

# Michigan's Messenger

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

Volume 2 Number 1

August 1993

Michigan Department  
General Orders #1  
Series 1993/1994

Headquarters  
404 Kenway Drive  
Lansing, MI 48917

1. Elected and appointed officers of the Department of Michigan are as listed in the minutes of the 104th Encampment held in Lansing, June 12, 1993. Committee appointments are included. (Also, see Department Secretary Richard Williams Highlights of the Department Encampment on page 5.) In addition, Bro. James T. Lyons is hereby appointed as my representative to the Commander's Group.

2. The Department voted in encampment to participate with other Allied Orders in adopting a flag of the Civil War era for preservation. This important project requires our active involvement in fund raising. This also calls attention to two other fund raising projects which remain open ended, i. e. a) the drive to raise funds to purchase a new Department Flag (which was purchased), and b) the drive to raise funds to defray the costs of the GAR plaque placed in the Capitol (which was purchased and installed). Donations will be appreciated. Please send these to Secretary/Treasurer Richard Williams.

3. The second annual mid-winter officers training meeting is scheduled for February 12, 1994 at the Midway Motor Lodge, Lansing, from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm. The Annual Washington-Lincoln dinner will follow that evening. Plan to attend by marking your calendar now.

4. Bro. John Mann is hereby commended for yeoman efforts in developing a revised SUVCW recruiting brochure, a revised grave registration form and continued work on the SUVCW application. You are a hard man to keep up with, John. Thanks!

5. Designation of a major highway, perhaps US-12, as the Iron Brigade Highway continues to be a major effort in concert with officers of the 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry reenactment community. Past efforts of Bro. Michael Nye, a member of the Michigan Legislature as well as a member of Austin Blair Camp No. 7, are appreciated. In addition, diligent research by Bro. Kent Armstrong, inter-

state efforts by Bro. Lyons and involvement by Bro. Jack Patch are hereby commended. Any assistance you can lend these brothers in this effort will be appreciated. This is a Department project.

6. Congratulations again to this year's winners of the coveted Abraham Lincoln Award, Bro. Leo Cohoon, PCC, WA-BU-NO Camp No. 53, Kerry Chartkoff, archivist, Michigan State Capitol, and David Finney, historian, teacher and Civil War lecturer. An exemplary group for us to recognize!

7. The question of recommended dress guidelines was brought before the 104th Department Encampment and was adopted unanimously. Note these in the encampment minutes. These dress guidelines are not mandatory but provide a degree of public recognition. (The dress guideline amendment is printed in full on page 4.)

8. Bro. Lyons is hereby commended for working diligently, at considerable expense, to participate in a fund raising effort at the Midwestern Regional Civil War Roundtable in Monroe, MI. For these efforts, the Department will benefit financially. At the recent encampment, the Department voted to place these funds in an account to defray costs of replacing new grave markers. Thanks, Jim!

9. Bro. Armstrong, Austin Blair Camp No. 7 and President, 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, is commended for recently challenging the editor and publisher of Civil War News for printing data on values of GAR grave markers. Kent correctly pointed out that printing such articles only creates further demand for items which, when taken, desecrates the graves of our forefathers. Thanks, Kent!

10. Notice is again given of the upcoming SUVCW National Encampment, Portland, ME, August 13-15, 1993 at the Ramada Inn. Michigan should be well represented. Please consider joining us if at all possible. *(continued on page 2)*

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11. The Central Region Conference of the SUVCW and Auxiliary to the SUVCW will be held this year in Milwaukee, Wisconsin at the Manchester East Motel, October 2-3, 1993. This is an excellent opportunity for the members of the Sons and the Auxiliary from the Midwest to learn, share ideas and caucus. For details, see the September issue of the Banner.

12. I extend greetings and best wishes for a most productive year to Carol Santani, President of the Michigan Department, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War; and Betty Jean Beeler, President of the Michigan Department, Women's Relief Corps.

13. Department headquarters will be at my residence, 404 Kenway Drive, Lansing, MI 48917. My telephone number is (517) 321-6768.

By Order of:

*J. Douglas Park*  
Department Commander

### Rededication Of GAR Monument

Memorial Day was originally established as "Decoration Day" in 1868 to honor the soldiers and sailors of the Union who sacrificed their lives in the American Civil War of 1861 - 1865. This observance, begun by the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), was promoted in DeWitt, Michigan, by the George Anderson GAR Post #58 and its auxiliary, the Women's Relief Corps (WRC). These local patriotic organizations erected a marble and cement monument in the DeWitt City cemetery before they disbanded in 1909. As the legal successor to the GAR, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) was authorized to continue the tradition of perpetuating the memory of the GAR. Among its purposes is the care and upkeep of Civil War Memorials and Monuments.

Mr. Kent L. Armstrong, a native citizen of DeWitt and a member of the Michigan Department, Austin Blair Camp No. 7 in Jackson, Michigan, along with his friend and DeWitt resident, Mr. Pat Pierce, undertook the project of repairing and restoring the DeWitt GAR Monument. Years of neglect and harsh weather allowed small cracks to become large voids in the cement. Many years ago someone painted over the monument, preventing moisture

from escaping from the cement, which hastened the deterioration. Kent and Pat used special sand blasting equipment and other masonry tools and restoration materials donated by Darling Builders Supply Co. of Lansing, Michigan.

On the sunny morning of May 22, 1993, a rededication observance was held at the refurbished GAR/WRC Monument. An introduction was given by DeWitt Mayor Gerald M. Nester, who then introduced SUVCW National Secretary James T. Lyons and Bro. Kent Armstrong, both of whom spoke briefly with speeches befitting the occasion. A Civil War Honor Guard was provided by the 24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry reenactment unit, which included several soldiers who were also members of Austin Blair Camp No. 7: Bros. Brian Coleman, Terry Giffin, Mark Pangburn and Gary Winzeler. A wreath was laid at the monument, a drummer beat a long roll, a musket volley was fired and finally, a bugler sounded "Taps", which echoed throughout the wooded site.

A Certificate of Merit was issued to Kent from National Commander-in-Chief Elmer Atkinson, citing his exemplary actions in this project which ultimately pay tribute to the memory of our forefathers and ancestors.

This project should serve as an example for other SUVCW brothers to take the initiative with similar restoration projects in their communities.

In F., C. and L.

*Mark Pangburn*  
Austin Blair Camp No. 7

### Civil War Trivia

Little known facts about the Civil War:

- The official name of the war was "The War of the Rebellion".
- George Armstrong Custer was the Union's youngest general at 21.
- Paul Revere's grandson died at Gettysburg.
- Mount Vernon was declared "neutral territory".
- Julia Ward Howe sold "Battle Hymn of the Republic" for \$4.00.

Source: World Features Syndicate

Organized 1881 - the only male organization recognized by and representing the Grand Army of the Republic.

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## Fellow Officers and Brothers:

I wish to thank all the Brothers attending the 104th Michigan Department Encampment in Lansing, June 12, 1993 and their vote of confidence in my behalf. As I stated during comments after the initiation of Department Officers, I see this position as merely the officer at the bridge of a great flag ship which has already been launched and guided by seasoned hands. This ship has many other officers who, in turn, manage key stations. None of our respective stations can operate on auto pilot for very long before the entire operation begins to malfunction. So, fellow officers, let's all recognize this great Department of Michigan has, is and will always move forward not just by direction from one man, but from all of us working together toward common goals.

Those common goals, I believe, are the continued development of new Camps, the building of present Camps, bringing recognition to our Order by events which capture the public's attention and imagination and, most importantly, conducting ourselves at all times so as to honor those who wore the blue so many years ago.

In the next year, I want to attend meetings of as many Camps as I can. I would hope other Department Officer desire to do the same. I also would like to facilitate efforts to charter new Camps. This is one of the fastest methods by which our Department can grow numerically. For that, we need the help of all members to recruit and enlist candidates and to train and install new Camp Officers.

We must also be sure the Department operations are both productive and cost efficient. It will be incumbent on us all to consider all proposed projects on that basis. For this reason and because most Camps are served by outstanding newsletters, the Michigan Messenger will be distributed only to elected Department Officers, Past Department Commanders, the Department Council and Camp Commanders and Secretary's. This will eliminate duplication of information, reduce Department expenses bring our budget into balance and allay any possible concern for increased per capita tax. This decision will not have any adverse effect on Department and Camp operations, provided Camp Officers continue their fine job of keeping Camp members informed. Where Camps have not yet initiated newsletters, this policy will be held in abeyance pending newsletter development.

Thank you again for your trust. I look forward to a very exciting year and an opportunity to work alongside many, many friends. I also expect those same friends to drop me a note or give me a call when you think I or we can improve on Department operations. Keep up the good work and keep the great ideas flowing! It's the work and ideas that are behind our Department growth, not blind luck.

Please note the publication deadlines for the Michigan's Messenger and submit your ideas in a timely fashion for sharing with other members.

Respectfully submitted in F., C. & L.

*J. Douglas Park*  
Department Commander



## Newsletter Submissions

Quarterly publication dates for Michigan's Messenger will be August 1st, November 1st, February 1st and May 1st. All members are encouraged to submit articles of interest on the Civil War, GAR, SUVCW, Allied Orders of the GAR, etc.

Subjects for article submission should be of interest to all Michigan Department members. Articles of limited interest, i.e. of interest mainly to members of one Camp, should be printed in that respective Camp's newsletter.

The cut off date for inclusion in Michigan's Messenger will be 14 days prior to the publication date. If you have articles or information that have a time factor, please make sure the submission arrives prior to the cut off date. Submissions will be printed on a space available basis, with the number of pages printed dependent on Department finances.

Articles and information should be sent to either:

Kent Armstrong  
P. O. Box 618  
DeWitt, MI 48820

OR  
John Mann  
2495 S. Washington Rd.  
Lansing, MI 48911

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

*Kent Armstrong*  
*John Mann*  
Coeditors

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### Dress Guideline

While the Department of Michigan shall have no required dress code, the Department shall have an optional dress guideline for all Camps within the Department. The dress shall consist of: a hat, of the Civil War period Union Army kepi style, dark blue in color. The kepi may be decorated with any of the following: a hat badge, consisting of an open top wreath encircling the letters SUV, of gold color, affixed to the front center of the kepi; a Department of Michigan Cap Mark, of the Civil War Union Army VII Corp style, consisting of a crescent moon over a five pointed star, affixed to the top center of the kepi. The corps badge shall be red with optional gold edging and silver star. Jacket shall be civilian blazer or a Civil War period Union Army four button fatigue blouse (also known as a sack coat), dark blue in color, and, optional, affixed to the right collar the letters MICH and affixed to the left collar the letters NO. followed by the member's Camp number, 1/2" in height, of gold color. Dress style slacks, of dark blue or black color, a dress style shirt, solid white in color, a necktie, of subdued colors or preferably, of the SUVCW pattern, and leather dress style shoes of black or brown color complete the dress. White dress gloves also may be worn. The above is a guideline and shall not be construed to be required dress by any member.



### SUV Hat Badges

Orders are again being taken for hat badges. The price is still \$16.50 each. As before, no individual orders please. One person from each Camp should handle all orders for members of that Camp. There will be no cut off date for orders. Orders will be taken as long as there is a demand. However, the badges must be ordered in lots of 25 to maintain the \$16.50 price. Because of this, there could be a wait of several weeks between ordering and delivery. The Camp will be responsible for postage.

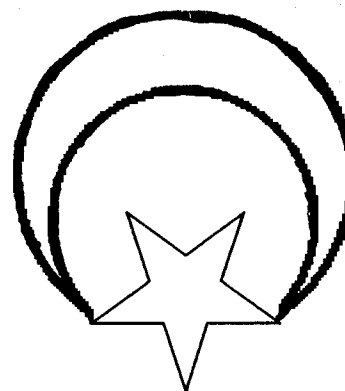
Checks should be made out to: Department of Michigan, SUVCW. Please make a notation on the check that it is for SUV hat badges and the number of badges desired, i.e. "12 SUV hat badges".

Send orders to: Richard Williams  
Department Secretary/Treasurer  
1917 Teel Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48910

### Michigan Department Cap Marks

At the 104th Annual Department Encampment, the Seventh Corps insignia was readopted as the Michigan Department Cap Mark.

For those brothers that wish, an embroidered cap mark is available, through the efforts of Bro. Gary Gibson. These are made with non tarnishing thread. The crescent moon is red with gold edging. The star is of silver thread. See the drawing below.



(Drawing not to scale)

The price is \$17.00 each. No individual orders please. One person from each Camp should handle all orders for members of that Camp. There will be no cut off date for orders. Orders will be taken as long as there is a demand. The Camp will be responsible for postage.

Checks should be made out to: Department of Michigan, SUVCW. Please make a notation on the check that it is for cap marks and the number of cap marks desired, i.e. "12 cap marks".

Send orders to: Richard Williams  
Department Secretary/Treasurer  
1917 Teel Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48910



### Messenger Recipients

Please pass this copy of Michigan's Messenger on to other members of your Camp so that they may read it. Also, feel free to make photocopies for distribution to Camp members.

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## From the Department Secretary

The 1993 Department Encampment minutes will be sent to Camp Commanders, Camp Secretaries and Department Officers in about a month. The proceedings will be over 50 pages long.

### Election of new Officers:

Department Commander	J. Douglas Park
Senior Vice Commander	William Brennan
Junior Vice Commander	David F. Wallace
Secretary-Treasurer	Richard Williams
Assistant Secretary	Vaughn Rawson
Department Council	James Neely
Department Council	David Downing
Department Council	Don Workman

### Staff Appointments:

Commander elect Park announced the following appointments:

Chief of Staff	Keith Harrison
Camp Organizer	James Lyons
Patriotic Instructor	Ron Berridge
Chaplain	Rev. Rinewald
Counselor	James Pahl
Historian	Dean Lamphere
Guide	Ron Bellinger
Guard	Howard Streeter
Color Bearer	Leo Cohoon

### Committee Assignments:

Publications: Rus Gregory, John Mann, Kent Armstrong, Richard Williams and Don Everett.

GAR Memorial and Graves Registration: James Lyons, Gary Gibson, Dean Lamphere, Bernie McCarthy and Wayne Barret.

Bylaws: William Brennan, James Neal, James Lyons and Keith Harrison.

Membership: David Wallace and all Camp Junior Vice Commanders.

Legislative: Douglas Park, Richard Williams, James Neely, John Mann and Jerry Roe.

Camp Organizations: James Lyons, Keith Harrison, David Wallace and Don Workman.

GAR and SV Archival: Roger Heiple, Mark Bennetts and Don Workman.

National Encampment Committee Chair: Jim Lyons.

### Highlights of the Encampment:

1. A motion was passed to change the wording of the SVR in the Department Bylaws.
2. A Department of Michigan dress guideline was passed.

3. The readoption of the Seventh Corps badge. The corps badge was adopted under the Uniform Guideline amendment.

4. A proposed Constitution and Regulation amendment to create a membership category of Junior member was passed and forwarded to the National Encampment.

5. A change in the Constitution to change the language for Associates was passed and forwarded to the National Encampment.

6. An amendment to the Michigan Bylaws to establish a Member-at-Large Camp within the Department of Michigan was passed.

7. Endorsements for the positions of National Commander-in-Chief, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief and Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, passed and will be brought up at the National Encampment.

8. A change in the Bylaws to address dissolution and disposition of Department assets was passed. This was needed to satisfy a requirement by the State of Michigan Gaming Commission in order for us to obtain a raffle license.

9. A letter from the Department of Indiana endorsing Allen Moore for the National office of Commander-in-Chief also was endorsed by the Department of Michigan.

10. Resolution from Ohio Department to support for the position of National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, David R. Medert also adopted by the Department of Michigan.

11. A proposed amendment to modify the reporting times for Camp Treasurer to be transactions since the last Camp meeting, passed and will be forwarded to the National Encampment.

12. Endorsement for National Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief of Keith Harrison, passed.

13. Recommendation on having the Daughters and Sons jointly adopt a Michigan battle flag to restore, passed. Funds are to be raised by Camps and not taken from the general fund.

14. We are to go on record as opposing the Johnson's Island project by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

15. GAR records committee is trying to locate all GAR records and is asking for help. The Department Historian will coordinate efforts with Camp historians and report to the next Dept. Encampment.

### Special Fund Allocations:

At last year's encampment a GAR plaque was dedicated at the Capitol. Individual contributions were collected in honor of family members who served during the Civil War to pay for the plaque. An additional \$44.86 was (continued on page 6)

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used from the general fund to pay for the plaque. Additional individual contributions to offset the general fund amount used will be welcome.

The Department flag was purchased prior to last year's encampment. The amount of money collected from individuals fell short of the total due and \$132.00 was used from the general fund. Additional contributions to the flag fund will be gratefully accepted.

### Department of Michigan Camps

Camp totals at the end of the 1st quarter 1993:	
Austin Blair Camp No. 7	26
George W. Howe Camp No. 9	1
Robert Finch Camp No. 14	15
Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17	67
Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20	26
Colegrove-Woodruff Camp No. 22	18
WA-BU-NO Camp No. 53	12
Ulysses S. Grant Camp No. 101	18
Governor Crapo Camp No. 145	28
New Camps added during the 2nd quarter 1993:	
Henry E. Plant Camp No. 3	8
Nash-Hodges Camp No. 43	15

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

*Richard Williams*  
Department Secretary/Treasurer

### We've Drank from the Same Canteen

There are bonds of all sorts in this world of ours,  
Fetters of friendship and ties of flowers,  
And true lover's knots, I ween.  
The girl and boy are bound by a kiss,  
But there's never a bond old friend like this—  
We have drank from the same canteen.

It was sometimes water, and sometimes milk,  
And sometimes apple-jack fine as silk.  
But, whatever the tipples has been,  
We shared it together, in bane or bliss,  
And I warm to you friend, when I think of this,  
We have drank from the same canteen.

The rich and the great sit down to dine,  
And they quaff to each other in sparkling wine,  
From glasses of crystal and green.  
But I guess in their golden potations they miss  
The warmth of regard to be found in this—  
We have drank from the same canteen.

### Sons of Veterans Reserve News

The Michigan Department Color Guard, Sons of Veterans Reserve, has functioned on several occasions in the past few weeks. The highlights include the 125th Anniversary observance of Memorial Day at the Capitol in Lansing. Six reservists participated in the event.

The Reserves also presented the Colors at the Allied Orders Banquet at the 104th Department Encampment. There were seven reservists present.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those SVR members who participate on behalf of the Department. You add so much to the programs.

If you do not currently belong to the Department Guard, please consider membership in the SVR. We carry with us a long and honored tradition not only in the SUVCW, but in our nation's history as well.

For membership information, please contact:

Lt. Gary L. Gibson, Adjutant  
1713 Dorchester #2  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

In F., C. & L.

*Gary Gibson*



We have shared our blankets and tents together,  
And have marched and fought in all kinds of weather  
And hungry and full we have been;  
Had days of battle and days of rest;  
But this memory I will cling to, and love the best—  
We have drank from the same canteen.

For when wounded I lay on the outer slope,  
With my blood flowing fast, and but little hope  
Upon which my faint spirit could lean,  
Oh, then I remember you crawled to my side,  
And, bleeding so fast it seemed both must have died,  
We drank from the same canteen.

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## Calender of Events

### August 13, 14 and 15

#### National Encampment of Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Ramada Inn and Conference Center, 1230 Congress Street, Portland, Maine.

### August 28 and 29

#### Civil War reenactment and gun show.

Jackson Cascades Park, Jackson, Michigan. Austin Blair Camp No. 7 will host the Department SUVCW recruiting tent.

### September 11 and 12

#### Marshall Home Tour and GAR Museum Open House.

Marshall, Michigan. Colegrove-Woodruff Camp No. 22 will host the Department SUVCW recruiting tent on the grounds of the GAR Hall, 402 East Michigan Ave.

### September 25 & 26

#### Michigan Civil War Collectors Show

Oakland Center Building, Oakland University, Rochester, Michigan. 150 tables of Civil War relics and memorabilia to buy, sell and trade. Guns, bayonets, paper items, swords, buttons, images, books and related items. Many fine Civil War and Historical Displays. Revolutionary War through 1898 allowed. 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Saturday and 9:00 am to 3:00 pm Sunday.

### September 26

#### Cemetery Rededication.

Rose Hill Cemetery, 5800 N. Ravenswood, Chicago. The George A. Custer Camp No. 1, Illinois Dept., SUVCW, is hosting a ceremony rededicating 228 replaced and reset headstones of Civil War Veterans.

### October 2 and 3

#### SUVCW Central Region Conference.

Manchester East Hotel, 7055 North Port Washington Road Glendale, Wisconsin (a northern suburb of Milwaukee). Please see the September issue of the Banner for details.

### October 11

#### Austin Blair Camp No. 7 Special Presentation

7:00pm in the Basement Auditorium, Jackson District Library, 244 West Michigan Ave., Jackson, Mi. Program by Mrs. Kerry Chartkoff of the Michigan Capitol Committee, "Save the Flags" campaign. All SUV members and the public are invited to attend. Members are encouraged to bring their wives.

### November 11

#### Remembrance Day (Veterans Day).

Each Camp to plan local observances.

### February 12, 1994

#### Michigan Dept., SUVCW, Midwinter Conference.

Midway Motor Lodge, 7711 West Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan. The conference will be held from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm with the Annual Washington-Lincoln Dinner following that evening. All Camp Officers are encouraged to attend this workshop to exchange ideas on the running of Camps and recruiting procedures.

### May 30, 1994

#### Memorial Day.

Each Camp to plan local observances.

### June 13, 1994

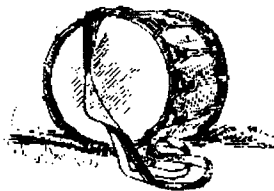
#### 105th Michigan Dept., SUVCW Encampment.

Holiday Inn West, 7501 West Saginaw, Lansing. Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Women's Relief Corps Department Encampments also held concurrently, with the Women's Relief Corps as the host Order.

### August 11, 12 and 13, 1994

#### National Encampment of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Holiday Inn South (former Clarion Hotel), 6820 South Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan. Ladies of the GAR Auxiliary to the SUVCW and WRC Encampments will also be held at the Holiday Inn South. The DUVCW Encampment will be held at the Sheraton Inn, Creyts Road and I-496, Lansing.



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## Civil War Data Base to Provide Connection to the Past

Washington - The name of Confederate soldier Edwin F. Jemison was the first to be punched into the computer Wednesday. A Louisiana soldier, he was killed at age 18 at Malvern Hill, Va., in 1862.

With the entry of Jemison's name, a database was launched for the Civil War Soldiers System that will include an estimated 3.5 million Americans who fought in the Civil War.

By early 1996, people who believe their ancestors fought for the blue or the gray should be able to look up their names using computers at the National Park Service's 28 Civil War sites.

"It's been estimated that up to 100 million people may be descendants from Civil War soldiers," said John Peterson, project manager for the Civil War Soldiers System.

With the database, people will be able to learn their ancestors' regiments and the battles they fought in, Peterson said, giving them "a personal connection to a great, historical event."

The original records, handwritten on index cards, are stored at the national Archives, which receives nearly 1,500 inquires each week relating to the Civil War.

Hundreds of genealogists, history buffs and others have volunteered to use their home computers to type the names onto computer diskettes - donating work that park service officers estimate is worth \$4.5 million.

One of those volunteers is Detroit Celestine Hollings, who while looking through old census and court records eight years ago learned that her grandfather Jacob Allen was a Civil War veteran from Kentucky.

"I felt so much pride that I had an ancestor who had helped to save our flag and fought for our country," said Hollings, who is a member of the National Society of the Daughters of the Union and the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Now Hollings, 73, can't wait to help others make the same discovery. She will be among several Michigan volunteers helping out on the index.

The volunteer effort in Michigan is headed by the Michigan Genealogical Council and the Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society, one of two societies in the Midwest exclusively devoted to black genealogical research.

"There were a lot of African Americans participating in the Civil War," said Roy Roulhac, president of the Fred Hart Society. "This will make it more easily accessible for people researching."

Alfred Freeman, president of the Michigan Council, which is an umbrella organization for the states genealogical societies, pointed out that Michigan was on the Underground Railroad, and sent many troops to battle, including the First Michigan Colored Infantry, which later changed its name to the 102nd U. S. Colored Troop.

Jemison, the first soldier in the system, was chosen to begin the database because his photograph is widely recognized. The image of his boyish face, staring seriously into the camera from beneath a Confederate cap, has appeared frequently in books and documentaries.

Parks Service Director Roger Kennedy typed Jemison's entry during a news conference at Ford's Theater, where Abraham Lincoln was assassinated in 1865.

The Civil War Soldiers System marks a transition from "an obsession with heroes" to "a new kind of history in which the common people who built the place have their role," Kennedy said.

The Civil War Trust, a nonprofit historical association, is raising money to pay for computer terminals in the parks.

The National Archives, the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Genealogical Society of Utah, a corporation of the Mormon Church, are also guiding the project.

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If you want more information or want to volunteer to help with the Civil War Soldiers System project, contact: the Michigan Genealogical Council, Box 80953, Lansing, Michigan 48908-0953; or the Federation of Genealogical Societies, Box 3385, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110-3385.

Source: Detroit Free Press

*Organized 1881 - the only male organization recognized by and representing the Grand Army of the Republic.*