The Vicksburg Campaign and Siege of Vicksburg occurred 160 years ago, during the time frame of December 1862-July 1863. The 47 day siege of the town of Vicksburg ended with the surrender of the Rebels by Gen. Pemberton on July 4, 1863.

The conclusion of the siege was concurrent with the Battle of Gettysburg in the Eastern Theatre of the war. Shortly before the siege there were battles at Port Gibson, Raymond, Jackson and Champion Hill.

There was also a lengthy period of attempts by General Grant to approach Vicksburg from the north at the beginning of year 1863 at Yazoo Pass and Chickasaw Bluffs.

The mastermind of the Union strategy was General Grant. Among the other Union commanders were Generals Sherman, McClernand, McPherson, and Logan by land, and Admiral Porter (via the Mississippi River). For many decades following the surrender of Vicksburg, the local townspeople did not observe Independence Day on July 4.

Michigan Regiments in the Vicksburg Campaign:

2nd Regiment Michigan Infantry

8th Regiment Michigan Infantry

12th Regiment Michigan Infantry

15th Regiment Michigan Infantry

17th Regiment Michigan Infantry

20th Regiment Michigan Infantry

27th Regiment Michigan Infantry

3rd Regiment Michigan Cavalry

2nd Battery Michigan Light Artillery

3rd Battery Michigan Light Artillery

7th Battery Michigan Light Artillery

8th Battery Michigan Light Artillery

Source: National Park Service

Selected Readings:

Foote, Shelby. The Beleaguered City: The Vicksburg Campaign, December 1862-July 1863. New York: The Modern Library, 1995.

Personal Memoirs of U.S. Grant; Selected Letters 1839-1865. New York: Literary Classics of the United States, Inc., 1990.

Hoehling, A.A. Vicksburg, 47 Days of Siege. New York: The Fairfax Press, 1991.



Michigan Memorial at Vicksburg

(An ancestor of Todd Cordill was Noah Stoner in the Morton Rifles, 34th Regiment, Indiana Infantry, Co. D who was injured by a Rebel cavalry ambush at Yazoo Pass in February 1863)

March to the Sea Camp 135

Submitted by Chuck Worley, PDC

The Brothers of March to the Sea Camp 135 in Centreville, MI have been participating in community events to lend our hands to worthy causes and represent the SUVCW to folks that are unaware of our organization. On a Saturday, December 10, 2022, four of us rang the Salvation Army Bells for the Red Kettle Drive of Saint Joseph County. Then this morning, May 29th, Memorial Day Observed, thanks to Brother Roland Rowe's kids, grandkids, and their friends, they passed out almost 300 American Flags to the folks watching the Centreville Memorial Day Parade.



We have begun talking about how Camp 135 and St. Joseph Co. can restore the statue of Colonel William Stoughton and the 11th Michigan Infantry Regiment found at the point of defending the Union line at Chickamauga National Battlefield Park.



March to the Sea Camp 135 (Continued)



Brothers Dick Denney, Russ Gordon, John Bennett, and Chuck Worley

Department "On the Road" Continued



Below: Stone Mountain



Above: Lincoln Tomb Visit

Below: General John Bell Hood's Grave



Department of Michigan SUVCW On The Road

Submitted by Paul Davis, PDC

The Spring and Early Summer months are a busy time for members of the many Camps within the Department of Michigan.

Our activities started in April at the Lincoln Tomb Remembrance Day Services in Springfield, Illinois. Michigan was well represented. Attendees included members from several Camps within the Department of Michigan. Members of the 14th Michigan Company A in attendance included: Captain Dean Lamphere, Rob Payne, Lloyd Lamphere, Dick Denney, "Sailor" Bob Boquette, Jim Pahl, David Kimble, Kim Horning, Chuck Worley, Ed Dowd, and Mathew Lamphere. Paul Davis served as Master Of Ceremonies.

Next was the Stephenson Services in Petersburg, Illinois. The Michigan men served as the Honor Guard and Jan Davis, President of the Michigan Daughters of the Civil War 1861-1865 placed a wreath at both the Lincoln Tomb Remembrance Day Services as well as the Stephenson Services.

Following the two services, some of the participants began their "Southern Battlefield Tour" that would involve 10 days travel to various locations as far South as New Orleans.

The Itinerary included the following: Departing Illinois, the first stop was the Chalmette Battle Field and Visitors Center. Battles were fought here in the War of 1812 as well as the Civil War. The group then moved on to New Orleans and paid a two day visit to the World War II Museum. This museum is exceptional with activities, and interactive displays in addition to many artifacts.

Some of the travelers are related to General John Bell Hood. They paid their respects with a visit to the Cemetery as well as visiting several places on the Battle Field included where he was wounded.

While in New Orleans we took a stroll down through the Bourbon Street. Visited the Old New Orleans's Mint and continued our travels with a visit to the Louisiana Civil War Museum.

Next Stop was the **USS Alabama** Battleship and the Military Park both outside and inside displays and aircraft. We were also surprised to see the **SS Drum** (submarine) there as well. Sailor Bob and Paul Davis had actually been on the Drum before it became landlocked. Navigating the many decks, hatch ways and billets throughout the **ALABAMA** was a chore and with no outside (windows) aka port holes to get your bearings (try a compass or your cellphone)...really encased in an all steel container???

A few in the group had previously toured the **NEW JERSEY** a few years ago. Two in the party have actually been on the **MISSOURI, NORTH CAROLINA, NEW JERSEY, WISCONSIN and now the ALABAMA**. And YES they are that OLD.

PHOTO IDs:

8666: Chalmette Battlefield

8695: Chalmette Cemetery

9512 Cannon on Stone Mountain

9445 Entrance To Stone Mountain

9316 Amateur Artillery Gun Crew at Chickamauga

8877 Family visits General John Bell Hood's Burial site

9157 Top Side Gun Crew SS DRUM

9184 Exterior View SS DRUM

9181 Crew aboard SS Drum

Left To Right Len "Irish" McInerney, Ed Dowd, Chuck Worley, Lloyd Lamphere, Dean Lamphere, Sailor Bob Boquette, Paul Davis

9269 USS ALABAMA

1-USS ALABAMA

9364 Len "Irish" McInerney with Cannon at Chickamauga

8717 Partial Group Attendees at WWII Museum

WWII-Museum (Jeep Display)

8784 WWII Corsair

8758 WWII Museum Display

8808 WWII Museum Display

8758 WWII Museum Display

On The Road (Continued)

- 9512 Cannon on Stone Mountain
- 9445 Entrance To Stone Mountain
- 9316 Amateur Artillery Gun Crew at Chickamauga
- 8877 Family visits General John Bell Hood's Burial site
- 9157 Top Side Gun Crew SS DRUM
- 9184 Exterior View SS DRUM
- 9181 Crew aboard SS Drum
- Left To Right Len "Irish" McInerney, Ed Dowd, Chuck Worley, Lloyd Lamphere, Dean Lamphere, Sailor Bob Boquette, Paul Davis
- 9269 USS ALABAMA
- 1-USS ALABAMA
- 9364 Len "Irish" McInerney with Cannon at Chicamauga
- 8717 Partial Group Attendees at WWII Museum
- WWII-Museum (Jeep Display)
- 8784 WWII Corsair
- 8758 WWII Museum Display
- 8808 WWII Museum Display
- 8758 WWII Museum Display

Editor's note. This is a list of many of the photos taken during this trip, several of which are included in this issue of Michigan's Messenger. We will publish others in a future issue.



Andrew Jackson Statue at Chalmette National Cemetery



Entrance to Louisiana Confederate Museum



Honor Guard at the Stevenson Services



At the Confederate Museum

GENERAL ORLANDO M. POE CAMP 444 – June 2023

Submitted by: David S. Smith, LM, PDC – Camp 444 Commander

2023 has seen a very busy start for the Brothers of Camp 444. Several projects have been completed, as well as planning for several more for the year are in full swing. Earlier in the year, Camp 444 was able to work with the City of Cadillac to install GAR lettering at the Washington GAR Post 444 Plot in Maple Hill Cemetery in Cadillac. The City mounted the letters to a mounting plate with contrasting paint, and installed the assembly on the GAR flag pole there at the plot.

The Brothers of Camp 444 welcomed new member Carl Lamphere into the Camp at the 15 April meeting. He has been a member of the Order for over 30 years. He was presented the SUVCW Badge of the Order, the Camp 444 Badge, and a Camp 444 nametag and a hearty welcome from his fellow Brothers.

Four Brothers of Camp 444 attended the 2023 Department Encampment in Midland to see now PDC Nathan Smith conclude his final term of office as Department Commander, and welcome current Department Commander Gary Swain into office. Camp 444's newsletter "The Engineer & Mechanic" won the J. Richard Greene Award for most outstanding newsletter in the Department.

Leading up to the Memorial Day weekend, Brothers of Camp 444 refurbished 34 GAR flag holders at the Washington GAR Post 444 Plot, and performed some cleaning maintenance on quite a few stones throughout the plot that needed an update. The Memorial Day weekend saw Brothers attending to events and volunteer activities individually in their communities throughout the region. On observed Memorial Day, Brothers from Camp 444 participated in the annual Cadillac Memorial Day Parade.

On Sunday, 04 June 2023, Camp 444 will perform the Last Veteran Buried in the County Ceremony for William E. Kemp, Jr. of Houghton Lake. Trooper Kemp was a member of Company C, 1st New York Veteran Cavalry, and is the last known Veteran buried in Roscommon County. He was tragically killed from traumatic injuries suffered in an automobile accident.

Additional ceremonies and events are being planned at this time throughout the summer and fall of 2023.



ABOVE LEFT (L-R): PDC David Smith, CC Brent Sible, PCC Dick Denney, & PDC Dale Aurand at the 2023 Department Encampment

ABOVE CENTER: Washington GAR Post 444 Plot with newly installed GAR letters and refurbished GAR flag holders

ABOVE RIGHT: GRO/CWMO Kenny Jones and PDC Dale Aurand holding up the Camp 444 banner after the 2023 Cadillac Memorial Day Parade.

28th 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.)

The 28th was formed by the consolidation of what had been originally intended for the 28th, rendezvoused at Marshall and what had initially been intended as the 29th rendezvoused at Kalamazoo. The companies were mustered into U.S. service at various dates during September and October, 1864, the organization being complete October 26th.

The regiment left Kalamazoo with 886 officers and men for Nashville, TN, arriving in Louisville, KY on the 29th. On November 10th they were ordered to Camp Nelson for the purpose of guarding a wagon train from that point to Nashville, arriving on December 5th.

The regiment participated in the engagement at Nashville from the 12th to the 16th of that month, where it fully established a reputation as a gallant fighting regiment.

After the Battle of Nashville, it was assigned to the 23rd Corp and on January 11, embarked on the steamer Lawrence for Eastport, Mississippi. On arriving at Paducah, Kentucky, they received orders to proceed to Louisville and await further orders. Those orders came, ordering the regiment to Annapolis, Maryland and with a change while in route, arrived on January 25th at Alexandria, VA. The regiment was assigned to the 2nd brigade, 1st division, 23rd Corps, leaving February 10 on ocean transports to Morehead City, NC then by rail for Newbern. The entire division then on March 2nd, moved towards Kingston and joined General Cox, concentrating in the vicinity of Wilmington, intending to cooperate with General Sherman's army.

Continuing the march, they reached Kingston on the 14th and Goldsboro on the 21st when the brigade was placed on duty guarding the line of the Atlanta and North Carolina railroad. On April 9th, they again marched to Goldsboro, and arrived at Raleigh on the 13th. Hostilities having ceased, they were engaged in guard duty at Goldsboro, Raleigh, Charlotte, Lincolntown, Wilmington and Newburg until mustered out on June 5th, 1866. While in service, it had met the enemy at Nashville, TN, December 12-16th, 1864; Wise's Forks, NC March 8-10th, 1865.

Entire membership 1,245 with losses of 128, being 1 officer and 4 men killed in action, 1 officer and 122 men died of disease.



Aboard the Submarine USS Drum

Camp 17, Camp 7 Auxillary, and Camp 58 Commemorate Decoration Day



Curtenius Guard Camp 17 was joined by members of Austin Blair Camp 7, The auxillary to Austin Blair Camp7, and George Anderson Camp 58 on Memorial Day weekend to commemorate those lost. Lansing Mayor Andy Schorr addressed the gathered. A salute was fired and Taps was played by Bugles Across America. This was followed by a gathering at Little Arlington, located in Evergreen Cemetery, Lansing.



Editor's Note: Why the 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@suvcwmi.org.

Kalamazoo Abraham Lincoln Institute

Invites the members of Sons of Union
Veterans of the Civil War, Department of
Michigan and Ladies of the Allied Orders to
the Unveiling and Dedication Ceremonies
of the Abraham Lincoln Statue

save the date
8/27/2023

2:00 PM
Bronson Park
200 South Rose Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Period Dress or Civilian Attire is acceptable.