

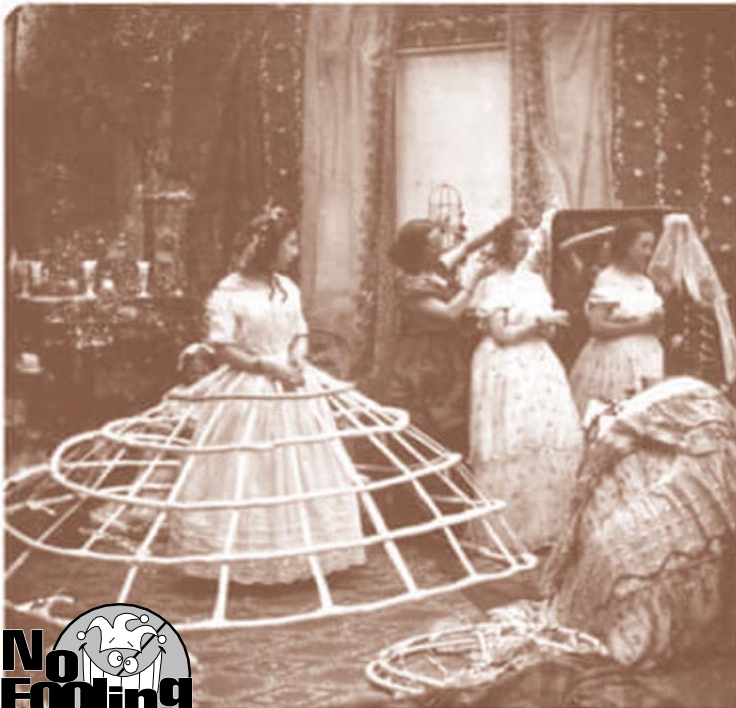
THE UNION VOLUNTEER

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



Volume XXXVIII No. 4 April 2020

~~For social distancing reasons, I will henceforth be wearing hoop skirts.~~



"I've been preparing for this all my life." ---said Katie Everett who posted the above recently on Facebook.

Although it is highly unlikely that President Trump's wish for filled churches on Easter Sunday will come true, I wish you all a happy and thankful Easter as we "stay at home and stay safe" during the current Covid-19 pandemic.



Attention:

See an all-important information update from OUR President Dave Downing on the next page....

And

A message of inspiration and hope from Captain McComas on page 3....



From the President.....

APRIL MEETING/ LIVE SHOOT: CANCELLED

Due to the virus that is hitting hard we will not be having our April meeting/Live Shoot. The bottom line is to keep everyone from any possibility of

being exposed to this epidemic. So here is a plan for us to follow for the month of April:

☞ First step: The April meeting and live shoot are cancelled. Perhaps we can discuss rescheduling something for later in the year.

☞ I'd like to ask members to contact a board member with concerns that the board should take up in April in a virtual meeting the board will have during the second half of that month. The governor's current "lock down" proclamation is set to end, or be extended, on April 13. By that time we will know more and have more information to make decisions from that point forward.

☞ At this time, I'm directing those club members who are reps/liasons to events that are scheduled to happen from now through the month of August to find out where those events might be in their planning for holding or postponing their event, or if they are going to wait until later to decide. That information will be shared with the membership as soon as possible.

Greenfield Village Event:

☞ GFV and The Henry Ford Museum are, and will remain, closed until April 5. Before that date they intend to release further information about the events and exhibits coming up. It is recommended that if you would like to be updated on their decision that you should follow their web site for updates.

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

Monday, 3/30/20 update: Just received notice from Greenfield Village that they are proceeding to plan for the Civil War Remembrance event on Memorial Day Weekend. There are a lot of variables that could still cause the event to be cancelled or postponed, but for the time being plans are continuing to be made in hopes the event will go on as planned. Details to follow, as I receive them.

Please take care of yourself, your family and those around you during this time.

Dave Downing



2020 Club Leadership

New Member Chairs:
Daniel Mallick (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, Editor

From the Captain....

MILITARY REPORT

Dear friends,

During this difficult time I have chosen to remove my Captain's slouch and put on my Social Worker hat.

This is a frightening time for many. So much of what we know and have known is in a state of flux; Not just in the reenacting world, but in the world as a whole. It is easy to slip into a place of fear and anxiety. We are isolated from each other and there is much that is unknown.

But where we put our cognitive time and emotional energy matters so very much. It is not the events that create our anxiety it is the filter, the way we process, and understand those events. This is a DIFFICULTY, not a DISASTER, UNCOMFORTABLE, not UNBEARABLE.

Look for the LOVE, the HOPE, the KINDNESS, and ALTRUISM. They are there! Seek them out and treasure them.

So a few suggestions/guidelines for this difficult time:

1. Stay connected: Phone, Face time, Skype. If you have others in your home, turn off the machines and talk to each other.
2. Be informed but don't become a news or social media junkie. It's easy to get sucked in to the vortex of rumors and conspiracies.
3. Focus on what you CAN INFLUENCE not what you cannot.
4. PRAY and reflect
5. Use this as time to realize the value of what you have taken for granted: family, friends, pards, a good campfire, a perfect battalion fire.
6. Get physical exercise and activity. The body, thoughts, emotional connections all influence each other. A brisk walk, bike ride, weight training or exercise program does wonders for both the waistline and the soul.
7. Remember that this is temporary! We WILL be in the field again. We WILL share a campfire and fellowship and we WILL survive and once again thrive.

I look forward to the time we are together again. I miss you all. Be safe, be strong, and be compassionate.

With love and admiration,

Captain McComas

Be well, be safe



In these frightening days, we need some good laughs..... 😄

It is likely that any student of President Lincoln and/or the American Civil War will know about the conflicts between the President and General George McClellan. The following quote mentions the battle of Antietam, which was fought September 17, 1862. On October 25, 1862 Lincoln responds to a request from Gen. Mac for fresh horses as his are sore-tongued and fatigued:

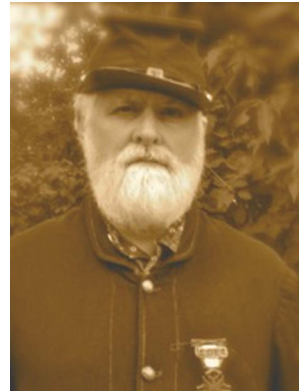
"I have just read your dispatch about sore-tongued and fatigued horses. Will you pardon me for asking what the horses of your army have done since the battle of Antietam that fatigues anything?" shared by Fred Priebe on Facebook recently



CLUB NEWS

ROB STONE GIVES TV INTERVIEW

Rob Stone posted this on Facebook on March 4: "Here's my interview regarding Near as I Remember, which was conducted by Bart Hawley on his JTV (Jackson, Michigan) program. Take a look!"



On March 8 he gave a presentation: "Twenty-

two people were present this afternoon, when I gave one of my first-person "Near as I Remember" talks to the Saline Area Historical Society." --Rob

Rob's Website: <https://nearasiremember.com/>

Below is the link to the video of the live interview:

<https://jtv.tv/civil-war-expert-shares-reflections-of-veterans/?>



Above: Ruby Fenrich at one week old. Born to Chris and Hannah Fenrich at 2:04 AM, March 20, 2020; 7lbs 8oz, 20 1/4 in.



CIVILIAN REPORT

We have a new member to the 7th Michigan!! Welcome Ruby Fenrich. We can't wait to meet her.

For our March get-together, a few of the Ladies went to Shipshewana and had a great time shopping.



As for our Annual shooting contest day, we are waiting for word from Don as to the possible cancellation of the event. [Editor's NOTE: It has since been cancelled]. We are also waiting to see if we will be going to Greenfield Village.

I have spoken recently with Meridian Village. They plan to wait a bit before making firm decisions regarding their programming this season.

Thinking of all of you; please stay healthy and safe.
Sue

Ho-hum, nothing to do...Can't go to events, can't get together with pards. Boooooorrr-iiiiinnng! Nope—that's wrong! Our members and other reenacting friends have been busy. On the next page, see what we've all been doing lately....





On Facebook, some of our fellow reenactors started a 10-day “Quarantined Reenactor Photo Challenge” in which participants are supposed to post, every day, a photo of themselves in period garb.

March 21, from Ken Giorlando of the 21st MI Infantry: “Today was supposed to be a fun day - a day that is easily near the top of my list of things I look forward to: the Kalamazoo Living History Expo. That is where I would be at this very moment.... Unfortunately, like most everything else, it was cancelled.” Instead, Ken posted photos of the event from a previous year.



Our own Coletta Crews has been spending her time at home quilting, piecing new quilt tops, and making baby blankets. (shown here at Cascades Civil War Muster in 2014). She's completed two baby blankets, and a few quilt tops. Busy lady!!



How about hanging upside down? Sound fun?



From Dave Walker of the 30th Indiana: “Yesterday [March 14] I married my best friend and woman of my dreams. I prayed for a long time...and God led me to Holly [Ray]. We were married in our home by our dear friend Robert Brugler [a Lincoln impersonator]. It was quite ironic that President Lincoln was the one to officiate at the wedding of President Davis. Our little dog Squee brought in the rings on her collar. It was a very small gathering of family and done in a style typical of days gone by. We finished with a few twirls to the Spanish Waltz.”

Someone posted that she is: “Trying to plan ahead for my Easter outfit in the event we are set free by then. Which one strikes a chord with ya’ll?” shared by Vickie St. John, Facebook.



Editor's Note: This was just too funny; I couldn't resist.

And Cyndi Carlson is “Just staring out the window, waiting,waiting..” Oh, and making tea at home in her pajamas, of course. Posted on Facebook – photo taken at Greenfield Village.



Elynn Painter is still working--at home- alterations work, “but only for the drycleaner in Marshall that I contract with, since drycleaners are considered an essential business. “We have contracts with many of the law enforcement and medical agencies in the Marshall/Battle Creek/Albion area and they all need their clothing cleaned and repaired in a timely manner.. Like lots of people now, I'm also making covid-19 masks. For the pattern I use, I'm cutting removable filters from the “fabric” in Filtrete brand furnace filters (they are high-end, and are supposed to filter out viruses. Here's hoping!). And my sister and I gave blood yesterday. Other than that, I'm watching a lot of TV!”

GAR MEMORIAL HALL & MUSEUM

APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

Attached is Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall & Museum April Newsletter as compiled by our editor, James B. Pahl.

Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall & Museum is the only such museum in the state that is exclusively dedicated to ensuring that the memory and accomplishments of our country's first major veterans' organization, the Grand Army of the Republic, and its Union Civil War veteran membership in Michigan are not forgotten.

We hope that you enjoy our newsletter and (once the Governor's stay in home restriction is lifted) please feel free to come by and visit. In the interim, please stay home and safe.

Keith G. Harrison, Board President
Michigan's G.A.R Memorial Hall & Museum

SEE SEPARATE
PDF
ATTACHMENT

2020 KEY EVENTS

The max events that were voted on in the February military meeting were: Greenfield Village, Turkeyville, Charlton Park, Greenmead, Meridian Village, Jackson and Hartford City. The military also decided to do a company mess for Greenfield, Charlton Park, Meridian Village and Jackson.

---submitted by Lieutenant Andrew McComas

Details will follow in the next issue of the newsletter, as we see how things develop in our nation's health crisis.



OHIO CIVIL WAR SHOW CANCELLATION 2020

OCWS, LLC is announcing the cancellation of the Ohio Civil War Show May 2nd and May 3rd, 2020 that was scheduled at the Richland County Fairgrounds, Mansfield, OH 44906

Ohio Governor Mike DeWine has placed an Executive Order for all public gatherings with greater than 100 participants be cancelled. The Ohio Show is required to comply with the mass gathering directive issued by the Governor.

We are as deeply saddened as you, but feel the order is best for all of our exhibitors and attendees to stay safe till the COVID-19 threat is over.

The OCWS will be in contact with our cancellation policies. We appreciate your patience as we reach out to all our participants. Thank you all for your continued support and loyalty for 43 years with the Ohio Civil War Show.

We will continue the Show in 2021!
Mark Your Calendars For May 1st and May 2nd, 2021

Kind Regards,
Ohio Civil War Show Management

THE BATTLE FLAG OF MICHIGAN'S FIRST BLACK REGIMENT COMES HOME

Maurice Imhoff, of the 102nd U.S. Colored Troops, was in this past year privileged to assist with the research for, and restoration of the original flag belonging to the 1st Michigan Colored Regiment, otherwise known as the 102nd U.S. Colored Troops.

Maurice said recently on Facebook: "...What an absolute great time and honor it was to work on this project! After a year of research on this presentation flag we were able to send it out for conservation. Just a month ago the flag returned back home here in Michigan. When we opened the box and unfolded it, we were blown away! ...The flag was made in December of 1863 by Mr. Robert Hopkin...[It] is 6ft x 6.5ft and made of pure silk. It originally had a set of red, white and blue tassels to go with it." Before it deteriorated, one side was inscribed 'All men are born free and equal.' and below that the words, 'To realize which, we fight.'"

The flag was originally presented to the regiment on Jan. 5, 1864 by the Colored Ladies Aid Society in Detroit, MI.

"Thank you...Michigan State Capitol Commission, The Archives of Michigan, and the Michigan History Center for having me be a part of this! I am looking forward to our next project." ---Maurice



Maurice Imhoff (at left) with members of the team and the flag in its case. Below, a section of the flag before restoration.



THE CIVIL WAR BOOKSHELF



Now that we're all "shut-ins" there is lots of time to read!! In our May issue, share with us what **you've** been reading. Here's my own offering:



It is a pity that abolitionist Harriet Beecher Stowe never wrote but one novel - *Uncle Tom's Cabin* - for she was a sensational writer.

Set in the decade before the commencement of the Civil War, her runaway best seller is a masterpiece of pathos, humor, and fully believable characters, ably showing the reader, in an entirely accurate and unsensationalized manner, the everyday realities, both harsh and mundane, of life as an American slave.

I ran across a copy of the book recently, lying dormant and forgotten on my own bookshelves, while searching for something to read (since, in our current isolation-at-home situation, I can't go to the library!). Although, of course, like any Civil War reenactor worth her salt, I've been familiar with the book for decades, I realized suddenly that I've never actually *read* it. I instantly pulled it off the shelf and dove in.

Uncle Tom's Cabin

A BOOK REVIEW by Ellyn Painter



Harriet Beecher Stowe, 1853. Portrait by Alanson Fisher – National Portrait Gallery

Published in 1852, one potential publisher turned it down cold, believing it would not sell; Mrs. Stowe's husband demanded a business-like 10% royalty for his wife from the second publisher, who wanted her to share the risk by paying half the publishing expenses. For her own part, Mrs. Stowe only hoped sales of the book would garner her enough money for a new silk dress. Within two days, all 5,000 copies of the first printing were sold out; four months later, Mrs. Stowe's royalties were \$10,000. Sales continued to skyrocket, and the work was soon available in England, and a number of other countries, where it also made huge profits. There seemed to be no middle ground in terms of the public's opinion of the book: readers either praised it to the skies, or villified it as "vicious propaganda" and shoddy writing, to boot. Within a year of its advent, theater groups were adapting the story for the stage and taking it on the road. Poet Carl Sandburg likened its title character, Uncle Tom, to a Christ figure, his Golgotha a whipping post rather than a cross.

It was Mrs. Stowe's son who reported Lincoln's now famous greeting to his mother when the family met the President in late 1862: "So you are the little woman who wrote the book that

started this great war." Mrs. Stowe herself was more subtle on the matter, telling her husband only, "I had a real funny interview with the President." Her daughter called it "a very droll time," and said they were laughing the whole time. One can easily imagine that the witty and humor-loving Lincoln kept them in stitches.

In my reading of the novel, I confess I was astonished at how "modern" sounding the narrative was, and how *good* it was. By "modern" I mean that, in an era when respectable women were typically reticent about the intimate and sordid details of life, or at least, publically, pretended not to know about such things, lest they be censored, the author is astonishingly graphic in those male dialogues depicting the way of things in the slaveholding world, and her grasp of the business side of the "peculiar institution" is frank and astute. Her euphemistic manner of description is also frequently hilariously funny, her word play decidedly wry and tongue-in-cheek. Admittedly, she does indulge, occasionally, in kindly-meant opinions regarding the natural character of black folks that today's African-Americans would find, at best, patronizing, but she is from her own time, not ours.

In short, *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is a delight. It is also a piercing social commentary and critique of the darker aspects of the world in which the author lived; most of all, it was, in its time, a bold call to action for every American who believed as Mrs. Stowe did, in the dignity and equality of every human being.





G.A.R.

**MICHIGAN'S GRAND ARMY OF THE
REPUBLIC MEMORIAL HALL AND MUSEUM**

**224 S. Main Street
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827**

www.GARmuseum.weebly.com

Email: GARmichigan@gmail.com

Volume 3, Issue 3

April, 2020



With the COVID-19 pandemic and our Governor's Order 2020-21, which is a temporary order to suspend activities that are not necessary to sustain or protect life, the museum closed its doors for the month of April. While we are hopeful we will be able to re-open the museum in May, we are keenly watching developments and will only reopen the museum when it is safe to do so.

The board of the Museum wishes you well and we hope this issue of our newsletter finds you in good health and staying safe.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS

April 2020

Museum Closed

May 2020

(Subject to Change based on Governor's Declaration)

May 6th (10 AM-5 PM) Museum Open

May 13th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

May 19th (7 PM) - **Museum Seminar** - *Detroit's Historic Fort Wayne* (Speaker: Tom Berlucchi)

May 25th (7 PM) - Observed **Memorial Day Parade** and **G.A.R. Island Program**

May 30th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open (Actual Memorial Day)

June 2020

June 3rd (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

June 10th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

June 13th (All Day) - Eaton Rapids Tour of Parks

July 2020

July 1st (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

July 4th (7 AM - 5 PM) - Civil War Living History on G.A.R. Island Park

(10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

(11 AM - 5 PM) - Parade

July 8th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

July 11th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Presentation at Annual Cass County Underground Railroad Society Program (Vandalia, Michigan)

July 21st (7 PM) - **Museum Seminar** - *Emory Parady and the Capture of John Wilkes Booth* (Speaker: Kermit Douse)

August 2020

August 5th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

August 11th (10 AM - 4 PM) - Civil War Discovery Camp for Kids (Duration including set up, tear down and cleanup, 8 AM - 5 PM)

August 12th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

August 24th & 25th (10 AM - 5 PM) Museum Display at Jackson Civil War Muster (Ella Sharp Park, Jackson)

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS

September 2020

September 2nd (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open
September 5th & 6th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Display at Henry Ford Old Car Festival (Dearborn)
September 9th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open
September 11th & 12th (10 AM - 4 PM) - Museum Open (Eaton Rapids Air)
September 20th (3 PM) - Museum Annual Meeting & **Seminar** - *General Alpheus Williams* (Speaker: Civil War Historian Jack Dempsey)

October 2020

October 7th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open
October 14th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

November 2020

November 4th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open
November 8th (1 PM - 4 PM) - Annual Massing of Colors Program hosted by Friends of Michigan History (State Museum, Lansing)
November 11th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open
November 17th (3 PM) - **Museum Seminar** - *The Eleventh Corps at Gettysburg* (Speaker: Dr. Jim Pula)

December 2020

December 2nd (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open
December 6th (Noon - 8 PM) - Eaton Rapids Christmas
December 8th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

REPORT ON SPECIAL EVENTS

Antietam Mural Restoration and Conservation

We are looking into Grants and Fund Raisers to help pay for this.

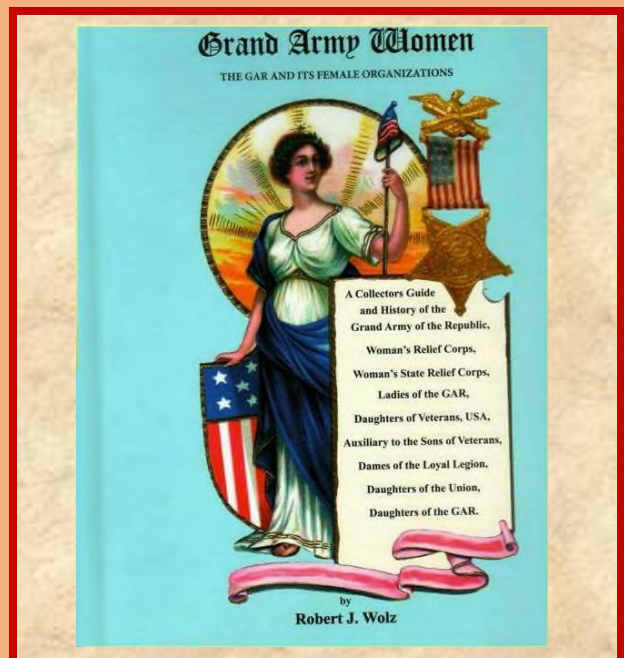
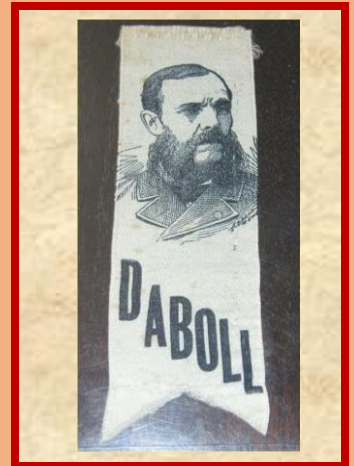
Background: Over the last couple of years, we have had the Antietam mural looked at by various restoration organizations (i.e., pictures were sent and they came back with a general idea as to what the cost would be to get it restored). In September, I had the Antietam mural professionally evaluated (on-site evaluation) by Conservation and Museum Services, Inc., out of Detroit. Presented below is the proposal from Conservation and Museum Services to restore, conserve, and stabilize the Antietam mural. The estimated cost is \$15,000.

Conservation and Museum Services, Inc. Evaluation & Proposal:

The painting is oil on canvas that has been rolled. There are tears along the bottom where it is attached to the cylindrical horizontal, wood roll bar. The painting is covered in a thick layer of grime, but there does not appear to be any varnish or restorations. There are numerous localized losses to the paint, revealing the canvas and or ground. Treatment would include removing the grime from the surface, attaching the painting to a 3/8" thick aluminum honeycomb panel, followed by restoration of the numerous losses. The cost of this treatment would be approximately \$15,000.00.

The first step would be removing the grime, followed by any restoration of damages and losses. That would cost around \$10,000.00 depending on the amount of restoration and needed. The fact that the painting is housed in an environmentally friendly location and will not move allows for the option of attaching the painting to a solid support. This step is not needed given the circumstances, but if carried out, will allow for a painting that is permanently in plane without deformations, and add immensely to its longevity, since it relieves the structure of its weight and fights the deterioration of the canvas due to gravity and or vandalism. This extra step would cost approximately \$5,000.00 more mostly due to the cost of an aluminum-honeycombed panel which is the solid support that the painting is adhered to. In addition to the above, Conservation and Museum Services, Inc. would stabilize and restore the damages to the upstairs' three oval portraits (Alger, Williams, and Sherman) for free, when the mural is done.

SOME RECENT ACQUISITIONS



MUSEUM HOURS

The museum is open the first two Wednesdays of each month from 10am-5pm; patriotic holidays, special events, and by appointment.

MICHIGAN'S

G.A.R. MUSEUM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President-Keith G. Harrison

Vice President-Chris Allen

Secretary- Gary Gibson

Treasurer-James Kaiser

Directors: Don Limpert,

Scott Poyer, Bob Griggs,

Pam Colestock, & Jim Pahl



Thank you to all who have visited the museum and who generously gave a donation or became a 2020 Sponsor!





MICHIGAN'S GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC MEMORIAL HALL & MUSEUM

224 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827

Grand Army of the Republic, Michigan Department,
James B. Brainerd Post #111 Memorial Hall and Museum, Inc.
Email: GARMichigan@gmail.com Web: www.GARmuseum.weebly.com
Telephone: 517-922-6427
Face Book: GARBrainerdPost111MemorialHallAndMuseum

This collection of post-Civil War history is displayed on the two floors of the original James Brainerd Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Post #111 in downtown Eaton Rapids. The 1886-built G.A.R. Hall is just a short walk from G.A.R. Island Park where annual G.A.R. encampments were held in August in 1886, 1893, 1901, and then each year from 1908 until 1929. Your support is needed to help us chronicle and preserve the significant contribution of the G.A.R. to our state's and country's history..

2020

ANNUAL SPONSOR LEVELS

\$ 200	President Abraham Lincoln G.A.R. Post	_____
\$ 175	Governor Austin Blair G.A.R. Post	_____
\$ 150	Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant G.A.R. Post	_____
\$ 125	Major Gen. William T. Sherman G.A.R. Post	_____
\$ 100	Major Gen. Philip Sheridan G.A.R. Post	_____
\$ 75	Bvt. Major Gen. Alpheus S. Williams G.A.R. Post	_____
\$ 50	Bvt. Major Gen. Russell A. Alger G.A.R. Post	_____
\$ 25	Lt. James B. Brainerd G.A.R. Post	_____

OTHER SPONSOR LEVEL

\$1,000	Life-time Patron	_____
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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email: _____

If paying by check, make your check payable to *G.A.R. Museum*. If you wish, you also may pay by credit card by filling out the bottom of this form. Mail completed form and payment to address above.

Credit Card Number _____ Security Code _____
(3 digit code-back of card)

Expiration Date _____ Credit Card Billing Zip Code _____

Signature _____ Date _____

The Museum is open the first two Wednesdays each month, patriotic holidays, **and by appointment**.
Museum Admission is Free.

The Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall & Museum is a federally recognized 501 (c) (3) tax exempt, Michigan nonprofit corporation. All donations to Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.