



Mi

Messenger

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN ~ SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



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IT'S NOT US

by Bill McAfee, SVC Camp 180

One of the members of the Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table, a retired high school history teacher, loves to challenge me with monuments and cemeteries he's run across as he travels the area. Last year, he approached me about "one of your monuments" that he'd "bet" we didn't know about (photo). It is in the Bethlehem Cemetery on Jackson Road in Ann Arbor, just west of the I-94 underpass. Upon further research, I found that that cemetery has been inventoried and there was no note of that monument in our archives. That is a church cemetery for a very old German congregation and both go back to the early settlement of Ann Arbor. The sexton denied any knowledge of information about this plaque which is on a stone that had the letters "S.U.V." prominently displayed under the State of Michigan's Coat of Arms. On small plates attached to the plaque are the names of two individuals who are evidently buried in that location. We had no record of them as former sons, although their birth and death dates may have qualified them as eligible. At the bottom of the plaque was the note that it was "ERRICHTET 1932" (erected in 1932).



I was about ready to try to contact the church's historian when I saw a notice on a bulletin board at work for a German society that was having a social function in the area. Calling one of the members listed as contacts for their "Oktoberfest", I was told that there was definitely an historic connection between the Bethlehem Church and the "Schwaebische Unterstuetzung Verein" (Swabian Benevolent Society), or "S.U.V."

Mystery solved. I was elated to report back to my friend that, "It's not us!"

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2003/2004*

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E. Lou Hoos

Historian

Paul Hodges, PDC

Guard

Ed Dowd

Guide

Bob Grove

Color Bearer

Blaine Valentine

Graves Registration

Rick Danes

G.A.R. Records

James T. Lyons, PDC

Civil War Memorials

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Kevin Lindsey

Editor, Michigan's Messenger

John R. Mann

B.S.A. Coordinator

Bruce Zann

Commander's Group Rep.

Bruce B. Butgereit

Ceremonies & Ritual

Gregory Hayes

TAPS

DONALD CULP

Brother Donald Culp of Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20 passed away February 25, 2003 in Kalamazoo, MI. Born August 26, 1924 in South Bend, Indiana, his cremated remains were interred in the Fort Custer National Cemetery in Battle Creek. A Marine Corps veteran of World War II, he graduated with the Class of 1942 at Kalamazoo College, was a member of the American Legion and the Masonic orders, as well as the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. His Union ancestor was his grandfather, John T. Stringer, a private in the 3rd Michigan Cavalry. His wife, three children and one grandchild survive him. He resided at 2315 Oakland Drive, Kalamazoo, 49008. A son, Mike, is a Past Camp Commander of Camp No. 20.

~ WANTED ~

INFORMATION

On the location of

G.A.R Post Records and Charters

and

S.U.V. Camp Records and Charters

If you know the whereabouts of any of these items,
whether in public or private hands, please

Contact

James T. Lyons, PDC, Chmn.

G.A.R. Records Committee

14650 Willowbrook Drive

Lake Odessa, MI 48849-8491

(616) 374-7847

jtlcof@voyager.net

DO IT NOW!

DEPARTMENT ORDERS NO. 1

SERIES 2003 ~ 2004

Department Headquarters, Kentwood, Michigan

1. On behalf of my fellow Officers in the Department of Michigan, I thank you for considering me worthy to serve for a second term as Department Commander. I hope to remain worthy of your confidence, and the honor you have bestowed upon me. My compliments go out to the entire team of newly elected & appointed officers (please see full listing, elsewhere in this issue) who will be serving our Department and the interests of our Camps. I respectfully and fraternally call upon our entire membership to support the activities of their respective Camps because together, we can accomplish great things in honor of the boys who wore the Blue. Coming to know, and to work with as many of you as possible, is something that I look forward to - either by attending a meeting of your Camp or by some other function. DSVN Neal Breugh and I are already working on a Camp visitation schedule as we intend to do our best to again visit every Camp in the Department.

2. Department Headquarters will remain at 1691 Summerfield Street SE, Kentwood, MI 49508-6499. Communications may be mailed via the USPS to the above address. Fax transmissions may be sent to (616) 827-3366. My home phone is (616) 291-6939 and my cell phone is (616) 291-6939. Please remember I work evenings and can be reached on my cell phone 24/7.

3. Please join me in saluting retiring Department Senior Vice-Commander Brother Phil Parks for his contributions to the work of the Department.

4. Given the severity of the weather on April 4 and 5, a special thank you is extended to the 53 Brothers who attended the 114th Department Encampment. I also appreciate those who assisted with registration, setting up the room and for business we accomplished. One of the highlights of the Encampment for me was the first-time attendance of the Brothers of Camp 85. The Brotherly hug I received from Commander Verlin Dillman was an unexpected reward and one I'll treasure. I'm proud to be one of our Michigan Brothers.

5. The Department Encampment minutes will be distributed to all Department officers, Camp Commanders and Secretaries, as well as all who were in attendance. The By-law amendments are being drafted and will be sent to Commander-in-Chief Robert Grim for approval. Once they are received, they will be posted on the Department website.

6. Three *Abraham Lincoln Certificate of Appreciation Awards* were conferred upon deserving recipients at the

Encampment. One, nominated by Camp 1, went to **Mrs. Deb Conklin**, a teacher in the Godwin Heights (Wyoming) Public School system for her boundless efforts in educating her students about the Civil War. While learning about the war, her students have participated in numerous service learning projects to raise funds (about \$7,000) for the restoration of the Kent County Civil War Monument. The second one went to **Mr. George W. Anderson**, nominated by Camp 14, for his efforts at preserving the Civil War graves in the Traverse City area. The third was bestowed upon **Judy Gross**, nominated by the Graves Registration Committee, for her efforts in surveying a vast multitude of cemeteries throughout both the upper and lower peninsula's of Michigan.

7. On behalf of the Department of Michigan, SUVCW, I have extended congratulations to the newly elected Department Presidents: Sister Lucille Streeter, of the Michigan Woman's Relief Corps and Sister Kristina Reynolds of the DUVCW.

8. The Department of Michigan regrets to report the passing of Brother **Donald Culp** of Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20. Donald passed away February 25, 2003 in Kalamazoo, MI. Born August 26, 1924 in South Bend, IN, his cremated remains were interred in the Ft. Custer National Cemetery in Battle Creek. A Marine Corps veteran of World War II, he graduated with the Class of 1942 at Kalamazoo College, was a member of the American Legion and the Masonic orders, as well as the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. His Union ancestor was his grandfather, John T. Stringer, a private in the 3rd Michigan Cavalry. His wife, three children and one grandchild survive him. He resided at 2315 Oakland Drive, Kalamazoo, 49008. A son, Mike, is a Past Camp Commander of Camp 20. The Department website and Camp Charters were ordered draped for thirty-days.

9. Please be reminded that I would appreciate receiving notification of any Brother or Sister who may be "in distress" and in need of support through prayer. Many of have expressed their gratefulness in not only receiving notice of these needs through the **Prayer List** email but also their thankfulness for your thoughts and prayers.

10. As this edition was going to press, the following Camps have not yet submitted By-laws for approval: 2, 3, 17, 20, 28, 43, 120, 139, 145, and 250. The IRS requires that all tax-exempt non-profit organizations maintain current By-laws and thus this request for Camps to comply. If you have

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any questions or concerns about them, please do not hesitate to contact me.

11. As Michigan will be hosting the 2003 *Central Region Conference*, on October 4, 2003, I will publish the details in the next issue of the MESSENGER. Other future events are listed elsewhere in this issue.

12. As Department Commander, I have participated in the following events (Camp 1 Commander events not included):

- A. January 5 – Installation of Officers/Meeting at Camp 139 (Alpena)
- B. January 7 – Installation of Officers at Camp 28 (Big Rapids)
- C. January 8 – Installation of Officers/Meeting at Camp 160 (Corunna)
- D. January 14 – Installation of Officers/Meeting at Camp 14 (Traverse City)
- E. January 12 – Installation of Officers at Camp 3 (Grand Haven)
- F. January 25 – Installation of Officers at Camp 20 (Kalamazoo)
- G. January 27 – Installation of Officers/Meeting at Camp 180 (Ann Arbor)
- H. January 30 – Installation of Officers/Meeting at Camp 2 (Berkeley/Troy)
- I. February 1 – Installation of Officers/Meeting at Camp 266 (Marquette)
- J. February 6 – Installation of Officers at Camp 22 (Marshall)
- K. February 9 – Installation of Officers/Meeting at Camp 147 (Cadillac)
- L. February 22 – Mid-Winter Meeting
- M. March 1 – Meeting at Camp 67 (Bay City)
- N. March 4 – Meeting at Camp 20 (Kalamazoo)
- O. March 19 – Meeting at Camp 145 (Flushing)
- P. April 5 – Annual Department Encampment

By the order of:

Bruce Butgereit,
Commander,
Department of Michigan

Attest:

Richard Lee
Secretary,
Department of Michigan

CHAPLAIN

William B. M^e Afee

Every once in a while, we are fortunate enough to run across a piece that touches us, appears appropriate to our activities of remembrance and which we want to share with those of you with like minds. Our new Camp Patriotic Instructor, Ken Sullivan, presented one such piece to Camp 180 in March. Ken and his wife found this in a church or cemetery in the Shenandoah Valley about 1999, photographed it and has agreed that it should be shared. Even though I gave it at the memorial to the G.A.R. at the recent Departmental Annual Encampment, I want to pass it on as well to those of you who were not able to be there. It was titled:

“A Man Lives as Long...as He is Remembered”.

Your tombstone stands among the rest:
Neglected and alone.
The name and date are chiseled out
On polished, marbled stone.

It reaches out to all who care...
It is too late to mourn.
You did not know that I exist
You died and I was born.

Yet each of us are cells of you
In flesh, in blood, in bone.
Our blood contracts and beats a pulse
Entirely not our own.

Dear Ancestor, the place you filled
One hundred years ago
Spreads out among the ones you left
Who would have loved you so.

I wonder if you lived and loved,
I wonder if you knew
That someday I would find this spot,
And come to visit you.

-Unknown

“Serve the Lord with gladness.”



SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Neal F. Breaugh

Having just completed a very rewarding and enjoyable year as your JVC, it is a great privilege and honor to have been elected to serve you again this year as your SVC. I am very proud to be a part of Commander Butgereit's team as I feel that we have worked closely and very well together during the past year.

Having visited 15 of our Camps this past year, it is my intention to continue this practice. Seeing where each camp meets, how their meetings are conducted, hearing about what is going on in each Camp, and most of all meeting and visiting with the Camp members has been more than well worth the time spent and miles drove. I have learned a great deal during the past year and really admire the efforts and enthusiasm from the Camps and their members. It is rewarding to receive the warm reception that we have received at these Camp meetings and the expression of appreciation for our visits. It is also good to know that on many occasions we have been a help to the Camps and its leadership. And for those week night 7:00 pm evening meetings, it has been great to meet some of the Camp members over dinner before the meeting begins. Commander Bruce has again appointed me in charge of trying to arrange these comfortable pre meeting dinners. Driving from Traverse City means I usually have to leave early and have some dinner near the Camp meeting place, and I hate to eat alone.

Commander Bruce and I met on Sunday morning after the Encampment and have already started to schedule some Camp meeting visits. I definitely wanted to schedule in the 9 Camps that I was not able to attend last year. We also enjoy attending special events that Camps have from time to time. Although we can't make them all, please do not hesitate to invite us. We, or one of us, will be there if we can.

Two areas of responsibility for the SVC are the Bylaws and use of the media for PR and publicity. As for the Bylaws, I have asked two very experienced and knowledgeable National and Department veterans to serve on this Committee: PC-C Keith Harrison and Department Treasurer Dick Williams. As Department Commander, Bruce Butgereit is also on the Committee. Of course, it is my hope that we won't have as many issues to deal with this year, but that remains to be seen.

As for the media, public relations and publicity, I will provide whatever help I can when requested And will certainly talk about it when I visit Camps. I will continue to keep track of the Camp's Articles in The Michigan Messenger because I truly believe that this is so important. A new special Theme for me this year will be to encourage Camps to attend our Mid Winter Meeting in February, 2004; and our 115th Department Encampment next April. Also, the Central Region Conference will be Held in Grand Rapids this October 4th. It will never be closer; so I hope we can take advantage of it.

CAMP RESOURCE BOOK

by Dick Williams

Each Camp now has the Camp Resource Book and CD in their possession. For those Camps not represented at the midwinter meeting or the Department Encampment, the Camp Resource Book and CD was mailed to the Camp Secretary.

This new resource book is not just for the secretary of the Camp. There is something on the CD for every person in the Camp. The information isn't copy protected, so you can make copies of the CD and distribute to Camp members.

The book and CD have all the current forms needed by the Camps. There are forms for the Camp annual report, Camp status reports (used for any change on any member during any month), membership applications (I encourage all Camps to use the new membership forms!!), etc.

All the information in the new Camp Resource Book appears on the CD, but there is more information on the CD than what's in the book. For instance, the Constitution and Regulations of the Order is on the CD. All job descriptions are on the CD as well as several other documents.

There are 4 important pieces of information that should be reviewed that will give you the most information as to what's available for your use. All four documents are toward the front of the Camp Resource Book.

First, review the index of documents on the CD. Become familiar with it so you know what's available on the CD.

Second, become familiar with the Camp timeline guide. It will help you with the minimum items that should be handled by the Camp during each month.

Third, review the National SUVCW web site index to see what else is available and not on the Camp Resource CD.

Fourth, review the Department of Michigan web site index to see what additional items not provided by the National Organization and the Camp Resource CD.

There isn't any schedule for anyone at the Department level to maintain the Camp Resource Book or CD. It is something put together to help those Camps not familiar with what's available and to help supplement the knowledge of each Camp. I would encourage someone in each Camp to become familiar with the information available and add to or update the book for the Camp.

(PAST) SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

Philip N. Parks

My Congratulations to our new slate of Officers, Commander Bruce Butgereit, DSVC Neal Breagh, DJVC Rick Greene, Secretary Richard Lee, Treasurer Dick Williams, our Council and all the Department of Michigan Staff.

The Department Bylaws Committee consisted of Rick Greene, Dick Williams, Bruce Butgereit II, Philip Parks and Exofficio, Commander Bruce Butgereit. The Proposed Bylaws that all the Camps had for their review were the inspiration of our Commander gleaned from his extensive experience as the Chair of the previous year's Bylaws Committee. The expectation of the Committee has now been realized with having these Revisions approved by two-thirds of the Delegates at the Annual Encampment of the Department of Michigan in Grand Rapids on April 5, 2003.

The "Messenger" published 3 of my communications since I was elected DSVC. The first emphasized the job description and our need to communicate outside and inside the Department. A request was made for each CSVC to communicate with me about their Camp and themselves. One SVC responded! The second note emphasized how our Camp 266 participated in community activities, such as a Gun and Knife Show, Civil War Living History Encampment and Michigan Department of History event, Iron Ore and the Civil War, which are great for recruitment and keeping the SUVCW in the public eye. At least 17 newspapers in the UP responded with coverage of these events. The third message proposed some specific examples on how Camps can respond to the challenge to rise above the background noise. Being on the lookout for opportunities is essential but like so many other things in life it must begin at home, our Camp, our town and our county. Another personal example, several years ago Camp 266 was planning to have a rededication service by the placing of our first grave marker for Sergeant Orla W. Doolittle of the Charles H. Towne, GAR Post No. 8, of Ishpeming. I spent many hours of communication and planning a short Civil War series with a representative of WLUC-TV6. At the Ishpeming Cemetery that Saturday we gathered, finally a young lady with a camera came to record the ceremony. No names asked for nor questions about the service which was to be the first of a continuing series about the Civil War veterans in the Upper Peninsula. I got a call when I got back to Hancock that this series was now going to have 30 seconds on the 11:00 pm News this very Saturday night! The lesson is try to make the media think it was their idea and all broadcasts are subject to Editors. But we can start small at home with a Camp newsletter even if it only contains the

minutes of the last Camp meeting. The Christmas letter that I sent out to all Senior Vice Commanders was also intended to encourage each Camp to start small with good Camp communication before trying to launch out into the deep. That letter got the greatest number of 'Newsletters' sent to me, 4! I just know there must be at least 22 more out there on their way toward my mailbox. Our Department of Michigan 'Media' goal will be to have every Camp produce a 'Newsletter' no matter who is serving as our DSVC!

There are several topics, issues and questions that have accrued that may find a voice of sympathy or a united response of the Department of Michigan and the National SUVCW.

1. The month of February is not only to celebrate the birthdays of Lincoln and Washington but it is also to proclaim Black History Month. What is our responsibility with respect to Sons of Black Units of the Civil War?
2. The month of April should be devoted to the memory and accomplishments of Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant. Born April 27, 1822 and brought all of us the Victory April 9, 1865. He lived in Detroit in 1849 and owned property in our fair State. The SUVCW can give Honor to whom Honor is due which could be the devoting of the Month of April each year to the celebration of our 18th President and the first one to earn the rank of Lt. General since George Washington was honored with that rank.
3. Reparations was a topic of gubernatorial debate during the recent Michigan elections. Opinion is that the 13 Confederate states should bare the burden and not the thousands of Union widows and orphans.
4. The present anti-war demonstrations should be answered both Nationally and Departmentally, giving support to our C-in-C from the SUVCW.
5. The Boy Scouts are under attack again for their stand against homosexual leaders in their ranks. Can the SUVCW defend as well as support the Boy Scout movement?
6. In hopeful anticipation of continued growth of the Camps in the UP it would be well now to consider a plan that would create a Northern Division and a Southern Division of the Department of Michigan.
7. The Homeland Security Department is in need of reliable men to become the backbone of a working Civil Defense system, what better source than the ranks of the SUVCW.

Trust your summer will provide challenges and opportunities to publish and recruit. In the Copper Country, Michigan Technological University and the Daily Mining Gazette are sponsoring a symposium for a week in July on our 'Settlers'. Since many 'Settlers' were Civil War veterans returning to the Copper Country and some coming here to settle, we hope this program will give us recruitment opportunity. Maybe the beginning of the revival of the

GRAVES REGISTRATION

“WHERE THE GREEN OF THE MEMORY HAS A SPECIAL MEANING”

by Rick Danes

The weather is turning warm, and the grass and trees are turning green, so guess where the members of the Graves Registration Committee will be soon?

I first need to thank Commander Butgereit for the continued support and confidence to give the committee freedom to act in the best interests of the Department on Graves Registration matters. I think that the group has shown that this opportunity has paid big dividends in a Nationally-recognized quality program. We look forward to working with he and the other officers for another year.

Let me give you a few facts from my annual report:

The Department Graves Registration Officer's Handbook was successfully updated and distributed. If you did not have a representative at the Mid-Winter Conference, please make arrangements to get your update from me.

An interim version of a Department graves website was announced at the Department Encampment. We hope that the link will be complete by the time you read this announcement. The Committee will now start working on the final configuration.

Committee members attended historical and genealogical society meetings in ten different counties last year. This year we have attended one in Plymouth, and one in Monroe. Please see the photos of some of the Brothers there. We need to further this effort elsewhere in the state. All you need is a laptop computer, a copy of the department graves dB, and the Brown Books. If some of you want some hands-on experience before you try this, let me know.

We currently have 38,659 records at National and 42,374 in the Department dB. We now have 27 counties completed and submitted and 44 counties that are actively being surveyed. Many of these are being done by our friends outside the Order. With only 8 counties left to start, I wonder what the 12 Camps that couldn't attend a committee meeting last year are waiting for. (Hint, if you are going to start now, let me know, there might be someone already working in your area).

We have been requested by Jr. Vice C-in-C Stevens to assist the Department of Tennessee in upgrading their program. A copy of our Graves Handbook was sent to them.

One of our Committee Members asked that I forward an alternate source for the purchase of GAR and Civil War Veteran flag holders, flags, etc. Upon a initial look, it seems that the cost might be a little lower, but that's for you to decide. A quick email or phone call would get you a colored brochure and price list, and I think you can place your orders this way, too. The source is CenTec Cast Metal Products, (800)-969-3740 or centec@nwonline.net. The company is in Fremont, Ohio (this was not a paid-for ad).

In closing, I would like to say that at the Department Encampment I accepted on behalf of the Graves Registration Committee a Certificate for Meritorious Service presented by Commander in Chief Robert Grim. Good work to all, but you're not off the hook yet!

TREASURER

Dick Williams

This is the breakdown of income and expenses from April 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003. Some bills were paid prior to me getting the books in May 2002 and aren't reflected in these totals which gives us an inflated income. The total amount available to the Department is correct. It's just some of the bills were paid during last year and some of the income for those bills were applied to this year.

Income

7 th Corp Patch	\$60.00
Camp at Large	345.10
Camp Per-Capita	10,216.00
Coat-of-Arms Pocket Patch	300.00
Dept Encampment	660.00
Emblem Pocket Patch	370.00
Hat Badge	1,296.50
Interest Inc	64.85
Mouse Pads	50.00
Wine Glasses	<u>63.00</u>
Total Income	\$13,425.45

Expenses

Badges & Insignia	\$802.60
Central Region	5.00
Commander Expenses	63.91
Department Encampment*	-1,541.25
Messenger	2,583.16
National Encampment	34.27
National Per-Capita	6,382.00
Secretary Expenses	103.12
Supplies	<u>86.75</u>
Total Expenses	\$8,519.56

Total Overall **\$4,905.89**

*The actual bills for the encampment in 2002 were paid prior to me keeping records. The income from the encampment in 2002 was posted after the encampment in 2002.

VISUAL IMAGE OF FIRST STATE FLAG SURFACES

by Craig A. Whitford, Patriotic Instructor
George W. Anderson Camp 58

Perhaps one of the greatest mysteries of the State of Michigan is the whereabouts of the first flag bearing the seal of the State. During the winter of 2002, an envelope, with a type written heading, "The Mason Flag," was discovered in Mason. The envelope provides a detailed description of the front and back images. Within the envelope was a small remnant of silk, attached to a letter sheet, accompanied by two vintage photographs bearing tattered images of a flag. The ensemble, loaned to Loren Shattuck, by Tom Hemans, grandson of Lawton T. Hemans, (Michigan Historian, State Representative, 1901-1904; Candidate for Governor, 1908 and 1910) for an open house and Ingham County historical marker dedication at his residence — The Lawton T. Hemans home.

A late fall invitation to the Hemans-Shattuck home to get a closer look at a few of the artifacts, uncovered the envelope described above. A call to Kerry Chartkoff at the Capitol revealed the importance of the discovery — A visual or photographic record of the flag has not been available for more than 70 years! Wow! What a discovery.

A brief history of the flag is as follows:

On February 22, 1837 Governor Stevens T. Mason presented a flag to the state militia known as the Brady Guards. The flag was described as "a standard bearing upon one side the devices and inscriptions on the seal of the State, with a Brady Guard and lady, and on the reverse his own portrait." This flag was without a doubt the first bearing the State coat of arms and was carried by the first uniformed company of militia in the State, having been organized April 13, 1836, and was called into the service of the United States in the winter of 1837 as a frontier guard, during what is known as the "Patriot War," a very feeble attempt at a Canadian revolution. Upon the death of General Hugh Brady, April 15, 1851, the Brady Guards folded the flag in crepe and turned it over to their successor organization, the Williams Light Infantry.

The flag was unfurled by the Williams Light Infantry upon hearing of the firing on Fort Sumter in April, 1861. The 100 recruits who signed up at WLI headquarters during the first ten minutes became (as the Detroit Light Guard) Company A of the 1st Michigan Infantry Regiment, signing on for three months.

From 1861 until 1911, the whereabouts of the flag was unknown. Mrs. James H. Campbell, a member of the DAR, begins her search for the flag during 1909. Eventually the

flag is discovered as "a faded bundle", in a remote storage area in the basement of the Capitol. The flag is sent to Kent Scientific Museum in Grand Rapids, during 1911, for unwrapping, cleaning, and to have its "frail parts" reinforced with "fine silk gauze." During this time a "large plate glass case" is built to display it in the Capitol rotunda.

In 1912, Mrs. Campbell exhibits the newly encased flag after it is returned from the Kent Museum. At some time during the late 1920's or early 1930's the flag goes missing again. A fire in January of 1931, within the Capitol, is reported as having claimed "the state flag which was used under Stevens T. Mason, first governor..." But a recently discovered physical inventory, accomplished by the State during 1939, records its existence or does it?

The mystery continues as to whether the flag exists in some dark corner, or was it actually lost during the Capitol fire of 1931. Perhaps we will never know.

The envelope, silk fragment and photographs were donated to the State, during December 2002, by Tom Hemans. Michigan History Week, to be observed during May 17-25, 2003, will celebrate the newly discovered historic visual record that we now possess of the first State Flag.



*Michigan's First State Flag, circa 1837
The "Brady Guard" Flag*

ALEXANDER FRENCH CAMP 28 ~ BIG RAPIDS

Dave Waldron, PCC

In September 2000 Alexander French Camp instituted and undertook the sponsorship of the Big Rapids Area Civil War Roundtable which has been meeting the third Tuesday of each month ever since. The roundtable meets in the Crossroads Charter Academy on South State Street, and have been drawing on Camp 28 members and other attendees from the community for our presentations. We have had several dealings with George A. Custer, and a series of presentations on the battles leading up to Gettysburg. We have just recently established a Roundtable Committee to coordinate speakers and oversee the administration of the roundtable. We are currently diligently seeking outside presenters for future roundtables. If any of our readers can assist or advise us in this area, please contact our Commander, Ron Kerwood at (231) 972-7183.

Camp 28 tries to keep a rather high profile in the community by participation in Memorial Day Parades, Traditional Memorial Day Services at the G.A.R. plot in the local cemetery, Flag Retirement and Disposal Ceremonies jointly with the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 18, Independence Day Parades, Veteran's Day Services at the Mecosta County Courthouse, etc., all of which we try to have media coverage for.

Our Graves Registration program sorta' stuttered this past year or two, but with the appointment of a full time Graves Registration Officer this year, we hope to get back in step again. We held our election of our Camp Officers for 2003 in November, and the following Brothers were elected or appointed:

Ronald K. Kerwood	Commander
Randy L. Maxwell	Senior Vice Commander
John F. Emmons	Junior Vice Commander
David L. Waldron	Secretary
Theodore S. Johnson	Treasurer
Gerald M. Lintemuth	Camp Council
David L. Waldron	Camp Council
John N. Walker	Camp Council
Gerald M. Lintemuth	Color Bearer
Kreaton H. Cullimore	Chaplain
Theodore S. Johnson	Chaplain
John N. Walker	Patriotic Instructor
Gordon L. Jacobs	Guide
Gordon L. Jacobs	Graves Registration Officer
Jerald H. Waldron	Guard
James C. Wood	Historian
Hon. LaVail E. Hull	Counselor

Department Commander Bruce B. Butgereit was Installing Officer. Department Junior Vice Commander Neal Breaugh was also in attendance. We sure hope that this Michigan weather allows us to attend the Mid-Winter Conference in Lansing.

Along with the publicity of the roundtable, we plan on a

"Newsletter" article in the local paper, which will be under the direction of Brother James C. Wood, who is local historian and author. Now, if we could only get new members (to help lighten the workload); this is a priority item on our Camp's agenda for 2003, along with the review and updating of our Camp Bylaws.

(The preceding article was received after the January 2003 issue had been sent to the printer, ed.)

GEN. JOHN A. LOGAN CAMP 1 ~ GRAND RAPIDS

Bruce B. Butgereit, CC

While much of our work slowed during the past few months, our fundraising efforts for the Kent County Civil War Monument Restoration Project took off in high gear. At the time this issue was going to press, we were just \$31,000 from reaching our \$250,000 goal. We are anxiously looking forward to the restoration work beginning and for a September 6 rededication.

The support for this project has grown stronger and some might say I've become a media favorite or celebrity, but it's really the SUVCW and the boys in Blue who are receiving the recognition. Some are hinting at my running for public office but I don't think that will happen. I know several on the Kent County Board of Commissioners who would not support me as I took them on, so to speak, in a debate over their giving funds to the monument that received much media coverage. For a look at the relationship between the County and our efforts, go to our website, www.civilwarmonument.org and read the story about the County that forgot its history.

To make a long story short, the County declared it couldn't give because of an administrative policy. I proved that to be false. They then declared we didn't have the support of the people. We gathered over 5,400 positive surveys that stated otherwise. They then refused because of fear other groups might ask for funding of their projects as well. But the same law that allows them to give to us allows them to refuse others not qualified. In the end, Kent County government has refused to support the project *in spite* of THREE Public Acts (213, 254, and 169), which encourage their support and giving, *in spite* of FOUR Opinions of the State Attorney General (OAG), and *in spite* of public support.

The following was an Editorial published by the Grand Rapids Press Friday February 21, 2003 and used here with permission:

"The 19 members of the Kent County Board of Commissioners ought to spend some time listening to the school children of Godwin Heights, and then to their own consciences. The result should be a substantial county contribution to restoration of the Civil War monument that stands in downtown Grand Rapids — a monument dedicated to the Kent County veterans of that war.

The Godwin Heights youngsters showed up at a meeting of the County Board last week to support the restoration project and to ask the commissioners to do the same. The students themselves, from the Middle School and lower grades, are doing their part and then some. They've raised \$3,000 through a combination of projects: mostly by dropping their loose change into jars at classroom doors and by writing fund-raising letters to Wyoming businesses -- to which the businesses have responded by giving \$1,400. A dozen or so other schools around the county are chipping in, too -- public, private, charter and home schools.

As the Godwin youngsters say, "This is a project that deserves the attention of all the residents in Kent County." Indeed. The monument stands as a reminder of sacrifices made by the 4,200 Kent County men who fought in the Civil War, more than 600 of them giving their lives. It was dedicated in 1885, at its site on Division Avenue at the head of Monroe Center, in a ceremony that included a two-mile-long parade and a speech by General Philip H. Sheridan, at the time the Army's commander in chief.

At a height of 34 feet, the monument is the tallest of some 435 Civil War monuments in Michigan. It is the only one with a fountain, though the plumbing hasn't worked in 20 years, and was the nation's first Civil War monument to include a tribute to women — "Woman's Mission of Mercy," accompanied by a frieze that is generally thought to represent a Grand Rapids woman who was an Army nurse.

Though the ornate marker is passed daily by thousands of people, few can ever be seen pausing there to study the ornate features and, in so doing, to honor those whom the monument commemorates. That indifference is reflected, too, in the monument's poor condition. In addition to corrosion, peeling paint and the failed plumbing, the zinc-alloy sculpture has structural problems, causing the soldier on top to lean backward on his heels.

A restoration campaign has been led for three years by a Kentwood man, Bruce B. Butgereit, who is the Michigan commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The project is expected to cost \$210,000 and will include dismantling the monument and installing an inner steel framework. Another \$40,000 is sought for a maintenance endowment.

So far, about \$149,000 has been raised. In addition to the dollars (and pennies) from school children, \$50,000 from the City of Grand Rapids and \$50,000 from the city's Downtown Development Authority, money has come from three foundations — Frey, Sebastian and Grand Rapids Label — and from Meijer Inc., smaller businesses, individuals, veterans groups and others.

Other local organizations, foundations and governments should be contributing, too. But no absence from the

donor list is as striking as that of the Kent County Board. The panel last year told Mr. Butgereit that its hands were tied by a county policy forbidding contributions to non-county projects. This year, the same excuse was given to Mr. Butgereit and the Godwin youngsters. Mr. Butgereit this time, however, noted for the board that its ban quite specifically provides for exceptions where approved by the Board of Commissioners. Plainly, the commissioners' only barrier is their own unwillingness to act.

Also obvious is that the board has the money to help. This year it operates on a budget of some \$402 million and has a savings account holding \$77 million. There are dollars to buy parkland, build a convention center, nab runaway pets, run a zoo and to provide cable TV for jail inmates — but nothing to respect the memory of the county's Civil War volunteers. Is this community's human contribution to the cause of preserving the Union and resisting slavery not worth a place somewhere in the Kent County commissioners' sense of their priorities and responsibilities? County commissioners are leaving the impression that they either know nothing of the community's history or that they care nothing for it.

Or is it that the monument is located in Grand Rapids, and therefore is another pawn in the ongoing political chess-match between the city and the county? The simple truth is that the monument commemorates the Civil War sacrifices of Kent County people. It is located in Grand Rapids because the city is the county seat.

County Board Chairman David J. Morren, a Gaines Township Republican, has said that he and other board leaders will reconsider and bring the matter to the full board again. That would be an opportunity for Mr. Morren and the board to save themselves. The restoration money eventually will be raised, with or without the County Board of Commissioners' participation. The County Board will have dishonored itself, however, if it persists in staying away."

As the editorial states, we'll get this done one way or another and we hope you'll join us in September in rededicating one of the most historical Civil War monuments in the United States.

Our Camp also participated in the Third Annual Allied Orders Winter Banquet in January at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. The event is a fun way to socialize and share the installation of our officers with our Sisters.

The three Allied Orders of Grand Rapids participated in the Kentwood Public Schools "Celebration of Freedom," an event to honor area veterans. We shared our living history program with over 2,000 high school students on March 17. In addition to sharing the Civil War, we shared a look at the Span-Am war, WW I, and even allowed the students to sign their name using a quill pen and ink to an edited copy of the Declaration of Independence (sadly many had never seen or read the document). Teachers were amazed to see students

walking down the halls reading it and many stated they were going to hang it on their wall.

We are looking forward to getting others in the Camp interested in helping with Grave Registration and fulfilling our goals.

GEN. ISRAEL B. RICHARDSON CAMP 2 ~ OAKLAND COUNTY

Kevin Lindsey, JVC

In January, we were pleased to host DC Butgereit, DJVC Breaugh, and Treasurer Williams at our meeting, where they installed our new officers.

In February our founding CC Keith Krinn informed the Camp that he had accepted a new career position in Ohio, and would be leaving our Camp, and joining one there. The Camp will miss him, and voted him our profound thanks for his role in organizing an Oakland County Camp. He was presented with a framed photograph of our namesake, Gen. Richardson. As result of his leaving, the Camp Council met before our February meeting to fill his position. They elected SVC Bruce Miller as Commander, and Chaplain William Nash to SVC. Since CC Miller had also served on the Camp Council, that position needed to be filled. The Council elected Brother William Vincent to take his place. Kevin Lindsey remains as JVC-Sec/Treasurer, and SVC Nash and Brother Ray Shedd remain on Council. At the same meeting, we had the pleasure of initiating a new Brother, James Harris into the Camp. He is the grandson of Pvt. James Harris of the 45th Kentucky Mounted Infantry.

At our March 27th meeting, we had the pleasure of initiating 2 more hereditary members, Timothy Harris, son of James Harris, and is descended from James Harris of the 45th Kentucky Mounted Infantry, and Nathan Nash, who is descended from William Nash of the 8th Tennessee Mounted Infantry. Pvt. Nash died while in service.

As a Camp we were able to attend a preview of "Gods and Generals" at the Birmingham Theater. The many pros and cons of the movie made for lively discussion at the subsequent meeting. We look forward to the final installment of the trilogy.

HENRY E. PLANT CAMP 3 ~ GRAND HAVEN

Daniel Grable, Sec./Treas.

Recently we were involved in many small but important items. First, just as every other Camp in the Department, we have been working on our Camp's Bylaws and Guidelines. We hope to have a vote on it soon.

Secondly, we learned about an interesting item concerning the cemetery at the old Ottawa County Poor Farm near Eastmanville. Last fall information about a man who was

researching his family genealogy led him to the publically forgotten small cemetery on the County Poor Farm property. The cemetery has a bunch of poor farm residents buried there. Other research has shown an incomplete list of possible people buried there. The residents of the poor farm were buried there between the late 1800's and 1931. A few of our Camp Brothers saw this and it came to mind, due to the death dates, "were any of them Civil War veterans?" We have started trying to answer the question. So far, we have not had any success. Later, information came to light of a Nunica resident whose genealogy research led him to the same cemetery who wants to restore the cemetery and find out how many and who is buried there. Our Camp's work on the cemetery is continuing.

Our Officers for the coming year are the same as last year.

Commander	Richard Scott
Senior Vice Commander	Donald Ogden
Junior Vice Commander	John Bauldus
Secretary/Treasurer	Daniel Grable
Council	John Bauldus
	Paul McDonald
	Jon Scott

Department Commander Bruce Butgereit held an impressive installation ceremony at our 3rd Annual Holiday Muster in January.

This past winter was hard on the physical and emotional health of our Camp. First, two Brothers, Scott Payne and Paul McDonald went into the hospital; Brother Payne for hip replacement surgery and Brother McDonald for physical problems. Then in March, our Secretary/Treasurer Daniel Grable lost his father to physical problems and old age. Keep us in your prayers.

Our Camp is planning on being involved this spring in the dedication of a local Eagle Scout project. The project consists of a new Civil War monument. The monument will include Civil War veterans from the tri-cities, northwest area of Ottawa County. It is an Eagle Scout project of Michael Brower who is also a member of the 4th Michigan Infantry re-enactors (to which several of our Camp members also belong). The location of the monument will be in William Montague Ferry Park, a central location within the area. William Ferry was a Civil War veteran who was Quartermaster of the 14th Michigan Infantry. The 14th was the regiment our Camp namesake, Henry E. Plant, served in during the war. The cities of Ferrysburg and Montague are named after William Ferry.

This spring the Camp will be observing our 10th anniversary. To celebrate this event the Camp will hold a Tenth Anniversary Picnic in Central Park in Spring Lake. We will be holding it on the observed Memorial Day following our involvement in the parade and ceremony in Spring Lake.

As of this writing, I have received the following from one of our Brothers:

2 April '03 Wed.

Dear Dan,

This finds me in Kuwait on 365 day orders for active duty

in the Army. Expect to end up in Northern Kuwait in 3 – 6 weeks. Please send my “Mail” here for the next 6 months. Keep up the good work in Camp 3 SUVCW.

Sincerely, Later
Max Riekse
(Address: LTC Max Riekse
#91406 Unit
APO AE 09302-1406)

Letters and packages from his Brothers in the SUVCW would be highly appreciated.

AUSTIN BLAIR CAMP 7 ~ JACKSON

Mark D. Heath, CC

Greetings from Jackson. With Spring's arrival, Camp 7 is full swing. The Camp's Color Guard participated at the Camp William's marker dedication on the 13th of April in Adrian. We thank our Brothers at Camp 43 for the invite and congratulate them on a job well done.

The month of May again looks to be a busy month for the Austin Blair Brothers and Auxiliary. On May 10th, we divide our forces as we will have two events that we are participating in. The first will be in Concord, Michigan in the early afternoon helping with the Concord Heritage Association who is sponsoring a special event at the Concord Opera House, honoring all veterans from the present ones to as far back in history as anyone has material. There will be medals, pictures, diaries, or any other memorabilia. The event will be open for to the public from 10 am to 4 pm. Later that evening at 8 pm the Jackson Chorale will have a concert “Dona Nobis Pacem” featuring Civil War poetry by Walt Whitman. It is to be held at the First United Methodist Church in downtown Jackson. Camp 7 will providing a Color Guard as well as having a display table.

Members of the Camp also plan on attending a Dedication on May 24th, to be held in Oregon, Ohio, by our Brothers in Camp 66 from the Department of Ohio SUVCW. Once again we have been asked to provide a Color Guard and we will visit with our Brothers to the south.

Monday May 26th will find us at our two annual “gigs” on Memorial Day; the parade in down-town Jackson and the now infamous “Holton ¼ mile parade” in Spring Arbor, Michigan.

This year on May 30th, 2003, TRADITIONAL MEMORIAL DAY, we plan to have a ceremony at Oak Grove Cemetery in Napoleon, Michigan. The ceremony will take place at Civil War Graves of “Five of Our Brave Boys” and is scheduled start at 7:00 pm.

As always we continue to plug away with Graves Registrations and Monument work. Doing our part to help keep green the memory of those who served.

We invite you to visit our web site at

www.austinblair.com for information and updates on events I have mentioned and we look forward to seeing you in the days ahead.

ROBERT FINCH CAMP 14 ~ TRAVERSE CITY

by Wm. E. Skillman, CC.

During the Mid-Winter meeting, Department Commander Bugereit suggested the Camp representatives encourage participation from their members to provide articles for the Messenger. Taking my cue, I volunteered to relieve our Camp Secretary and Treasurer, Neal Breough, in light of his new responsibilities. Despite my name appearing on the byline, the reader can be assured that Neal's energetic support will continue on behind the scenes.

Despite the blustery grasp of winter extending into April up here, Robert Finch Camp 14 has remained active. During the March meeting we had 20 members in attendance and two visitors. With help from my officers, we ‘mustered in’ two members. One of our visitors expressed her appreciation on being able to observe the induction ceremony, as she found the words and symbols described therein to be especially

poignant “in light all the trials that our Country is faced with”. Since January Camp 14 has added 6 new members, while having one Brother transfer to another Camp and another receive an honorable discharge. This brings our roster of 24 Brothers in good standing and 7 Associates.

At the same meeting, Camp 14 reviewed the amended Michigan Department By-laws and approved them. Likewise, the proposal to recommend Brother Neal Breough to the post of Department Senior Vice Commander was given a hearty approval by all the members present.

Fred Knoodle reports that ‘our’ unusual Confederate cannon continues to generate interest from around the country. He has been in contact with restoration experts on how to best stabilize the iron tube to prevent any further deterioration. He informed us that the process could be long and costly. The Camp supported the proposal that we ‘proceed slowly’ and form a committee to oversee the project at the next meeting. He is working with the local historical society to see how the cannon wound up in Northern Michigan and why the end of the barrel had burst.

At the April Department Banquet, our Jim Ribby was the honored speaker of the evening. Jim read a selection of poetry from Civil War nurse and renown poet Walt Whitman. Neal informed me that Jim's presentation was a “big hit” and much appreciated by the Department dignitaries and their guests.

This Memorial Day the Camp will participate in ceremonies in Traverse City and Northport. At the later location, Vice Commander Breough will present the Abraham Lincoln Certificate of Appreciation award to local historian Mr. George W. Anderson for his efforts to promote public awareness of Civil War and to honor the memory of the local veterans of that conflict.

Our next meeting will be Saturday May 7th at the South City Limits restaurant. I would like to extend a warm welcome to any Brother from the other Camps to come and join us.

GEN. BENJAMIN PRITCHARD

CAMP 20 ~ KALAMAZOO

Chuck Worley

The members of Camp 20 have outlasted another West Michigan winter, and have several ambitious projects in the works for the Spring of 2003. To update everyone, our Camp's brothers and their spouses met in January for dinner and the installation of the 2003 officers. Department Commander Bruce Butgereit officiated. Serving Camp 20 are:

Commander	Del Farnsworth
Sr. Vice Commander	Steve Rossio
Jr. Vice Commander	Mike Culp
Secretary	Jeff Baker
Treasurer	Joe Orbeck
Chaplain	Bill Brennan
Patriotic Instructor	Gary Gibson
Boy Scout Coordinator	John R. Keith
Graves Registration Officer	Bill Costello

Seven representatives attended the Annual Department Encampment on April 5th. We had a good time renewing acquaintances and making new friends over lunch and intense debates about "amendments to amendments." Back at camp, a committee of four brothers is updating the local by-laws for final adoption. We want to also welcome Brother Donald Kessler, from Western Pennsylvania who has transferred his membership in. We also welcome Bruce Gosling, who joined our camp in November. We are excited to extend a welcome to Al Taylor and Al Harper, two prospective members from Benton Harbor. On a sadder note, we regret the loss and extend our sympathy to the family of Brother Don Culp, who passed away on February 25th.

In the way of Camp 20 happenings, we will be participating May 17th in a Gravestone Dedication for Lt. Col. Charles B. Haydon, Co. I&E 2nd Mich. Inf., west of Decatur, Van Buren County. In addition to the Color Guard, family members and the local school band and chorus will participate along with the support of Township, County and State dignitaries. For additional information and directions to the Hamilton Township Cemetery, you may reach Brother John Keith by phone at (269) 685-5192 or e-mail at Hardtackcw@aol.com.

Lt. Col. Haydon was born in Vermont in 1834 and later moved with his family to Van Buren County. He completed four years of study at the University of Michigan. With his commission in the 2nd Michigan Infantry, he participated in the First Battle of Bull Run, the Peninsula Campaign, the Second Battle of Bull Run, Fredericksburg, Vicksburg, wounded in Mississippi, and engaged in the campaigns around Knoxville during the winter of 1863-1864. While on furlough and headed home, he contracted pneumonia and died in March of 1864. His final resting place has been an unmarked grave for 139 years.

As a result of Brother John's interest and diligent research, Lt. Col. Charles Haydon will be remembered for his loyalty and service to the Union.

COLEGROVE-WOODRUFF

CAMP 22 ~ MARSHALL

John Lohrstorfer, Sec.

Election of Officers was held at the December meeting and the Officers were duly installed at the february meeting as follows:

Russ Streeter	Commander
Louis Cuyler	Senior Vice commander
Ron Berridge	Junior Vice Commander
John Lohrstorfer	Secretary/Treasurer
Camp Council	Howard streeter
	Louis Cuyler
	Steve Datema
Howard Streeter	Patriotic Instructor
Blaine Valentine	Chaplain

Commander Russ is the third Streeter to hold this office, being preceded by his uncle Howard Streeter and cousin Ty Streeter.

PCC Ty Streeter, presently on duty with the U.S. Marines Corps, was last known to have arrived with his unit in Kuwait. Further details are being awaited by his family. Prayers and best wishes for a safe return are top priority with Camp 22. His overseas address is provided for those interested:

LCPL Ty Streeter, USMC
 3 MAW MALS 11 9916
 UIC 41004
 FPO AP 96614-1004

Our search for Civil War Vets in Alaska continues. The Juneau Library furnished a copy of a photo of fifteen members of W.H. Seward Post 36 in Juneau, but no names. All are wearing encampment badges. The Juneau Post was a part of the newly renamed Department of Washington and Alaska. All encampments were held in the State of Washington.

Brother Ken Richmond, Camp Commander of Gen. Stevens Camp-at-Large 1, Dept. of Washington and Oregon, sent a copy of a program for Memorial Day 1894, in Juneau, Alaska. The parade lineup listed "Mexican War veterans, Civil War veterans, and Sons of Veterans." The parade proceeded to the local cemetery to honor the seven veterans buried there, and listed their names. Thus far we have found the regiments of three of them, none from Michigan. Many other names were listed in the program and all are being checked for regiment.

Brother Richmond also advised of a large GAR veterans colony established in 1890 at Port Angeles on Puget Sound, which contained a large unit of Civil War vets from Michigan. Our "History Detective," Chris Czopek, has been there and has a list of burials at the local cemetery. He will do a follow-up article on this at a later date.

NASH-HODGES AND AUXILIARY CAMP 43 ~ BLISSFIELD

Butch Miller, CC

On Sunday April 13th Nash-Hodges Camp #43 and Auxiliary and the 4th Michigan, Infantry Co. G, sponsored a Michigan Historical Marker Dedication Ceremony. The campus of Adrian College in Adrian Michigan was where the 4th Michigan Infantry was to report for final training in May and June of 1861. This they named Camp Williams. Over the last 3 years the hosts of this remembrance event researched those days that the 4th were in Adrian. By October 2001 they had a text drawn up and on its way to Lansing for approval of a Michigan Historical Marker. The commission approved a final text on July 25, 2002 and the marker was scheduled to be made. The marker arrived at the College in October of 2002 and the plans were started for an unveiling ceremony. Working with the College a date was set for the weekend of April 13, 2003. On the 11th there were cemetery tours visiting Col. Woodbury's grave at Oakwood Cemetery in Adrian. Reenactment units began arriving at the campus for a weekend of drilling and remembrance. The re-enactors spent all day on the 12th trying to teach new recruits how to become soldiers and to prepare them to head to Washington to fight for the Union. That evening there was a ball for the troops and anyone interested. On Sunday there was a period church service followed by a march of the troops to the marker. At the dedication there were several speakers led by Master of Ceremonies Butch Miller dressed as Col. Dwight Woodbury. The speakers included 4th re-enactor Ray Lennard talking about Camp Williams and the 4th's time there. Sen. Cameron Brown, State Representative Doug Spade and Adrian Mayor Sam Rye gave speeches that talked about the importance of this marker in remembering the efforts of those that served from the area. 4th Michigan Historian and re-enactor Martin Bertera talked about the 50th reunion of the 4th and the Adrian Mayor at the times plans of putting up some sort of marker or monument to commemorate Camp Williams. He mentioned that for some reason these plans never happened. He said: That by this marker being placed here now, puts a final mark to what they had planned at that reunion. The President of the Michigan Historical Commission Mr. Keith Molin then took the podium and presented the marker to Dr. Stanley Caine President of Adrian College. Butch Miller then read off a series of names of 4th Michigan soldiers followed by their descendants that were in attendance. These descendants then encircled the marker and at the same time pulled the sheets off of it to unveil the large double post marker. One side talks about Camp Williams and the other tells about the 4th Michigan Infantry. This event was capped off with a short reenactment of June 21, 1861 when local resident Mr. Crowell (Larry Jacobsen) gave a speech follow by Mrs. Wilcox (Nancy Findley) and the ladies of Adrian presenting Col. Woodbury (Butch Miller) with the regimental colors.

Several SUVCW Camps from Michigan were in attendance as was Camp 66 James B. McPherson Camp of

Ohio. State Commander Bruce Butgereit spoke and thanked the Nash-Hodges Camp and the 4th Michigan Co. G re-enactors for all of their work.

This marker can be seen in Adrian, Michigan at the Campus of Adrian College on Madison St. between Williams St. and College Ave.

GEORGE W. ANDERSON CAMP 58 ~ DEWITT

Gordon McGarey, CC

Greetings fellow Brothers. Well it looks like the some warm weather is on its way. Now maybe our Camp can finish up the five cemeteries we have left to do in Gratiot County.

Brother Claude and I have attended two Eagle Scout Court of Honor so far this year. They were Kyle F. Kolka at the Hope Lutheran Church in DeWitt and Nicholas T. Jackson at East Olive Elementary.

Things are looking good for the May 24th rededication of the repaired Grand Army of the Republic Monument in the Wacousta cemetery. The people of Wacousta have put a lot of time and effort in this project There will be ribbons with a picture of the monument on them. They would like a Civil War living history camp set up at the nearby park. Of course there will be the parade before the ceremonies. Our Camp will also participate in the Memorial Day Parade in St. Johns on the 30th of May.

In March we initiated our newest Brother, Steve Melnyk into the ranks of our Camp.

SGT. JOHN S. COSBEY CAMP 427 ~ DEARBORN

Rick Danes, Sec./Treas.

To all Brothers, Sisters, and Friend, Greetings.

First I would like to welcome our newest member, Brother Bill O'Donnell. Bill is a retired police officer and a real historical buff, he being active in both the Allen Park and the Detroit Historical Societies. I am sure that he will be an asset to the Sons.

Camp 427 is using some well recommended suggestions taken from Past Senior Vice Commander Parks, and a few with a new twist to get the work out about the Camp and the Sons of Union Veterans. The most obvious ones are advertising in the local newspapers about upcoming meetings and subjects. We have developed a special topic, presented by a Member for each meeting. We have copied the Camp and Flag flyers and will distribute them to local libraries, historical societies, antique stores, and hand them out at all functions. We have started a quarterly newsletter, the *Arsenal Gazette*. One of our Members

has become a community column writer for a local newsletter (and mentions Camp activities as news). We are starting to get queries from potential members, and even from lapsed members of other Camps. Take heart, Camps, we were at a low of 6 Members at the start of 2002, and stand at 14 now, so go to work!

In February Camp 427 and friends supported the Dearborn Museum Guild Antique Show at the Ford Performing Arts Center. Shown in the photo to the left are 11 of the Volunteers.

Future plans for the Camp include continued support for fellow Historical Guild Groups, special topics at meetings, and a strong showing at the Dearborn Homecoming (including a small campsite and display).



Above, left to right are John Church, Fred Rausch, Rick Danes, Marsha Rausch, Jon Reed, Commander Jerry Olson, Mary Olson, Barbara Fortin, Richard Fortin, Mary Church, and Aaron Schrader. Not shown are Dave and Jessie Miller and Brian and Tori Mazur. Olson, Reed, Schrader, Miller, and Danes are all Camp Members. Photo by Julie Brown.



Camp 7 Brothers Bill Lowe, above left, and Bud Tallman, above right, are shown working with two of our "customers" at the Monroe County Genealogical Society Spring Seminar. Not shown are Brothers Dale Tuckey (Camp 7), who took the pictures, and Camp 427's Rick Danes (off goofing around).

CURTENIUS GUARD CAMP 17

~ TWENTY YEARS OF SERVICE ~

James T. Lyons, PDC

Early in 1983 Keith Harrison and four others met in the basement of his then Okemos home to form a Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (S.U.V.C.W.). From this humble beginning, Curtenius Guard Camp 17 has developed into one of the most influential Camps, at both the Department and National levels, in the recent history of the Order. A Provisional Charter was granted in May of 1983. Listed on that Charter were Robert E. Evans, Thomas I. Hansen, Keith G. Harrison, Michael Mitchell and The Rev. William C. Newmarch.

The Camp was named after the Curtenius Guard Militia Company of Mason, Michigan, mustered as Company B of the 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry at the beginning of the Civil War. The Camp number was originally designated as Camp 7 but was subsequently and very arbitrarily changed to 17 after it was found that another Camp in Michigan already had that number.

Shortly after the Camp's formation, hearing of the existence of a Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Hall in Sunfield, Michigan, Keith Harrison visited the Samuel W. Grinnell G.A.R. Post 283. Upon entering the Hall with all the memorabilia present, he noticed that one of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R. charters on the wall was that of the Samuel W. Grinnell Camp 17, Sons of Veterans. The Camp existed and met at this Hall from 1918 to 1935. It was at that point, Brother Harrison knew that Camp 17, S.U.V.C.W. had found its home. Within two months after that visit, a new Camp 17 (Curtenius Guard Camp 17) was again holding its meetings in the Hall. The Hall, in continuous use by the G.A.R. and its Allied Orders since completion in 1899, became a focal point for Camp efforts. Extensive renovation and preservation work has been done to the structure. A State Historical Marker was dedicated on Memorial Day, May 30th in 1987. The Hall was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in February 1992.

Recruiting efforts brought in enough members to secure a "full" Charter by April of 1985. Those appearing on the August 15, 1985 Charter were Albert E. Baerren, John J. Collins, Gary J. Durken, Richard J. Estep, Robert E. Evans, Don W. Everett, Thomas I. Hansen, Kenneth W. Harris, Keith G. Harrison, Arthur T. Kelsey, John W. Knecht III, James Leighty, James T. Lyons, Bob McBrien, Michael D. Mitchell, Richard L. Moore, Mike Neuman, Father William C. Newmarch, Russel Nye, and J. Douglas Park.

The strength of the Department at that time was 55 members and with the addition of Camp 17, the membership

total increased correspondingly and there were now six Camps. Unfortunately, three of the Camps were inactive and had not met for some time. Curtenius Guard had an immediate impact on the situation and through vigorous recruiting activity the Camp grew rapidly. It quickly became a Department "holding" Camp and as enough members from a certain area were added, efforts to organize a Camp in that area started.

A "flying" squad, in various combinations, comprised of Keith Harrison, Jim Lyons, Doug Park, Richard Williams and Gary Gibson (of Camp 20) conducted organizing meetings far and wide. The result was seven new Camps and the reactivation of one of the dormant Camps with a base of members being transferred to the new units. The organization of two other new Camps and one other reactivation resulted when people in those communities expressed interest in the Order. The Department Membership-at-large Camp was instituted.

After having served as Senior Vice Department Commander for two years, Keith Harrison was elected Department Commander in 1985 and served in that capacity for three years. James T. Lyons succeeded him in this position in 1988 and 1989. Other Camp members who served in this key office included James B. Pahl, 1992, J. Douglas Park 1993, and Paul D. Hodges in 1997. Brother Hodges' grandfather, Herrick Hodges was the first Commander of the Department of Michigan.

The office of Department Secretary (and Treasurer for a good part of the time) has been held by a member of this Camp since Brother J. Douglas Park was elected to that position in 1985. He served until Richard Williams was elected in 1991. Richard Lee, who holds a dual membership (originally Camp 17, and Camp 120) was elected to the office in 1995 and continues in that position presently. Brother Williams returned to the post of Treasurer in 2002.

During the Michigan Sesquicentennial (1986-87), Brothers Harrison and Lyons represented the Order on the Military Affairs Sub-Committee of the Historic Observances Committee. It was during this service that Brother Lyons reactivated the Graves Registration Program in the Department. This program was adopted as an Official Sesquicentennial Project.

During this time period, the Department of Michigan has hosted three National Encampments. Brother Lyons served as General Chairman of the Host Committee for 1988 and 1994. Doug Park stepped in for the final two months

prior to the 1994 Encampment and handled the day-to-day operations. Brother Richard Williams served as General Chairman for the 2000 National Encampment. All three Encampments were held in Lansing.

Recognition has come to a number of members over the years. The Department of Michigan Abraham Lincoln Certificate of Appreciation has been awarded to Michael Mitchell (1987), Keith Harrison and James T. Lyons (1989), Paul D. Hodges (1992), J. Douglas Park and Richard Williams (1995) and James B. Pahl (1999). Former members of the Camp so recognized include Smead Edwards and William Peebles (1987) and Jerry D. Roe (1992).

Service to the National Organization involved many of the same individuals. Brother Lyons was elected and served as National Secretary from 1989-1994. He also served as Chairman of the National Encampment Site Selection Committee for five years. During that time so many Brothers from Michigan were called to serve that Past Commander-in-Chief (PCinC) Richard Schlenker dubbed the group "the Michigan Mafia".

Keith Harrison was elected Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief in 1992 and served as Commander-in-Chief for the term 1994/1995. He was only the fourth Michiganiaan in the then 113 year history of the Order and the first in 46 years to serve in the Order's highest office. He had served in a variety of positions including National Patriotic Instructor, History Book Coordinator, National Membership-at-Large Coordinator and most recently for several years as the National Signals Officer and Webmaster for the National Organization. During this time, he greatly expanded the offering on the National web site, adding many innovative features and updates.

J. Douglas Park served as an elected Member of the National Council of Administration, 1995 - 1998. He had formerly served as National Membership-at-Large Coordinator and computerized those records. He has served a variety of committee assignments including the National Program and Policy Committee.

Brother Richard Williams was asked to serve as National Membership List Coordinator in 1992 and served in that position until 2001. He almost single-handedly "computerized" the operation of the National Organization. He helped establish many programs to handle a variety of functions. He became the primary resource and training person in this area of activity. He continues to coach and assist in practically every area of computer operations at the National level of the Order.

Brother James B. Pahl was elected National Treasurer in 1997 and served until 2001. He has served as the National Counselor since 1994, as Chairman of the National Legal Staff and Chairman of the Committee on Constitution and Regulations for several years.

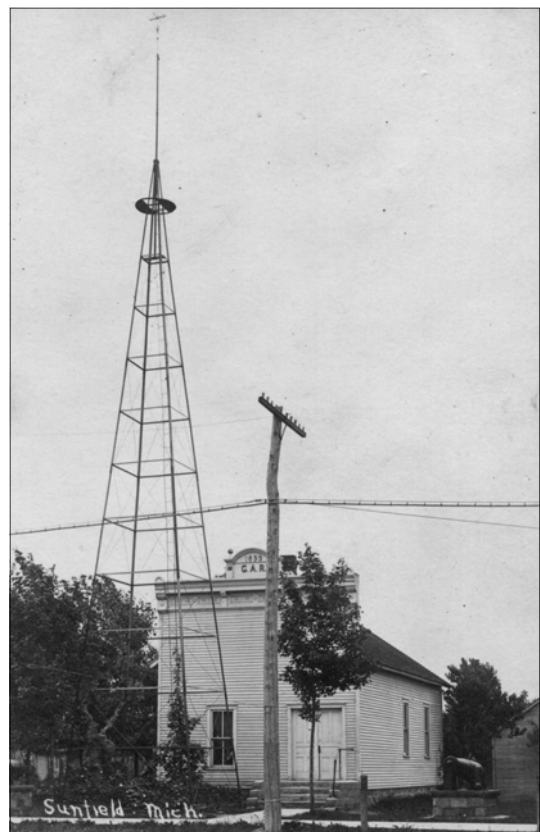
Brother James T. Lyons was appointed the first Executive Director of the National Organization at the 2000 National Encampment. He left the post after three months for personal reasons.

Recognition has followed these activities. At the National Encampment of 1994, Brother Park was the first recipient of the Cornelius Whitehouse Award as the Outstanding Brother of the Year. Brother Richard Williams was recognized with the same Award in 2000. Keith Harrison and James B. Pahl were recognized jointly in 2001.

The Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star was presented to James T. Lyons at the 1997 National Encampment. Brothers Williams and Harrison were also later recipients of this award.

Curtenius Guard Camp 17, Department of Michigan, was recognized as the Outstanding Camp of the Year at the 2000 National Encampment.

Twenty years of service provide just the beginning for this group of dedicated Brothers. Keeping green the memory of the men of the Grand Army of the Republic will always be foremost in their hearts and minds. We look forward to many more years of service to the Order at all levels of the organization.



S.W. Grinnell G.A.R. Post 283 Hall—circa 1910

MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENTS

THE MICHIGAN CONNECTION

Mike Maillard, Austin Blair Camp 7

PATRICK IRWIN

Sergeant
Company H
14th Michigan Infantry

Enlisted September 30, 1861 at Ann Arbor, Michigan. Mustered in Ypsilanti, Michigan on January 7, 1862. Grounds for awarding the Medal of Honor happened on September 1, 1864 at Jonesboro, Georgia, on a charge by the 14th Michigan, as he was the first man over the rebel line of works. He consequently demanded the surrender and received it from the General in command.

Some four days after the incident, Irwin's superior officer filed a report indicating Irwin was the first inside and accepted the sword of Brig. General Govan. However, a year later a colonel in the 14th indicated another soldier, Alex Witherspoon, was the first in who had captured the spurs of General Govan. Other reports asserting three companies of the 74th Indiana captured guns claimed by the 14th while members of the 98th Ohio claimed to have captured General Govan. The government responded that it was unsure who, if any, deserved medals for gallantry, indicating that the 14th was on many fronts that were in action that day. Even General Govan was asked to shed light on the controversy and on September 28, 1897, could only say that he thought the Michigan 14th was slightly ahead of other federal troops. He indicated his line was broken on the flank and rear and could not illuminate further. Two more eye witnesses filed reports which resulted in the Medal of Honor granted to Irwin on September 28, 1898. He died February 6, 1910 and is buried at St. Thomas Cemetery in Ann Arbor.



General Ulysses S. Grant

CHARLES SANCRAINTE

Private
Company B
15th Michigan Infantry

Mustered in at Monroe, Michigan January 29, 1862. His record shown before the 1890's that he became sick and hospitalized, September 1863 and was wounded during the Atlanta campaign and hospitalized July 22, 1864. He was mustered out disabled on December 24, 1864.

Sancrainte was awarded the Medal of Honor on July 25, 1892 for action in front of Atlanta against Hood's army on July 22, 1864. "He scaled Sweeny's works and signaled his officer in command to charge while also capturing colors of the 5th Texas."

In detail, a morning assault by the 15th Michigan resulted in a counter attack, front and rear, by General Hood. The regiment retreated back and the commander noticed that there were some four men at the breast works that could be captured. A volunteer was asked to investigate and give a signal back. Sancrainte volunteered for the assignment and returned to scale the works and some 30 muskets pointed at him, but still gave the word to charge. After the regiment charged and scaled the works, they found Sancrainte fighting with an officer for the 5th Texas flag. Though being wounded three times, bayonet in the hand and two flesh wounds, he was able to subdue the officer and capture the flag. This eventually resulted in 167 rebel soldiers being captured and the breaking of the lines that was poised for attack against the union withdrawal.

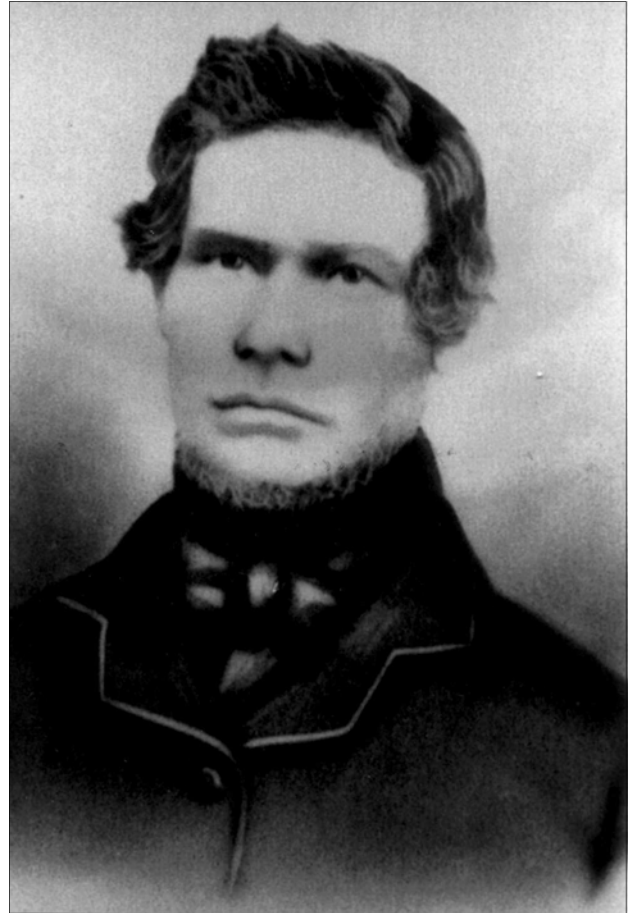
Shortly after the battle, reports were drawn up and submitted to the Michigan Senate on October 5, 1865 for support of awarding the Medal of Honor to Private Sancrainte. No action, however, was taken. Again, in 1891, reports were submitted to the Adjutant General of Michigan, for support by the State Senate. This finally was supported and became the basis for awarding the Medal of Honor in 1892.

The foregoing is a part of an ongoing series by Brother Maillard, covering all of Michigan's Servicemen who were awarded the coveted Medal of Honor for bravery during the Civil War.

*ANCESTOR VIGNETTE**WILLIAM BRUCE*

Private
Company A
51st New York Infantry

2nd Great Granduncle
of
Patrick S. McCleary
Robert Finch Camp 14



Charcoal Portrait of William Bruce

Like so many soldiers of the Civil War, much of William Bruce's life lies shadowed in mystery. While it is assumed that he is the son of John and Hannah Johnson Bruce, nothing has been found to date to prove this fact. There is also an area in Danby, New York; about ten miles east of the Villages of Enfield and Newfield which was called "Bruce Hill." Many descendents feel that William's family had some connection to the namesakes of this landmark.

According to both family oral history and military paperwork, William was born in September 1826 in Tompkins County, New York. We do know that by the age of 26 young William was residing in the small village of Newfield. It was there that he met and married 17-year-old Sarah Jane Starks, daughter of Hurum and Sarah Ann Wilson Starks. Sarah had been born at Newfield on March 19, 1836, the fifth of Hurum and Sarah's twelve children.

Augustine H. Pease, a Justice of the Peace, married William Bruce and Sarah Jane Starks on March 13, 1853. On January 16, 1854 the couple would welcome their first child to the world, a son who was named Abraham Bruce but later called "Abram." Less than two years later, on November 24, 1856, a daughter was born and named Celista

Sarah Bruce. There were no other children until sometime in 1859 when another son was delivered, William Hurum Bruce. Each of these children was born at Enfield, a little farming community located just outside of the Village of Newfield. At that time William and Sarah had what oral historians now call a "thriving little farm that was beginning to see some profit."

We know that sometime shortly after the Civil War had begun the Bruce home was visited by a traveling portrait artist who offered his services to area residents. His work was done with charcoal on a heavy canvas and, seeing the importance of immortalizing his family in this way, William paid to have portraits made of himself, his wife, each of his older children and his wife's elder sister, Almira Starks. His charcoal portrait (included in this article), is the only known likeness of William Bruce, later a Private in Company A, 51st Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry.

On February 12, 1864, an E.C. Kattell enlisted William at Ithaca, New York. On March 5, 1864 William would find himself at the railroad station at Elmira, New York where he was mustered in to serve for three years under Captain George A. Tuttle of Company A, 51st Regiment New York

(Continued on page 20)

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Volunteer Infantry. The 51st Regiment was also known as the "Shephard Rifles" which is of interest to William's descendents as the Shephard family (also of Tompkins County) are directly related to his wife, Sarah's family through her younger brother, Hurum Starks Jr. Another fact of the 51st is that this distinguished regiment is included as one of William F. Fox's (circa 1889) "top 300 Union Fighting Regiments." William was then 37 years old and described as being 5' 7 ³/₄" tall with a fair complexion, grey eyes and black hair.

At the time he mustered in William had been promised payment of \$13.00 per month. It also appears that he received a bounty for his service. There are two mentions of this in his Military and Pension records- one stating \$60.00 as being paid in advance and the other that \$73.00 was forthcoming. Perhaps these financial gains were the reason for his entering the military at such a late stage in the war.

By 1864, the 51st Regiment had seen a great deal of action. In that year alone, these troops had already been a part of the demonstrations on the Rapidan River in February, and apparently the majority of the troops had remained near Brandy Station until May. During that time the veterans of the unit were allowed furlough in March and April. This would explain why recruiting for the Units was taking place in the Tompkins County area at that same time. After William joined Captain Tuttle's troops, his first engagement was in the campaign from the Rapidan to the James River, May 3rd - June 15th. The Battle of the Wilderness would follow on May 5th- 7th, 1864. Apparently William was feared killed at that time as his Muster sheet clearly states, "killed at Wilderness, Virginia, May 6, 1864." Nothing further has ever been found to explain this statement, and there is nothing to indicate that he was even wounded or hurt.

In any event, he went on to fight at Spottsylvania on May 8th-12th and in the fighting at Po River on May 10th. Much of the 51st Regiment would also see action near the New York River on May 12th, but it would appear that William did not take part in this. Sadly, less than three months after his enlistment, William would find himself at Spottsylvania Court House, Virginia. According to official reports, the Union loss at Spottsylvania Court House, during the ten days of fighting there, was 2,725 killed, 13,416 wounded and 2,258 missing. Among those 2,725 dead was Tompkins County farmer and father, William Bruce. A gunshot wound would take his life on May 18, 1864 and his body would be buried among the countless other casualties of the day. On May 22nd, the country still at war, the 51st Regiment would move on to fight in the Assault on the Salient.

Back on the home front the Bruce family was quickly falling apart. William's wife, Sarah Jane, although in mourning, did not take well to widowhood. While Abram, age 10, and Celistia, age 7, were yet grieving the loss of their

father, their young brother William Hurum, would die later that same year before the age of five. Their mother would then break one of the oldest rules of mourning by marrying Mr. Stephen Rumsey on March 4, 1865- less than one year after her first husband's death. Sarah Jane Starks Bruce Rumsey went on to have six more children with her second husband. However, the seeds of contempt had already been sewn with her two eldest children.

Although remarried, Sarah did not miss out on the opportunity to receive funds from the U.S. Government. She was apparently not in need of monthly stipends; however, on March 31, 1865 she was awarded the sum of \$100.00 for each of William's heirs. The money naturally went toward the betterment of the family - the newly formed Rumsey family. Until their deaths (Abram in 1927 and Celistia in 1935) neither ever fully forgave their mother for her disservice to their late father's memory. In later years, Celistia would go so far as to destroy the charcoal portrait of her mother as well as all other known photographs of her.

Son Abram would never marry and had no children. He resided with his sister and her husband, Henry Nelson Starks, his entire life. Celistia went on to have five children whose descendents continue into the present day. Their mother would die on April 13, 1910 at what was then called "Chaffee Creek," located just outside of Newfield. She is buried with her second husband, Stephen Rumsey at Woodlawn Cemetery, Newfield, Tompkins County, New York.

*YOUNGEST SOLDIER
IN THE
WAR OF '61
HOMER INDEX - OCTOBER 6, 1897
HOMER, MICHIGAN*

George Gibbs of Eckford lays claim to the distinction of having been the youngest soldier in the service during the War of the Rebellion. Mr. Gibbs enlisted at the age of thirteen and carried a musket with the Army of the Cumberland through many a bloody engagement, receiving severe wounds at the memorable Battle of Pittsburg Landing. The young warrior's faithfulness and fearlessness as one of the loyal defenders of his country's honor has received recognition of the government in a substantial way. He has been drawing a monthly stipend of \$12.00 from Uncle Sam's treasury for several years, but this week received an increase of five dollars per month with \$500.00 back pay, and George believes he sees unmistakable evidence of the return to prosperity.

ANCESTOR VIGNETTE

CURTIS Z. PRATT

Allegan Littlejohn Light Guard

2ND CORPORAL
6th Michigan Infantry
Company G
(6th Michigan Heavy Artillery)

1ST LIEUTENANT
1st Regiment, Corps D' Afrique
Company H
(73rd Regiment, U.S.C.T.)

Great, Great Grandfather
of
Jon D. Reed
Sgt. John S. Cosbey - Camp 427

Curtis Z. Pratt was born in 1837, near Wayland, Michigan, the same year that the new State of Michigan was admitted to the Union, and two years after it had been Michigan Territory. He grew up in the rolling hills and woods north of Allegan. Curtis later described his occupations before enlisting, as "shoe-making, hoofing, clearing land, and hunting deer." He was undoubtedly a skilled woodsman and a crack shot. Pratt enlisted in the Allegan Littlejohn Light Guard, August 9, 1861, for three years, at age 24. He mustered in Michigan's 6th Infantry, company G, August 20, and married Roby Burlingame, two years younger, just four days later, August 24. The Michigan 6th left Kalamazoo, August 30, 1861, six days after their marriage, for Baltimore, Maryland, and the U.S. Training Camps. It wasn't the first or last quick marriage to occur, when a young soldier was due to ship out to war.

Near completion of the 6th Michigan's training, in the fall of 1861, the regiment was assigned to General Dix's Expedition, to drive out Confederate forces fortifying points south on the Potomac river. The Expedition was commanded by General H. H. Lockwood, and included units from New York's 165th Duryea Zouave regiment, the 2nd Massachusetts and Nim's Battery, Massachusetts's 17th, Wisconsin's 4th, and Indiana's 21st regiments, in all totaling over 5,000 men. They transported the length of the Chesapeake Bay November 14, 1861, and disembarked on Maryland's eastern shore at Unionville. Crossing into Virginia's rebel territory, near Oak Hall, they soon discovered that CSA General Henry A. Wise's forces had abandoned their guns and supplies before leaving Virginia's northern coastal area. Federal forces began a general withdrawal by November 30,

and the Michigan 6th returned to McKim Hill on Baltimore's heights.

In February, 1862, rather than receiving a field assignment to the immediate South, Michigan's 6th regiment was ordered to the Department of the Southwest. They transported by steamer *U.S.S. Adalaide* to Fortress Monroe, on Hampton Roads, ten miles east of Newport News, Virginia, before embarking on the largest iron-plated steam-driven ship at the time, the *U.S.S. Constitution*. With two other regiments onboard, they totaled over 3,000 men. It was the greatest number of soldiers, known at that time, to transport on a single voyage into combat.

Upon casting off, their ship narrowly avoided being hit by Confederate cannon fire from Sewell's Point and Craney Island batteries. Several shells fell short, but two shells reportedly passed over and between their smokestacks. *U.S.S. Constitution* left Fortress Monroe, March 6th, for a non-stop voyage down the Atlantic coast, around Florida, to Ship Island, Mississippi, located off Mobile Bay.

The *U.S.S. Constitution* had also narrowly escaped disaster at the hands of the new Confederate ironclad *C.S.S. Virginia*, which made her first sortie into Hampton Roads, March 8, 1862, two days after the Constitution had departed.

The C.S.S. Virginia was the rebuilt previously-sunken warship *U.S.S. Merrimack*, and it easily sank a frightful number of Union warships. Shortly after, it engaged in the famous "Battle of the Monitor and Merrimack", against the Union's own new ironclad *U.S.S. Monitor*.

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The **Constitution** anchored safely off Ship Island, the Union's only possession in the South, March 12. The island was only intended as the Navy's staging base for the Southwest Theatre of Operations. It wasn't capable of garrisoning, for very long, the U.S. Army's Department of the Gulf forces. Water and supplies ran low, and a sudden hurricane caused further damage. With combat readiness degraded, the entire U.S. Army in the southwest departed Ship Island, before Admiral Farragut had eliminated the Confederate blockade of the Mississippi river.

Since major amphibious landings were unknown, Federal forces needed to disembark at a lightly-defended enemy port or face possible annihilation from a waiting enemy. Over 15,000 Union soldiers waited offshore to enter New Orleans, in Louisiana's Southwest Passage, in extremely difficult conditions, while Admiral David Farragut attacked Fort Jackson and Fort St. Philip.

After the Forts surrendered, and the Mississippi was opened, General Benjamin Butler's forces steamed upriver. Michigan's 6th regiment was the first Union regiment to enter the State of Louisiana, and occupy the city of New Orleans. One of Admiral Farragut's flagship U.S.S. Hartford's nine-inch cannons, dedicated 1905, is located in Petosky, Michigan's City Park.

Pratt was promoted to Corporal July 1, 1862, prior to his participation in the August 5, 1862, Battle of Baton Rouge. CSA Major General John Breckinridge, former Vice President under President James Buchanan, unsuccessfully led 15,000 Confederates against U.S. Brigadier General Thomas Williams's forces, who were then occupying the former State Capitol. Williams was supported by U.S. Navy river gunboats. After the Confederates retreated, Federal forces were withdrawn to New Orleans.

Units of Michigan's 6th participated in a variety of successful in-country expeditions, in and around Lake Pontchartrain and Pontchitoula, over the winter of 1862-1863, and burned the **C.S.S. Cotton**. The 6th was then ordered to relocate northward on the Mississippi, for the attack on Confederate-held Port Hudson.

The Michigan 6th participated in the Battle of Port Hudson, from May 21 through July 9, 1863. The battle was, and remains, the longest combined attack and siege in the history of the United States. The battle involved over 40,000 Union soldiers attacking 7,500 entrenched Confederates. Curtis Pratt's grand-daughter wrote that, during the engagement, "He was one of 20 men who volunteered to spy on the enemy from a dug-out ditch. His superior officer asked for 20 volunteers, saying that probably none of the men would come out alive, but if they did, they would be promoted. Only three came out alive." Curtis Pratt was one of the three. Port Hudson surrendered shortly after the fall of Vicksburg.

As a result of his exploits, Pratt was commissioned directly to 1st Lieutenant, 1st Regiment, Corps d'Afrique. With his skills hunting deer in Michigan's woods, he was well-suited to leading his Company H in skirmishes, deep in Louisiana's brush-country. He and his men were highly motivated to do well, since he was a white officer leading armed colored infantry. If captured, he was liable to immediate execution, and his men returned to slavery if not shot on the spot.

The following spring, U.S. General Nathaniel Banks ordered his reorganized forces west and north of the Mississippi, in an attempt to reach Shreveport. With the support of eighteen ironclad-gunboats and transports, commanded by Admiral Porter, the fateful Red River Campaign was initiated with 40,000 Union soldiers. The campaign began well, and Fort DeRussey was taken March 14, 1864. On April 4, Curtis Pratt's 1st Regiment, Corps d'Afrique was re-designated the 73rd Regiment, United States Colored Troops.

The Red River campaign stalled at the Battles of Mansfield and Pleasant Hill, April 8. The Red River water levels dropped more than expected, that year, and Union transports and were trapped upriver. Without free movement, U.S. forces were faced with lessening supplies, and significant loss of tactical advantage. Forced into a long retreat, many of their retreating gunboats were saved through the construction of ingenious "Bailey Dams". The construction of these temporary dams was supervised by a former Wisconsin lumberman, Major Bailey, and they raised water levels enough to float many ships over isolated river rapids.

At the end of the Campaign, after the Battles of Mansura and Yellow Bayou, General Bank's forces first escaped over the Atchafalya river on special Bailey bridges, before returning across the Mississippi to Port Hudson's Fortress. Opposing Confederate forces were isolated west of the Mississippi, for the remainder of the war.

Lieutenant Pratt was taken seriously ill near the end of the Red River Campaign, near Morganzia, after awakening in four inches of flood waters. He was unable to be rehabilitated at the Officer's Hospital in New Orleans, and he was discharged January 25, 1865. Returning to Michigan, he never completely regained health. Pratt subsequently re-married, several years later, and resided in London, Ontario, before moving to Detroit. Pratt passed away October 2, 1895, and is buried in the Novi Cemetery, Novi, Michigan.

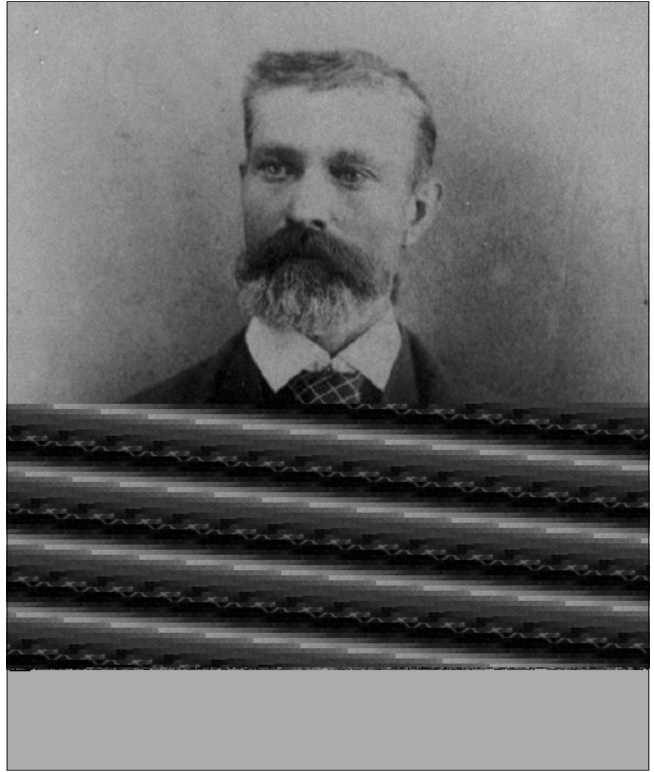


ANCESTOR VIGNETTE

SIMON B. CUMMINS

Private
Company H
151st New York Infantry

Great Grandfather
of
Melvin E. Jones
Albert & James Lyon Camp No. 266



*Simon wearing his GAR membership badge
Circa 1896*

Simon Cummins was born March 23, 1843 just outside the village of Akron, Erie County, New York. He was the only son of Horace Edson Cummins (1817-1888) and Sarah Ann Burdick Cummins. His mother died in 1846. His father then married Sophronia B. Newton June 5, 1855 and they had four daughters, one died in infancy.

It was at a meeting September 1, 1862, at Royalton Center, after stirring speeches by the county judge, prominent lawyers, and ministers, that Simon B. Cummins, along with several other men, marched up and signed their name for three years to serve in Company H. On October 22, 1862 they took the Volunteer Enlistment Oath and were mustered into service. The next day they left by train from Lockport, New York for Baltimore, Maryland where they spent the next six months training at the LaFayette Square Barracks. May 1863 the 151st was attached to the First Brigade, 3rd Division, 3rd Corp, Army of the Potomac and sent out to Western Virginia. July 6, 1863 they were positioned with the hope of cutting off Lee's retreat after the Battle of Gettysburg.

Simon's first battle took place November 27, 1863 at Locust Grove, also called Mine Run. Here their beloved Captain, Sylvanus S. Wilcox is killed. March 3, 1864 General Grant took over the Army of the Potomac and consolidated the then present six Corps into three. This put the 151st Regiment into the 6th Corp.

May 4th, 1864 was the beginning of one of the fiercest campaigns of the war which included The Battle of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, and Cold Harbor. On June 4th Simon writes: "to the best authority we have lost 50,000 in killed and wounded." During this campaign Simon contracts a serious case of dysentery. He said: "I am very poor and weak. I can reach around my elbows very easy. I am not afraid of dying. I feel the Lord would not take me away from you." He spends almost two months in a hospital at City Point. During this time his regiment is sent by boat up the Chesapeake Bay to help save Washington D.C. from General Early who is coming with 30,000 troops. The 3rd division of the 6th Corp along with home guards under General Wallace met Early at a railroad junction called Monocacy July 9, 1864. The Union force was over run but was able to delay Early by one day. That day gave time for the rest of the 6th Corp to arrive to man the defenses around Washington and divert disaster. During that battle one of Simon's best friends, Americus Tanner, was captured and sent to Danville, Virginia where he died of disease January 12, 1865.

By August 16th, 1864 Simon had recovered enough that he was sent up to Washington to join his regiment. He finds them at Bolivar Heights, Virginia August 27th and also finds that General Philip Sheridan has been put in command of the 6th

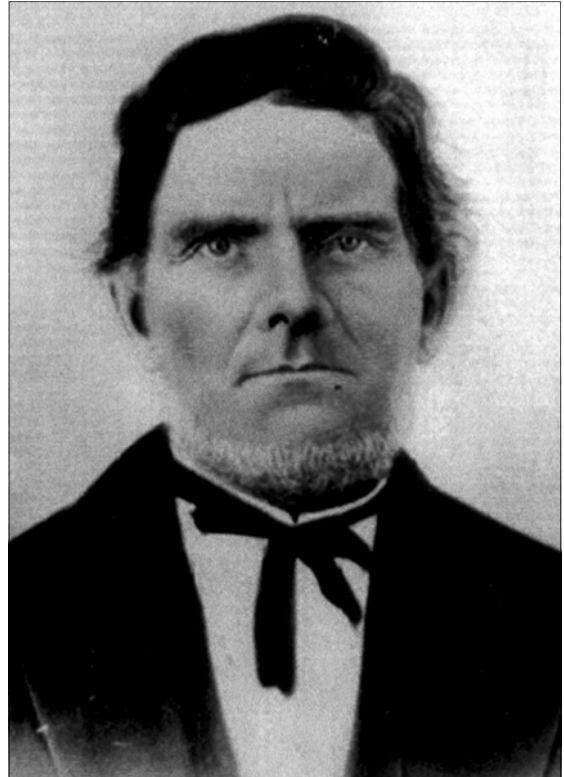
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ANCESTOR VIGNETTE

WILLIAM MESLER

Private
Company H
41st Ohio Infantry

3rd Great Grandfather
of
John R. Keith
Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20



William Mesler

William Mesler was born on September 17, 1822 in New York. On August 23, 1846 in Essex, New Jersey he married Miss Rachel Beam. She was the daughter of Isaac & Pheabe Beam. Rachel was born in 1825, in New Jersey.

On July 3, 1851 in New Jersey, Emma Luvena, the first of their children was born. In the years following they had two more daughters, Risabell born in 1856 in Ohio, Alevia born in 1860 in Michigan and a son, Edward Willis born in 1864 in Ohio. I haven't found out what kept them moving between these 2 states, yet!

William's life changed on 8 October, 1862. On this day he enlisted after being drafted (his military files state he was drafted into the militia) into Company H of the 41st Ohio Infantry for 9 months service. He was 40 years old! He was mustered out of the 41st Infantry on 17 July 1863 in Manchester, Tennessee. On a comical note, he was charged 34 cents because his canteen was without a stopper at the time he was mustered out.

The skirmishes and battles of the 41st Ohio Infantry while William Mesler was a member are as follows:

In 1862, pursuit of Bragg into Kentucky October 1-22. Battle of Perryville, Kentucky., October 8. Danville October 11. Rockcastle River October 18. Nelson's Cross Roads October 18. Pittman's Cross Roads October 19. March to Nashville, Tennessee, October 23-November 6, and duty there till December 26. Advance on Murfreesboro December 26-30. Battle of Stone's River December 30-31, 1862, and January 1-3, 1863. Woodbury January 24. Duty at Murfreesboro till June.

Expedition from Readyville to Woodbury April 2. Snow Hill, Woodbury, April 3. Middle Tennessee (or Tullahoma) Campaign June 22-July 7. Liberty Gap June 22-23. Regiment lost during service 8 Officers and 168 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 1 Officer and 153 Enlisted men by disease. Total 330.

After the war, the William Mesler Family eventually settled for good on a farm in Sydney Township, Montcalm County, Michigan. On March 29, 1868, eldest daughter Emma, married Mr. William Coffey. She was his second wife. He was 38 years of age compared to her 16. William Coffey also served the Union during the Civil War. He was in Company K of the 107th Illinois Infantry.

Then on June 30, 1874, this typical post Civil War family met with tragedy. On this date William's wife and the mother of his 4 children died in childbirth. The male offspring was stillborn.

There is little I know of the hardships her death caused the family, but one can only imagine. On the 1880 census, for Sydney Township, William & his son Edward were the only ones in the household. What became of his two middle daughters, I have yet to find out.

On June 1, 1885, William Mesler passed away. He is buried in the Sydney Township Cemetery, next to his beloved wife. His grave is marked by two gravestones, a family stone and a Civil War Military gravestone, so all who venture on to his grave will know, here lies a soldier, who served his country when it needed it most.

FLAG DAY AT THE STATE HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Saturday, June 14, 2003

Bruce B. Butgereit, DC

At the Department Encampment, it was determined that the annual Ceremony of Remembrance in Grand Rapids had run its course and would not be held. In looking for an event to replace the ceremony, a request for our participation on Flag Day was received from the State Historical Museum. A show of hands at the Encampment of possible participants encouraged me that we could.

The hours of the event will be from 10 AM to 4 PM (set up at 9 AM). As the Department Graves Registration Committee is already scheduled that day, we will have to work out the details of that meeting in conjunction with sharing our database and what we do with the public that day. I see something set up in the lobby to gain the most traffic.

There is a Boy Scout Troop that wishes to participate with us (last year, they were eager to learn more about the Civil War in order to become docents). Sharing stories and history (my specialty) with the public in the Civil War exhibit area is another item the Museum is interested in. If participating Camps bring their flags, we could work outside with youngsters that attend the event as "Honorary Color Guard." I like to have them "enlist" by signing their name with pen and ink to a muster roll and then giving them a "discharge" upon completion of their service.

A Home School group wants to participate with us as well in areas of citizenship, patriotism, etc. The Museum will do the advertising for us and is rather excited about our participation. I will offer this information to our Sisters and reenactors as well should they wish to participate. For more information, please contact me.

The Museum is located at: 702 W. Kalamazoo Street, Lansing MI 48909-8240

A map is available online at: http://www.michigan.gov/hal/0,1607,7-160-17445_19273-51058--,00.html



HEADSTONE REDEDICATION

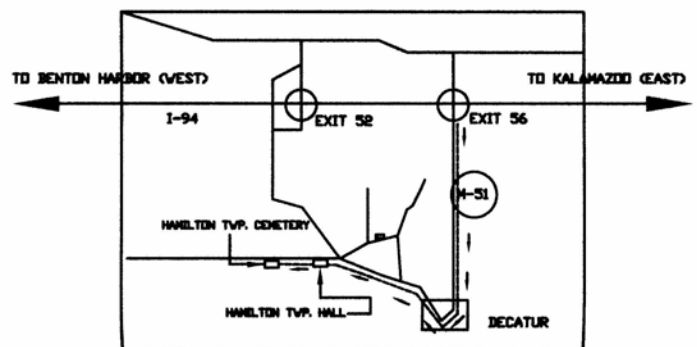
All Allied Orders Members Invited

On Saturday, May 17, 2003, the Brothers of Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20 will hold headstone dedicatory ceremonies for Lt. Col. Charles B. Haydon, 2nd Michigan Infantry. The grave is located in the Hamilton Township Cemetery in Decatur, Michigan. Services will begin at 1:00 p.m. (Please see the accompanying map.)

Haydon, a Kalamazoo resident, was wounded in battle and died of pneumonia at the age of 30 in 1864, and has lain in an unmarked grave for 139 years. His Civil War journal was published in 1993 as the book, "For Country, Cause & Leader", edited by Stephen W. Sears. Haydon was a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, and practiced law in Kalamazoo with Charles Stuart, U.S. Senator and first Colonel of the 13th Michigan Infantry.

All members of the Allied Orders are invited to attend. It is requested that Brothers wear the traditional kepi, blue sport coat or jacket, and badges. There will be a procession of the SUV and re-enactors (providing the Honor Guard) from the Hamilton Township Hall to the cemetery, a distance of $\frac{2}{10}$ of a mile. Those who do not wish to walk in the procession may meet at the cemetery. Please plan on arriving by 12:30 p.m. Parking at the Township Hall. The Hamilton Township Board will host a reception at the hall following the ceremony. Light refreshments will be served.

We have the honor of having the assistance of not only the township, but the Village of Decatur, the Decatur High School and the local veterans organizations. For more information, please contact Bro. John Keith, chairman, Haydon Committee, at Hardtackcw@aol.com



From I-94, take the M-51 exit (exit 56) towards Decatur/Dowagiac. Turn south onto M-51 (aka 43rd St. & CR-671). Continue on M-51 to Phelps St. (CR-352) in Decatur, turn right (north) on Phelps and follow it to the Hamilton Township Cemetery.

MAY

17th Decatur, MI
Headstone Rededication by Pritchard Camp 20. All members of the Allied Orders are invited. See article on page 28.

24th Wacousta, MI
GAR Monument rededication ceremony by Watertown Twp. and George W. Anderson Camp 58. Life size sculpture of a Civil War soldier atop the monument was vandalized several years ago. New hands and musket barrel have been carved and installed. For further information contact Township Clerk Jean Husby at (517) 626-6593.

24th Oregon, OH
The James B. McPherson Camp 66, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War; the Harriet Brubaker Tent 139, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War; The Greater Toledo Civil War Roundtable; The East Toledo Historical Society and the City of Oregon have raised \$35,000 to purchase a replacement statue of a Civil War soldier for the Willow Cemetery in Oregon, Ohio. It will be placed on the base erected in 1882 by the Hyatt G. Ford Post 14 of the Grand Army of the Republic. The original statue disappeared during the 1920's.

The ceremony to commemorate the new statue will be on May 24, 2003 at the Willow Cemetery, 1961 Pickle Road, in Oregon, Ohio. A parade will start at 1:00 PM with the dedication following. The featured speaker will be Robert E. Grim, Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Other speakers include Marge Brown, Mayor of the City of Oregon; Pat Day, Past President of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Jeff Eversman, Commander of Camp 66 and Bruce B. Butgereit, Michigan Department Commander. The Reverend Larry Michaels of the Martin Luther Church will give the invocation.

There are three Michigan soldiers buried at the foot of the monument. For more on this ceremony, please contact Department Commander Bruce B. Butgereit at (616) 827-3369, or e-mail at civil-war@attbi.com.

26th Observed Memorial Day
The day set aside to honor all U.S. service men and women of all eras who have passed away.

26th Bay City, MI
Memorial rededication in Bay City sponsored by Camp 67. For more contact Department Commander Bruce B. Butgereit at (616) 827-3369, or e-mail at civil-war@attbi.com.

30th Traditional Memorial Day
The day set originally aside by the Grand Army of the Republic to honor those men of the U.S. Army, Navy and Marines of 1861—1865 who had passed on to their final

muster.

JUNE

7th Sunfield
The 20th Anniversary of Curtenius Guard Camp 17. A pot luck dinner will be held in Village Park in Sunfield to commemorate the occasion from 1 to 4 p.m. All Brothers are welcome to attend. See announcement below.

14th Flag Day
Ceremony and event at the State Historical Museum in Lansing. See article on page 28.

14th & 15th Flint, MI
Crossroads Village Civil War Re-enactment.

15th Messenger Deadline
Submissions for the Summer issue must be in the hands of the editor by this date. Please note that all photographs *must* be mailed via USPS. Electronic photo files cannot be used.

JULY

4th Independence Day
The 227th anniversary of our Country's founding.

19th & 20th Hastings, MI
Charlton Park Civil War Re-enactment.

25th, 26th & 27th Campbellsville, KY
National Civil War Band Festival, sponsored by the American Civil War Institute and Campbellsville University and held on the grounds of Campbellsville University. Thirteen Nationally known Civil War Bands will be participating. For more information contact David M. McCullough (270) 789-5058 or e-mail dmmccullough@campbellsville.edu

AUGUST

7th, 8th & 9th Ft. Mitchell, KY
The 122nd National Encampment of the SUVCW will be held at the Drawbridge Inn, just off I-75 exit 186 (KY). See the Banner for details concerning the encampment or log onto the National web site @ www.suvcw.org. Ft. Mitchell is across the Ohio River from Cincinnati, OH.

OCTOBER

4th Grand Rapids, MI
Central Region Conference hosted by the Department of Michigan. Details to follow in the Summer issue of Michigan's Messenger.

MICHIGAN SUVCW CAMPS AND CONTACTS

<i>Area</i>	<i>Camp Name</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Contact Person</i>	<i>E-mail or Street Address</i>
Alpena	Lockwood	139	Bruce Zann	bzann@freeway.net
Ann Arbor-Ypsilanti	Carpenter-Welch	180	William Hart	kandbhart@prodigy.net
Bay City	Gen. Phil Kearny	67	Ken Martin	608 N. Birney St., Bay City, MI 48708
Big Rapids	Alexander French	28	Ron Kerwood Sr.	centurion@centurytel.net
Blissfield	Nash-Hodges	43	Gary Holmes	gholmes@tc3net.com
Bridgman	Frederick Hackeman	85	Verlin Dillman	406 Mead Rd., Niles, MI 49120
Cadillac	Henry W. Quigley	147	Merle Carlson	Rcarl@tm.net
Corunna	Henry Wallace	160	Michael McMillan	suvwmw@shianet.org
Dearborn	Sgt. John Cosbey	427	Jerry Olson	jaolson@todaylink.com
Detroit	Gen. U.S. Grant	101	Michael Nick	mnick@parker.com
DeWitt	George W. Anderson	58	Gordon McGarey	gmcgarey@worldnet.att.net
Flint	Gov. Henry Crapo	145	David Wallace	suvmi145@gfn.org
Grand Haven	Henry Plant	3	Richard Scott	captscott@cs.com
Grand Rapids	Gen. John A. Logan	1	Bruce Butgereit	civil-war@attbi.com
Howell	Gilluly-Kingsley	120	Gary Ralston	lion_of_argyll@juno.com
Jackson	Austin Blair	7	Mark Heath	peace525@acd.net
Kalamazoo	Gen. Benjamin Pritchard	20	Del Farnsworth	rivendel@wmis.net
Litchfield	Archibald Stewart	259	John Esterline	bulwinky@voyager.net
Marquette-Upper Peninsula	Albert & James Lyon	266	Philip Parks	jparks@ccisd.k12.mi.us
Marshall	Colegrove-Woodruff	22	John Lohrstorfer	155 Birch Ln., Battle Creek, MI 49017
Oakland County	Gen. Israel Richardson	2	Kevin Lindsey	klindsey@comcast.net
Port Huron	George W. Howe	9	Edmund Russell	orayruss@ess.essc.com
Shepherd-Mt. Pleasant	Wa-Bu-No	250	Kris Kuhlman	kuhlmans@aol.com
Sunfield-Lansing	Curtenius Guard	17	Thomas Emerick	tjemerick@attbi.com
Traverse City	Robert Finch	14	Bill Skillman	bill.skillman@aol.com
Michigan Camp-at-Large	Russell A. Alger	462	Kevin Lindsey	klindsey@comcast.net

The Department of Michigan is on the Internet at: <http://suvchw.org/mi/deptmi.htm>

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