



Michigan's Messenger

The Newsletter of the Department of Michigan – Sons of Union veterans of the Civil War

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Winter 2006

John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus



Commander's Musings

The time from November to February is the season for installing newly elected Camp officers for the 2006 administrative year. This time is closely followed by the filing of annual reports by all Camps to the Department. Interestingly, these two events are tied together.

Camps are reminded that all installing officers must be appointed by the Department Commander and not simply chosen at the Camp level. While I am glad to honor any reasonable request to appoint any Brother in good standing to install Camp officers, Camps should understand that Department Bylaws require the Department Commander to make the appointment. To explain the reason for this we must go back and take a look at some of our history and traditions. In times, past the annual event of Installation of Camps officers was much more than the simple ceremony. Some official from the Department came to town to make a day of "inspecting the Camp". Camp books, records and forms were examined, per capita taxes were collected and any irregularities were duly noted. Today, although all of these concerns are still very important, we tend to be less formal about our officer installations. That does not mean that we can just do the ritual ceremony and go home. It is imperative that Form #22—"Certification of Camp Election and Installation of Camp Officers" be filled out IN ITS ENTIRETY by the Installing Officer and the Camp Secretary. The Camp Secretary should forward this to the Department Secretary right away. The form is available in PDF format from the National web site: <http://suvcw.org/ftp.htm>. Failure to complete this form at the time of the installation was a major source of difficulty as some Camps struggled to properly execute their annual reports, last year. In approving all Installing Officers I am able to supply them with Form #22 for everyone's convenience.

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The time for annual reports is upon us. This can be a time for stress and consternation for certain Camp and Department officers. While the majority of our Camps do a fine job with their reporting, some struggled last year. Tardiness, incorrect forms, missing information, missing signatures, disagreeing information, and illegible entries, were rampant in some reports. Though they call for care and patience, these necessary reports aren't all that difficult. Correct forms are available from the National web site. If you prefer, e-mail me at rgreene@tds.net or Department Secretary Derr at dderr@chartermi.net and we'll send you the file to print out. We are both at your disposal to answer questions regarding filling out the reports and filing them. Though they may be tedious for some, the timely filing of annual reports is absolutely necessary. Incorrect or incomplete forms must be sent back to the Camp for correction. This serves to reset the clock to zero and set everyone back in their effort to complete the project. Don't forget, Secretary Derr has but a short time to compile the information received from 25 Camps into a single report that the Department must submit to the National Organization. Should he not be able to tender this report in a timely fashion, the Michigan Delegation could be barred from being seated at the National Encampment. Camp reports are a vital block in this pyramid. Secretary Derr has addressed the actual reports in much more depth, elsewhere in this issue of the "Messenger".

I intend to do all that I can to foster a higher standard of accuracy and timeliness in annual reporting than may have been evident in the past few years. Please assist in this effort by filing as early as possible and taking care that the current forms are used, filled out completely and accurately.

In F, C, & L, Richard Greene, Commander Department of Michigan, SUVCW

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Counselor

James B. Pahl, PDC

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Ed Dowd

Graves Registration

Rick Danes

GAR Records

James T. Lyons, PDC

Civil War Memorials

Douglas R. Armstrong, PCC

Eagle Scout Coordinator

Charles Worley

Camp At-LargeCoordinator

Robert Mitchell

Editor's Note: This is the first edition of the new electronic format for "Michigan's Messenger". I have tried to include every article that was sent to me prior to publication, so that all future issues will be timely. I welcome all constructive suggestions, and encourage all of you to submit relative news about your committees, your Camps, and your ancestors. This is your newsletter, and its success depends on you. Rick Danes, Editor mimessrd@aol.com.

**Department Orders #2****Series 2005- 2006**

Department Headquarters, Mayville, Michigan

1. *I wish to thank the thirteen Brothers of the Department who traveled to Nashua, New Hampshire for the 124th Annual National Encampment. The Encampment was very cordial and productive. A report can be found elsewhere in this issue of the "Messenger"*
2. *Congratulations to Michigan Brothers elected to National office. Brother James B. Pahl, PDC, of Camp #17 was chosen Senior Vice Commander-In-Chief for the coming year while Brother Max L. Newman, PCC, from Camp #145 was re-elected National Treasurer. Brother Bruce B. Butgereit, PDC, of Camp #1 has been re-appointed as National Patriotic Instructor.*
3. *In accordance with a mandate from the 112th Annual Department Encampment the Special Committee on Investment Optimization has developed an outstanding plan to increase the yield of the greater share of the Department's financial assets. On July 12, 2005 \$12,000 of the General Fund was transferred from a simple savings account to a high yield CD. This will increase the annual income from this principal by some \$450.*
4. *With its mission accomplished, the Special Committee on Investment Optimization is dismissed with the profound thanks of the Department. Chaired by Department Treasurer Brian J. Shumway, this committee included Brothers Max L. Newman, PCC, James Week, PCC, and David F. Wallace, PDC.*
5. *With regret, I have accepted the resignation of Brother Ty Streeter, PCC from the post of Department Patriotic Instructor. Please join me in wishing Ty continued success as he returns to the classroom to continue his education*
6. *The Special Committee for Goals and Planning has developed a framework for the long range vision of the Department. They continue to detail this instrument and will offer a report of current progress at the 2006 Department Encampment. When completed, this long range plan will be of immense value to future Department administrations, assisting them in following a consistent direction and building off of the progress and achievement of prior administrations. Chaired by Brother Gary L. Gibson, PDC, the committee includes Brothers Brian J. Shumway and Charles Worley.*

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TAPS

Joining the great final encampment since our last newsletter, are:
Brother Wayne A. Gleason, a Charter Member of Benjamin Pritchard Camp #20;
Brother Harold Hodges of the Nash- Hodges Camp #43 and a Veteran of World
War II, serving in the 343rd Engineers in the ETO, and;
Brother Douglas Freeman Colley, a Charter member of General John A. Logan
Camp 1 and a Marine Corps Veteran who served from 1955-1959.

All Charters will be draped for 30 days in their memory.

Department Orders #2, Series 2005- 2006 Continued from page 2

7. *With regret, I have accepted the resignation of Brother David Rehkopf from the post of Editor of "Michigan's Messenger". Please join me in wishing David continued success as he continues his service to the Order in other areas.*
8. *I am pleased to appoint Brother Richard E. Danes, CC. to edit the Department newsletter, "Michigan's Messenger", beginning with the first quarter of 2006 edition. Most of you know Rick from the fine job that he has done in making Michigan's Graves Registration project the premier GR program of the entire Order. For some time Rick has also done an outstanding job editing the Camp #427 newsletter, "The Arsenal Gazette". I'm sure that he will bring his extensive set of skills to the "Messenger". Please join me in welcoming Rick to his new post. When sending material for the "Messenger" Rick asks that you use the special e-mail address of mimessrd@aol.com rather than his customary e-mail box.*
9. *I am please to announce the formation of a new Camp in my hometown of Mayville, Michigan. The LeValley-Heusted Camp #255 honors two of the last GAR Comrades from Tuscola County, it's prime area of service. Please join me in welcoming this, our newest Camp, to the Department.*
10. *Camps are reminded to appoint a Camp Signals Officer or other Brother who will accept the "Messenger" in electronic form and be responsible for disseminating it among his Camp's membership.*
11. *I extend profound thanks to all who helped with the Hospitality Tent at the Jackson Civil War Muster. Especial thanks to Brother Mark Heath, PCC and Commander Ron Tyrl and a host of other Camp #7 Brothers who arranged for us to have space and who helped set up and take down the tent. Thanks to DJVC Jeff Baker, Brothers Max Newman, Jim Pahl, and Matt Adair for their help and to all who stopped by, helping make the experiment a resounding success.*
12. *I regret to relate the news of the passing of Brother Wayne A. Gleason of the Benjamin Pritchard Camp #20. He was a Charter Member of the Camp. Although advanced years had robbed Brother Gleason of some of his vigor, he had, in the past been an active member in the Camp. All Charters will be draped for 30 days in his memory.*

Submitted in F, C, & L,
September 1, 2005
/s/
Richard Greene, Commander
Department of Michigan, SUVCW

Attest:
/s/
Dennis C. Derr II, Department Secretary
Department of Michigan, SUVCW

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Legal Action Progressing

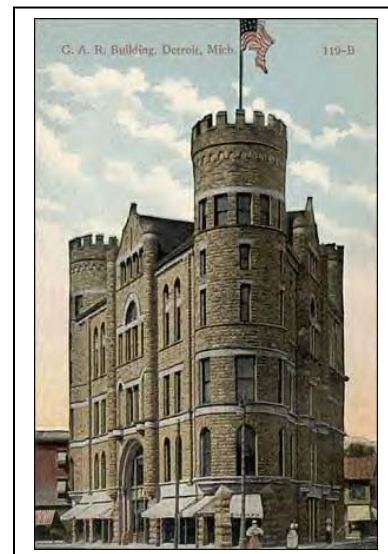
by Jim Pahl, Past Michigan Department Commander and Senior Vice Commander in Chief

The Detroit GAR Building was built between 1897 and 1900, and is the largest Grand Army of the Republic Hall erected in Michigan. The hall was used until the early 1940's by the GAR and other veretan's Groups, and was placed on the National Register of Historic Buildings On February 13, 1986.

Proceeding with the legal action filed by the City of Detroit against our Detroit Camp 101 are proceeding. The case has been removed to Federal District Court. The City was not pleased with that move.

Attorneys are attempting to hammer out an agreement to resolve this issue. The attorney for the Sons is asking that no one take any actions at all concerning this legal battle or the Detroit Hall itself, without the express consent of the attorney representing the Sons.

Negotiations such as this are always quiet and some of the specific details are not even known by me. However, I do have confidence in this attorney and in the legal process, now that the case is out of the city of Detroit courts.



124th National Encampment A Success!

by Jim Pahl, Past Michigan Department Commander and Senior Vice Commander in Chief

Eleven Michigan brothers traveled to New Hampshire in August to attend our National Encampment. Presided over by Commander in Chief Steve Michaels of Wisconsin, several issues were debated and decided in the various sessions. New Hampshire did a wonderful job in putting together a package that facilitated a harmonious encampment, enjoyed by all. 183 brothers registered as delegates and every Department was represented. However, the entire Kentucky delegation left before the elections.

Frank Tucker from Massachusetts was allowed to address the Encampment and appeal the decision to strip him of past rank and not allow him to hold any elected or appointed office in the Order. After brief presentations by Frank and Rich Orr from Pennsylvania, Frank's past rank was restored and he is once again allowed to hold office in the Order.

Elections became very interesting. Don Darby of Ohio was elected Commander in Chief and I was elected Senior Vice, both without any challenges. Daniel Murray of New Hampshire came to the Encampment with the intention of running for Junior Vice Commander in Chief, as did Charles Kuhn of Pennsylvania.

Dan withdrew his candidacy before serious politicking began, and instead ran for the Council of Administration. So Charles Kuhn ran unopposed and was elected as Junior Vice Commander in Chief. This left a vacancy on the Council of Administration, for the remaining one year of Charlie's term. Also, the seat held by Bob Petrovic of Missouri was also up for reelection. The one year term to replace Charlie was announced first, and the only candidate for the remaining term was James Hanby of Maryland.

Daniel Murray ran against Bob Petrovic for the three year term. With a close vote almost to the end, Dan was elected to replace Bob Petrovic, vote of 87 to 69. Almost the entire Pennsylvania delegation voted for Dan, which was the boost he needed to go over the top.

David V. Medert of Ohio has announced that he is running for Junior Vice Commander in Chief in 2006. Both Leo Kennedy of Rhode Island and our own Gary Gibson have both announced they are running for Junior Vice Commander in Chief in 2007.

The 125th annual National Encampment of the Order will be held in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in August of 2006. This will be a very exciting Encampment for me for a couple of reasons in addition to my running for Commander in Chief. The original Deed of Conveyance was recently located and turned over to the National Organization - which will be on display in Harrisburg. Pennsylvania is also promising a dazzling milestone Encampment. Harrisburg is also the home of our National Headquarters, in the National Civil War Museum.

2007 will see the National Encampment in St. Louis, Missouri. Max Newman, our National Treasurer, will be up for reelection in 2007 and deserves our support. Max has done a great job as Treasurer.

I encourage as many Michigan brothers as possible to plan on attending Harrisburg in August and St. Louis the following year.

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Department Recording Secretary Report

Dennis C. Derr II

The end of the year is fast approaching and that means Camp Officer Elections and Installations will soon be upon us. With that in mind Camp Secretaries need to be thinking about the filing of the Form 22: Certification of Election and Installation of Camp Officers. Camp Secretaries should also be thinking about Forms 27 and 27A: Camp Annual Report.

When filing Form 22: Certification of Election and Installation of Camp Officers, Camp Secretaries must use the current Form 22 which is available on the National SUVCW Website at <http://suvchw.org/fip.htm>. Previous versions of the Form 22 are no longer valid and will not be accepted. In order to be valid, Form 22 must be completely filled out including all of the required signatures. Two copies of Form 22 must be submitted to the Department Secretary along with a current and up-to-date Camp Roster. Form 22 is due following the Installation of Camp Officers.

It is also not too early for Camp Secretaries to be thinking about Forms 27 and 27A: Camp Annual Report. Camp Secretaries must use the current version of Forms 27 and 27A which are also available on the National SUVCW Website at <http://suvchw.org/fip.htm>. Previous versions of Form 27 and the old Quarterly Report Forms are no longer valid and will not be accepted.

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When submitting the Camp Annual Report to the Department Secretary, Camp Secretaries must include both the Form 27 and 27A and both forms must be completely filled out, including all of the required signatures. Forms that are incomplete and/or lacking the required signatures will not be accepted. Do not leave anything blank. Fill out every section of both forms. For example, on Form 27, if a Camp does not have any Juniors, then a zero should be placed in the space provided. And for example, on Form 27A, if a Camp is not reporting any Brother's change of address, then simply put "none" in the space provided. By filling in every space I will know that you have not missed or forgotten to fill out a section. Both Forms 27 and 27A: The Camp Annual Report, are due to the Department Secretary on or before April 30 of each year – NO EXCEPTIONS.

I ask you as Brothers to help me serve you and the Department in the most efficient way possible. When submitting any/all forms please make sure that they are the current version, that they are completely filled out, including all required signatures and that they are in on time. By doing this, you will ensure your Camp's good standing in the Department of Michigan and the National Order.

Respectfully Submitted In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Dennis C. Derr II

Dennis C. Derr II

Recording Secretary

Department of Michigan

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Department Orders #3

Series 2005- 2006

Department Headquarters, Mayville, Michigan

1. I am pleased to appoint Brother Kevin Lindsey, PCC, to the post of Department Patriotic Instructor. Brother Lindsey continues to be very active in the Israel B. Richardson Camp #2 and has served at the Department level in several capacities, most recently that of Member-At-Large Coordinator. Please join me in welcoming Kevin to his new post.
2. Thanks to Department of Michigan Brothers who journeyed to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania to represent the Department of Michigan in Remembrance Day festivities. Those attending from the Department were Brothers James B. Pahl, PDC, Max L. Newman, PCC, Bruce B. Butgereit, PDC, Richard Greene, PCC, Kim Donald Shaw, PCC, Steven Redinger, Edgar Dowd, Colin Butgereit, L. Dean Lamphere, and Lloyd Lamphere. Joining us were William Morris of the Department of Tennessee, Kenneth Martin, Matthew Lamphere and Len McInerney.
3. As is the custom, we paused at the memorial of one of Michigan's regiments at Gettysburg. This year we honored the First Michigan Infantry where they fought heroically to turn back rebels under Kershaw near the Rose farm. Though short, the ceremony was meaningful and touching as Brother Jim Pahl told of how the Gallant First came to be and the long road it took to Gettysburg.
4. Camps are reminded to appoint a Camp Signals Officer or other Brother who will accept the "Messenger" in electronic form and be responsible for disseminating it among his Camp's membership.
5. I am pleased to appoint Brother Matthew L. Adair to Chair the Department Credentials Committee which will report to the 2006 Department Encampment. While more details of the upcoming Encampment may be found elsewhere in this issue of the "Messenger", pre-registration opens January 31, 2006 and pre-registration may be sent to Matt at 409 Bent Oak Street, Fenton, Michigan, 48430-2288. Pre-registration fee is \$5.00 per Brother.
6. Especial thanks goes to Brother Bruce B. Butgereit, PDC, who moved fast to enable the Department to provide National Flags as well as Michigan Flags to the grave of each Michigan veteran at rest in the National cemetery at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The Butgereit family has generously donated these flags in the memory of the "Boys In Blue" at rest at Gettysburg.
7. All Brothers are reminded to regularly visit the newly redesigned Department web site at <http://www.suvcwmi.org/> New features appear almost weekly and regular updates make it a prime source for up to date information or late breaking news of the Department. Among the new features of the site you will find that the current Department Graves Registration Database is now searchable.

8. *I am pleased to announce that a Camp formation effort is underway in Greenville, Michigan, in Montcalm County. The William A. Kent Camp #83 is being organized by Brother Edward R. Woodard. Interested parties should e-mail Brother Woodard at ewoodard@chartermi.net or via phone at (616) 754-5708.*
9. *I regret to relate news of the death of Brother Harold Hodges of the Nash- Hodges Camp #43. A veteran of World War II, Brother Hodges served 343rd Engineers in the ETO. All Charters will be draped for 30 days in his memory.*
10. *The 117th Annual Department Encampment will take place on Saturday, April 29, 2006 in Grand Rapids. All Brothers are encouraged to attend and are urged to pre-register prior to April 22. Pre-registration is \$5.00 with at the door registration \$10.00. Pre-registrations should be sent to: Brother Matt Adair, 409 Bent Oak Street, Fenton, MI. 4848430-2288. Details of the upcoming Encampment may be found elsewhere in this issue of the "Messenger".*
11. *The Woman's Relief Corp will host, both, a lunch and an evening dinner at the Department Encampment/ Convention. Reservations and payment must be made in advance. Send checks and meal choices to: Mrs. Lucile Streeter, 782 W. Girard Rd., Sherwood, MI. 49089-9705.*
12. *Regrettably, because of exponentially rising cost and waning interest the Annual Mid- Winter Meeting will not be held this year.*
13. *I am pleased to appoint Brother Kevin Lindsey to chair the Department Nominating Committee for this administrative year. Brothers interested in running for elected office at the 117th Annual Encampment should contact Brother Lindsey at 6890 Norton, Troy, MI. 48085-1659*
14. *I am saddened to report the death of Brother Douglas Colley. Brother Colley was a veteran of the United States Marine Corp and a Charter Member of the Logan Camp #1. All Charters will be draped for 30 days in his memory.*
15. *In accordance with General Orders #4, all Camps within the Department of Michigan are directed to generate a thorough and complete history of the Camp in electronic format, to be forwarded to the Department. Histories should include names and pictures of Charter Members, Camp Officers for each administrative year, rosters of members, stories of projects and other activities, anecdotal remembrances of selected members, and anything of interest that the Camp may wish to submit. Histories should be written in paragraph form with supporting pictures, charts, etc. as necessary. Completed histories should be forwarded to Brother Gary Gibson, PDC, who will compile them into a history of the entire Department to be forwarded to the National Organization. Brother Gibson may be reached via e-mail at glsuvcw@aol.com. Histories should be completed and submitted to Brother Gibson by September 1, 2006*
16. *Brothers attending the 117th Annual Department Encampment are requested to bring new or gently used books, artifacts, or other appropriate items to donate to a Department raffle, to be held on the day of the Encampment. The drawing for this raffle will be held at the evening banquet with proceeds going to the Department general fund.*
17. *All Camps are requested to bring their Camp colors to the 117th Annual Department Encampment. All Camp colors will join the Department colors at the front of the room for the duration of the Encampment.*

*Submitted in F, C, & L,
December 1, 2005*

/s/

*Richard Greene, Commander
Department of Michigan, SUVCW*

Attest:

/s/

*Dennis C, Derr II
Department Secretary*

G. A. R. Records Committee

James T. Lyons., PDC, Committee Chairman

The year 2005 was a busy and productive one for this Committee. We have been able to move forward in a variety of areas. Several projects have been initiated, the search for and acquisition of additional material has been productive and we have been able to participate in a number of functions and activities related to our work. Several presentations have been made to other organizations and we have responded to a goodly number of research requests from all over the map.

Post Charter Conservation: Last fall an inventory was conducted to determine the number of surviving Post Charters on file at the State Archives. There were more than 200 and a listing has been prepared and posted on the Committee page of the Department web site.

This work led to discussions with Mark Harvey, the Archivist, concerning the condition and care of these important documents. He indicated that he and one of his staff members have some training and experience in paper conservation and that they would like to establish such a project at the State Archives. Unfortunately there is no money in their budget to purchase the supplies necessary to move forward. He asked if we could help.

The question was posed to the Department Commander through a formal request for funding. Commander Greene, in consultation with the Department Council, approved a grant of \$600.00 to establish this project. Supplies have been ordered and the actual work should begin shortly.

Civil War Photos: Several years ago the Department and the National Organization made contributions to the Archives (\$500.00 and \$1000.00 respectively) to have the collection of photos of Civil War veterans scanned and posted on the Archives website. That project has been completed and is now available for viewing. More will be added in the near future.

Centennial Graves Card File: Discussions have taken place and a project is under way to review the card file records of the Civil War Centennial Committee Graves Registration project against our growing data base as maintained by the Graves Registration Committee. A staff person is reviewing and comparing the card file against our posted data base and a new file of those not appearing in our records is being made for submission to the Graves Committee.

It appears that this will provide a sizeable addition to the work presently under way by this hard working Committee. The first submissions should be sent shortly.

Post Flag Found: A real highlight of the year was the discovery of the flag of the Major Fox Post 272 of Chase. Discovered in a Reed City business attic as the owner was preparing to move, the flag was returned to Chase. The Department was well represented at the re-dedication ceremony at the Chase Township Public Library on September 24. The flag has been framed and will be on display at the library.

This flag is the second known to exist in Michigan. The other is the C. O. Loomis Post 2 flag at the Pubic Library in Quincy.

Recent Additions: We have made a number of additions to the copies of material on file.

With the acquisition of copies of four Descriptive Books, a Post Account Book and a Minute Book covering from 1926 to 1931, we now have copies or originals of all known Post 42 material.

We now have copies of applications and/or dues payment records for 110 members of the Billy Cruson Post 347 from the library at Breckenridge.

Thanks to the work of Matt Adair, we have a CD covering the Memorial Book and other material of the Col. Fenton Post 145 located at the Fenton Historical Museum.

Brothers Knoodle and Harthy have contributed numerous obituaries and other news accounts from their respective areas.

We have added copies of Minute Books from Post 91 and Post 45.

The listing of "FOUND" materials is presently being updated and should be posted soon.

Help Needed: Help is still needed to type and transcribe the Minute Books and other material. Once this is accomplished and the material can be placed on CDs, we will be better able to share the information with researchers and others. All of these records are handwritten and provide some difficulty in reading for the average person.

If you would like to help on this important next step, please contact the Chairman so that we can make the necessary arrangements. Will look forward to hearing from you.

Graves Registration Committee Report
Rick Danes, CC, Department Officer

The business of Graves Registration has been progressing albeit slowly, while those on the Committee continue to solve mysteries for the public.

In my Annual Report I will say that we have 2 new Camp Graves Registration Officers, and that the following Camps had representation for at least one of the Quarterly Meetings held in 2005: Camps 1, 2, 7, 14, 17, 20, 22, 58, 120, 145, 250, 255, and 427. Camps 7, 14, 22, 120, 145, 250, and 427 all attended every meeting.

We also registered over 5,000 new graves this past year, and dedicated, rededicated, installed new headstones, and generally maintained many Veteran's gravesites, and have the honor of receiving a large amount of information from Connie Larson and Jackie Vohlker of DUVCW Eva Gray Tent Number 2 .

Chris Czopek solved the mystery of William G. Rand, a Union Soldier who served first with Co. A, 10th Michigan Infantry, and then the 3rd North Carolina Mounted Infantry, came to Michigan, died in 1907, and was buried under a Union military headstone, only to have his grave decorated with the Stars and Bars for the past 99 years!

Chris also completed work on a transcript about Morgan Dowling, 16th Michigan Infantry, Companies H and F, 17 MI Infantry and Andersonville, Georgia and his wife Josie Seymour, a southern belle, and their experiences both during and after the War.

We also discovered a soldier who was buried at the Memphis, Tennessee National Cemetery, right in the middle of the Michigan Section. We found that he was in fact a Michigan man, but someone thought that MI was an abbreviation for Mississippi, and put him under a Confederate stone!

Our task goes on. I was honored by Commander Greene with chairmanship of this committee for the sixth time this past year, and I hope that future Commanders allow me to continue in the pursuit of our goal. With over 55,000 registered gravesites, we still believe that we are only half- way completed. Several Camps were surprised to find that their "completed" areas were only partly done by past surveyors, and are revisiting those areas.

The Graves Registration Website has been renewed by Signals Officer and Brother Matt Adair. We have received many compliments any many more queries as a result of his good work...many thanks.

Our 2006 Meeting calendar has been tentatively set for March 11, June 10, September 9, and December 9 at the State Library in Lansing, stay tuned about that, though. We still would like to encourage some of the 14 Camps who are not active in the program to climb on the train. I'll bet that many of you have some records in a storage area that haven't been submitted yet! If you would like to participate, drop me a line at SUVMIDGRO@aol.com.

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PLAINWELL ENTERPRISE

OCTOBER 31ST, 1894

CAPTURE OF JEFF DAVIS

Reminiscences of His Life as remembered by a friend

By D. R. Miller

Submitted by John Keith, Commander Camp 20

The recent announcement of the death of Andrew Bee, the captor of Jeff Davis, calls up to my mind certain incidents in his life which may not be uninteresting to the general public.

Andrew Bee was a Norwegian by birth and a tinner by trade and was for many years in the employment of Andrew Patterson, a hardware merchant of Martin, Michigan. He was a tall, rawboned specimen of humanity, with light blue eyes, heavy brows, and high cheekbones. And wore a full thin beard. He was a quiet, taciturn man, one who attended to his own business and left others to do the same. He was remarkably skillful in his profession and there seemed to be nothing in the line of his trade that he could not do and do well. I well remember on one occasion when the young people of the neighborhood determined to surprise a couple of friends on the 10th anniversary of their wedding. They resorted to Andrew Bee to help them out on it. Of course, being a tin wedding, the young folks would be expected to "come down with the tin". But the couple aforesaid were well-to-do in this world's goods and were fully supplied along that line. They resolved however, that the event should be appropriately commemorated and so called into their councils the Norwegian tinner.

For the ten-year bride he manufactured a huge breast-pin of tin, also a watch, and a chain of sufficient length to coil several times around her neck and reach to the girdle. A ring was prepared for the bridal finger and was a ludicrous combination of ingenuity and nonsense. The large solitaire was neither diamond nor ruby, but a chunk of coal which Andrew had fished from the coalscuttle and deftly clasped in position.

For the bridegroom he prepared a "stove pipe" hat an exceedingly suggestive present for the time of year, a tin collar, tie and cuffs and other articles which indicated that with all Andrew's taciturnity he had a reservoir of fun which he kept on tap

Continued from page 8

for and emergency. And there probably was never a more hilarious company of young people than when they saw this surprised couple were rigged out in these vanities.

Many a time have I heard Mr. Bee tell the story of the capture of Jeff Davis. And if you wanted to see him excited and see the old war fever flashing in his blue eyes all that was necessary was to go out to the little shop back of the hardware store and say: Mr. Bee is it true that you are the man who captured Jeff Davis? Immediately every tool dropped, spouting and soldering were shoved aside. Not another stroke of work would he do until he had gone over the whole story. The truth of history must be vindicated. The roof-gutters and spouting could wait. The old story had to be told again, and told it was with a spasmodic energy that sometimes made the tin-parings bounce from the workbench.

He would generally begin by telling how he and a few other Union Soldiers, in search of something to eat, threw up the window of a fine residence, near Macon, Georgia and jumped in. The dwelling appeared to be deserted, but, unexpectedly to themselves, they stumbled across a faithful old colored servant who had to remain behind to guard his master's possessions. He wanted to know "Whoffer yo' break into dis hyar house?"

"We want something to eat," said Andrew.

"Dar am nuffin in the house. Some sojers come erlong yisteday an' clean de house out, clar and clean, didn't leave a muffin,"

"What kind of uniform dem soldiers have on?"

"Dev had on de gray."

"You know where dem soldiers encamped?"

"Spec I does, boss."

"You come with me."

And Andrew marched the all too communicative bondservant out of the house and took him right along with him.

And then he would tell, with much gesticulation, how they surrounded the little town of Irwinsville, where their game was caged and all that remained of the defunct Confederacy was in hiding. It was Bee's good fortune to be on picket duty near the tent of Jeff Davis, his wife and others. In the gray of the morning he looked through the folds of the tent and recognized the head of the dissolving Confederacy. But as a good soldier, accustomed to obey orders, he kept his pace and said nothing. But had his weather eye on the tent just the same, He saw Davis throw his wife's wrapper over his shoulders and put a shawl over his head and then he and his wife, with a water pail in hand, came out of the tent. "De leedle vomans say to me, 'can me an' my mother go down to the brook and get some vater?"

"You can't pass through the lines without the countersign."

Then, he said, they made an attempt to pass the picket line. Bee leveled his musket and said: "If you try to go through the lines I'll shoot you."

Then the "leedle vomans" threw her arms around the neck of the "Old vomans: and said: "Mine Gott, Don't shoot!"

"Yust then some of dem soldiers say to me: 'Andrew come away from dem vimins. It ain't vimins we's after:; it's old Yeff."

"Dat vas no vomans! Dat vas Old Yeff."

Then they laid hold of the be-wrapped chief of the Confederacy and led him to Gen. Pritchard's headquarters.

It was worth a days ride to see him tell this story, for it was as interesting to see the manner of the man, his earnestness, his gesticulation, his soldier like enthusiasm, as to hear his version of the old story. The fire of the 60's burned again in his eyes and his cheeks reddened with fervor of other days.

He tells how upon one occasion. Long after the war, he was walking penniless through the streets of a little town in Mississippi and happened to meet his former illustrious captive, the renowned Jefferson Davis himself. It was a surprise party all around. Davis recognized him at once and shook hands very cordially and upon learning that he was out of money very generously took out his pocketbook and handed him ten dollars.

There was a reward of \$100,000 offered for the capture of Jefferson Davis. But Mr. Bee never received one cent of it or had not a few years ago when I last talked with him. The lion's share divided between Col. Pritchard of the 4th Michigan Cavalry and Col. Harden of the 1st Wisconsin Cavalry. The remainder was distributed among the subordinate officers of the two regiments in proportion to their rank with the exception of an undistributed \$10,000 still lying in the treasury. Mr. Bee made repeated efforts to secure some portion of this \$10,000 but failed. Although he was very poor he never applied for a pension until about 1888. I believe that he was successful in his application. On one occasion I asked him why he had not applied sooner and he explained: "Dere vas noddings de matter mit me sooner."

Andrew Bee, like many another whole souled but unfortunate fellow, would occasionally get too full of booze. But when he sobered up he was as penitent and crest-fallen as one could possibly imagine. He had not the power, apparently to resist temptation and yet he fought the battle against strong drink with as much heroism as he fought the enemies of his country's flag. He moved his wife and child and what little household goods he possessed, away from saloon surroundings and came to Martin, Michigan, a little prohibition town of 300 inhabitants in Allegan County, in hope that here, away from the grog shop where he would be safe. For a long time he kept sober. But one day the "Army of the Cumberland" met in reunion at Grand Rapids. It was a day of surging crowds and waving flags, happy hearts and glad huzzahs. If there was any patriotism in a man's soul anywhere it bubbled to the surface and ran over until the streets were full of it. Long lines of blue-coated heroes tramped the streets amid a patriotic baptism of cheers and royal greetings, which were flung, down from house roofs and up from cellars windows, from crowded street side, piazza and platform and from every other available spot where patriotism could find a resting place for the sole of it's foot. And then came the survivors of the "Old 4th Michigan," and at their head a banner with this strange device: "Captors of Jeff Davis." Then everything broke loose. The crowds went wild,

every tongue cheered and every hand waved its handkerchief or silken flag. Cheeks glowed and eyes sparkled with patriotic fervor. Bedlam broke loose and refused to be captured. And there was Andrew Bee tramping over the cobblestones and modestly supposing that all this enthusiastic greetings was intended for someone else. But that night his convivial comrades were too much for him. The ramparts of his resolution were broken down and he fell a prisoner to strong drink. He mingled reminiscence and bad whiskey in about equal parts and when he started for home he could not have told whether he captured "Old Yeff" or "Old Yeff" had got away with him. He boarded the wrong train and was borne away in the opposite direction from home. He wandered around for days, when his employer, Mr. Patterson, learning of his whereabouts, went after him and brought him home. He was penitence personified, the most complete specimen of humanity imaginable. He pleaded. With tears streaming down his cheeks, that Mr. Patterson would not discharge him. He couldn't help it. "Dem old soldiers too much for me".

He remained in the employ of Mr. Patterson for years until the firm changed hands and we believe, he has been continued in the same position by his successor. He was a man of many misfortunes. A few years ago his wife was killed at the railroad crossing not far from their home. He was also a man of many victories. He abandoned his old habit and lived to see his old enemy drink a captive, dead at his feet. And so unrelenting was his antagonism to the drink traffic that he voted solidly against this enemy of his home as he shot against the enemy of his flag. He was respected and honored where men knew him best, unostentatious, of strong personality, dauntless in courage and of unquestioned patriotism, a member of the G.A.R. and a staunch citizen. Of his last years we know but little, save that he was converted during a revival in the United Presbyterian Church and died in that communion, with a humble trust in Christ and an unconquered faith in a blessed future.

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An Ancestor Found
By Gib Young Indiana DC
Champion Hill Camp 17

Submitted by Kevin Lindsey, Camp 2



Pvt. William Lindsey

On Saturday, March 27, I was looking at sites on the inter-net in regard to Indiana in the Trans-Mississippi Theater. I came across a site about the 47th Indiana Infantry run by Kevin Lindsey, a brother in the SUVCW in Michigan (Gen. Richardson Camp 2). It is a very nice site with great links.

Since the 47th Indiana was filled with men from this area of the state and Brig. Gen. James Slack was its first colonel it was of immediate interest. I contacted Brother Lindsey via email on the 29th with an invitation to correspond in regards to the 47th and the Battle of Champion Hill and was pleased to receive a positive response.

During the conversation it came out that Brother Lindsey's had been unable to find the grave of his ancestor, Pvt. Wm. Lindsey. Brother Lindsey felt that William was either buried in the National Cemetery at Marion or in a cemetery in Wells County. Over the years he had checked through the cemeterys but had no luck in finding the soldier. On Wednesday, April 1, I contacted the Indiana Room of the Huntington Public Library and within hours they had found several Lindseys in the census of 1860. But they weren't sure if they had the right William Lindsey (A 24 year old married man in Union Township just outside of Markle.) as

there was no record of service or burial. On Friday, April 2, a quick call to the office of records for the National Cemetery in Marion revealed that there was a William Lindsey buried there. Pvt. Lindsey died in Oct. 1899 (A date confirmed by Brother Lindsey.) but since there are no next of kin listed the records did not indicate his home county. Also the records did not show a regiment designation or the graves exact location. The grave was listed as being in section 1 of the cemetery.

On Saturday, April 3rd, I took my digital camera and went down to Marion. The cemetery is a lovely one and it was easy to find Section 1. I just started walking around the circular pattern, taking two rows of headstones at a time. I started taking photos of what I thought were interesting names and units. After making an inspection of two-thirds the stones I suddenly came across 'Wm Lindsey, Co. H, 47th Ind. Inf.'. I had found Brother Lindsey's long lost ancestor! An interesting note to this is that I took a photo of the headstone inscription and then of the stone itself from three different directions so that Kevin Lindsey could find the grave by the landmarks. Right after I took the last shot my digital camera's batteries died. Was this mere coincidence? Maybe Ambrose Bierce would know. I only know that I took dozens of photos before finding Pvt. Lindsey's grave and I had just enough left to take the necessary photos after finding it.

The real point is that helping brothers and other people interested in finding out about ancestors and other Civil War related information should be, in my opinion, an honorable duty for every camp and member of the SUVCW. These are the moments we are truly serving the veterans.

Gib Young, April 5, 2004

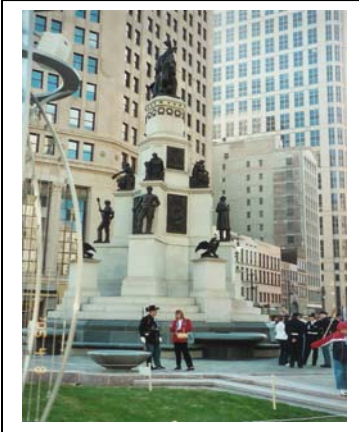


Headstone of Pvt. William Lindsey

Camp News

Sgt. John S. Cosbey Camp 427

Wayne and Monroe Counties
Commander Rick Danes Reporting



During our 7th Annual Meeting and Dinner, we reported that the following accomplishments were realized during 2005: participated in the headstone dedications for private Charles Ueberroth, 16th MI Infantry and Private Luther S. Bevier, 9th MI Cavalry; attended the Annual Department Mid- Winter Conference and Encampment; participated in the 133rd Anniversary of the dedication of the Michigan Soldiers and Sailors Monument at Campus Martius, Detroit; held 9 membership meetings and 3 special summer programs; provided service at or attended: a mayor's state of the city address, the Dearborn Historic Guild Antique Show and the Kalamazoo Living History Show; attended several Memorial Day Ceremonies state-wide, co-hosted the Dearborn Homecoming History Hill; participated in Sportsmen for Scouting, Dearborn's Art on the Avenue, the Dearborn Historical Guild Victorian Tea, Dearborn Historical Guild Open House;

visited the Jackson Civil War Muster; attended Department Committee Meetings, Dearborn Historical Guild Meetings, served as Historical Commissioners, published 4 quarterly newsletters, and welcomed 9 new members.

As a vote of confidence in our leadership, the Members voted the following Officers into office for 2006; Rick Danes - Commander, Treasurer, Graves Registration, Historian, and Archivist; Jeffrey Montminy - Senior Vice Commander, Gus Sherwin - Junior Vice Commander, Jack Underwood - Chaplin, Ed Binkley - Recording Secretary, Aaron Schrader - Camp Guard, Guide, Color Bearer, and Camp Council- Jeffrey Montminy, Jerry Olson, and Aaron Schrader, Jon Reed - Patriotic Instructor, Allan Treppa - Monuments and Memorials, John and Ed Binkley -Eagle Program Coordinators, Jerry Olson, PCC -Special Events Coordinator, and Rick Danes II - Assistant Treasurer.

ΦΦΦΦΦΦΦΦ

Future Michigan's Messenger Publications Submittal Dates and Publication Dates

Spring - March 1 for a March 15 Publication

Summer - June 1 for a June 15 Publication

Fall - September 1 for a September 15 Publication

Winter - December 1 for a December 15 Publication

**Send all articles to Rick Danes, Editor, preferably at
mimessrd@aol.com or to 2612 Burns Street, Dearborn,
Michigan 48124-3204**

ALL PUBLICATIONS WILL BE ON TIME

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*2006 Department of Michigan
Allied Orders Conventions/Encampments*

Friday, April 28 & Saturday, April 29, 2006

We are pleased to welcome the newly re-formed Department of Michigan for the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans to our Annual Department Conventions and Encampments

Hilton Hotel - Grand Rapids, MI 49512
4747 - 28th Street SE
(Intersection of 28th St. and Patterson Ave.)

Phone: 616-957-0100 (or Toll free 877-944-5866)
Allied Orders Room Rate -\$75.00 plus taxes
(Must mention **ALLIED ORDERS** for group rate when making your reservation-Deadline April 7)

General Schedule

Friday Afternoon:
Registration & Council Meetings (WRC, DUVCW, ASUVCW)
Friday Eve:
Food & Fellowship & Fun – **All Allied Orders Members Welcome**
Saturday during day:
8:00 Registration - Business Meetings of the Allied Orders (Lunch)
Saturday Evening:
GAR Memorial Banquet & Special Program

From the South:
North on US 131 or I-196 to new M-6
M-6 East to I-96 (to Grand Rapids)
Exit from I-96 at 43A (28th St –West)
Go West on 28th St to hotel on Patterson

From the North:
Follow US 131 South to I-96 East
Exit from I-96 at 43A (28th St –West)
Go West on 28th St—hotel on about 1 mile

From the East:
Follow I-96 West to Exit 43A
Exit off of I-96 at 43A (28th St –West)
Go West on 28th St—hotel on about 1 mile

Below are two coupons to mail in – one for food to the WRC and the other for Pre-Registration to the SUVCW Credentials Committee.



Meal Reservation Form for 2006 Department Convention/Encampment

(Please indicate quantity for each meal in the boxes.) NOTE! Meal reservations must be received by April 14th.

Saturday Luncheon - Noontime

Park Avenue Deli X \$9.75 = \$ _____ Total for Luncheon \$ _____
(Assorted Deli meat/cheese)

GAR Memorial Banquet - Saturday Evening (Choice of Entrée)

Raspberry Chicken X \$15.95 = \$ _____
Sirloin Steak X \$18.85 = \$ _____ Total for Banquet \$ _____
Check Total \$ _____

Name: _____

Make Checks Payable to: **Dept. of Mich. WRC**
NOTE! Reservations must be received by April 14th.

Address: _____

Send to: Lucille Streeter
782 Girard Street
Sherwood, MI 49089-9075

City, St, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Questions?: Call Lucille (517) 741-7161
or Marcia Butgereit (616) 291-3959



Department Encampment Pre-Registration Form

Please check the appropriate designation for yourself.

Camp Delegate Camp Commander Department Commander
Alternate Camp Delegate Past Camp Commander
Past Department Commander Past Commander-in-Chief

Name _____ Camp Number _____

SUVCW Pre-Registration Fee is \$5.00 (\$10.00 at Door)

Make Check Payable To: Dept. of Mich. – SUVCW

Mail by April 20, 2006 to: Matt Adair, Chairman, Dept. Credentials Comm., 409 Bent Oak St, Fenton, MI 48430