

# 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. 4

July, 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: Gary Swain
- Graves Registration: Gary Swain
- Color Bearer: Glenn Hall
- Historian: Gary Gibson
- Chaplin: Bill Brennan
- Asst. Chaplin: Jeffry Baker
- Council: Bill Costello, Robert Townsend
- Signals Officer: John Keith

## 2019 Camp Schedule

- July 9, 2019      Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM  
\*Note: July meeting delayed one week due to July 4th celebration
- July 20, 2019      Special tour of Michigan Battle Flags  
11:00 am-Lansing
- August 3, 2019      Grave Dedication, 3:00 pm Allegan
- August 4, 2019      Grave Dedication-Constantine, MI
- August 6, 2019      Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
- August 8-11, 2019      **National Encampment, Cleveland, 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**

## 2019 National Encampment

**Cleveland, Ohio**

**August 8-11, 2019**

For all of the exciting details about the 2019 National Encampment please visit the following link:

<http://2019nationalencampment.org/#>



## Upcoming Events

### Michigan Civil War Battle Flag Tour

**Meet Us in Lansing:** Camp 20 has scheduled an exclusive tour of the original



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

Michigan Regimental Battle Flags currently preserved in the Michigan Historical Center located at 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing MI. The tour is scheduled for 11:00 am on Saturday, July 20, 2019. The tour is at capacity so

no new reservations are available. **Participants will meet on the steps of the Michigan Historical Center at 10:45 am.**

### Grand Rapids Civil War Roundtable

#### Schedule of Speakers

Summer Hiatus-July-August

Next Meeting Wed., September 18, 2019-Program to be Announced

### Kalamazoo Civil War Roundtable

#### Schedule of Speakers

Summer Hiatus –July –August

Next Meeting: Friday, September 21, 2019-Program to be Announced

## 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.



## 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

July 3rd (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

July 4th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Independence Day - Museum

Open July 4th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Living History Program on G.A.R. Island Park

July 10th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

July 13th (11 AM) - Offsite Program at Vandalia Underground Railroad Festival

July 16th (7 PM) - Speaker Program: (Jim Pula - The Eleventh Corps at Chancellorsville)

July 24th (7 AM - 9 AM) - Presentation to Eaton Rapids Rotary

August 2019 August 7th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

August 13th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Civil War Discovery Camp

August 14th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

September 4th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

September 8th, 9th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Offsite Program: Dearborn Old Car Festival

September 11th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

September 14th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Urban Air Festival

September 15th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Urban Air Festival

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

October 2nd (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

October 9th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

October 19th (8 PM - Midnight) - Ghost Tour at Museum

November 6th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

November 11th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Veterans Day

November 13th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

November 19th (7 PM) - Speaker Program: (Quita Shier - Warriors in Mr. Lincoln's Army: Stories of Native Americans who fought in the Civil War)

## Special Message

### Michigan's GAR Museum

Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum will host its annual 4th of July Civil War living history event on GAR Island in Eaton Rapids. Reenactors are invited to participate and interact with the public. Hudson's Battery (Battery B, 1st Michigan Light Artillery) will be present to demonstrate cannon firing. Reenactors who would like to participate can visit the museum's Facebook page and find the pre-registration information. The public is invited to this free event, following the annual independence Day parade in Eaton Rapids.

The museum is also preparing for its annual Civil War Day of Discovery. On Wednesday, Aug. 14, a day-long event for 8 to 12 year - olds will take place on GAR Island in Eaton Rapids, from 10am to 3pm. The cost is \$20 per child and lunch will be provided. The children will learn about the life of a soldier, learn the basics of drill and participate in a battle. Each child, with the permission of a parent or guardian, will have the opportunity to fire a Civil War musket assisted and supervised by a reenactor, with the child pulling only the trigger. Pre- registration is required. The form and additional information is available on the museum's Facebook page.

Gary Gibson

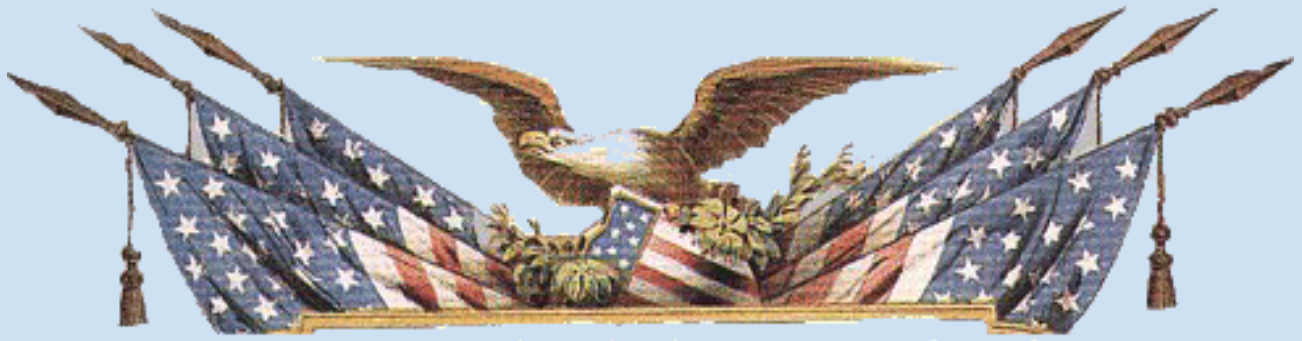
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/GARBrainerdPost111MemorialHallAndMuseum>

### 2019 Seminar Programs

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) - Speaker Program: ***Warriors in Mr. Lincoln's Army: Stories of Native Americans who fought in the Civil War*** (Speaker: Quita Shier)



## CAMP ACTIVITIES

### Graves Registration Update

It was announced at the May Camp meeting that there were a significant number of cemeteries listed in each county within the camp's area of responsibility which showed no record of Civil War soldier burials. These included: Kalamazoo County-16 cemeteries, Allegan County-24 cemeteries, Van Buren County-4 cemeteries and Kent County 20 cemeteries. It is assumed , for a variety of reasons, that some of these cemeteries actually do not contain Civil War burials. However, each needs to be surveyed in detail to assure that our records are complete.

Over the past 60 days several Camp 20 brothers have volunteered their time and efforts to survey these target cemeteries. This has resulted in the additional of Civil War soldiers as outlined below:

Kalamazoo County	Portage City	Portage Central Cemetery	1
		Dry Prairie Cemetery	3
Allegan County	Gun Plain Township	Ives Cemetery	2
Van Buren County	Paw Paw Township	Cuddeback Cemetery	8
		Pioneer Old Town	2

In addition to the above new registrations, two cemeteries were surveyed and removed from the target list as containing no appropriate burials. This priority project is proceeding at a steady pace and is picking up momentum as additional Camp Brothers volunteer and the weather becomes more cooperative.



# Orcutt Monument

Benjamin Orcutt was a veteran of both the Mexican War and the Civil War. He served as Lt. Col of Kalamazoo's own 13th Michigan Infantry Regiment. He survived both wars and was elected as Sheriff of Kalamazoo immediately following the Civil War. Sadly, in 1867 he was murdered in a jail break and his assailant was never found. The G. A. R Post in Kalamazoo was named after him.

Buried in the Mountain Home Cemetery, Orcutt's monument and gravestone sit facing W. Main Street and have been exposed to 150 years of auto exhaust and other road and neighborhood pollutants. His marble monument was created with a limestone base and both definitely show the effects of age and pollution. It was apparent that this would be very difficult to clean as the stains were deeply imbedded in the stone, yet we wanted to avoid significant surface brushing to avoid eroding the stone any more than time and weather have already accomplished. Ultimately, we were forced to try the poultice method for removing most of the worse stains.



Orcutt monument prior to cleaning. Pollutants have deeply penetrated the stone.



Some areas of the monument were so deeply stained black that they defied cleaning, so we created a poultice from Orvus Paste, wrapped it with plastic wrap, and recleaned it after waiting for 24 hours.



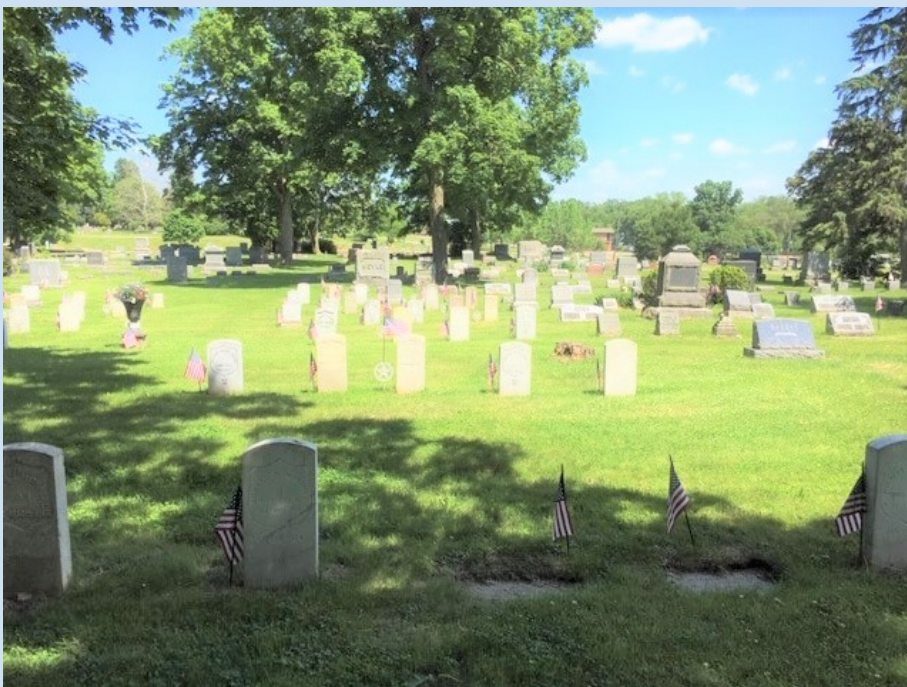
The first stage of the Orcutt monument cleaning produced significantly improved results and the poultice application around the center of the monument resulted in substantial whitening of the ring. Therefore, we will add a second cleaning preceded by a poultice application in a larger area in the near future.



## GAR Presentation to Kiwanis



Brother Gary Gibson PCC PDC presented a program in June to the Sunrise Kiwanis of Kalamazoo on the history of the GAR. This presentation was followed by a tour of the Riverside GAR lot and the biographies of many of the Civil War soldiers buried in the lot.



# CAMP ACTIVITIES

## CONTINUED

Recently a local citizen requested the camp's help in resetting her Civil War ancestors gravestone. The gravestone of Pvt. Lindsley B. Hutton of Co. F, 113 Ohio Infantry,



which is located in the Genesee Prairie Cemetery in Oshtemo, MI had sunken into the ground where much of its face was obscured. The stone was in danger of eventually disappearing altogether as only 10 inches of the tablet stone was visible above ground. Brothers Robert Townsend, Michael Culp, Gary Swain and Sister Patti Townsend unearthed the stone, and reset and cleaned it.



The Gravestone of Pvt. Lindsley B. Hutton reset, cleaned and looking almost new again.

# Camp 20 Supports DAR Dedication

The Lucinda Hinsdale Stone Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution reset, cleaned and placed a marker for Revolutionary War soldier and early Michigan and Kalamazoo pioneer Ezekiel Ransom. Ransom served in both the Vermont Militia and the 6th Massachusetts Regiment. He was also the father of Epaphroditus Ransom, the only Michigan governor from Kalamazoo.

The dedication was held on Sunday, June 9, 2019 and was well attended including descendants of Ezekiel Ransom. Our camp was represented by Commander Michael Culp, PCC John Keith, PCC Gary Swain and Brothers Tom Bruce, Jay Miller, Dave Delemme and Rick Leber. Camp 20 Brothers Culp and Swain also provided material support and training in gravestone cleaning.



Suzanne Norton, Kathy Noble and Gloria Culp of the N. S. D. A. R, L. H. Stone chapter and Michael Culp of S. U. V. C. W., Camp 20.



Ezekiel Ransom Gravestone cleaned and reset.





# Happy Independence Day



**July 4th, 1863**

## **Vicksburg, Mississippi**

On July 4th, 1863 the Battle of Gettysburg had been over for a day when Union General Ulysses S. Grant notified President Lincoln that Vicksburg, Mississippi had surrendered its last bastion on the Mississippi River. Strategically, even more important than Gettysburg, Vicksburg was an important rail hub and a bastion controlling the bluffs overlooking and controlling traffic on the Mississippi. Grant's conquest of Vicksburg split the Confederacy in half, allowed complete control and usage of the Mississippi River to the Union and captured over 30,000 Confederate troops.



**Vicksburg, Mississippi 1860**