



Michigan's

Messenger

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

Volume XXVIII, Number 4

Chartered June 24, 1884

Spring 2020

John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus

Richard C. Danes, Editor

*Recipient of the Marshall Hope Award for Best Department
Newsletter of the Order 2002, 2007, and 2011*



Greetings Brothers.

Has it been an unusual spring or what? My previous article talked about expectations of activities and events, was I ever wrong. The past 3 months have been filled with uncertainty and hope, frustration and expectation. One thing is for certain, we as the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are continuing to honor our heritage. We head out on our own to clean headstones, hold memorial services, check on our brothers, in other words, we will not be deterred from our mission of keeping green the memory of the GAR. The picture this time, was my personal Memorial Day Ceremony, held at The Soldiers Plot in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Lansing, MI.

This is it, my last Messenger article as Commander. I can hardly believe it has been two years since I was elected and it has been great. I am honored to have served you and look forward to continuing to serve in other capacities. By the time this is published, my successor, Brother Terry McKinch, will have been elected and installed. I am looking forward to working with Terry in the next year. That also means our Department Encampment will have been held, virtually. This is also a new experience for the Department.

We are looking forward to hosting the 2022 National Encampment, PCinC Jim Pahl is chairing the 2022 National Encampment Committee, I ask that everyone assist in any manner they are able. The National Site Committee will be coming to Michigan, after travel restrictions have been lifted, in order to select the site. This will be an exciting and

challenging event, but something our Department is more than capable of handling.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve the Department for the past two years as your Commander. It has been an honor and privilege which I will remember, with fondness, for a long time.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Robert R Payne, DC

Department Communication  Series 2019 – 2020

Headquarters, Holt, MI
April 18, 2020

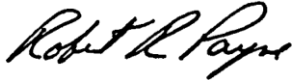
Brothers of the Department

I am writing this to bring you up to date on the current situation concerning the upcoming 136th Annual Department Encampment, scheduled for June 6, 2020.

With the current health crisis continuing to change on an almost daily basis, and the health of everyone is my utmost concern, I am investigating the possibility of holding our Department Encampment remotely, in accordance with the permission granted in General Order 17, Series 2019-2020. We are testing video conferencing platforms and expect to make a final decision around the middle of May.

Upon finalizing the decision, I will issue a Department Order concerning it. At the current time, I suggest you hold off on sending your registrations in, as that will also be addressed in the Department Order. Please have your registrations filled out and ready to mail by the middle of May, so you will be able to get them in by the preregistration deadline.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,



Robert R. Payne Department Commander Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Passing of Bill Hanusik

Submitted by Rev. Charles Buckhahn, Department Chaplain

Brothers: We have lost one of our own.

William Hanusik, age 66, of Roscommon, died on Sunday, March 29, 2020, in Grayling, with his family at his side.

William was born Sunday, July 19, 1953 in Detroit, Michigan, the son of John and Shirley (Peck) Hanusik. William married Varlya Burris on August 21, 1983 in Trenton, Michigan.

William had several passions. He enjoyed war reenacting, genres from 1812 through World War II.

He was known for being quite the history buff. He also enjoyed having been an extra in civil war movies. William enjoyed doing demonstrations to teach children about the civil war. He also enjoyed participating in graveyard walks where he would do portrayals of a person and their life of one who was buried there. William will be remembered for having played Ebenezer Scrooge in Wyandotte during the Christmas Home Tours. He enjoyed his Lionel trains. He enjoyed refurbishing old civil war guns. He also will be remembered for liking to watch Jeopardy and was actually pretty good at knowing the answers. William most of all, loved spending time with his family and friends.

William will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his beloved wife Varlya; children: Trisha Jones of Roscommon and Thomas Hanusik; sister Carol Ann Colaluca of Woodhaven, Michigan; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends; and of course, all the "fur babies".

William's family has chosen to remember him privately at this time. The family prefers memorial contributions be made in William's name to the Lung Association.

Department Order #17  Series 2019 – 2020
Headquarters, Holt, MI
April 25, 2020

It has been brought to my attention by Department Patriotic Instructor David Kimble, that many Camp Patriotic Instructors have not yet filed their reports to him. He has received reports from the following Camps:

Gen. Israel B. Richardson Camp #2

Austin Blair Camp #7

Robert Finch Camp #14

George W. Anderson Camp #58

U.S. Grant Camp #67

Henry Wallace Camp #160

Brothers from these Camps, I thank you.

All other Camps are here by requested to submit their report to Brother Kimble at this time. He needs to compose a Department level report from them.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,



/s/
Robert R. Payne, PCC, DC
Commander, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

ATTEST:

Richard Denney
Secretary, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

2022 National Encampment Awarded to Michigan.
By Jim Pahl, Chair, 2022 National Encampment Host Committee

The National Site Selection Committee has given the nod to Michigan for 2022. They have narrowed down the host hotel to two facilities in Grand Rapids, the Crowne Plaza and the Double Tree. Both are near the Grand Rapids airport.

A bid was obtained from the Amway Grand Plaza but their costs were much higher than the other facilities. Once travel bans are lifted, the National Site Selection Committee will conduct on site reviews and select the host hotel.

With the recent General Order from our Commander-in-Chief, the host committee has been attached to the National Site Selection Committee, allowing us to fall under the IRS 501c3 status of the National Organization.

The next step is to find brother (or sisters of the Auxiliary) to chair the various committees needed to make this happen. A few have already been appointed and the committees beginning to come together.

Please contact Jim Pahl at jbpahl0824@yahoo.com if you are willing to chair a committee or help

Department Order #18  Series 2019 – 2020
 Headquarters, Holt, MI
 May 8, 2020

Pursuant to General Order 17, Series 2019-2020 from CinC Ed Norris, the Department of Michigan has determined, in the best interest of the Health and Welfare of the Brothers in the State of Michigan, that The 136th Annual Michigan Department Encampment will be held VIRTUALLY.

1. The following actions will be REQUIRED to attend as a voting member:
2. Each brother must be preregistered. NO late registrations will be allowed, All registrations must be mailed to PDC L. Dean Lamphere, Jr., Dept. Credentials Committee, 1062 Four Seasons Blvd, Aurora, IL 60504 by May 25, 2020.
3. Registration fees shall be waived. If you have already submitted a registration, with payment, a refund will be sent to you, unless you contact PDC Lamphere requesting your registration fee be donated to the Department.
4. Credential Cards are still needed, and must be delivered to the Credentials Committee prior to the day of the meeting. A fill-in PDF Credentials form will be available to be filled out by the Camp Secretary and submitted to the Department. Follow ALL instructions on the 136th Department Encampment page, for the Credentials Form.
5. We will be selecting platform which affords either video or voice only options. Instructions will be available at www.suvcwmi.org/DEindex-136.php in the near future.
6. The Encampment packet will be posted to the 136th Department Encampment page for download.
7. A list of Candidates is available on the 136th Department Encampment page for review.
8. Brothers are encouraged to have a Ceremonials and Rituals book on hand for reference.
9. Brothers, if you are up for a position, either by election or appointment, please have a Holy Bible on hand for being sworn in.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,



/s/
 Robert R. Payne, PCC, DC
 Commander, Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

ATTEST:

Richard Denney
 Secretary, Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

**2019 - 2020
 Department Officers**

Commander

Terrence L. McKinch, CC
 3278 Duffield Rd.
 Lennon, MI48449

Senior Vice Commander

Nathan L. Smith, CC
 2620 S. Decker Rd.
 Marlette, MI48453

Junior Vice Commander

David Ramsey, CC
 504 Chesapeake Ct.
 Traverse City, MI 49686

Recording Secretary

Richard Denny
 30090 Orla Eagle Road
 Colon, Michigan49040

Treasurer

Bruce S. A. Gosling, PCC
 20388 US Hwy. 12
 White Pigeon, MI 49099
 bgosling@charter.net

Department Council

Chuck Worley, PDC
 David S. Smith
 Steve Martin

Chaplain

Steve Williams, CC

Patriotic Instructor

David Kimble, CC

Color Bearer

Edgar J. Dowd, PCC

Military Affairs

Edgar J. Dowd, PCC

Counselor

James B. Pahl, PC-in-C

Guard

Gene Taylor

Eagle Scout Coordinator

Nathan Tingley

Signals Officer

Robert R. Payne, PDC

Michigan's Messenger Editor

Richard E. Danes, Sr. PCC

Historian

Keith G. Harrison, PC-in-C

Guide

Lloyd Lamphere, Sr.

Graves Registration

Richard E. Danes, Sr., PCC

GAR Records

Gary L. Gibson, PDC

Civil War Memorials

John H. McGill, CC

Chief of Staff

Donald Shaw, PC-in-C

Camp At Large Coordinator

L. Daen Lamphere, Jr, PDC

Aide de Camp

Keith Harrison, PC-in-C

Camp Organizer

James B. Pahl, PC-in-C

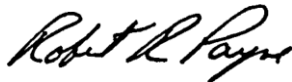
Department Order #19  Series 2019 – 2020

Headquarters, Holt, MI
May 8, 2020

With the 136th Annual Department of Michigan Encampment being held Virtually, on June 6, 2020, the following parameters will apply:

1. By May 10, 2020 a Fill-able PDF Credentials Form will be available at www.suvcwmi.org/DeptEncampment/DEindex-136.php Follow all directions to properly fill this form out.
2. The Fill-able Credentials Form will act as your Registration form. This will need to be filled out by the Camp Secretary.
3. The Credentials Form will be submitted to credentials@suvcwmi.org
4. This Form must be filed by May 25, 2020.
5. All attendees must be preregistered. If a Camp has more brothers wishing to attend than they are allowed delegates, designate the excess brothers as "Alternate Delegate". This will enable them to attend the Encampment.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,



/s/
Robert R. Payne, PCC, DC
Commander, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

ATTEST:

Richard Denney
Secretary, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Given the Governor's [Executive Order 2020-110](#), museums may reopen as of June 8

Consequently, **Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall & Museum** will be open on our normal 2nd Wednesday of the month (June 11th) (the Order missed out 1st Wednesday) and of course, always by appointment - just call us (517-922-6427) or email us at garmichigan@gmail.com and we will arrange to open up the museum for you. We have hand sanitizer but bring your facemasks.

Thanks.

Keith G. Harrison
Board President & Director
Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall & Museum
(Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Michigan
James B. Brainerd Post 111 Memorial Hall and Museum, Inc)
224 South Main
Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827
Telephone: 517-922-6427
Michigan Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War **S2022**

Department Order #20  Series 2019 – 2020

**Headquarters, Holt, MI
May 13, 2020**

Whereas The 136th Annual Michigan Department Encampment has been moved to a Virtual site, the following parameters are in effect:

1. All Credentials shall be submitted by May 25, 2020.
2. This is to afford the Credentials Committee the time to process them and be ready to admit Brothers to the Encampment.
3. The Department shall use Zoom to stream the Encampment.
4. Each participant, who wishes to join via Video on their computer, tablet, or smart phone will need to download the latest ZOOM software.
5. Attendees who wish to join using voice only, may do so by calling the number provided to him, by the Credentials Committee.
6. Brothers will need to follow all directions transmitted to them by the Credentials Committee after their registration/credentials have been received and confirmed.
7. All Officer Reports shall be submitted prior May 25, 2020, and shall be handled as submitted. They will be available for download and printing on the Department Encampment page of the Department Website prior to the Encampment.
8. All Officer Reports will be electronically submitted to the Department Secretary at cwsonvet@hotmail.com
9. The Commander's Report, The Treasurer's Report, and The 2022 National Encampment Committee Report, will be read and comments allowed.
10. All Recommendations brought to the Encampment shall be filed in the Officer Reports, or Submitted by May 25, 2020 to the Department Secretary.
11. Credentials/Registrations must be filed in the manner documented on the Department Website, on the 136th Department Encampment page.
12. The Department Encampment Packet shall be available on the Department Website by June 2, 2020. It may be downloaded for reference during the Encampment.
13. Encampment Login, shall begin at 0800 Eastern Time, June 6, 2020.
14. Encampment shall start at approximately 0900 Eastern Time, June 6, 2020. This will depend on how efficiently the login process goes.

This Order is subject to modification in future Department Orders by Department Commander Payne.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,



/s/
Robert R. Payne, PCC, DC
Commander, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

ATTEST:

Richard Denney
Secretary, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Department Order #21  Series 2019 – 2020

Headquarters, Holt, MI
May 26, 2020

Whereas, we are traveling down roads not trod by our Brothers in the Department of Michigan, I am further establishing the following parameters concerning the 136th Annual Department of Michigan Encampment, scheduled for June 6, 2020:

1. All Brothers planning on utilizing Video for the Encampment:
2. The following computer operating systems are compatible:
 - Windows – go to Zoom.us to access Zoom or follow the link sent to you, after registration
 - ios (This is Macintosh/Apple) – go to Zoom.us or follow the link sent to you after registrationThe following Tablet operating systems are compatible:
 - Macintosh – go to the Apple store and download the official ZOOM app
 - Android – go to the PLAY store and download the official ZOOM appThe following Smart Phone systems are compatible:
 - Apple – go to the Apple store and download the official ZOOM app
 - Android – go to the PLAY store and download the official ZOOM app
3. Insure your computer is working and you have high speed internet, dial-up internet is not compatible
4. Be prepared to sign in and have to wait to be admitted to the Encampment. As we continue to work with this technology, we will continue to update the process.
5. All Brothers who will attend by Voice only.
 - You will be given a telephone number and a passcode to enter the Encampment.
 - The Voice only feature will work with a landline, if you have touch-tone capabilities.
 - The Voice only feature will also work with a cellular phone.
 - The telephone number may be from outside your local dial area.

All Brothers are encouraged to download and print the Encampment Packet prior to the Encampment.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,



/s/
Robert R. Payne, PCC, DC
Commander, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

ATTEST:

Richard Denney
Secretary, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Department Order #22  Series 2019 – 2020

Headquarters, Holt, MI
May 26, 2020

This Order Establishes The Officers Report Committee for the 136th Annual Michigan Department Encampment. This committee shall consist of the following brothers:

David Smith, PDC (Chair)

Donald Shaw, PCinC

J. Doug Park

This committee shall review and bring a report on the Officer Reports to the 136th Annual Michigan Department Encampment on June 6, 2020.

This report shall be made available by June 2, 2020, to facilitate download by the brothers prior to the Encampment.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,



/s/
Robert R. Payne, PCC, DC
Commander, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

ATTEST:

Richard Denney
Secretary, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

**Future Michigan's Messenger Publications
Submittal Dates and Publication Dates**

Winter - March 1 for a March 15 Publication

Spring- June 1 for a June 15 Publication

Summer – September 1 for a September 15 Publication

Fall – December 1 for a December 15 Publication

Send all articles to Rick Danes, Editor, preferably at editor@suvcwmi.org, or to 2612 Burns Street, Dearborn, Michigan 48124-3204

ALL PUBLICATIONS WILL BE MADE ON TIME

Please do not send me photos without the names of persons in the photo and a suggested caption. Thanks for your support!

Department Order #1  Series 2020– 2021

**Headquarters, Lennon, MI
June 6, 2020**

Having been duly elected and installed as Department Commander, I hereby assume command of the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War for the 2020 to 2021 year.

1. Headquarters is hereby transferred to 3278 South Duffield Road, Lennon, Michigan 48449.
2. General correspondence to the Department should be sent to Department Secretary Richard Denney, 30090 Orla Engle Road, Colon, MI 49040, or e-mailed to: secretary@sucwmi.org.
3. Correspondence to the Commander should be sent to Terrance L. McKinch 3278 South Duffield Road, Lennon, Michigan 48449, ore- mailed to: commander@sucwmi.org.
4. Scheduling requests should be directed to Chief of Staff L. Donald Shaw PC in C by email at: chiefofstaff@sucwmi.org.
5. We would like to extend the appreciation and gratitude of the Department to all of the outgoing officers who served the Department so faithfully for the previous term.
6. We offer the thanks of the Department to all those brothers filling elected and appointed offices for the 2019-2020 term as well as all of those who are currently serving the Order on committees.
7. We thank Commander in Chief Edward J. Norris for attending our Department Encampment and installing our officers for the 2020-2021 term.
8. I hereby discharge all Encampment Committees. Thank you for your service and attention to detail and hard work, without such, the Encampment would not have gone as well.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty

Terrence L. McKinch

*/s/
Terrence L. McKinch, DC
Commander, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

ATTEST:
*/s/s/
Richard Denney
Secretary, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*

General Israel B. Richardson Camp #2

Submitted by Bruce Miller, PCC, SVC



Camp 2 participates in ‘Virtual’ Memorial Day Service

The members of General Richardson Camp 2 have been participants in the Birmingham, Michigan Memorial Day service for many years, following in the footsteps of their GAR predecessors. Even the Covid-19 situation couldn't stop them from carry out their oath this year as "social distancing" threatened to cancel the service. The Camp struck a bargain with the city and with no audience, no band and a cast of under ten participants, staged an abbreviated program that was broadcast live on Facebook.

It can be viewed at: <https://www.facebook.com/BhamGov>

WHY MICHIGAN'S MESSENGER IS PUBLISHED ONLINE

In 2005 the Department was faced with rising printing and mailing costs for the nationally recognized Michigan's Messenger. Very few options were available to Department Officers, so the issue was put on the floor at the Department Encampment.

The Members voted to publish Michigan's Messenger in an electronic format, with each edition being forwarded to one person in each Camp (thereafter called a Camp Signals Officer), who would then distribute the newsletter to all Camp Members.

As a result of this action by the Membership, dues have not been raised.

I believe that the Camps have the responsibility to report changes, so that we can continue to serve you, you must provide me with a current contact for electronic mailing.

I have tried to include every article that was sent to me prior to publication, so that all future issues will be timely. I have tried to keep all articles in the format that they are sent, however, in the spirit of editorial judgement, I will correct spelling or edit for space restrictions. 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@suvcwmi.org.

General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20

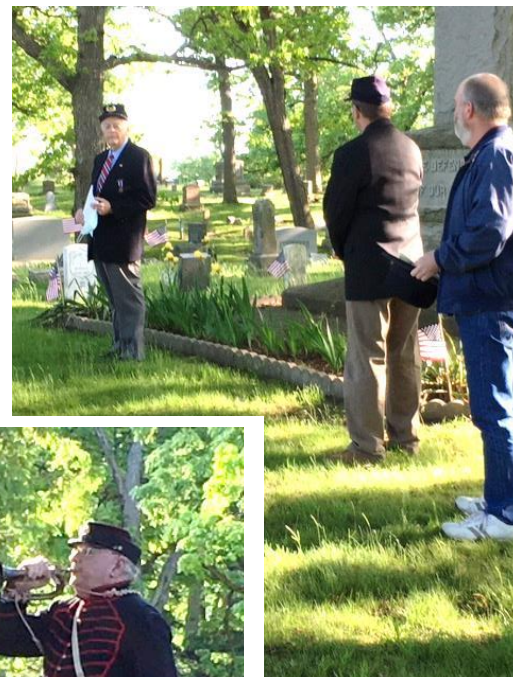
Submitted by Gary Swain

Camp 20 brothers and dedicated volunteers placed 275 American Flags and flag holders on veteran graves in Kalamazoo's Mountain Home Cemetery on a cool but sunny Saturday in early May. This is a project that the camp has taken responsibility for decades and works very hard to assure that every single veteran is recognized with both the appropriate flag holder and a new American flag each spring. This year we practiced social distancing and wore face masks when in close proximity to others. Several of the photos taken that day follow:





"The General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20 held its annual Memorial Day ceremony, for the 36th consecutive year, on Saturday, May 30th. The program was held at the GAR Memorial in Kalamazoo's Riverside Cemetery. The event was abridged to allow for social distancing."



Robert Finch Camp No. 14 – June 2020
Submitted by: David S. Smith, LM, PCC, PDC

Despite the current situation that has changed much of how we carry on with our everyday activities, Robert Finch Camp No. 14 has still remained busy working towards the Good of the Order and honoring the Boys in Blue.

With most Memorial Day events cancelled or greatly modified, various Brothers of the Camp soldiered on participating in activities of remembrance in honor of the day. In Kaleva, the Bear Creek VFW Post hosted the community with a highly modified ceremony that exceeded state order requirements for distancing, etc. and kept attendees in their vehicles with further distancing of vehicles and a limit to attendees allowed. This was the first time that the VFW Post did not have a community pot luck since 1946. Three of our Brothers belong to this VFW Post, and participated in the ceremony. Brother Rick Schafer (VFW District 12 Commander) was Officer of the Day, MVAO Calvin Murphy was the Chaplain, and PCC George Goodrich sounded Taps.

PCC Mattis and his wife Marise spent several days cleaning headstones of Civil War, World War I and World War II Veterans. Brother Scott Schwander cleaned headstones as he always does leading the Camp in that effort. JVC Ribby placed flags and markers at Linwood Cemetery in Long Lake Township. Brother Kenny Jones cleaned three Union Veterans' headstones in Elmwood Cemetery in Grayling. Patriotic Instructor H.G. Smith, his wife, and granddaughter walked Oakwood Cemetery to pay respects to the many Veterans buried there. CC Lantzer visited the Lake City Cemetery (see picture below), Garfield Township Cemetery, and the Springfield Cemetery to honor the various Civil War Veterans interred there. Assistant Secretary Welliver paid tribute to the heroes buried at the Washington GAR Post Plot in Cadillac's Maple Hill Cemetery. Brother Welliver sounded Taps at the plot in their honor (see picture below).





Above: Camp Commander John Lantzer at the gravesite of Sgt. William Van Buskirk in Lake City Cemetery

During the Friday before Memorial Day, GRO John Sawyer participated and performed a brief ceremony for the Union Veterans buried at a Glen Arbor Cemetery that is being restored by the community. The overall cemetery event was covered by 9&10 News the Cadillac CBS affiliate.

In late April, PDC Smith was interviewed by 7&4 News the Traverse City NBC affiliate about the Oakwood Cemetery GAR Plot 241 project that placed headstones for two Union Veterans, headstones for four women (allowed to be buried in the plot by the Comrades of the McPherson GAR Post 18), and the marking of the Last Veteran Buried in Grand Traverse County. The project was also covered by The Ticker daily e-news site in Traverse City with a significant distribution. This project was aided by major funding from Traverse Area Historical Society and Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9. Brother John Sawyer and Brother Scott Schwander led and were instrumental in working on this project for several years seeing it to completion. A ceremony to honor those with new headstones and placing the marker at the gravesite of the Last Veteran Buried of Grand Traverse County will be in late June dependent on state orders.

The next Camp 14 meeting is scheduled for 13 June 2020 at South Boardman, Michigan. Following the meeting, a short ceremony for the placement of the marker for the Last Veteran Buried in Kalkaska County will be conducted. The meeting and ceremony are dependent on the current state orders at that time.

Graves Registration

Submitted by Graves Registration Officer Rick Danes

Our committee has not met since March 14, but I will announce that we have recorded 75,411 Other War and Civil War, records.

We have also reviewed and removed duplicate records, and added spouses, birth and death, and corrected spelling errors, man by man, and record by record, 18,000 men in all.

On another note, thanks to the perseverance and dedication Of Brother David Wallace and his Signals Team, the Graves Database has been updated as of March, 2020.

Planned is the ability of the DGRO to input records into the Department Database live, so that there is no need for cds. The information will be available to the public on line much as it is now, and The hope is that the GROs will have access to the entire db from their computer.

I will be working with our new Signals Officer, Rob Payne to Accomplish this soon.

Keep the masks on, and happy hunting!



Grave of Eliza Carr, WRC at Lakeview Cemetery,
Van Buren County

The Homestead Act of 1862

On January 1, 1863, Daniel Freeman, a Union Army scout, was scheduled to leave Gage County, Nebraska Territory, to report for duty in St. Louis. At a New Year's Eve party the night before, Freeman met some local Land Office officials and convinced a clerk to open the office shortly after midnight in order to file a land claim. In doing so, Freeman became one of the first to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Homestead Act, a law signed by President Abraham Lincoln on May 20, 1862. At the time of the signing, 11 states had left the Union, and this piece of legislation would continue to have regional and political overtones.

The new law established a three-fold homestead acquisition process: file an application, improve the land, and file for deed of title. Any U.S. citizen, or intended citizen, who had never borne arms against the U.S. Government could file an application and lay claim to 160 acres of surveyed Government land. For the next 5 years, the General Land Office looked for a good faith effort by the homesteaders. This meant that the homestead was their primary residence and that they made improvements upon the land. After 5 years, the homesteader could file for his patent (or deed of title) by submitting proof of residency and the required improvements to a local land office.

Homesteaders who persevered were rewarded with opportunities as rapid changes in transportation eased some of the hardships. Six months after the Homestead Act was passed, the Railroad Act was signed, and by May 1869, a transcontinental railroad stretched across the frontier. The new railroads provided relatively easy transportation for homesteaders, and new immigrants were lured westward by railroad companies eager to sell off excess land at inflated prices. The new rail lines provided ready access to manufactured goods and catalog houses like Montgomery Ward offered farm tools, barbed wire, linens, weapons, and even houses delivered via the rails.

This text was adapted from the article "The Homestead Act of 1862" by Lee Ann Potter and Wynell Schamel.

Citation: Potter, Lee Ann and Wynell Schamel. "The Homestead Act of 1862." Social Education 61, 6 (October 1997): 359-364.

**U. S. Grant Camp #67
Rededication of 29th Michigan Infantry Monument
Submitted by Paul Davis, PDC,SVC**



Original Marker Dedicated in 1914

On October 26, 1914 a monument for the 29th Michigan Infantry was erected in Bliss Park in Saginaw, Michigan. The site is the location where Colonel Thomas Saylor gathered and trained his men before going into service at Nashville, Tennessee on October 6, 1864. A time capsule was enclosed in the monument at the time of its dedication. A few years ago, the time capsule was opened and removed. Sadly the ravages of time and weather pretty much destroyed most of the items in the capsule. The bronze tablet has since also been removed to prevent it from being further vandalized or stolen.

U.S. Grant Camp 67, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War has been working with the Saginaw County Castle Historical Museum to create a replacement tablet. Gary Dietrich, a member of Grant Camp, has an ancestor who served in the 29th and he has been instrumental in working with the Museum on this project.

The current situation regarding public meetings and events have slowed the project but it is expected that by October 26th, 2020 we will be able to replace the tablet and perform a suitable dedication service by members of U.S. Grant Camp 67 Sons of Union Veterans Of The Civil War.

Officers of 29th Michigan Volunteer Infantry—1864

1. Captain Edward Saunders, Company C
2. Captain Charles G. Meyer, Company D
3. Lieutenant Frederick Venaflet, Company D (killed at the Battle of Nashville)
4. Adjunct Henry P. Seymour
5. Lieutenant Colonel E.F. Eddy
6. Colonel Thomas Saylor
7. Major Alpha M. Beebe (image not found in the time capsule)
8. Lieutenant Benjamin W. Merrick, Company C
9. Lieutenant Edwin C. Turver
10. Lieutenant C.W. Monroe, Company B
11. Lieutenant W.H. Tuttle, Company C.
12. Chaplin John Hawker
13. Lieutenant James McCallum, Company I

CITIZEN DONORS

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BRED W. CARLISLE	WILLIAM S. LINTON	EZRA BUST
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WM. GLOVER CAGE	E. H. PATERSON	WM. H. WALLACE
BENTON HANSHETT	HARVEY A. PENNEY	GEO. W. WEADOCK

The time capsule was opened on October 26, 2014 and the contents are now preserved at the Castle Museum of Saginaw County

Proposed replacement plaque to be installed on the 29th Michigan Monument

Honoring The Service Our Fathers and Grand Fathers in 2020

Submitted by Paul Davis, PDC, SVC

What was traditional in years past was not to be in 2020 due to the restrictions placed upon us by the COVID-19 virus and the many State and Federal mandates concerning our movements and gatherings.

Each year in the past, my wife and I have made the almost 300 mile trek to the grave sites of our Civil War grandfathers, who coincidentally, are buried in the same cemetery just three rows apart. Both were members of the 5th Michigan Infantry. Both served at Gettysburg and survived the war even though wounded. While keeping Green Their Memory, we also pause to honor those who never came home and lie in unmarked graves everywhere with no descendants to remember them.

This year we took a somewhat different approach and in addition to Civil War veterans, we chose to also remember and honor our Fathers and Uncles who served in the military during World War II and are now deceased to thank them for their service to our Country.



Earlier Event Remembering John Loyer, G, G, Grandfather of Jan Davis



Davis with his father's casket flag wearing both his and his father's dog tags in his memory on Memorial Day 2020.