

THE UNION VOLUNTEER



NEWSLETTER OF THE 7TH MICHIGAN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY, CO. B, INC.

Volume XXXIX No. 9 September 2020



Some of our 7th Michigan ladies at Turkeyville, June, ? year? Photo used by permission of www.turkeyville.com

ATTN ALL MEMBERS: INFO REGARDING our UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING

Due to the coronavirus concerns and mandates implemented by the state of Michigan concerning gatherings of large numbers of people, the board of the 7th will be considering holding the annual meeting in October via electronic means using Zoom videoconferencing. The annual meeting will be planned to take place on **Sunday Oct. 25**, unless the board votes to choose another date.

If you haven't used Zoom before, it can be accessed by computer, laptop or cell phone. Using smaller laptops or cell phones may result in your not being able to actually see everyone's camera, but you will be able to hear, and be heard by everyone attending. There is also a chance to send written messages to the entire group, or to individuals, while the meeting is in progress. Information on the meeting and how to join will be included in the October newsletter, posted on the 7th Michigan web site as well as the Facebook site. The meeting is open to anyone, but voting is restricted to current members in good standing.

Dave Downing, President



Club News

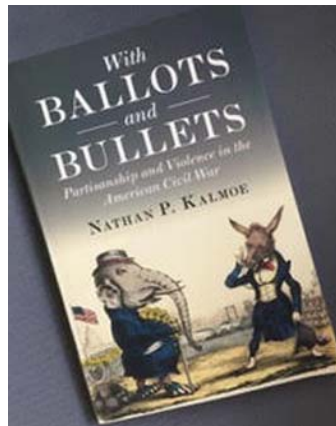
Here are a couple news flashes concerning former members of the 7th MI.
----Contributed by Rob Stone

U.S. Coast Guard LCDR John Noto has started a new duty assignment at the USCG HQ in Washington DC. He'll be working in the General Law Office, where legal and policy issues germane to the service are researched. John says he's now a "desk weenie." He has already joined the 3rd U.S. Regulars reenacting club.

In July **Professor Nathan Kalmoe** and his wife Professor Katie Will (both of Louisiana State University) welcomed daughter Olivia Will Kalmoe into their family. Nathan's latest book, *With Ballots and Bullets: Partisanship and Violence in the American Civil War* (Cambridge University Press) was published recently.

Nate mentioned his time with the 7th Michigan in the acknowledgements section of his book. Further, in a footnote, he catalogs the reenactments he attended during the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

Nathan's first book, *Neither Liberal Nor Conservative*, was published in 2017. Book #3, *Radical American Partisanship*, will debut in 2021. Of course, as a scholar, Nate has penned quite a few newspaper and magazine articles during his scholastic career.



A word from the Captain...

I had an interesting conversation with Lt. Andrew McComas while on vacation. We both miss reenacting but have come to recognize that the "break" might have some positive benefit. There are so many things in life we have taken for granted. So many summers where we could say "we'll just make the next event" or grumble about how it cut into summer as we worked around family activities.



This season we have learned the value of our hobby, our pards and our love of history and teaching. We have, by its absence, gotten a new love and respect for the privilege that is Civil War reenacting. I hope that you too are like us, waiting for the day we can gather again.

I'll never again take for granted the wonders of an encampment, a solid drill, the thrill of an impromptu tactical, and most importantly the fellowship of an evening at a camp fire.

I look forward to all these and more and can't wait for the day we gather again.

In your service, Captain McComas



2020 Club Leadership

New Member Chairs:
Daniel Malick (military)
dmalick12@gmail.com

Nicole Mai (civilian)
nicole_scarlett_rose@yahoo.com

President: Dave Downing
Vice President: Steve Church
Secretary: Bill Jarrett
Treasurer/Club Roster: Don Everett
Military: Doug McComas, Captain
Civilian Coordinator: Sue Colegrove
Board Members-at-Large:
Chris Sodman, Anson Roland, Joy Henderson
Quartermaster: Don Everett
Club Historian: Doug McComas
Newsletter Editor: Ellyn Painter
Webmaster: Dick Williams

Website: 7thmich.org/
Email: info@7thmich.org

Annual Membership Dues:
\$16.00 – single
\$19.20 – family
\$6.00 – to receive newsletter as
non-participating/non-voting member
Mail payments or inquiries to:

7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. B, Inc.
P.O. Box 16206, Lansing, MI 48901-6206

Newsletter Submission Guidelines:

Thanks to all who submitted information for this month's issue. Deadline date for submissions is the 25th of each month. Please have all reports, articles, notices, etc. in print-ready form. I am able to accept documents in most of the usual word processing programs or formats.

If accompanying maps or images are needed, **please** include them (in jpg format), if possible. Be sure to ascertain that any items coming from another source are properly credited, or have obtained reprint permission.

Personal news items are welcomed and encouraged, or photos of special events. Original articles (800-1000 word limit) pertaining to the Civil War or reenacting are also desired.

Email submissions to me at:
7thminewsletter@gmail.com

Or mail to:
736 Gettysburg Ave.
Jackson, MI 49203

Thank-you.

Ellyn Painter
Ellyn Painter, Editor





A Word from the President...

Just read an article put out by the Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides - Thought you might find it interesting.

Dave Downing, on Facebook, Aug. 14

AUGUST 6, 2020: LICENSED GUIDES RAISE ALARM OF MAJOR THREAT TO GETTYSBURG MONUMENTS

GETTYSBURG, Pa. – The Licensed Battlefield Guides at Gettysburg are raising the alarm over a recent vote in the U.S. House of Representatives to have all Confederate monuments, statues and “commemorative placards” removed from Gettysburg National Military Park as well as all other federal parks nationwide.

“We urge the U.S. Senate to strip out this provision that would destroy the unequalled collection of monuments, Union and Confederate, that set Gettysburg apart as a great battlefield park and a top visitor destination,” said Les Fowler, president of the Association of Licensed Battlefield Guides.

Fowler said the legislation in question – HR-7608 – recently passed the full House. It would direct the National Park Service to remove all Confederate monuments, memorials, placards and statues at Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Antietam, Chickamauga, Manassas, Petersburg, Fredericksburg and 18 other battlefields and historic sites within six months.

The provision to remove Confederate monuments and markers was buried deep within a 727-page bill that also funds the State department, Agriculture department and the EPA.



Military Report

It's been quite a year. We may have one small event left (Meridian) and I believe Mooresville is also “on”. The season basically disappeared this year, stolen by the Covid virus. Next year we should be able to be “back on track”. I hope you come out in force. We will be redefining the hobby next year. I’m sure some events won’t be back, and others may look different. I hope we spend our time as follows:

1. Increasing our authenticity, in both equipment and deportment. Let’s work hard to be “on for the public and give the best presentation possible.
2. That we put aside the petty politics, nationally and in the hobby and celebrate our friendship and comradery. Social Media has led to some nasty exchanges (I admit I’m guilty). Let’s let it go and focus on the hobby and our mission.
3. Interpret honestly and with knowledge. Research and be able to talk intelligently with the public.
4. Improve drill: We need enough bodies at meetings and events to work on things and get better.



I have been blessed this year to feel the love and support of so many. So far, I feel great- there are no signs of cancer (despite some early bad news). I will give you 100 percent in the upcoming season and I am so excited with the growth we have shown with new members and people taking on new roles. I can’t wait to the first time we can take the field.

It will be a new era. What that will look like WILL be up to you. Elections will be held this October. Most likely this will take place in a Zoom meeting. I hope to continue as your Captain. Having lost a year, I would like to have the chance to lead you once more. I hope to turn those duties over at larger events and maybe spend a little time on some staff work. It’s always exciting to learn new things. No matter what, the 7th remains a solid unit and we will continue to grow and progress. I am proud to be a member and contribute in whatever ways I can to this amazing group and hobby.

Until we meet again, I shall remain your most obedient servant,
Capt. McComas



A Look Back in Time...

Remember when we used to make a raffle quilt every year for the Cascades Muster? Here are some familiar ladies from 1986 or '87 finishing the quilt for that year. It looks like it's at Gloria Kirschensteiner's house. Photo from Vonda Warren's albums.



"A copy of the minutes of previous club meetings is available upon request to all members in good standing."

Bill Jarrett, Club Secretary jarrettwilliam30@gmail.com



Civilian Report

To everyone: I hope this finds you all well and healthy and safe.

There is a meeting at Meridian Village the second week of September. I will keep you advised about plans for the Blue and Grey Day.

I have some ideas for next year, providing we can return to normal. One idea would be a ladies' retreat like ones that were done in years past. The next would be another shopping trip.

Please let me know what you think. If anyone has other ideas for next year please let me or Nicole know.

Sue Colegrove, Civilian Coordinator

Items of Interest

Civil War Digital Digest - hosted by William Eichler

July 29th episode **The Wide Awakes** - Vol. VI, Episode 18

Who were the Wide Awakes and why the torches? Watch this week's episode as we learn about this political social club that came into existence 160 years ago. 2020 marks the 160-year anniversary of a short-lived political social club known as the Wide Awakes. Watch to learn the history of this organization and find out who started the Wide Awakes, what was their purpose, who would be a typical member, and why the torches! Thank you to the Waterloo Area Historical Society for providing an amazing setting at twilight.

<https://youtu.be/NIVuu2b5ZPs>

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American Battlefield Trust has announced that its president,

Jim Lighthizer, who has led the organization since 1999, is retiring. He is in good health, but at age 74, feels it is time. His successor is David N. Duncan, former chief development officer of the Trust, who will take office on Oct. 1, 2020. The website calls it "a natural choice", as the two men have worked closely together for the past 20 years, and share the vision of preserving America's historic sites, and educating the public. There are two divisions of the American Battlefield Trust: the Civil War Trust, and the American Revolution Trust.

<https://www.battlefields.org/>



An Event! At Last, An Event!!



Hayes Winter Quarters is on! Sat. October 24, 2020



From Mike Fahle Hayes Presidential Library in Fremont, Ohio.

A few shots from last year's inaugural event for those unfamiliar. At the end of August, (2019) the site finally gave me a 4K budget to build a Winter Quarters in less than two months. Now granted, myself and the site had been tossing the idea around for about 18 months; that is life when dealing with state budgets.

Despite the short notice, we were able to pull it off, but with lots of room for improvement. With that said, the site is very dedicated to seeing the event grow. Camp has been carefully laid out so as to provide an organized growth plan for future buildings, including a planned officer's cabin with wood shingles roof. However, for that to occur and additional resources committed, we have to show growth year to year... Impression is generic Federal with no requirements other than an authentic kit.

Michael Fahle Links to the event, however, don't pay attention to the times on the 2nd link. They only put the candlelight tour time vs. the actual start time of 12:30 for the general public after the program, specifically set aside for kids and their parents/families.
<https://facebook.com/events/s/kids-days-at-hayes-civil-war-c/209751293539699/>

Michael Fahle <https://facebook.com/events/s/civil-war-winter-camp/2569791789805857/>

Civil War Winter Camp Saturday, October 24, 2020 at 6 PM – 9 PM

Public · Hosted by Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Library & Museums
Spiegel Grove, Fremont, OH 43420

