



Michigan's Messenger

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

Volume XXXI, Number IV

Chartered June 24, 1884

Winter, 2023

John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus



Richard E. Danes, Editor

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



Keith Graham Harrison, PCinC 1950-2022



Donald William Shaw, PCinC 1955-2022



Harrison at Gettysburg

A resident of Holt, Michigan, Keith Graham Harrison passed away on Thursday, January 12, 2023 in Holt, Michigan. He was born at Lee Memorial Hospital in Dowagiac, Michigan on January 10, 1950. Keith was a 1968-graduate of Cassopolis (Michigan) High School. He held a 1972 Bachelor of Science degree in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology from Michigan State University and a 1974 Master of Arts degree in Ecology from Western Michigan University. He retired from the state of Michigan in February 2005 after serving for 25 years. In addition to his numerous state Civil Service environmental executive positions culminating as Director of the Office of Special Environmental Projects within the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, he also held two gubernatorial appointed positions by then Michigan Governor John Engler (Executive Director of the Michigan Environmental Science Board and Acting Director of the state's Office of Great Lakes). In addition to state service, he also served as a Special Federal Employee, where he participated in several National Academy of Sciences and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Science Advisory Board committees as an invited Ecology Expert. His professional research and work resulted in more than 100 publications addressing a wide range of environmental and natural history issues. Upon his retirement, Mr. Harrison's public service career was acknowledged with tributes from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, the Michigan State Senate, then Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm, the United States House of Representatives, and then President and First Lady of the United States, George and Laura Bush. Keith belonged to several historical, patriotic, and civic organizations, including the 1865-created



Shaw, Sons of Veterans Reserve

Donald William Shaw was elected to membership in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War on July 18, 1994. He joined the Order through the Governor Crapo Camp, No. 145 at Flint, Michigan. His Civil War roots extend to William M. Begole of the 23rd Michigan Infantry Regiment, through whom he joined the Order, as well as through a great-great grandfather, John B. Anderson of the 179th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, upon whose service Brother Shaw based his life membership status with the Order. Brother Shaw has served in most of the elected posts within the Governor Crapo Camp and had been involved with numerous special projects designed to keep green the memory of the soldiers and sailors of 1861 to 1865. These projects include everything from parades to memorial services, to school presentations, to cemetery mowing and cleaning, to speaking engagements regarding the Civil War and the Grand Army of the Republic, to working on the restoration and rededication of memorials left by the Grand Army. He had also served as Camp Organizer of the U.S. Grant Camp No. 67 of Bay City, Michigan, in which he held dual camp membership with the Crapo Camp of Flint. Within the Department of Michigan, he had served in various elected and appointed posts. These include Department Counselor, Department Chief of Staff, Department Junior Vice Commander, and Department Senior Vice Commander. He served two terms as Michigan Department Commander, from April 2010 to March 2012. He was the 102nd man to serve as Commander since the Department was organized in 1883.

Keith was a Civil War reenactor for 33 years and participated in over 550 reenactments and living histories throughout the United States. He traces his ancestry back to 47 Union Civil War soldiers, 42 of whom served in Michigan regiments and five from non-Michigan regiments. He also had two ancestors who served with the Confederacy. Following the end of the Civil War, several of his Union veteran ancestors joined local Michigan Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic. Keith served as the Board President of Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum (Eaton Rapids, Michigan) since its inception in 2013, Chair of the Michigan Civil War History Partners, and Treasurer of the Friends of Michigan History. He published four books, one on the Natural History of Cass County, Michigan in 1979), two family genealogies (Ancestry of Nathan Lewis Harrison in 1989 and Ancestry of Nathan Lewis Harrison - Revisited 19 years Later in 2008), and his most recent book (2020) on Cass County, Michigan in the Civil War and the Grand Army of the Republic.



At the National level of the Order, Brother Shaw had served as Assistant National Counselor, National Counselor, National Chief of Staff, four years as an At Large Member of the Council of Administration, Junior Vice Commander in Chief, Senior Vice Commander in Chief and was elected in August 2018 as the Orders Commander in Chief and served until August of 2019. In other related activity, Brother Shaw was a member of the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR), had served as Commander of the Central Region Association of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic, and had served on numerous committees performing the business of the Order Aside from, "Keeping Green the Memory," the best part about the work, in his opinion, is the fine people in the Order with whom he was privileged to work, who truly make all of this a pleasure. Brother Shaw was also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Masons, and was an graduate of the University of Michigan and of Wayne State University Law School.



Harrison PcinC MOLLUS and Mollus CinC Joe Coleman

Keith is predeceased by his father, John Barnard (1915 - 1986), mother, Maxine Pearl (Lewis) (1920 - 2005) [Lyon, Harrison] McCormick, step-father, Frank McCormick (1911 - 1986), first wife, Linda Diane (Dodson) Harrison (1950 - 2008), and brother, Philip Barnard Harrison (1947 - 2019). He is survived by his wonderful wife, Jean Ann Harrison of Holt, Michigan, his son and daughter-in-law, Nathan Lewis and Sarah Harrison of Grand Blanc, Michigan, brother and sister-in-law, David Dale and Stacie Lyon of



Shaw with delegation placing flags at Gettysburg



Harrison at Gettysburg

Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania, sister-in-law, Paula Harrison of Niles, Michigan, and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins throughout the United States and in England. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM on Saturday, January 21, 2023 at Skinner Funeral Home, Eaton Rapids chapel with burial and a graveside service taking place later that day at Prospect Hill Cemetery in Cassopolis, MI. Donations may be made to the nonprofit Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum (224 South Main, Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827) and/or the nonprofit Capital Area Human Society (7095 W. Grand River Ave, Lansing, Michigan 48906).

He was an Associate Companion, through the Michigan Commandery, of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS). He was born, 9 October 1955, and raised in Flint, Michigan and resides there still.

He had been a practicing attorney in Flint for nearly forty years. The family has requested a simple service which will be held as follows, On Monday, 19 December 2022 a viewing will begin at 10:00AM in the Brown Funeral Home, 1480 East Hill Road, Grand Blanc, Michigan 48439 and conclude with a service at 2:00PM, After which Brother Don will be brought to the cemetery to be laid to rest. His family has asked that in lieu of flowers that donations be made in his name to the American Heart Association. In Honor of Brother Donald W. Shaw, Past Commander-In-Chief, 2018 – 2019, I hereby Order that all Badges, Charters and websites on the Camp, Department and National levels be draped in black in his honor for the next 30 days.



Shaw at the Woodson Memorial, Gettysburg



PDC Davis and at Harrison at the Eaton Rapids GAR Hall



Shaw at Gettysburg Reembrace Day



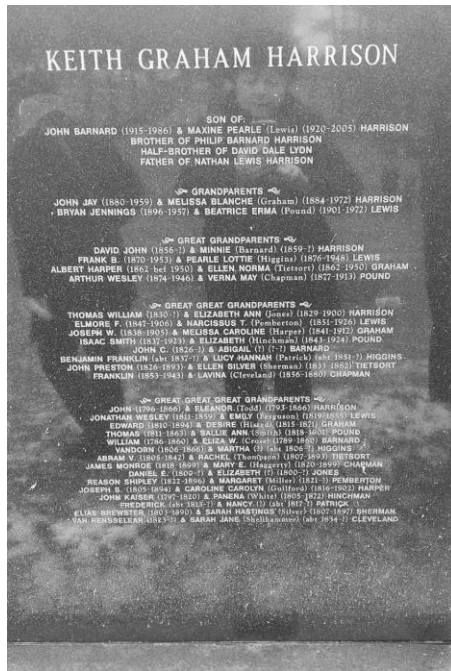
Harrison at the Eaton Rapids GAR Hall



Shaw and Harrison at Little Round Top, Gettysburg

Harrison Funeral





Photos for this memoriam were provided by Rob Payne, PDC and Paul Davis, PDC

From the Department Commander

Brothers

I hope you all are doing well and find yourself in good health.

As a reminder our 139th annual Michigan Department Encampment will be held on Saturday, April 1, 2023 at the Holiday Inn of Midland. If you visit our Department website at www.suvcwmi.org you will find more information and a direct link you can click should you need to reserve a room.

Please keep in mind that March 1, 2023 was the cut- off date to receive the special Department Encampment rate. A lunch buffet has been arranged with the hotel and reservation forms along with checks must be received by March 15th. The buffet reservation form is located on the Department Website.

If you have Brothers with no internet service, please get them a copy should they need one. I hope to see you all at our Encampment!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Nathan L. Smith, PCC
 Commander, Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

DEPARTMENT ORDER #4  **SERIES: 2022-2023**

HEADQUARTERS
2620 S. DECKER RD MARLETTE, MICHIGAN 48453
17 December 2023

Brothers of the Department of Michigan,

With our 2023 Annual Department Encampment scheduled for April 1, 2023, it is time for those thinking about running for Department Officer positions to start drafting and submitting their letters of intentions to the nominating committee. As I have enjoyed much of my current and last term as Department Commander, I will not seek a third term. As my children get older and I continue to climb the career ladder, I need to take a slight step back and hand over the gavel to others. I would like to encourage those of you who have not sought Department Officer positions to consider doing so. There are many of you out there with incredible talents that have much to offer the Department.

By the authority vested in me as Commander, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered:

1. That the following Brothers were hereby duly appointed on 16 May 2022 under Department Order No. 01 to serve on the Nominating Committee:
 - 1.) Chair – Richard E. Danes, PCC, 2.) Donald W. Shaw, Jr. PCinC, 3.) Dale L. Aurand, PDC, 4.) Charles Worley, PDC, 5.) Gary Naugle, PCC.
2. That with the passing of Brother Donald W. Shaw, Jr. on December 13, 2022, I now appoint Brother Gary L. Gibson, PDC, to the open Nominating Committee position.
3. That any Brother interested in running for an elected Department Office should submit their letter of intention, credentials, and any recommendation letters to Committee Chair Richard E. Dames at: rdanes@aol.com or via USPS to 2612 Burns Street Dearborn, MI 48124.
4. The deadline to submit a letter of intent is 6 February 2023.
5. Proposed Bylaws changes need to be submitted to SVDC Gary Swain via email by no later than January 15, 2023, to allow for the Bylaws Committee to work on the Proposals and publish 60 days prior to the April 1, 2023, Department Encampment. Proposed changes can be submitted to: dsvc@sucwmi.org.
6. Award Nominations should be submitted to the Department Secretary by no later than March 13, 2023, to: secretary@sucwmi.org.

2022 - 2023
Department Officers

Commander

Nathan L. Smith, PCC
 2620 S. Decker Road
 Marlette, Michigan 48453

Senior Vice Commander

Gary Swain, PCC
 697 Wynding Oaks
 Kalamazoo, MI 49006

Junior Vice Commander

David Kimble
 910 Queen Street
 Owosso, MI 48867

Recording Secretary

Richard Denny
 30090 Orla Eagle Road
 Colon, Michigan 49040

Treasurer

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

Department Council

Robert R. Payne, PDC Secretary
 David S. Smith, PDC, Chair
 David Kimble, PCC Vice Chair

Chaplain

Rev. Charles Buckhahn, PCC

Patriotic Instructor

Terry McKinch, PDC

Color Bearer

Edgar J. Dowd, PCC

Military Affairs

Edgar J. Dowd, PCC

Counselor

Paul T. Davis, PDC

Guard

Lloyd Lamphere, Sr PCC

Eagle Scout Coordinator

Lloyd Lamphere, Sr. PCC ³

Signals Officer

Robert R. Payne, PDC

Michigan's Messenger Editor

Richard E. Danes, Sr. PCC

Historian

OPEN

Guide

Ronald Shull, PCC

Graves Registration

Richard E. Danes, Sr., PCC Chair

GAR Records

Gary L. Gibson, PDC Chair

Civil War Memorials

John H. McGill, CC Chair

Chief of Staff

David Smith, PDC

Camp At Large Coordinator

L. Daen Lamphere, Jr, PDC

Aide de Camp

L. Daen Lamphere, Jr, PDC

Camp Organizer

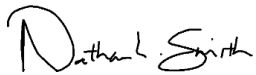
James B. Pahl, PC-in-C

Ceremonies and Rituals

OPEN

BYLAWS Section 12. The Nominating Committee shall consist of five Brothers who are NOT currently elected to an office of the Department. A Nominating Committee Chair shall be appointed by the Department Commander and shall not vote except when there is a tie vote of the Nominating Committee for any given candidate. There shall not be more than one Brother from one Camp within the Department on the Nominating Committee. The Committee's purpose shall be to prepare a slate of officers, listing one or more Brothers for each elected office of the Department, for the presentation at the Annual Michigan Department Encampment. A Brother(s) nominated for Department Commander must be qualified to be elected by virtue of having served as Past Camp Commander or is currently seated as a Camp Commander. A candidate nominated for any elected office other than the Department Commander shall have demonstrated his ability to responsibly and capably serve in any office to which he has been nominated. The Nominating Committee shall exercise due diligence in ascertaining via peer review or other methodologies that the candidate so selected by the Nominating Committee has demonstrated his abilities for good service and leadership. Further, any Brother who is a member of the Nominating Committee shall, in the event a candidate

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,



Nathan L. Smith, PCC
Commander, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil
War

ATTEST:

/s/

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

Tragedy at the G.A.R. Reunion

The first camp of the Sons of Veterans in Kalamazoo was the Phelix Duffie Camp No. 10. Chartered in 1885, it had about 55 members.

Lea F. Wead (pronounced LEE WEED) was the son of Andrew Wead, a veteran of Co. K, 11th Vermont Infantry, and his wife Mary. Lea was born in 1872 and readily joined Camp No. 10, as his father was a comrade of Orcutt Post No. 79.

In the early years of the Order, camps were uniformed, equipped and trained as companies of either infantry, artillery or cavalry. Camp No. 10 was an artillery unit.

On August 23, 1888, Camp No. 10 was participating in the reunion of the Allegan County Battalion of the Grand Army of the Republic at the fairgrounds. Members of the several posts in the county came to spend the weekend, renewing old acquaintances and making new friends.

During the festivities, the several Sons camps in attendance put on drill demonstrations to show their skill. Phelix Duffie Camp was one of the best, and few, artillery units in the division (department). At approximately 3:00pm, after the demonstration, Brothers Lea Wead and Will McLean were detailed to report to the tent that was set up as the powder magazine, to replenish the used ammunition. There were also three other brothers milling around the outside of the tent: Frank Proceus, Burt Sumner and Lew Barker. Brothers Lea and Will were having difficulties opening the can of black powder, first using a knife, to no avail. Brother Lea then picked up a priming wire and poked it into the can.

Continued

DEPARTMENT ORDER #5  **SERIES: 2022-2023**

HEADQUARTERS
2620 S. DECKER RD MARLETTE, MICHIGAN 48453

30 January 2023

**SUVCW NATIONAL SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORT TO REVIEW MEMBERSHIP
QUALIFICATIONS– DRAFT OF JANUARY 23, 2023**

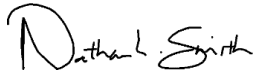
Brothers of the Department of Michigan,

Attached you will find a draft copy of the “SUVCW Special Committee to Review Membership Qualifications – Report and Recommendation to National Encampment.” This draft report has been authorized to be distributed to the membership by Commander-in-Chief Frail and will be brought up for discussion by the Commander-in-Chief or his representative at our Annual Department Encampment on April 1, 2023.

By the authority vested in me as Commander, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered:

1. That the SUVCW Special Committee to Review Membership Qualifications Report and Recommendations to the National Encampment be distributed to the Camps of the Department of Michigan.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,



Nathan L. Smith, PCC
Commander, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil
War

ATTEST:

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

*For the full text of this report to “Review Membership Qualifications” see the
Department Website at suvchwmi.org.*

DEPARTMENT ORDER #6  **SERIES: 2022-2023**

HEADQUARTERS
2620 S. DECKER RD MARLETTE, MICHIGAN 48453

15 February 2023

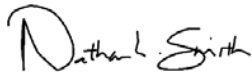
SUSPENSION OF CAMP FOR FAILURE TO FILE FORM 22

Whereas, it has been reported that a Camp within the Department of Michigan has failed to file a FORM 22 as required by the Charter, Constitution, and Regulations by the February 15, 2023 filing deadline, and;

By the authority vested in me as Commander, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, it is hereby ordered:

1. That **Carpenter Welch Camp No. 180** of Dexter shall be hereby suspended for failure to file Form 22 as required by Chapter 1 – Camps, Article 1, Section 16 of the Charter, Constitution, and Regulations of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.
2. That the suspended Camp shall remain so suspended until Form 22 and Form 22MI have been appropriately filed with Department Secretary.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,



Nathan L. Smith, PCC
Commander, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

ATTEST:

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

Tragedy Continued

The explosion was felt all over the fairgrounds. 27 survivors of Co. I, 1st Michigan Cavalry, were seated about 50 feet away, having their photo taken. The grandstand was full of veterans and their families.

The account given by the Division Commander, Colonel Burt Fellows, stated that in the explosion “shreds of tent, clothing and the body of Wead were hurled into the air. Not a piece of clothing was left on him; everything but his shoes was burned off.”

Colonel Fellows continued, “Wead, it is reported, was right over the can at the time of the explosion, and was thrown through the top of the tent and fell back into the burning straw, tent, etc. He was pulled out of the fire and was found

Tragedy Concluded

to be horribly burned, one of his arms being broken in two places. Wead was badly injured and died from his wounds at 8 o'clock that night.”

Brother Lea Wead was 16 years old.

Will McLean, who was in the tent with Lea, “was not so badly wounded, although his recovery is by no means certain. McLean is conscious this morning (the next day) and the chances are good for his recovery. He may lose his eyesight. He says that he and Wead had been ordered to make cartridges for the cannon. That the cap of the powder can would not turn and Wead at first took his knife to start it and did not succeed. He then took a priming wire and forced it into the can and the explosion followed.”

Frank Proceus, Burt Sumner and Lew Barker did not escape the explosion unscathed. All three suffered burns to their heads and shoulders. They soon recovered, although carried the scars for the rest of their lives.

Rumors immediately began to circulate that Lea and Will had been smoking in the magazine tent, and, unfortunately, made it into the newspapers, including the Kalamazoo Gazette. The Gazette proclaimed that the Sons of Veterans had no business handling a cannon as they were simply a bunch of amateurs that did not know the first thing about the implements of war. Soon after, a letter to the editor was published, written by Colonel Fellows, explaining that the Sons were by no means amateurs, and that this was an isolated and unfortunate accident.

On August 25, 1888, Lea Wead was laid to rest in Kalamazoo’s Riverside Cemetery, just 15 feet from the Orcutt Post burial lot. One can imagine the large group of mourners, including Sons, from all parts of Southwest Michigan, and comrades of several GAR Posts, paying their respects and to support Lea’s parents, Andrew and Mary.

Mary Wead died in 1911, and Andrew followed in 1922.



DEPARTMENT SPECIAL MESSAGE #2  **SERIES: 2022-2023**

HEADQUARTERS
2620 S. DECKER RD MARLETTE, MICHIGAN 48453
17 DECEMBER 2022

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO DONALD W. SHAW, PCinC, PDC

AS MANY KNOW, Brother Donald W. Shaw went to be with the lord on December 13, 2022. As I have had time to reflect upon his passing over the past few days, I cannot help but think about the time I had spent with him traveling to various locations such as Gettysburg, Springfield, and various Camp or MOLLUS Events, a reflection I am sure many can share. Brother Shaw, as I know him, was a humble, soft-spoken man of "short stature," as I had heard him reference a time or two before, who had a tremendously big heart and an endless love for history and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. I will miss Brother Shaw's warm smile, unique wit, sound advice, and many years of experience within our great organization. Brother Shaw, through his humble nature, would tell us not to mourn him, but if you were fortunate enough to know him, please take a moment to reflect on your memories of Brother Shaw and take comfort in knowing that he is now watching us from above.

Poem of Life

Author Unknown

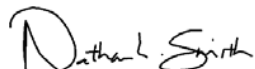
Life is but a stopping place,
 A pause in what's to be,
 A resting place among the road, To sweet eternity.

We all have different journeys,
 Different paths along the way,
 We all were meant to learn some things,
 But never meant to stay...

Our destination is a place,
 Far greater than we know.
 For some, the journey's quicker,
 For some, the journey's slow.

And when the journey finally ends,
 We'll claim a great reward,
 And find an everlasting peace,
 Together with the Lord.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,



Nathan L. Smith, PCC

Nathan L. Smith, PCC

Commander, Department of Michigan
 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

ATTEST:

/s/

Richard Denney, PCC

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

DEPARTMENT SPECIAL MESSAGE #3  **SERIES: 2022-2023**

HEADQUARTERS
2620 S. DECKER RD MARLETTE, MICHIGAN 48453

16 January 2023

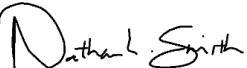
SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO KEITH G. HARRISON, PCinC

Past Commander-in-Chief Keith Graham Harrison went to be with the Lord on January 12, 2023, another tremendous loss felt by our grand organization. Brother Harrison led an extraordinary life, was a devoted civil servant and patriot, and had an amazing love for history which he enjoyed sharing with others. PCinC Harrison's legacy will forever be remembered in our Order. One of Brother Harrison's largest contributions to preserving our Civil War history is through his great preservation efforts with the Michigan Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall in Eaton Rapids.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "*It is not the length of life, but the depth of life.*" This quote is remarkably fitting for the life lived well by Brother Harrison. He was a remarkable man dedicated to safeguarding the history of those who came before us, and he will be greatly missed by so many.

Rest in Peace, Brother, until we meet

again. In Fraternity, Charity, and

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Nathan L. Smith, PCC
Commander, Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil
War

ATTEST:

/s/

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

Graves Registration
Submitted by Rick Danes, Chair

The Graves Registration Committee will meet for the Spring meeting on March 11 at the State Library. At that meeting I will announce that, as a resolution to our Department Database "fix", we are no longer updating the Michigan Graves Database. It will still be available to utilize, and we recommend using the National Graves Database at www.suvcwdb.org. As always, we are continuing to support and update the National Graves Database." For further information, please contact redanes@aol.com.

Chaplain's Report

Department Chaplain Charles F. Buckhahn PCC

Brothers,

It is my sad duty to inform you that Brother Gerald Lintemuth, PCC of Alexander French Camp 28 has passed away. He passed away peacefully on Sunday, February 26, 2023. His obituary is given below. His funeral was yesterday and his burial will take place in the Spring. Please keep his family and Alexander French Camp 28 in your prayers as we walk together the Lenten path to Calvary and the empty tomb of Easter morning.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Chaplain Charles Buckhahn PCC
Department Chaplain, Department of Michigan, SUVCW

Big Rapids – Gerald M. Lintemuth, 82, of Big Rapids, passed away peacefully Sunday, February 26, 2023, at Spectrum Health Blodgett Hospital in Grand Rapids.

He was born August 28, 1940, in Detroit, the son of Michael and Marie (Kryzanowski) Lintemuth, and graduated from Detroit Denby High School in 1958. Gerald attended Ferris Institute for one year, then transferred to Detroit Institute of Technology, where he graduated with his B.A. degree in 1962. While living in Detroit, Gerald worked for the Wayne County Welfare Investigation Department, which later merged into the State of Michigan Mental Health Department. During this time, he became an Adult Foster Care Licensed Consultant.

In 1987, he transferred to the Grand Rapids Region, and also started renovation on the Lintemuth Family Farm in Rodney. In 1988, that renovation was completed, and he moved into the farm to fulfill his lifelong dream. Gerald continued to work for the State of Michigan until his retirement in 2002.

Once Gerald settled into his new home, he became active in many organizations, including the Mecosta County Historical Society (Treasurer), Fern Grange (Treasurer), Rodney United Methodist Church (Financial Secretary) and the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War (Treasurer). He also served as a Colfax Township Trustee for 16 years, was a Cast Member at Stage-M, and served on the Mecosta County Jury Board, the Mecosta County Board of Review, and the Colfax Township Election Board. He is survived by his cousins Bernard (Lila) Hill of Sumner, and Dennis (Peggy) Lintemuth of Holland, and many other extended family members.

Funeral services will be 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 1, 2023, at the Mohnke Funeral Home in Big Rapids, with Pastor Chuck Smith officiating. Spring burial will take place in the Pine Plains Cemetery in Colfax Township. Gerald's family will greet friends at the funeral home beginning at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday. Memorial contributions in his name may be made for either the Rodney United Methodist Church, or the Mecosta County Historical Society. Share a memory or express condolences at mohnkefuneralhome.com.



Submitted by J. Michael Joslin, Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp #427

The Sultana Disaster

Memorial Brick Campaign

If you have an ancestor who was on the Steamboat Sultana, on the Mississippi River in the early morning hours of April 27, 1865, whether they died or survived the terrible disaster, and if you would like to honor their memory, you may want to consider purchasing a memorial brick, with their name, rank, company, regiment, and whether they died or survived. Each brick will be placed in the Memorial Plaza at the entrance of the new Sultana Disaster Museum in Marion, Arkansas. The proceeds will be used to support the construction of the new museum. Even if you did not have an ancestor on the Sultana, you may be able to purchase bricks for those who were on the Sultana but do not have descendants to honor their memory. Go to the link below to purchase one for those not already claimed. Click on Contact Us at the bottom of the order page to inquire how to purchase one. There are two sizes of bricks available:

4" x 8" \$250

8" x 8" \$500

When you order a brick, you will receive a donor certificate showing what your brick will look like, along with the small 1.5" x 3", or 3" x 3" souvenir brick.

www.bricksrus.com/donorsite/sultana/

The New Sultana Disaster Museum

If you would like to see what the new museum will look like, go to the following link:

www.sultanadisastermuseum.com

If you are interested in donating funds for the construction of the new museum, go to the following link:

www.sultanadisastermuseum.com/donate

Their goal is to raise \$13 million. There are three phases for funding.

Phase I – \$6 million for building renovations, and construction of additions to the building. The goal of \$6 million has already been attained.

Phase II - \$4 million for exhibit construction. As of this writing, \$1,151,932 has been received. \$2,848,068 is still needed.

Phase III - \$3 million is for an endowment for operating and promotional costs. No funds have yet to be received.

Continued

Sultana Concluded

If you would like to donate by check, make it out to Sultana Historical Preservation Society and mail it to the following address:

Sultana Historical Preservation Society
P.O. Box 211
Marion, Arkansas 72364

To learn more about the Sultana Disaster, go to:

www.sultanadisastermuseum.com

Click on the Stories tab and then click on the Additional Reading tab.

I highly recommend the five non-fiction books. *Destruction of the Steamboat Sultana: The Worst Maritime Disaster in American History*, by Gene Eric Salecker. It is the most up-to-date and comprehensive book on the Sultana. Gene Salecker is the foremost authority on the Sultana.

I also recommend the one historical novel, as well as the documentary.

In F. C. & L.

J. Michael Joslin

Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp #427

Department of Dearborn, Michigan

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

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