

The Pritchard Press

The Newsletter of the General Benjamin Pritchard, Camp 20, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Vol. XXXV, No. 2

April, 2019

Camp Officers 2019

Commander: Michael Culp
Sr. Vice Commander: Gary Thomas
Jr. Vice Commander: Steve Rossio
Camp Secretary: Gary Gibson
Camp Treasurer: David Conklin
Guard: Charles Keith
Guide: TBA
Patriotic Instructor: TBA
Eagle Scout Coordinator: TBA
Memorials and Monuments: TBA
Graves Registration: Tom Bruce
Color Bearer: Glenn Hall
Historian: Gary Gibson
Chaplin: Bill Brennan
Asst. Chaplin: Jeffry Baker
Council: Bill Costello, Robert Townsend
Signals Officer: John Keith
Pritchard Press Editor: Gary Swain

2019 Camp Schedule

April 2, 2019	Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
April 27, 2019	Department Encampment-Okemos Conference Center
May 4, 2019	Riverside GAR lot clean up 9:00 AM
May 7, 2019	Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
May 18, 2019	Veteran Flag Placement-Mountain Home Cemetery-Kalamazoo 9:00 AM
May 25, 2019	GAR Monument Clean Up-Riverside Cemetery-Kalamazoo 9:00 AM
May 30, 2019	Memorial Day Ceremony-Riverside Cemetery-7:00 PM
June 4, 2019	Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
July 9, 2019	Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
	*Note: July meeting delayed one week due to July 4th celebration
August 6, 2019	Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
August 8-11, 2019	National Encampment, Independence, OHIO
Sept. 3, 2019	Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
October 1, 2019	Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
Nov. 16, 2019	Remembrance Day-Gettysburg, PA
Nov.-Dec., 2019	No camp Meeting



Michigan's GAR Museum

Located at 224 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids, MI, the museum is open the first and second Wednesday of each month from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Below is the schedule for the first half of 2019.

January 2nd and 9th

February 6th and 13th

March 6th and 13th

April 3rd and 10th

April 6th & 7th B-Day Open House

May 1st and 8th

June 5th and 12th

Michigan's GAR Museum

2019 Seminar Programs

Tuesday, March 19th (7 PM) - Program: **Andersonville:** (Speaker: Bruce Butgereit)

Tuesday, May 21st (7 PM) - Program: **Three Ties That Bind Us to the Civil War: The Medal of Honor, TAPS, and Memorial Day** (Speaker: Dave Finney)

Tuesday, July 16th (7 PM) - Program: **The Eleventh Corps at Chancellorsville** (Speaker: Dr. Jim Pula)

Sunday, September 22nd (3 PM) - Program: **Last Veterans of the Blue and Gray** (Speaker: Larry Hathcock)

Tuesday, November 19th (7 PM) - Program: **(To be announced)**



Michigan GAR Museum celebrates 143 Anniversary of the GAR

The Michigan GAR Memorial Hall and Museum will celebrate the 153rd anniversary of the Grand Army of the Republic by having an open house on Saturday, April 6th from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and again on Sunday, April 7th from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm. Both floors and all exhibits will be open for viewing at this special event. A special 153rd birthday cake in honor of the Grand Army will be served on Saturday and refreshments will be served both



The General Benjamin Pritchard, Camp 20 was saddened to learn of the recent passing of Sandra Bellenger, the wife of former Camp 20 Brother and PCC Ron Bellenger. The family will be having a celebration of life at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the Fennville Library (400 W. Main St. Fennville, MI 49408).

Brother Ron Bellenger joined Camp 20 in 1988 and was a member for many years until transferring to the Henry Plant Camp 3 when they moved to Holland, Michigan. Please join us in extending our deepest sympathies to Brother Ron and his family for their loss.

Navy names new destroyer after Michigan Medal of Honor winner

The Navy announced Monday, March 18th that they would build a new Arleigh Burke class destroyer named after Michigan Korean War Medal of Honor winner William Charette.

Charette was a navy corpsman attached to a Marine unit. He earned the medal when he threw himself on a grenade to protect wounded Marines that he was treating. Miraculously, he was not killed and recovered sufficiently to continue to treat the wounded.



Camp 20 Assists in Annual Clean Up at Poplar Hill Cemetery

A growing focus of the Camp is to work with other groups to train and encourage their involvement in caring for our veteran gravestones and monuments. In the photo below the six members of Camp 20 worked with the Future Farmers of America for the second year in their annual clean up of Allegan County's Poplar Hill Cemetery. We have worked with Historical Societies, Boy Scouts and Future Farmers of America as well as genealogical societies, township boards and the Knights of Columbus in these past efforts.



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A key objective for 2019 is to provide education and training for additional groups. Upcoming events are already planned including a presentation with the Kalamazoo Kiwanis in April, 2019.

Camp 20 Brothers L to R: John Keith PCC, Gary Swain PCC, Comer Skinner-Brother and Future Farmers Leader, Mike Culp-Camp Commander, Robert Townsend-Council and Tom Bruce-Graves Registration

Future Farmers learn correct method for installing a veteran grave stone.



Camp 20 January Thaw Fellowship Luncheon

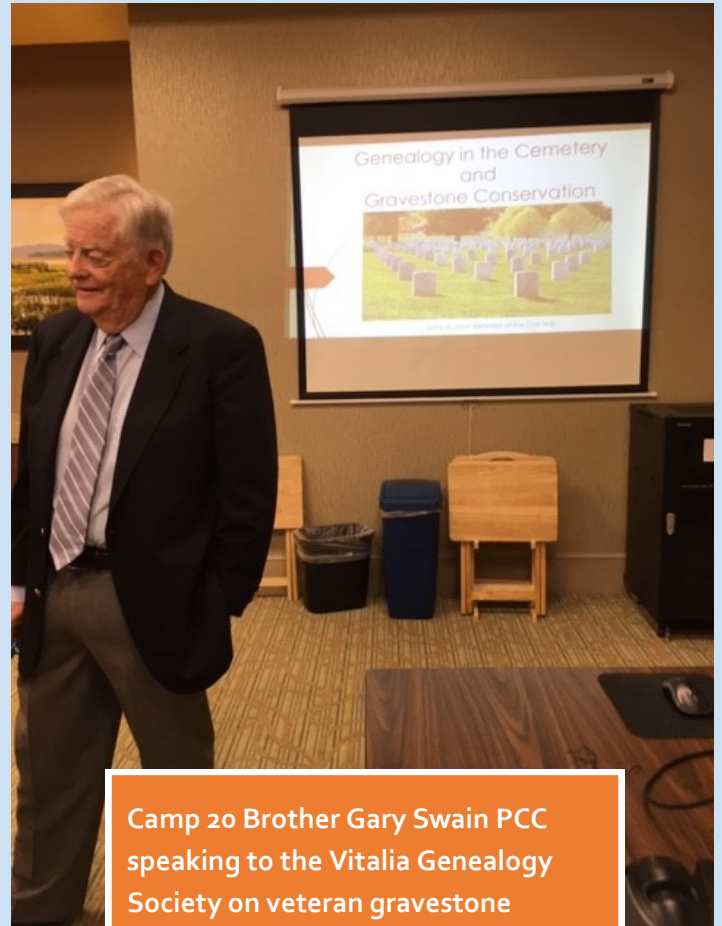
Camp 20 held a social luncheon in Paw Paw, Michigan during a short respite in the January weather. Sixteen Brothers, Sisters and friends braved the elements to share some social time together.



Camp 20 Outreach Initiative

Camp 20 continues to expand upon past efforts in its Outreach Initiative to encourage and train additional public service organizations in the cleaning and restoration of veteran gravestones and Civil War monuments. The camp has learned that the magnitude of the need across four counties exceeds the camp manpower resources. As a result, the camp has reached out to other service organizations including local historical societies, the Knights of Columbus, genealogical societies, the Kiwanis Clubs and others to encourage their participation in keeping the memory green and honoring those veterans who served to defend the Union and our country.

Future efforts will focus on youth organizations and additional service organizations.



Camp 20 Brother Gary Swain PCC speaking to the Vitalia Genealogy Society on veteran gravestone preservation.

Kalamazoo Civil War Roundtable

Schedule of Speakers

March 15th-Peter Gaudet will present **Gettysburg Photography-Then and Now**

April 12th-James S. Paula will present **The XI Corps at Gettysburg**

May 17th-Ernest Abel will present **John Wilkes Booth and the Women Who Loved Him**

Grand Rapids Civil War Roundtable

Schedule of Speakers

March 14th-Thursday-Joint meeting with the G.R. Historical Society at G.R. Public Library-Father Robert Miller-**The Faith of our Fathers: The Courage, Humor and Dedication of Catholic Civil War Chaplains**

April 17th-Wednesday-Marjie Viveen-**The Ottawa County Poor Farm**

May 15th-Wednesday-John Simmons-**General Hood: Charging into History**

Eagle Scout Award



Brother John R. Keith presents SUVCW award to Portage, MI Eagle Scout Jeff Badcock. Scout Badcock built a GaGa Pit for the Radiant Life Church.

Presentation of the National Colors



American Legion Post 84 Commander and Camp 20 Brother Jay Miller presents the national colors for Camp 20 Brother Clifford Burhans to his son Jerry Burhans.

Join the Sons of Union Veterans

If you had an ancestor who fought to preserve the Union during the Civil War 1861-1865 and would like to join with other like-minded decedents in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, please call Camp 20 Commander Mike Culp at 269 342-4741.

The Allegan Gazette June 5, 1909

Brother Bill Brennan PDC PCC submitted the following articles (pgs. 7 & 8) from the Allegan Gazette published 110 years ago. The articles review the Memorial Day ceremonies in both Allegan and Cheshire, Michigan. Both articles give credit to the G. A. R. and its role in the Memorial Day observance. The first article on the Allegan ceremonies also discusses the future of the G. A. R. and Memorial Day. Viewed from the distance of 110 years, the comments remain pertinent today.

IN HONOR OF THE HEROES. BOYS DEFEND A BRIDGE.

ALLEGAN OBSERVED MEMORIAL DAY.

Attendance was Good at Cemetery but Small at Auditorium — A Perfect Day Dawned in Consonance with the Solemn Ceremonials — Briefs of the Memorial Sermon and of the Addresses.

MEMORIAL Day observance has been

“Good this year with service at the Congregational church last Sunday morning. In attendance

were about fifty members of the

G. A. R. and about thirty ladies of the two auxiliary organizations. Besides these

the auditorium was well filled with casual and regular attendants of the church.

Rev. C. H. Long delivered an interesting sermon, making reference to the usual topics of the day and expressing fervently most patriotic sentiments. The musical features included a solo by Mrs. Artus W. Sherwood and a quartet by Mrs. Sherwood, Miss Slaghuis, and Messrs. Hulley and Drake. The soldiers and ladies then marched to the North Side bridge where they performed the ritualistic service in honor of the navy which embraces the appropriate custom of strewing flowers upon the water.

Memorial Day itself, Monday, was one of the most agreeable of weather, and the attendance at Oakwood cemetery was large. The march of the veterans was unattended this year by any civic society, but it was led by the Otsego band. There was the usual service in honor of the dead, recited this year at the grave of the late **Gen. B. D. Pritchard**, and the placing of wreaths and flowers at the soldiers' graves by boys and girls of the public schools. Several secret orders did similar honors to their deceased members. Besides these, there was the observance of the day by all those having relatives and friends interred in Oakwood, so that the display of flowers was most profuse and of remarkable beauty, though the variety was less than usual because of the belated season. At the auditorium in the afternoon there was a good attendance of the soldiers but a much smaller one of other people than there should have been. Music was supplied by the band and by a trio of ladies, Medames Cruse, Wilder, and Sollendine.

This event was a celebration of the work done by the soldiers of the Civil war in making that power and greatness possible, until today that appreciation is keener and stronger than ever before.

Whether the movement for perpetuation of the name and organization of the G. A. R. shall be successful, it is certain that Memorial Day itself will be observed without lessening interest by future generations and for many years.

W. H. Bills said the obligation the country owes to the Civil war soldiers is for many things — for the destruction of slavery: for establishment of the doctrine of equal rights to all men: for settlement of the question whether this union of states is a nation having broad general powers: for giving a lofty example of self-sacrifice for sake of a principle: and for unselfish service in the greatest crisis this country ever knew. It **seems to have been decided that the G. A. R. shall not be perpetuated, and this is well — let it perish and stand in memory unique among organizations of men in all ages, for any such continuance would savor of false pretenses.** He closed with the usual expressions of appreciation of the soldiers as men and as patriots.

Frank H. Williams said that Memorial Day means that we have an opportunity not only to honor those of the Union soldiers who are gone, but as well, those who are living, and we ought both to strew flowers and to say “Well done, good and faithful servants.” We can cite events in the lives of the great leaders, recall incidents of their early lives which seem to foreshadow their greatness, and like to do all this, and it is well; but we should also often pause and think of the sacrifices and the hardships of those in the rear ranks — and he proceeded with a well spoken apotheosis of the private soldier. He called attention to the graves of veterans in the Allegan cemetery which are unmarked or unkept, and suggested that the people of the city would be glad to subscribe a proper sum and place it in the hands of the cemetery trustees who would willingly see that proper care is given. Attention was called to the fact that of the 2,700,000 recruits to the Union Army only one fourth were more than twenty-one

nations, but they will be waged not by the sword but by the light of reason and right. Rev. J. W. Vickers spoke first of his respect for "the little **brown** button" and the reverence with which all seemed to join in the ceremonies of the day in the cemetery, and then of what is regarded as the glory of war. "But you soldiers surely are less inclined to consider the glory than you are to recall the horrors and to join in the sentiment of Grant, your great captain, 'Let us have peace.' " He referred to the vast area over which the war for the Union was waged, comparing it to the small territory within **which all the conflicts in England and France** had been waged. In the latter Case, the area was less than that of the state of Maryland, while the Civil War extended over a territory greater than that of the whole British Isles. The value of human liberty is the central thought of the day, for the greatest result of the Civil War in America is the establishment, today, of human liberty and constitutional government in well-nigh the whole earth. Mr. Vickers congratulated the veterans

CHICORA-Memorial Day program Address by Rev. Wright of Bloomingdale.

Memorial Day was observed by the Chapin Post, G. A. R., at the Lindsley schoolhouse last Monday. The rain at one o'clock interfered with the program somewhat, but the house was well filled and the exercises enjoyed by all. Rev. F. L. Wright of Bloomingdale delivered an excellent address. The Cheshire glee club furnished music. At the close of the exercises the graves of the veterans were decorated with flags and flowers. There are less than a score of soldiers left and the number is decreasing. Memorial Day was observed Sunday at the Lindsley schoolhouse with a sermon by Rev. Wright. A crowded house enjoyed one of the best sermons ever heard here, being scholarly as well as very interesting



GAR Chapin Post-Cheshire, Michigan-Memorial Day ceremony 1905 at Lindsley Schoolhouse, Cheshire, MI. Third from left is Cyrus S. Klapp (1841-1929)-Pvt. 44th Indiana Infantry, 4th from left is Henry P. Gillespie (1847-1919)-Pvt., Co. A, 13th Michigan Infantry. This Memorial Day ceremony was held 40 years after the end of the Civil War and just 18 months after the Wright Brothers first flight at Kitty Hawk.