

Michigan's Messenger

The Newsletter of the Department of Michigan ~ Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil



Volume VI Number 3

February 1998

DEPARTMENT ORDERS NO. 3 SERIES 1997/1998

1. Once again I have the sad duty to direct that all Camp charters be draped for a period of thirty days of mourning. Brother Oliver W. Hayes, II, passed away on 30 November 1997 at Okemos, Michigan. He was a Life Member of Governor Henry H. Crapo Camp 145, Department of Michigan.

2. It was a pleasure to participate, on behalf of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, at a Veterans Day Sunday Service conducted on 2 November by our own Rev. Henry L. Reinewald, SUVCW Chaplain Emeritus. Some fifty patriotic organizations shared in the service which was held at the Grace United Church of Christ, Grosse Pointe Park. Following the service, a new flagpole outside the church was dedicated.

3. Wa-Bu-No Camp 53 provided another opportunity to share in a ceremony as they held their Fifth Annual Veterans Remembrance Day service. It was conducted on 9 November at the grave of Thomas Wabuno and the reclaimed GAR gravesites in Riverside Cemetery, Mt. Pleasant. The other participants included State Representative James McBryde, Rev. James Pego who gave the address, Camp Commander Wayne Nash who dedicated the reclaimed gravesites, Brother Wayne J. Barrett who placed a flag with holder at the gravesite, a contingent from the Sons of Veterans Reserve and others from the Camp.

4. A different type of ceremony took place at Oak Hill Cemetery in Battle Creek on 1 November. Brothers from six SUVCW Camps joined with members of the Sons of Confederate Veterans and others to dedicate a Confederate-style marker at the grave of James Hall Reed. After serving with the 14th Mississippi Infantry during the Civil War, Reed became a physician and eventually established a medical practice in Battle Creek where he became a community leader. A Confederate flag, which along with Old Glory had draped his casket, was on display. (The grave of Sojourner Truth is just a few yards away from Dr. Reed's grave.)

5. The Commanders Group met twice recently. The first meeting was held at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans and

was followed by the Annual Conference conducted for the State Commanders, Adjutants, and others by the Board of Managers and staff of the Home. A special meeting was held a month later at the VFW state headquarters in Lansing.

6. Camp Commanders, Secretaries, and Treasurers are reminded to fill out their Quarterly Reports, Form 27-28, **completely** and to submit them (with payments) **timely**. Brother Richard F. Lee, Department Secretary, asks that they be sent in time to reach him by the **10th** of January, April, July, and October. He needs them on schedule in order to prepare and submit the Department's consolidated reports to the National Secretary on time. Similarly, both copies of "Report of Camp Installing Officer," Form 22, need to be completed and returned to the Department Secretary soon after installation of Camp officers.

7. All Brothers are encouraged to attend the Department's upcoming Midwinter Conference at the Midway Hotel in Lansing on 21 February. It will take place from 1:00 to 4:30 pm and be followed by the annual George Washington/Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Dinner. The deadline for dinner reservations is 16 February.

8. A special committee, the Weekend of Remembrance Committee, has been established to manage the Department's role in the 1998 Weekend of Remembrance. The event is co-sponsored with the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, State of Michigan, and will take place at the Home during a summer weekend. The Committee members are Lee Stroschine, Liaison Officer, as chairman, and PC-in-C Keith Harrison, Gregory Hayes, Richard Lee and JVC William Morris.

9. Another special committee, the Central Region Conference Study Committee, has been appointed. This committee will investigate the feasibility of the Department again hosting a Central Region Conference. The Committee will consist of Bill Lowe, chairman and William Costello, JVC William Morris, John Nash and John Obermeyer.

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DEPARTMENT ORDERS

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10. The Department's Graves Registration Committee needs more members to assist with its statewide activities. Anyone in the Department who is interested and willing to serve on this committee is requested to contact Graves Registration Officer John Obermeyer or me.

11. Camps again are reminded of the importance of having up-to-date Bylaws. So far this year, I have approved new or amended Bylaws for four Camps and have another set to review. Those Camps with outdated or no Bylaws may contact other Camps for copies of theirs as examples.

12. All suggested Department Bylaws changes should be submitted soon to the Department Bylaws Committee which consists of SVC Kent Armstrong, chairman, and Wayne Barrett, Richard Egel, Todd Rakestraw and Scott Twietmeyer. The Committee must have them for consideration in time to send its proposed amendments to the Camp Commanders at least 60 days before the Department Encampment in June.

13. A change in procedure is being instituted for the preparation of the Department budget for 1998-99. Officers, committee chairmen, and any others affected by it are requested to submit their budget recommendations to James T. Williams, Department Treasurer, by **31 March**. A meeting with him and the Department Council then will be held well ahead of the Department Encampment. These new steps in the process are expected to result in a sound, realistic budget and a better understanding of it.

14. Archival facilities for the Department have gotten underway with Kim Shaw's donation of a filing cabinet and its transport to the GAR Hall in Marshall through the efforts of Edgar Dowd, JVC William Morris and William Costello. Sincere thanks to these Brothers for a job well done! Much remains to be decided and accomplished, however, before the archives become a functioning reality. Gary Holmes, Department Historian and PCC Roger Graves, in his position with the Marshall Historical Society, will have key roles in this.

15. It's time to think about possible recipients of the Department's *Abraham Lincoln Certificate of Appreciation Award*. This honor is conferred upon an individual or entity judged to have contributed significantly to the furtherance of the Grand Army of the Republic within Michigan. Any nomination must be submitted in the form of a one-page description of the contribution to the Department Secretary, Richard F. Lee, no later than two months prior to the Department Encampment. Honorees will be announced at the Allied Orders Banquet following the Encampment.

16. I again ask all Brothers to proudly display their American flags, especially during the upcoming holidays of Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, also known as Union Defenders Day, 12 February; Presidents' Day, 16 February; and George Washington's Birthday, 22 February.

By Order of:

Paul D. Hodges
Department Commander
20 December 1997

Attest:

Richard F. Lee
Department Secretary

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

A "Happy New Year," to everyone within the Department of Michigan! As in the past, I ask each Brother to add to his *resolutions*, the personal goal of bringing into the Order at least one new member or associate this year.

Looking Back — It was a true honor to take part in the Remembrance Day Observances at Gettysburg National Military Park this past November 15th. I encourage everyone to consider being involved in 1998.

Special Thanks go out to Past Department Commander Gary L. Gibson and PDC/GAR Records Officer, James T. Lyons, who agreed to attend a special meeting of the Allegan County Historical & Genealogical Society on November 11th. They provided a presentation on the SUVCW and the benefit of GAR records to genealogical research. A number of our brochures were distributed and we may know see another avenue of Civil War records research cooperation and possibly gain Members/Associates in the process. But, there is more to the story... One of my co-workers shared with me, a *Grand Rapids Press* article that highlighted the Allegan County Society recently receiving an original printing of the Memorial Record for the GAR Post (No. 74) in Wayland. I wrote an introductory letter to the Society, about our organization and inquired if we could record the contents of this special book. The visit by Brothers Gibson and Lyons "sealed the deal" and they were presented with a full set of photocopies, compliments of the Society. As I mentioned in the last *Messenger*, I hope that all our Camps will approach the historical/genealogical societies near them and share with these folks, what we are all about. The potential benefits are too important to overlook. Thank you.

Camp Information — Camp Commanders are respectfully reminded that the Department and National Secretaries need to be given the information requested in Commander-In-Chief Richard D. Orr's General Order #3, printed at the lower right corner of page 3 in the last issue of *The Banner*. The names and addresses for 1998 Camp Officers should also be sent to our Department Signals Officer, Bro. Charles Ten Brink, so he may promptly update that information on the Internet. As I mentioned in the November '97 issue of *Michigan's Messenger*, Junior Vice Department Commander William Morris needs to hear from you, regarding 1998 Annual Camp Dues rates and Application Fees (if they've been changed) so he may relay the correct information to applicants referred to him by the Junior Vice Commander-In-Chief. Addresses for Brothers Morris and Ten Brink have been listed in previous issues of this newsletter.

If you haven't already done so, please announce your Camp's 1998 Officers in your local paper (they may even have space for a group photo). Please include the telephone number of your Junior Vice Commander (or other designee) to receive inquiries for more information about your Camp and the SUVCW.

Recruiting Brochures — My thanks to all who've

demonstrated good use of this valuable tool. Pending expense approval by the Dept. Council, I would like to provide an additional supply of these brochures to Camp representatives attending the Mid-Winter Conference. Therefore, we need to hear from each Camp Commander, a.s.a.p., regarding any change to the info presented about his Camp in this handout (new Camp JVC or other contact person & phone number, any meeting date/ time/ place change). Please address these updates to Bro. John Mann at 2495 South Washington Road, Lansing, MI 48911-7216 or telephone him at (517) 694-1440.

Bylaws — Proposed Amendments, to date, will be distributed to Camp representatives at the Mid-Winter Conference. Additional submissions to the Bylaws Committee are welcome but should be received by March 15th in order to be part of the final distribution made to each Camp Commander, sixty days prior to the Annual Department Encampment (ref. Bylaws ARTICLE XIV, Section 2).

M-99 / HB 4713 — At the time of this writing, our state legislature has not yet returned from its Holiday Recess. Hopefully, by the time of the February conference, we will have some positive news to share regarding the Gen. John A. Logan Memorial Highway (M-99). Each of us should contact his appropriate legislator and urge his or her support of this Bill, once we get it past committee. This is an "election year" for some of these folks and I plan to stress the "P. R. Significance" of it also being the 130th Anniversary of Logan's creation of "Memorial Day." I am optimistic that we will see this honor become a reality and respectfully submit that we should plan to take part in a fitting dedication ceremony.

February 21st — I look forward to seeing many of you again at this year's conference. To add to what was printed in the last *Messenger*, the evening's program will focus attention on the effort to conserve original Civil War Battle Flags, carried in service by the Volunteer Regiments of Michigan. Many of you know our Guest Speaker, Mrs. Kerry K. Chartkoff. Many of us have either taken part in - or know someone who is tied to an effort to "adopt" a particular flag and help fund its conservation. Mrs. Chartkoff will include an overall progress-report of the SAVE THE FLAGS Program during her presentation.

I salute all in the SUVCW membership who have helped directly with fundraising for saving these sacred banners. I would like to add that it is just as important, to encourage others, outside the Order, to lend their support. I respectfully request that each Camp within our Department consider being the "clearing-house" for a coordinated effort in the communities where they meet, to promote fundraising to "adopt," with a sum of \$1,000.00, the flag of the Michigan Regiment enlisted in by the majority of volunteers from that local. In addition to doing some obvious, true good for the

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SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

GAR RECORDS

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flags, this effort would also be a positive Public Relations vehicle for our organization. By extending an invitation to participate in fundraising, to other service organizations and local government, not to mention the local general public, this will create an opportunity for everyone involved to enjoy a "community pride." Another benefit yet, would be that our support offers a proud example of what our organization is all about and thus, attract new members & associates.

Respectfully submitted,
In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Kent Armstrong
Senior Vice Department Commander

The GAR Records Committee was established as a standing committee at the 1997 Department Encampment. The Office of GAR Records Officer was also created.

The major task of this committee is to search for surviving GAR Post records wherever they may be in the state. We will be checking with libraries, museums, historical societies, American Legion Halls, VFW Posts and private individuals.

This should allow us to develop a definitive list of Posts' records that have survived the years. We can publish this list for the benefit of those doing research. This will also provide an opportunity for us to make copies of these records. Most will be "one of a kind" materials where duplicates were not filed with the Department or anywhere else.

This project will take several years to complete. We are in the process of building a committee whose members are willing to make a commitment to serve over a period of time that will allow for continuity of the effort. We are still looking for people in several areas of the state. If you would be interested in assisting this effort, please contact the Records Officer.

If you know where some of this material may be located, please notify the Records Officer. Please include information on location and a contact person with address and phone numbers. Should they also have an e-mail address, please include that as well.

Please send any information to the address at the end of this article. You can also reach me at the phone number or e-mail address listed below. More details will be presented at the opening session of the Mid-winter Conference in February.

James T. Lyons, PDC
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The GAR Building, Detroit, Michigan
from an old postcard

The only Grand Army of the Republic National Encampment ever to be held in a state of the former Confederacy was the 47th National Encampment of 1913, held on September 18th and 19th at Chattanooga, Tennessee. The Encampment coincided with the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Chickamauga.

DETROIT GAR HALL

The Specter of doom once again casts its ominous shadow over the "Memorial to the Soldiers and Sailors of 1861 to 1865", the GAR Hall in the City of Detroit. This fine example of Romanesque Revival architecture sit on its own triangular block bounded by Grand River Avenue, Cass and Adams Streets. It is located at the edge of the proposed casino development areas in the city and could be vulnerable once again.

The land which the Hall sits was offered to the City of Detroit in 1862 by Lewis Cass. The Deed of Gift was executed August 20, 1865 with the provision that the city erect "a suitable building to be used for the purposes of a Public Market and shall use and occupy the same for that purpose."

When interest developed regarding a Memorial building in 1896 an agreement was reached between the GAR Posts and the City of Detroit. Funds would be raised by the Posts for this project. The final breakdown of the financial aspect was that the Posts contributed 5% and the City 95% of the cost of the building. The Posts were given a 30 year lease and established a "board" to manage the building. The cornerstone is dated 1899, and the building was dedicated on January 5, 1901.

In keeping with the provisions of the gift made by Lewis Cass, the first floor of the building continued to serve as a "Public Market" for farm produce. The Posts were to use the remaining three floors for meetings and other purposes.

At the conclusion of the original lease period, "Title and all right of use or occupation shall become absolute in the City of Detroit ..., and at such time sooner as the incorporated Grand Army Posts of the City of Detroit shall become defunct, and shall no longer occupy said building."

From 1943 to 1983 the building was used by the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Detroit. In 1983 it was declared "surplus property" by this Department and was turned over to the Community and Economic Development Department to be put up for sale.

In 1984 the City sold the building, on land contract, to the Citadel Company for \$17,000. Roger W. Margerum, a general partner of Citadel, file the appropriate paperwork to have the Hall placed on the National Register of Historical Places. The Hall appears on the listing of properties added to the Register during the period of February 9, 1986 and February 15, 1986. On March 6, 1986, the City of Detroit designated the building a historic district. This meant that any exterior renovations to the building must be in keeping with its original structure and historical significance.

The Department (of Michigan, SUVCW) discussed, at great length, ways and means of gaining some control of the buildings future, to no avail. Financial resources at this time

were meager at best. During this period Brother James Pahl, PDC, talked with Mr. Margerum on several occasions, but there was always some money involved in the deal.

The Citadel Company did not follow through on renovation of the building and ultimately defaulted on the land contract. The building went back to the City of Detroit. Unfortunately, on August 2, 1988 a demolition order was filed, by the City, with the cost of the demolition to be assessed against the property. The structure was spared as a result of the default by Citadel, and the City not wishing to assess itself for the costs involved. The demolition order is still out there floating in limbo somewhere. The property went back on the market.

Brother James Neal did the legal research on the property and filed a very complete report with conclusions and recommendations. There is no question the property has always been held in the name of the City of Detroit following the gift of Lewis Cass.

In 1989 and again in 1991, while serving a National Secretary, I brought this matter to the leadership of the National Organization as a potential National Headquarters, museum and archival center for the Order. There was no interest expressed, the prevailing view being that such a facility should be in Pennsylvania, if it were to be developed at all.

A number of other options, to be developed here in Michigan, were discussed. Due to a lack of manpower, resources and political connections they were not implemented. At the 1991 Department Encampment it was moved and passed that the Department abandon all efforts in the matter.

It appears at present that Mike Ilitch, of Little Caesars, has expressed some interest in the building. In 1996, PC-in-C Keith Harrison, William Brennan (then Department Commander) and Thomas Wightman (then Commander of Camp 101) wrote letters to Mr. Ilitch expressing our concerns for the future of the Hall and requesting a role at the appropriate time. Susan Sherbow, Vice President, Corporate Communications, responded. She indicated that the building is still owned by the City of Detroit as of this date (May 4, 1996). She stated, "Your suggestions will be given proper consideration as plans mature."

Our role at this point must be one of watchful waiting. We have a hefty file on the background of this matter. It is hoped that if opportunities present themselves, that this time we will be able to respond in a positive fashion.

James T. Lyons, PDC

SECRETARY

As of October 20, 1997, this office has received 1st Quarter Reports (form 27-28) that are complete and accurate from the following Camps: Henry Plant, Camp 3; Colegrove-Woodruff, Camp 22; Nash-Hodges, Camp 43; George Anderson, Camp 58; Governor Crapo, Camp 145; Henry Wallace, Camp 160; Archibald Stewart, Camp 259; and, of course Gilluly-Kingsley, Camp 120.

The requirements for having your Camp listed in this column were contained in the letter that was sent to all Camps with the form 27-28 on 17 September. I sincerely hope that I will be able to list all of the Department Camps in the next report.

At the 116th National Encampment, Kent Armstrong was awarded the Major Stephenson Award by Commander-in-Chief Alan Loomis for his outstanding work in recruiting 34 new members into our Order in 1996-1997.

Respectfully submitted in F., C. and L.,

Richard F. Lee
Department Secretary

(This report was received too late to be included in the November issue, ed.)

COMMANDERS GROUP

The Commanders Group met twice recently, led by VFW State Commander Huuki. A meeting on November 12 was held at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Three other SUVCW Brothers were present on behalf of different organizations: Herb Gage, Garrett Veldman and David Waldron.

The main topic of discussion was the effects of the Governor's Executive Order eliminating the Michigan Employment Security Administration. Among the concerns were there being no veterans preference and the lack of tracking compliance as it relates to veterans. The Commanders Group voted to hold a special meeting regarding the issue.

Immediately following the meeting, the Board of Managers and staff of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans conducted their Annual Conference for State Commanders, Adjutants, Legislative Chairs, Auxiliary Presidents and Secretaries, and State and Local Hospital Chairs. A highlight was the announcement that the new bowling lanes at the Home had been completed. Each organization, including the SUVCW, received a plaque for supporting the project. A dedication ceremony then took place at the lanes.

The Commanders Group conducted its special meeting on December 17 at the VFW State Headquarters in Lansing. Officials of the Michigan Jobs Commission and the MESA transition team spoke about veterans employment programs, including the "work force boards," "one stop service" and "no wrong door" service. After serious discussion, the Commanders Group voted to express strenuous opposition to the Executive Order.

CHEERS FOR THE LIVING, TEARS FOR THE

When we gather around the campfire,
To talk of battles fought,
Of the camps, the sieges and marches,
And our Union so dearly bought,
Let us not forget our comrades,
Who their warmest life-blood shed—
When we sound a cheer for the living,
Let us drop a tear for the dead.

And when the Post room rings with laughter,
Or resounds with the rattling song,
And we feel so gay and jolly,
As the moments speed along,
Let us pause in our merry making,
And reverent bow each head,
And still our cheers for the living,
While we drop a tear for the dead.

In the blazing front of battle,
Where the shot and shell flew fast,
Where the very ground was reeling,
Like a tree before the blast,
The boys who have gone before us,
Their blood in the great cause shed—
Then while we cheer for the living,
Let us drop a tear for the dead.

In the bivouac of Heaven,
On the banks of the sparkling stream,
Where the tree of life is waving,
Their campfires radiant gleam,
And there they watch for our coming,
With the spirits' martial tread—
Then while we cheer for the living,
Let us drop a tear for the dead.

CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

I hope that everyone in the Department will take a measure of pride in the fact that the Civil War Memorials Assessment effort that we launched last year in Michigan, has become the framework accepted by the National Organization, SUVCW. Commander-In-Chief Richard D. Orr has made it known that he will readily approve the amendment to any Department's Bylaws, for the inclusion of a "Civil War Memorials Committee" to help promote and coordinate this effort across the country. Commanders of all Departments now have copies of the Assessment Form, that you are familiar with, for distribution to their Camps. This four page questionnaire, now officially designated as national SUVCW Form CWM #61, will serve as the foundation for fulfilling all the points listed in C-In-C Orr's General Order #1, Paragraph 14.

Another matter of pride for us is that Brother Richard Williams will be working on a way to share with other Departments, a computer data base that was created by Brothers William Morris and Gene Taylor. All information gathered will eventually be stored in a national record. Brother Morris is also working on a brief, Memorial Photo I.D. Catalog for those with computer access to the Internet (Bill may be able to exhibit an example of this at the Mid-Winter Conference). This type of information could/should also be published someday in "hard-copy" form.

Again, let us share an overview of this project. There are two primary goals. The **First**, is a *continuing search for, and physical examination of, all tributes to Union Civil War soldiers & sailors* - outside the care of the National Military Parks, Department of Defense, & Veterans' Affairs. This includes monuments with or without sculpture, monuments with Civil War era cannon and inert ammunition, historical markers and memorial plaques. We will certainly use published works that have been done about Civil War Memorials, to locate and inspect those known. But we will go beyond that, in an effort to assure that even the most modest tribute is not overlooked and to record the existence of new memorials. The word, "continuing," is a key-point because we will not only be looking for unknown and new memorials, we will eventually revisit and re-inspect all known memorials - to check for damage due to weather and/or vandalism. With the information gathered, we will learn which memorials need professional restoration or conservation work and be able to prioritize which need attention before others. This brings us to the **Second** goal, which is to *promote the perpetual care of these tributes*. The keyword here, is "promote." Although many of us have contributed our own funds toward monument restoration, it is not intended for our organization to "bank-roll" this work. Rather, we will fulfill one of the primary *purposes* of our Order, by calling attention for the need of this work - to the political and civic leaders of the communities where the memorials are located. The proper care of these memorials should be regarded as a civic duty, if not moral obligation, in honor of the citizen-soldiers to whom they were dedicated. We,

the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, will be the "respectful reminders" of this.

I am pleased to share that, thanks to expense approval by our Department Council, we will have two sets of the Fundraising Idea Kits produced by Project SOS!, for Camps in Michigan to share with officials in the communities with memorials in need of care.

Please be advised that Camps 58 and 145 have amended their Bylaws for the creation of a Camp level "Civil War Memorials Committee" to promote and coordinate this effort within their geographical areas. In the fashion of our organization's Grave Registration Committees, this will help prevent any duplication of effort. We invite other Camps to consider this idea.

We appreciate the support that's been shown for this project! Like the Graves Registration Program, it is work that can be done by any member/associate, at his convenience, whether he can attend a formal Camp meeting or not. Thus, all of the membership (including the Camp-at-Large) is afforded an opportunity to take part in something truly important. It's hard to express the satisfaction gained by knowing you have helped to insure that a monument or memorial - some dedicated by the GAR Comrades themselves, will continue to honor the men who *Saved the Union* and keep their memory alive in the hearts & minds of generations to come.

Respectfully submitted,
In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Kent Armstrong
Chairman, Civil War Memorials Committee

A LITTLE TRIVIA

The 1st National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic was held in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1866. Due to the advanced age and infirmities of its few surviving members, it was voted to hold the 83rd and final National Encampment in 1949, fittingly in the city of its birth, Indianapolis.

From 1866 to 1949 the GAR held a National Encampment every year, except one. In what year wasn't there a National Encampment?

The answer can be found at the bottom of page 14.

EDITOR'S DESK

The following was taken from the Thirty-eighth Annual Encampment Journal, Department of Michigan, GAR. The italic emphasis in the report is added.

Report of the Chaplain

Adrian, Mich., June 20, 1916

Commander and Comrades, Greetings:

At the close of my first year as Department Chaplain, I wish to submit the following report:

Early in May I sent out the blanks for the Post Chaplains—270. Of that number three were returned, the postmaster claiming he could find no one to deliver them to. I took the pains to underscore the following on our blanks: "This report must be made out immediately after Memorial Day." I think it helped to prompt action, at least on some, for on May 31st, I received five blanks returned. One from Parma, one from Mendon, one from Petersburg, one from Dowagiac, and one from Traverse City. These five men were surely "Johnnie on the spot." Many other Chaplains were quite prompt, so that by the 9th of June I had received 107 reports. *It is somewhat difficult to get those blanks to the proper persons, since we do not know the names and addresses of the different Chaplains;* so I always addressed them to the Adjutant of the Post. I always had the address and the request to return put on every envelope, so that I have reason to believe that all of the reports reached the proper persons. *I suppose that many of the Chaplains believe that the Department Chaplain ought to know most everything,* but if they want someone in this office that is omniscient, then they better look for someone else, I am sure that I cannot tell how many schools there are in cities and towns where I am not acquainted, hence to say, "all the schools were present," is unintelligible to me. Hence, hereafter, please give the number of schools that take part in the exercises. Quite a few Chaplains complain that Memorial Day, in their place, is a day of sports—ball games, horse racing, etc. There is an earnest desire that in some places more reverence and respect be shown for our dead heroes, who gave their lives to save our nation. Thus far I have received 142 reports. There were 142 sermons preached, and 2,743 Comrades attended the services. 146 Posts attended memorial services, Comrades present, 3,403. In all there were 17,516 graves decorated. There are 389 unmarked graves. In all 314 public schools took part in the services, with 39,332 pupils present. Other organizations that took part, 211. There are still 125 blanks that have not been returned.

In receiving these reports one thing is especially very touching, and that is the fact that our ranks, are rapidly thinning. Hence some of our Posts are very weak; some reporting but five or six Comrades present, and the smallest attendance was two Comrades present. Comrades, we are rapidly departing to the great future, therefore let us live such noble and pure lives, that when the Great Commander calls us hence we may well be

prepared to meet Him in peace. With a sincere God bless you all, I am yours truly in F., C. and L.,

Samuel Heninger
Department Chaplain

I thought this report was quite interesting because the problems of the Chaplain were much the same as our current Department officers face today. The Department Chaplain didn't have the addresses of the Post Chaplains because they were not reported.

Like the GAR's Post Chaplains of 1916, apparently many of the Camp officers think the Department officers know everything. Alas, we still, in this day and age, do not! In the past few years, since becoming editor of this newsletter, I have heard several complaints concerning new members not receiving their newsletter, in some cases for several months after becoming members. We cannot mail newsletters to members we no knowledge of. Dick Williams, the Department's Mailing List Coordinator, gets address information from the Department Secretary, Richard Lee, who in turn gets it from each Camp Secretary. So, if anyone is not getting their newsletter (or Banner), first contact your Camp Secretary to find out if you were properly included on the Camp's quarterly report. Keep in mind that this is a slow process and it can take up to four or five months for the information to get added to the mailing list. For instance, should a member join in January, his name would not be reported to the Dept. Secretary until the 1st Quarter Report in April and he wouldn't get his first newsletter until May.

For faster service in adding names to the mailing lists, the Camp Secretary should notify Brother Williams (1917 Teel Avenue, Lansing, MI 48910-3117) immediately after a new member joins your Camp. *Please keep in mind that no back issues of the newsletter will be mailed. We do not keep any extras on hand. Any extra copies are given to the Department Junior Vice Commander for recruiting purposes.*

I have also recently received through the Department SVC, a complaint concerning no information about coming events in the local area of one of our Camps. Again, I cannot print what I do not know about. Nearly all of the information that has been listed in *Coming Events* up to this issue has been reported by Department officers and concerns Department or National functions; was gleaned from *Camp News* articles; or was taken from the events calendar of the Civil War News. If there are events concerning our interests within the Michigan, northern Ohio or northern Indiana that you know of, please send along the information so that it may be included in *Coming Events*. Send to: John Mann, Editor; Michigan's Messenger; 2495 South Washington Road; Lansing, MI 48911-7216.

CAMP NEWS

HENRY E. PLANT ~ CAMP 3

By Daniel Grable

Fruitport/Grand Haven — Camp 3 held their final meeting of the year in November. During the meeting it was mentioned that the Camp would send in information on the graves in the Lake Forest Cemetery in Grand Haven. Also, John Braden had sent in information about graves in the Fremont area.

The Camp is still working on setting up Civil War reenactment and information programs in local schools during the year.

We were informed of many Civil War Memorial rededications in our area. The first is on the legal Memorial Day in 1998. It will be the rededication of the Memorial in Fremont for all the local veterans of all wars. (There will be some additional names added to the memorial.)

During the summer of 1998 the city of Muskegon is going to fix up the Civil War statues in Hackley Park and they will hold a rededication on May 30, 1999 or 2000 (the 100th anniversary of the original dedication.) Our Camp is planning on participating at both of these events. We hope to include John A. Logan Camp 1 in the Muskegon event, one of the Camp Memorial Day activities hosted by our Camp.

We have learned that a VFW Post had removed GAR flag holder from a Fremont area cemetery and replaced them with new generic US Veteran flag holders. We are looking into this and have contacted the Department about it. This is a well meant, but wrong, action by the VFW Post.

Our next meeting will be January 11, 1998 at the Tri-Cities Historical Museum in Grand Haven at 1:30 pm.

AUSTIN BLAIR ~ CAMP 7

By Bill Lowe

Jackson — The muster and the "Battle of First Bull Run" was held at Cascades Park on the 23rd and 24th of August. Austin Blair Camp 7 hosted the information and recruiting tent for the and Department of Michigan. When we went in Friday morning to get our assigned spot, amongst the many sutlers and non-profit tents, we were rather disappointed in the location to which we were assigned. As it turned out we were pleasantly surprised, the battle took place just to the south of our area and we had a good turnout through our tent and display.

The Michigan Index and Regimental History books we had on hand surprised many people, since we could give them basic information on their ancestors immediately. Also on display were picture boards showing our cemetery work, our military headstone puller, a roster of GAR Post 374 in Parma, a recruiting table for our Auxiliary (Austin Blair Camp reactivated our Auxiliary in July of this year with 10 ladies

initiated) and of course, our National, State and Camp flags. Our Secretary, Dan Doyle, made up a board with tear-off tabs giving the web site address of the Department of Michigan and the Sons of Union Veterans. There were quite a few people who would pick off a tab without stopping at the tent, so it appeared to be another tool to let people know who, what and why we are.

Another addition to our tent this year was Department Graves Registration Officer, John Obermeyer, who set up his computer in the tent and assisted and registered quite a few graves.

We collected the names of 23 people on the "request for additional information" sheets, several of which were for the Auxiliary. Camp 7 gleaned nine names from our area and sent copies of the sheets to the Department Junior Vice Commander. I'm sure we would have gotten more names, but the weather did not cooperate at all on Sunday and the turnout was small because of the rain. As soon as the battle was over on Sunday people departed the grounds which were saturated from an overnight and Sunday morning rain, so things were not conducive to a stroll in the park.

As an aside, it seems that the biggest interests were in the picture boards of the cemetery work (raising and resetting of stones, repair of broken stones, setting new stones, etc.) Because of the increase in the crowds and people's interest in their ancestors and the workings of the "Sons", it has been suggested that possibly another the Department, with our help, would be interested in hosting a second tent at the Cascades. With the growing interest and the addition of the Auxiliary and Graves Registration Officer, one 10x12 tent and fly at times got very busy and crowded. It is felt that we are missing talking to many people and not getting as many names of possible members for the Sons and Auxiliary because of the congestion at the single tent, as well as not adding to the Graves Registration list.

(The preceding wasn't included in the November issue due to lack of space.)

By Bill Lowe

Jackson — Camp 7's year of 1997 officially ended with the November meeting when the officers for 1998 were elected. Those elected were:

- Commander — Bill Lowe
- Senior Vice Commander — Max Miller
- Junior Vice Commander — Bob Hoffman
- Treasurer — Bob Metcalf
- Secretary — Mark Heath
- Camp Council — Todd Holton
- Camp Council — Mike Maillard
- Camp Council — Gary Woodman

At this meeting Commander Howard Streeter, Colgrove-

(Continued on page 10)

CAMP NEWS

(Continued from page 9)

Woodruff Camp 22, was our speaker and he told us an interesting story which he learned after reading a Michigan soldier's epitaph in an area cemetery, "Died 1896, Killed by Rebels". And it wasn't from lingering wounds or illness.

Again, Camp members participated in the local Veterans Day ceremonies posting our colors and placing two wreaths on the Civil War monument. Following the service a new member was initiated in front of the statue given by Mrs. Julia Withington, wife of a Civil War General from Jackson, in memory of all local soldiers and sailors who fought to save the Union.

The first Saturday in December the Auxiliary hosted the first, of what all who attended hopes will be a continuing tradition, holiday dinner party in many years. What made this event unusual was the meal consisted of food only found on the dinner tables of the 1860's. Twenty five Brothers, Sisters and their spouses enjoyed a roast duck and turkey, boiled carrots, potatoes, onions, pies galore and lots of other "goodies". The ladies used two Civil War era cook books to help authenticate the meal. The meal was followed by the singing of Carols in the house and then we went door- to-door caroling in the neighborhood. Many were in uniform or "period" attire and a great time was had by all!

Camp 7 looks back with a wee bit of pride as to what was accomplished this past year, but it is immediately humbling to realize the work yet to be done in our Graves Registration Program, community activities, etc. to fulfill our mandated efforts "To preserve the memory of those who saved the Union from 1861 to 1865."

CURTENIUS GUARD ~ CAMP 17

By John Nash

Lansing/Sunfield — At the November meeting Camp 17 elected officers for 1998, they are:

- Camp Commander — John Nash
- Senior Vice Commander — Todd Rakestraw
- Junior Vice Commander — George Roux
- Secretary — Brian Shumway
- Treasurer — Dick Williams
- Camp Council — Laverne Aves
- Camp Council — Keith Harrison
- Camp Council — Doug Park

This year we will begin planning for the 1999 Centennial Anniversary of the Samuel W. Grinnell, Grand Army of the Republic Hall in Sunfield. Working with the ladies of Helen Edwins Tent 30, DUVCW, we will celebrate the history of the Hall and kick off the next 100 years.

WA-BU-NO ~ CAMP 53

By Don Workman

Mt. Pleasant/Shepherd — Camp 53 held its annual Remembrance Day ceremony on Sunday, 9 November at the Riverside Cemetery in Mt. Pleasant. This year's ceremony was of particular significance since the Camp rededicated the newly acquired GAR grave lots. With some thirty people in attendance, Representative James McBryde led the gathering in the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a message on America's MIA's and POW's. Since our Camp is named after a Native American, Thomas Wa-bu-no, it was a distinct honor to have James Pego, a Native American, deliver an address on the role of Native Americans in our nation's history.

Michigan Department Commander, Paul D. Hodges, placed a wreath at the foot of the GAR monument flagpole. Brother Wayne Barrett was given the honor of placing a flag at the grave of our Camp's namesake. Our Brothers from Camp 67, Gordon McAllister, Ken Martin, Dave Cook, Scott Deveau and Jack Long served as the uniformed Honor Guard and fired the salute.

Wa-bu-no Camp 53 wishes to thank all of those in attendance, with a special thanks to our Brothers from Camp 67 who have attended this event several years, through fair weather and foul. It is through your dedication that our ceremonies are indeed, memorable.

Upon acquisition of the GAR grounds in the Riverside Cemetery, Camp Commander Wayne Nash discovered two unmarked graves in the cemetery record. one soldier, Charles Howe Houk, served in Company I, 24th Michigan Infantry, part of the famous Iron Brigade. He also served in several offices of GAR Post 250. Another unmarked grave is that of Henry Bailey Quantz. I believe his name is misspelled in the cemetery records, as I could not find anything in the Michigan Brown Books or the 1890 Michigan Veteran's Census. I suspect his last name to be Quance, since there is a William Quance buried in the GAR section. The two men are probably related.

In addition to the two unmarked graves, one grave marker has had the soldier's name removed, with only the unit, the 10th New York Heavy Artillery, visible. The reason for removal of this soldier's name remains a mystery. I suspect that the man's name was misspelled on the stone and relatives had it ground off. After considerable research, we have identified this veteran to be Delos Ervans. Ervans was an active member of Post 250 and served in Company A of the unit that appears on the altered grave marker. Our Camp will be ordering government markers for these three veterans. We will, hopefully, have these stones in place by Memorial Day 1998 and pay a long overdue tribute to these three soldiers.

HENRY R. QUIGLEY ~ CAMP 147

By Pete Carlson

Cadillac — Greetings to all and may all Camps have a prosperous New Year and recruit many new members and keep

CAMP NEWS

all the old ones!

On 7 December, 1997 Department Commander Paul Hodges and his wife attended our special meeting called to install our 1998 Camp officers. After the meeting we adjourned to the Kodiak Deli (a good place to eat in downtown Cadillac). We set up a recruiting place and had a jawjacking meeting. A good time was had by all and a week later I signed up a new member from the meet. One woman brought her great, great grandfather's "housewife" for us to share and many photos of Civil War soldiers.

On the weekend of the 13th and 14th of December, the Wexford County Historical Society Museum had its Christmas celebration at the museum. I attended the event and while there I asked the members if they would desire me to come back in Civil War uniform. They were excited about this because they had been wishing for a person who was available and knowledgeable in Civil War history. I came back and set up a little display and spread the word. It was amazing to speak to so many people and no one knew about our organization, or that Cadillac has a Camp. We advertise all meetings in the newspaper, on three TV stations and two radio stations, and yet no one comes. It reminds me of a friend who sold vacuum cleaners door to door. He once told me you have to knock on a hundred doors before someone buys. The moral of this story is to get your face out there and talk to as many people as you can, and never get discouraged with a no answer.

The Board of Directors of the museum has invited me to be a speaker at their February meeting. This will be an opportunity to tell who the Sons are and what our goals are. They appear to want me to set up a program and display on Civil War history. Through the years, they have desired to accomplish this, but, had no one to see it through. When I started this Camp, I set up a five year plan which included finding a secure place in downtown Cadillac to set up a Civil War display and a reading room.

One other program I have in our five year plan is to sponsor a Civil War battle reenactment. This is coming along real well; we have two offers for a site, era type dancers to perform inside a hall and a duo who plays old time music and sings. Another woman who does tat work (makes handmade lace) has committed herself to be there.

As can be expected, we need help of all kinds. We need people who have performed in reenactments to steer us in the right direction in regards to what is required to put on a reenactment. Last, but not least, we require help in recruiting reenactors, sutlers or anything you can do to help us interact with the public while promoting our commitments to the SUVCW. Traverse City Camp 14 has offered to join us, but we require all the suggestions and help we can muster. The tentative date for the reenactment is the weekend of the Old Time Steam Show at

Buckley, Michigan. This will be on the 3rd weekend of August, Saturday the 15th and Sunday the 16th.

Please submit any ideas or name of people you have contacted in regards to this project to me at the following address:

Pete Carlson
4493 Lake Mitchell Drive
Cadillac, MI 49601

Or call me at: (616) 779-3710.

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Your contributions to this newsletter help to make it one of the best in the Order. Ancestor Vignettes, Camp News, GAR and SUVCW history articles, collecting Civil War Veteran memorabilia articles, etc. are the type of articles that our members like to see in the Messenger.

With nearly 500 members in this Department, we could have a really diversified and outstanding newsletter if more of our members contributed to it. Many of our members have dug into the past looking for information on GAR Posts, SUVCW Camps, Civil War veteran ancestors or have a lot of expertise in collecting Civil War veteran organization memorabilia. Why not share some of this knowledge with your fellow SUVCW members? All it takes is an hour or two of writing, or a few minutes of copying what you have already written.

Submissions may be made on computer disk (3.5 in. only) in most any word processing format; dos, Windows or Windows 95 (please include a printed copy, just in case). Typed or hand written submissions are welcome, too!

When making submissions, please observe the copy deadline date. These dates are printed in Coming Events for the following issue of the Messenger.

Mail all submissions to:

John Mann, Editor
Michigan's Messenger
2495 South Washington Road
Lansing, MI 48911-7216

ANCESTOR VIGNETTE

Ira Myron Bailey Gillespie was born July 29, 1837 in northern Indiana. Ira was the second in a family of thirteen children. He was the son of Rev. Enoch and Mary (Kilmer) Gillespie.

Ira's adult life before the Civil War was spent as a farmer and small businessman in and around Sturgis, Michigan. After the war broke out, he enlisted in Company C, 11th Michigan Infantry on August 24, 1861 at Sturgis for three years at the age of 23. On September 24 he joined his regiment in White Pigeon, Michigan under the command of Colonel William J. May. Ira kept a diary of his service in the Civil War. He served in battles at Louisville and Bardstown, Kentucky; Nashville, Stones River and Missionary Ridge, Tennessee; and Chickamauga, Georgia. On August 18, 1862, Ira was promoted to Corporal of the Guard for Company C.

He kept a very accurate account of the daily activities of his unit during the war. On December 31, 1862 he wrote, "We arose just at daylight almost froze to death and wet with heavy dew. We were relieved by the 18th Regiment Ohio Volunteers. We went about 40 rods to the rear of the line of battle and built a large fire of cedar rails had coffee bacon and hard tack. Before we were finished eating the call fall in came. Our almost worshipped Colonel William Stoughton mounted his horse and addressed us thus." "Now my brave boys be cool and calm, take good aim, shoot low and be sure of your man. Secrete yourselves and keep a lookout for your Colors."

"We met the rebels and the fight commenced for certain. Boom, boom sounded the loud artillery. Crack, crack and a rattle went the musketry. Whew went the rebel shells over our

Ira M. B. Gillespie
Corporal
11th Michigan Infantry
Company C

Great Great Uncle
of
William A. Brennan
Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20

heads. Whirr, whirr came the rifle bullets now and then laying low one of our brave fellows. Here on this nole Schultzes Battery was badly cut to pieces. the rebels having hit and either killed or wounded all but two horses and charging the battery they had killed and wounded a good many of Schultzes men. The rebels kept coming and the 19th Illinois Regiment and ours charged on them pouring a whole volley into them and then keeping up the fire, we drove back a whole division of the gray backs. I noticed that the rebels had driven the right wing of our army clear back in the rear of us so as to give the rebels a raking fire across on us just mowing our brave men down. But our men stood the fire well, and fought bravely under the destructive fire of the rebel batteries, firing from the front and on either flank. Brigadier Stanley and General Negley seemed everywhere present cheering and encouraging the men. Colonel Stoughton won from his men that esteem that will last while life lasts. We loaded, fixed bayonets and poured a very destructive fire sending many of the trators to their mother earth and putting the rest to a halt. We ate a few bites and lay down to sleep. We found many of our brave fellows had fallen."

On September 30, 1864 Ira Gillespie was mustered out of the army at Sturgis, Michigan. After his service he became a circuit rider for the Michigan Eldership of the Church of God in the southwestern Michigan counties of Allegan, Barry, Kalamazoo and Van Buren. He served as chaplain for the Fitzgerald Post 125, GAR in Hastings, Michigan. He married Orpha Barr, a widow, on November 3, 1865 in Union City, Michigan. Ira served as Justice of the Peace in Barry County and at the time of his deaths November 13, 1897, was the regular minister of the Baptist Church of Hastings.

UNEXPECTED

The following incident, which occurred soon after General Grant's arrival at Chattanooga in October, 1863, is related by General Horace Porter in his reminiscences, "Campaigning with Grant":

As soon as communication had been opened with our base of supplies, General Grant manifested an eagerness to acquaint himself minutely with the position of the enemy, with a view to taking the offensive. One morning he started toward our right, with several staff officers, to make a personal examination of that portion of our line. When he came in site of Chattanooga Creek, which separated our pickets from those of the enemy, he directed those who had accompanied him to halt and remain out of site while he advanced alone, which he supposed he could do without attracting much attention. The pickets were within hailing distance of one another on opposite banks of the creek. They had established a temporary truce on their own responsibility, and the men of each army were allowed to get water from the same stream without being fired upon by those on the other side. A sentinel of our picket-guard recognized General Grant as he approached, and gave the customary cry, "Turn out the guard—commanding general!" The enemy on the opposite side of the creek evidently heard the words, and one of his sentinels cried out, "Turn out the guard—General Grant!" The Confederate guard took up the joke, and promptly formed, facing our line, and presented arms. The General returned the salute by lifting his hat, the guard was then dismissed, and he continued his ride toward our left. We knew we were engaged in a civil war, but such civility exceeded our expectations.

ANCESTOR VIGNETTE

On Aug. 17, 1861, at the age of 18, Francis Dubois traveled from his home in Fentonville, Genesee Co., Michigan, to Port Huron where he enlisted in "The Union Guard", Company A 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry. On that day, he began a four year journey that was likely the most exciting and the most horrifying experience of his young life. He also set in motion a long series of events that 105 years later would spark my interest in the Civil War, when I discovered his photograph and discharge paper.

Francis was born in Chili, Monroe County, New York, on Dec. 9, 1842, the third child of Andrew and Elizabeth Dubois. Having arrived in Livingston County, Michigan in the late 1850's, he appears in the 1860 census at age 17, as a laborer on a Livingston County farm. At the time of his enlistment, he is described as 5' 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ " tall, with blue eyes, light complexion, and light hair.

The 7th was assigned to the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, 2nd Army Corps, and took part in every major engagement of the Army of the Potomac. In the Spring of 1862 they participated in Gen. McClellan's Penninsular Campaign. Apparently Private Dubois did not fare well in the Virginia swamps, as the "Medical Record" shows that he was treated for Typhoid in the hospital at Harrison's Landing, from April 4 to April 25.

In April, 1863, he was assigned as a driver in the Division Ambulance Corps, and remained in that position through July. With their original enlistments due to expire in August, 1864, the men of the 7th were offered a furlough and bonus as encouragement to re-enlist for another 3 years. Francis and 161 of his comrades accepted the offer, and on December 19, 1863, he was mustered in as a Veteran Volunteer at Stevensburg, Virginia. The Regiment left their winter quarters at Berry's Hill near Stevensburg on December 28, and arrived at Monroe, Michigan on January 2, 1864, where they were furloughed for 30 days, returning to their Camp on February 16. In July, 1864, again on detached service in the 2nd Division Ambulance Corps, it appears that he may have "misplaced" a few things, as he is charged \$4.27 for 1 tent and 1 haversack.

By the end of July, the Army of the Potomac had begun clamping down on the City of Petersburg, Va. The success of the siege was dependent upon containing the Army of Northern Virginia, and disrupting their lines of supply. The 7th was involved in several operations aimed at controlling rail lines and extending the Union lines around the city. On August 16, during one of these actions, near Deep Bottom, Virginia, Francis received his only wound of the war. Apparently the wound was a minor one, since he was present at the



Francis Dubois
Corporal
7th Michigan Infantry
Company A

Great, Great Grandfather
of
John F. Nash
Curtenius Guard Camp 17

next muster, and no Medical Report has been located. He is listed on the "Company Report of Casualties" as "Wounded in action". The 7th remained engaged around Petersburg and was in pursuit of the Army of Northern Virginia on April 9, 1865.

With the end of the war in sight, the Regiment slowly made its way to Richmond, and then to Washington, D.C. On May 1, with 3 Years, 8 Months and 14 Days of service to the Union, Private Dubois finally became Corporal Dubois. I have a mental image of Francis driving his ambulance down Pennsylvania Ave. behind the Flag of the 7th, as they marched in the Grand Review. The Regiment was sent to Louisville, Kentucky, and then to Jeffersonville, Indiana, where it was mustered out on July 5th, arriving in Jackson, Michigan on the 7th.

Following the war Francis settled in Saginaw, Michigan, and on May 25, 1869, he married Abigail Edwards. In April, 1870, a daughter, Louisa was born, however Abigail died Aug. 2 1872, and Francis, (not one to dwell on the past), married Anastasia Carpenter in April, 1873. His daughter Louisa died August 27, 1873, and on June 24, 1875 my Great Grandmother, Florence arrived. We have found little record of their life for the next twenty years, but various documents spanning that period list Francis' occupation as: farmer, laborer, fireman, and

merchant.

In 1894, with ill health making steady employment nearly impossible, Francis was admitted to the Old Soldiers Home in Grand Rapids. Over the next 22 years, he was a patient at the Home on 5 occasions of various length. In total, Francis spent 9 years, 3 months in the Home, suffering from "Disease of the Heart, weakness of kidneys, and lumbago". The Surgeons Certificate of Admission states, "I do not believe his disabilities are due to intemperate or licentious habits".

When Francis was hospitalized, his wife Anastasia lived at the Soldiers Home Annex, and it was there that she died in September of 1905. She was a member of the Innis Women's Relief Corps Post in Grand Rapids.

Francis left the Soldiers Home for the last time in April, 1916, and 7 months later, while staying at his daughters home in Saginaw, Corporal Dubois answered the final muster. Francis, Anastasia, and Florence are all buried in Forest Lawn Cemetery in Saginaw.

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY

7th — Saturday

Port Huron

3rd Annual Civil War Ball at the Harrington Inn, Port Huron. Doors open at 6:00 pm, Grand March at 7:00 pm. Music by the Heritage String Band. Admission \$10.00, under 12 \$6.00. For further info, contact Torre Frasier, 4102 McLain Road, North Street, MI 48049, (810) 985-7963.

12th — Thursday

Lincoln's Birthday

Also known as Union Defenders Day. All Brothers are asked to fly the Nation's Flag.

16th — Monday

President's Day

All Brothers are asked to fly the Nation's Flag.

21st — Saturday

Lansing

The Department of Michigan's Midwinter Conference at the Midway Motor Hotel on West Saginaw Street starts at 1:00 pm. Washington/Lincoln dinner follows in the evening. See the next page for details.

22nd — Sunday

Washington's Birthday

All Brothers are asked to fly the Nation's Flag.

28th and March 1st — Saturday and Sunday Wyoming, MI

The 3rd Michigan Infantry, Co. F, and the Grand Rapids Guard will sponsor a Civil War Show at the Grand Valley Armory, 1200 44th Street SW, Wyoming, MI. Hours will be 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on Saturday and 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Sunday. Reproduction and Original Civil War guns, relics, documents and photographs will be on display and for sale. Activities include Civil War related videos, drill demonstrations, genealogy workshops, door prize drawings, dance demonstrations and more. Refreshments will be available on site. Admission \$2.00, under 12 free. For further info contact Kerry Snider at (616) 891-9292.

MARCH

21st and 22nd — Saturday and Sunday

Kalamazoo

23rd Annual Antique Arms and Pioneer Show at the Kalamazoo County Fairgrounds. 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Saturday. 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Sunday. Admission \$4.00.

31st — Tuesday

Budget Recommendation Deadline

Department officers, committee chairmen and any others affected are requested to submit their budget recommendations to the Department Treasurer by this date.

APRIL

1st — Wednesday

Copy Deadline

Deadline for copy submission for the *May* issue of Michigan's Messenger. Please help your editor by mailing your submissions so that they will be *received* by this date.

5th — Sunday

Lansing

Book and Paper show at the Lansing Center, 333 East Michigan Avenue, three blocks east of the Capitol. 250+ tables. Lots of Civil War related material. Books, maps, postcards, autographs, magazines, etc. 9:30 am to 5:00 pm. Admission \$4.00.

There will also be a Genealogy and History Book Fair coinciding with the book and paper show in another room of the Lansing Center, 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. Lots of books, pamphlets and computer software to help in researching your family tree. Admission \$2.00.

10th — Friday

Camp Quarterly Reports Due

All Camps are requested to have their Quarterly Reports, Form 27-28 filed with the Department Secretary by this date. Please fill out the form completely and remit along with a check covering all monies owed the Department.

MAY

2nd and 3rd — Saturday and Sunday

Mansfield, Ohio

Civil War Show at the Richland County Fairgrounds. 9:00 am to 5:00 pm both days. Three buildings of dealers occupying over five hundred tables. If you are looking for almost anything related to the Civil War or Civil War Veteran, this is the place to find it. This is billed as the largest show of its kind in the Midwest. Items for sale range from original C. W. issue pieces of hardtack to all sorts of weapons, GAR memorabilia to C. W. art work, etc. There are also many display only tables that are alone worth the trip. Admission \$3.00. For further info, call (419) 289-3120.

25th — Monday

Memorial Day, Observed

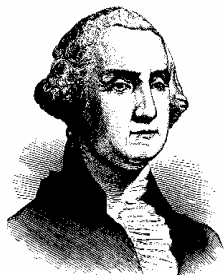
30th — Saturday

Memorial Day, Traditional

All Camps should take part in local Memorial Day activities honoring those who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States.

TRIVIA ANSWER (from page 7)

1867. The 1st National Encampment was held on November 20, 1866 and the 2nd was held on January 15, 1868 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



MIDWINTER CONFERENCE AND WASHINGTON/LINCOLN



The Department's Midwinter Conference will be held on Saturday, February 21, 1998 at the Midway Hotel, 7711 West Saginaw Highway (M-43, off I-96 at exit 93), Lansing. It will begin at 1:00 pm. All Department Brothers are urged to attend.

The topic of the first of three sessions is the Department's new GAR Record program. Committee Chairman James Lyons, PDC, will lead a panel discussion about its objectives, procedures and progress.

The next part will consist of small-group discussions. Elected officers of the Department will meet with their Camp counterparts to review the descriptions, duties, responsibilities and conduct of their offices. Conference attendees who are not officers may sit in with those groups or may form their own to discuss topics of mutual interest.

In the third session, chairmen of Department committees, both standing and special, will present reports. They will describe the functions, charges and progress of their committees.

The conference will continue with a general question and answer period. It is scheduled to conclude at 4:30 pm.

Early arrivals at the conference may want to meet together for

lunch and fellowship in the hotel's North Pine Grill, gathering there at the suggested time of 11:30 am. While the conference itself is in progress, spouses or other guests of those in attendance may want to visit Michigan's Capitol Building, Museum and/or archives in downtown Lansing; or the Lansing Mall and other shopping center near the conference site.

All are encouraged to stay for the 12th annual **George Washington/Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Dinner**. Sponsored jointly by the Michigan Department, SUVCW and the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Michigan, this event will take place later in the same day, also at the Midway Hotel. It will begin with a social hour at 5:30 pm, continue with dinner at 6:30 pm, feature a program at 7:30 pm and end at 9:00 pm. The cost is \$16.00 per person. The deadline for reservations is February 16.

The guest speaker, Kerry Chartkoff, will describe Michigan's Civil War battle flags. You won't want to miss hearing this very knowledgeable, dynamic speaker!

Washington/Lincoln Commemorative Dinner Reservation

Please accept my reservation for ____ persons at \$16.00 each.

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ ____ .00

Name _____ Camp No. _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please make checks payable to: Department of Michigan, SUVCW

Mail to: James T. Williams
8032 Ore Knob Drive
Fenton, MI 48430-9355

Deadline - February 16

Deadline - February 16



BRAVING THE BRIARS ON LITTLE ROUND TOP

In addition to laying a wreath at the nearby Fourth Michigan Infantry Monument, the Department of Michigan Delegation, to the 1997 Remembrance Day at Gettysburg, paid their respects to the Michigan Sharpshooters who faced-the-foe, on the western slope of Little Round Top. The monument honors the Michigan men who served with Companies C, K and I of the 1st Regiment, U. S. Sharpshooters and Company B of the 2nd Regiment, U. S. Sharpshooters, of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, Sickles' 3rd Corps.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
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