

THE UNION VOLUNTEER

Volume XXXIX No. 6 June 2020

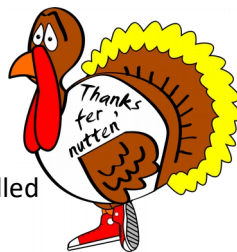
NEWSLETTER OF THE 7TH MICHIGAN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY, CO. B, INC.



Turkeyville

- June 16, 2018. Photo by Michelle Behnke.

More Cancellations (are we surprised?)



June 20-21: The Turkeyville event has been cancelled for this year due to Covid-19.



July 17-18: Charlton Park Civil War Muster. We've heard nothing definitive on this event. Their website shows all events up through late June as cancelled, but the Civil War event, so far, appears to be ON. Captain McComas reports that the park leadership are planning to meet in about two weeks to make a decision yay or nay on the event.



Cancellations – continued on next page.....

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 Hendersen
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
Ellyn Painter, Editor

Cancellations, continued....



August 22-23: Jackson Civil War Muster. The following announcement was made on Facebook on May 19: "Upon consultation with the Parks Department and the city of Jackson, the Jackson Civil War Society found it necessary to concur the Parks Department's decision and, as a result, has canceled the August 2020 Jackson Civil War Muster at Ella Sharp Park. Although disappointing, the Jackson Civil War Society has now begun to focus its efforts towards the hosting of the Jackson Civil War Muster on August 21, 22, & 23, 2021.

The Jackson Civil War Society wishes to thank all of our sponsors, partners, and especially the Civil War Re-enacting Community in helping to keep our American History preserved.

Yours in History, The Jackson Civil War Society"

MILITARY REPORT



As I write this the state has just "reopened for gatherings of up to 100 people. We will schedule a July drill at my home (details to follow).

We had a virtual military meeting and had about 8 attend via Facebook. It was good to see pards we have missed so dearly.

Turkeyville and Jackson have been cancelled. As of this writing Hastings is still on (but uncertain) I suspect the first "big event" might be Van Raalte. I will finally be getting my surgery June 3 and will go through a recovery period. I am grateful for your prayers and good words and am sure things will be fine. Andrew will take any company responsibilities until I am able to come back but hopefully I will be at our first "real event".

I hope you all are safe. Our distance has only reenforced how very important you all are to me. Can't wait to see you all again very soon and yell at you.

I remain your most obedient servant, Capt. McComas

UPDATE: TENTATIVE DRILL

Assuming everything goes well tomorrow and afterwards we will gather to drill at my property on Sunday June 28 from 2-5:00PM. See your pards and shake off the heavy rust. I will need to rely heavily on the Lt. and NCO's for the drill. There is water available, and a firepit. Bring your own food. We will work mostly school of the piece, school of the company. Hopefully, this can be done by the bugle. We can fire at my place so bring rounds as well. I will send out a separate message closer to the event with more details.

Respectfully and joyfully, Capt. McComas

WATERLOO FARM AND DEWEY SCHOOL MUSEUM RAISES FUNDS FOR FARMHOUSE ROOF RESTORATION

Fundraising is currently going on for a restoration project at the Waterloo Farm Museum in Grass Lake, MI, according to a May 14th article by Mlive.

The 14-room farmhouse began as a log cabin built in 1844 by the Realy family, who occupied the house until 1960. Since then, the Waterloo Area Historical Society has operated and maintained the farm. It is raising \$40,000 through GoFundMe to replace the 33-year-old wood-shingle farmhouse roof. In the 1890's, it had a metal roof, which is the type that will again be installed when construction work begins this month. Such a roof could last 100 years.

Some additional repairs will be made to the nearby Dewey School Museum where the WAHS conducts a historical program for area students during the summer, as well as farmhouse tours from Memorial Day thru Labor Day. This year, however, due to Covid-19, they are considering remaining closed on weekends; many of the all-volunteer staff are retirees, who wisely fear exposure to the coronavirus.

An event scheduled for late June is now confirmed cancelled. The website says: "Due to the pandemic, the Blacksmith, Soldier and Log Cabin event scheduled for June 27 & 28 is unfortunately cancelled. With the current stay home order extended to June 12th and the limit of gatherings to less than 10 persons, we feel it is not safe to hold this event. Please Stay Safe – Stay Home."



Tributes for Memorial Day



In lieu of large social gatherings with friends and family for Memorial Day, several friends, in the leadup the holiday, honored various individual veterans by sharing their inspirational stories on Facebook.. Since we have no holiday reenacting event news, I've reprinted a few of those tributes here.

---The Editor

BY CYNDI CARLSON: A MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE

Today in honor of Memorial Day I would like to recognize a World War II veteran who I have never met, yet I had heard many stories about him from my mother. I'm sure my mother would not mind me sharing this story.

I have shared this story for the last couple of years. Someday I hope to share a photo of him. My hope is that someday I will be able to find his family and maybe, just maybe, there will be letters, saved, that were from my mother to him.

My mother met this young army private in New York, just days before he was to be shipped off to Europe. This handsome young Italian man fell head over heels in love with my mother. From what I could gather as she conveyed the stories to me through the years, she was quite smitten with him also. They exchanged letters which my mother hung onto for many years. He had written his own mother telling her that when he returned from the war that he was going to marry my mother. Unfortunately, this was not meant to be; as he was parachuting out of a plane he was killed in action. His body was never found.

Of course my mother went on with her life, and it's a good thing, as she met my father; otherwise, I would not be here to share the story.

As we honored veterans across this great nation of ours today I couldn't help but to think of those soldiers who never got a chance to marry and have children, enhancing the possibility that many years later they would be forgotten.

Today I would like to remember: Private Frank A. Melchionno -- Born 1923 New York; enlisted May 3, 1943.

Thank you, Frankie, for loving my mother. I know she always carried a special place in her heart for you as there would be a twinkle in her eyes as she would convey to me stories of your short time together. And thank you for your service to our country.



BY FORMER 7TH MI MEMBER, SANDRA SMITH MCCARRICK:

My great uncle enlisted for the Civil War in Burlington, Iowa, and moved to Keokuk County, Iowa where the enlistees had to wait for their coats to be made by the ladies of the community after the local doctor donated the fabric. He was moved to St. Louis, Mo. He became ill and was in confinement in the hospital at Jefferson City, Mo. Returned to service and guarded the railroad at Boonville and Syracuse, Mo. with Fremont's Campaign. Was sick in the Hospital in Syracuse. Was moved from there to Mississippi. Fought in the Battle of luka and was wounded in the leg. He was sent to Jefferson Barracks in Jefferson City, Mo., where he recovered. He was returned to duty and sent to Corinth, Miss. He fought in many battles along the way, finally entering the Battle of Champion Hill east of Vicksburg, where he was mortally wounded and died the following day. He was buried there on the battle field in a shallow grave along with his comrades and the Confederates.

When Vicksburg National Cemetery was established, the Union soldiers' remains were removed from the battlefield and

.....continued next page



interred there. Many were unknown and are buried in a special section designated for them. My uncle is in that section. He was the oldest of the family, was not married and had no children. If you go online you can find the account by the Iowa 5th Regimental Adjutant Samuel Hawkins Marshall Byers called WITH FIRE AND SWORD. It is very graphic and an eye opening read. They served under Grant so I definitely want to watch the 3 part series about him and the Civil War beginning tonight at 9:00 on the History channel.

My great-grandfather also enlisted and had to have my great-grandfather's permission to join as he was too young. I have a copy of that form with his signature on it. His story was totally different and I may relate that later.

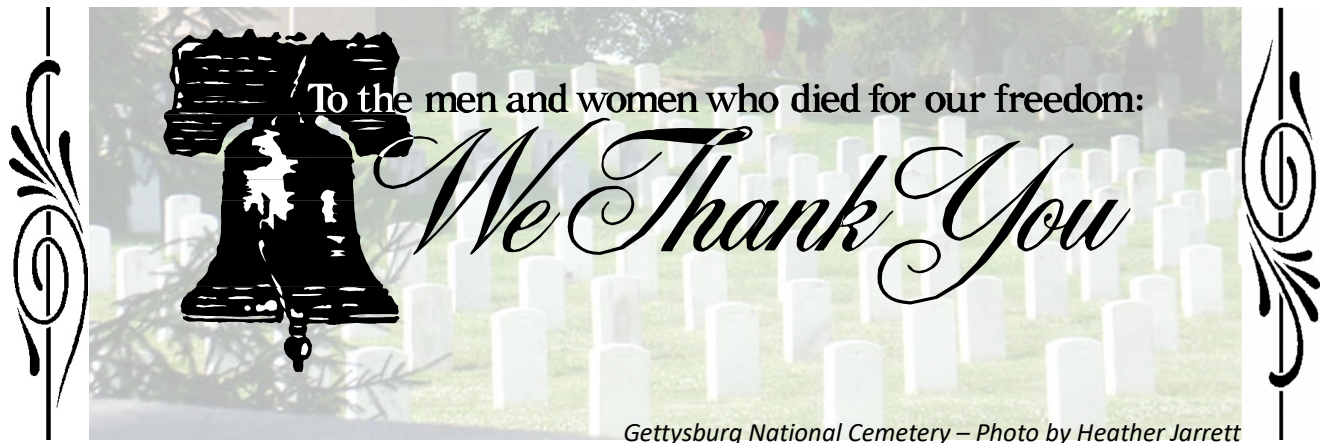
GOD BLESS ALL OF OUR FALLEN WHO HAVE PROTECTED US AND OUR WONDERFUL COUNTRY THROUGH MANY WARS. Note: If you have ancestors who served in any of the wars you can obtain their records from the National Archives. Make sure you ask for both their military and retirement records as they contain different information.



BY COLETTA CREWS

Memorial Day, 2020: His name was Nathaniel Bunn. He was 41 years old when he enrolled as a Minute Man in service of the Provincial Congress. As one of three companies of his neighbors, he marched on 19 April 1775, from North Brookfield, Massachusetts, toward Lexington and Concord. Before 17 September 1776, he was reported among the dead. He left a widow, Abigail, and two sons: eleven year old Nathaniel and four year old Matthew, who would become my 4th great-grandfather. The war would continue to 1783 and result in the birth of the Nation that I love.

Post your heroes here, if you like, and have a blessed Memorial Day.



Gettysburg National Cemetery – Photo by Heather Jarrett

QUARTERMASTER REPORT



Uncle Don's Sutlery -- I mean the 7th MI Sutlery -- has just acquired some "new" stock. We have purchased the remainder of Chris Sodman's store. With the exception of a few items everything is new. It will be available now that it has been inventoried and priced. See the attached stock list attached to this newsletter. Powder is \$19 per pound, caps are \$7 per tin. I checked at BOB'S GUN SHOP and found powder was \$26 and caps \$9.50! Contact me at djkeverett@comcast.net if you need caps, paper, or powder. Let me know if you hear of anyone leaving the hobby and/or wanting to sell their kit. We are always looking for "new" stock for the Quartermaster.

---Don Everett, Quartermaster

P.S. We may yet try to get the Charley Colegrove memorial shoot on the calendar, combined with a meeting in Sept or early Oct.

See the list of items for sale as separate attached PDF.

Retirement News

from julie everett



May 20, 2020: "First I hope this finds everyone healthy and doing good. I now have my own e-mail "garfield78je@gmail.com" and a new notebook and I'm trying to check my e-mails daily (also our home one).

I have 7 weeks into retirement and Don is going on 3 weeks. So far everything is going good; I had to get used to him being here all day, but he has had to get used to a different sleep schedule and sharing the TV, since my craft room is a long way from being done. Katie left a lot of stuff in there that I'm packing up, since she is busy with her boyfriend Shawn, and his daughter, who just turned 7 (he has her on Tuesdays and Wednesdays - his days off work). They have been looking into a bigger place (then she should be able to take a lot more stuff). My supervisor gave me a small party (since everyone else was working from home). It was on my last day (March 31). There were 6 of us (two of them came in so I could go over some work things that they were taking over for me); we had pizza and Mike gave me a couple of my gifts. Waiting for everything to go back to normal and they get back to work, then they will have another party with everyone.

My last two weeks I was the only one there because everyone was working from home and I had to finish up notes and clean out my desk and things.

I've been getting some Spring cleaning done and working on packing up Katie's room, working on the living room (got new TV stand and TV, also New curtains).

Doing whatever I feel like - I don't have a schedule; I'm retired and loving it.

Again, I hope everyone is well - hope this ends soon so we can get together; I miss not having any events to go to.

--- Julie Everett

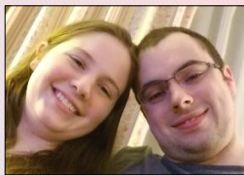


"A copy of the minutes of previous club meetings is available upon request to all members in good standing."
 Bill Jarrett, Club Secretary
 btjarrett@aol.com

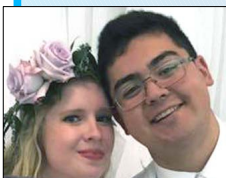
Babies...they grow so fast.....



May 19 : Look who's 2 months old - Ruby Fenrich
 Parents: Chris & Hannah Fenrich



May 15 : Look who's 5 months old - Matthias Servin
 Parents: Jorge & Christina Servin



2020 Annual Harvest Bull
 is Saturday, October 10, 2020. Tickets go on sale starting August 1st. Contact Gilbert & Cyndi Carlson for more info (or see the May newsletter): 517-782-8199 or Email: Cyndiin hisservice@yahoo.com.

SOME ITEMS OF INTEREST

(otherwise known as "fillers," my friends!)

By Walt Short--Michigan in the Civil War
Facebook post, Mon. May 18

This picture is of 2 Michigan Civil War Veterans .

On the left is "Frank Howe" from Emmet Mich, who enlisted at 21 years old in Co. C of the 20th Michigan Infantry. Frank was destined to lose his left leg in the fighting at Petersburg.

On the right is "Velrus Bruce" from Adrian, who enlisted at 19 in Co A of the 17th Michigan Infantry. Velrus would lose his right leg at the small battle of Campbell's Station, Tennessee on November 16th of '63, and would become one of the 400 Union casualties.

This picture was probably sold as a fund raiser, because it was captioned: "United we stand, Divided we fall."



"A Funny Occurrence..."

From Robinson's Battery
Facebook Post, May 20

From the Kent County Department of Public Works: "This afternoon, a Civil War-era cannonball was found on the recycling process line. The Grand Rapids police and fire departments were contacted and dispatched to the Recycle Center. Officers determined that the cannonball was live ordinance (gunpowder and likely percussion cap style detonator) and evacuated the premises. The Michigan State Police bomb squad was dispatched and the ordinance was safely removed."

Just a reminder, Everyone, please follow the instructions on how to recycle:

DO NOT RECYCLE CANNONBALLS FROM ANY WAR!

— Your County Commissioner



PASSION FOR THE PAST: THOUGHTS AND SOCIAL HISTORY FOR THE LIVING HISTORIAN

- latest edition of Ken Giorlando's (21st Michigan Vol Inf., Co. H) blog site honors Greenfield Village (event cancelled this year) with photos from past Greenfield Village Civil War Days events

<https://passionforthepast.blogspot.com/2020/05/civil-war-remembrance-at-greenfield.html>



Michigan's GAR Memorial Hall & Museum

Giving Tuesday 2020 - Help Support Michigan's Only G.A.R. Museum

During 2019, just under 1,000 individuals toured Michigan's Grand Army of Republic Memorial Hall and Museum (G.A.R. Museum). Since then the G.A.R. Museum has acquired many new artifacts and records pertaining to the Grand Army of the Republic and in particular to the Grand Army of the Republic in Michigan. We now have just under 5,000 such artifacts and records housed in the G.A.R. Museum, which are available to the public for viewing and research. In addition, last year we hosted five Civil War history seminars during the year. In contrast, since March 15th of this year our programs and traffic have become nonexistent and our revenue has been reduced to almost the same due

to the pandemic. It currently appears that this shut down may continue into the summer months canceling all our annual programs including our history seminars, our sponsorship of the Memorial Day parade and programs in the community in which the G.A.R. Museum is located, potentially our July 4th activities and our annual Civil War Day Camp for children (7 -14-year-olds), and several other special programs at the G.A.R. Museum. Consequently, this year's "Giving Tuesday", has become even more paramount to the sustainability of the G.A.R. Museum.

We fully understand and appreciate the fact that we are not the only nonprofit organization caught up in this mess, however, that appreciation, unfortunately, does not help us to pay our ongoing bills for the upkeep of our artifacts and the original 1886-built G.A.R. Post building in which the G.A.R. Museum is housed. In order to help us get through this and allow us to recover and grow when we are again permitted to do so, we hope that you will consider becoming a sponsor or, if already a sponsor, to renew your sponsorship, and interest in our G.A.R Museum family by becoming a 2020 Sponsor of Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall & Museum. Eight different levels of sponsorship are available to select from depending on your situation. Also, since Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall & Museum is a federally recognized 501 (c) (3) tax-exempt, Michigan nonprofit organization, all levels of sponsorship are tax-deductible. For those who have already provided 2020 support for Michigan's only museum that is totally dedicated to the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and its Union Veterans membership, country, thank you. For those who have yet to become a 2020 sponsor or to renew their sponsorship, we have attached a 2020 G.A.R. Museum Sponsorship Application for your consideration and use.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing interest and support in helping to ensure that the memory of the Civil War Veterans who preserved the union of this nation and the subsequent contributions of their and this country's first major Veterans' organization, the Grand Army of the Republic, are kept in the public eye and not forgotten.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,

Keith G. Harrison, Board President
Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall & Museum
224 South Main Street
Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827
garmichigan@gmail.com

*** See the Sponsorship Application PDF attachment. ***





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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Name _____

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.

Description	Size	Price	Used
Military & Men's			
Confederate sack, gray	42	\$50.00	new
Confederate sack, gray	46	\$50.00	new
Confederate sack, gray	52	\$55.00	new
Confederate vest, gray	38	\$50.00	new
Confederate trousers	30	\$30.00	new
Union sack, dk blue	Medium	\$20.00	used
Union sack, dk blue	Medium	\$20.00	used
Union sack, dk blue	40	\$50.00	new
Union sack, dk blue	42	\$55.00	new
Union sack, dk blue	Large	\$30.00	used
Union sack, dk blue	48	\$55.00	new
Union trousers, sky blue	32	\$30.00	used
Union trousers, sky blue	46	\$30.00	used
Union trousers, sky blue	52	\$50.00	new
Union trousers, sky blue	50	\$50.00	new
Union trousers, sky blue	44	\$50.00	new
Men's vest, beige	3X	\$40.00	new
Men's vest, stripped pattern	Large	\$35.00	new
Men's vest, blue brocade	Extra Large	\$35.00	new
Men's vest, black, modern style	44	\$20.00	used
Men's shirt, white	3X	\$20.00	new
Men's shirt, white, pleated front	Large	\$40.00	new
Men's shirt, beige,	Extra large	\$15.00	new
Men's shirt, beige plaid	Large	\$15.00	new
Men's shirt, beige checked pattern	Large	\$15.00	new
Men's shirt, gray & lt blue checked	medium	\$15.00	new
Men's shirt, white	Small	\$15.00	new
Men's shirt, blue checked pattern	Small	\$15.00	new
Men's shirt, dk blue plaid	Small	\$15.00	new
Men's shirt, red and white checked	Small	\$15.00	new
Men's shirt, lt. blue checked pattern	Small	\$15.00	new
Men's suite, black	waist 40, coat 46	\$60.00	used
Women's			
Skirt, green	32" waist	\$10.00	new
Skirt, black	32" waist	\$10.00	new
Pinner apron, white	No size	\$10.00	new
Under petticoat	26" waist	\$10.00	new
Over petticoat	26" waist	\$10.00	new
Dining and Cooking Things			

3 Tine Forks	23 total	\$1.00 each	used
Knives	7 total	\$1.00 each	used
Wooden cooking spoons	5 total	\$1.00 each	new
Spatulas	3 total	\$1.00 each	new
Plates	2 total	\$5.00 each	new
Tin pie plates	3 total	\$1.00 each	used
Two handled pot	1 with lid	\$5.00	used
Etched tray	1	\$5.00	used
Metal trays	3 total	\$5.00 each	used
Silver metal tray	1	\$7.00	used
Rabbit Bowl	1	\$2.00	used
Blue wash basin bowl	1	\$2.00	used
Tin cups	2	\$1.00 each	used
Stainless cup	1	\$2.00	used
Candle holders with handle, brass	4 each	\$5.00	used
red paraffin candles	6 each	\$0.50 each	new
Bees wax candles	5 each	\$1.00 each	new
Blankets			
Wool blanket, heavy	1	\$25.00	used
Afghan, white	1	\$25.00	new
Afghan, with pattern, bed size	1	\$30.00	new
Afghan, pink, with pattern	1	\$25.00	new
Wool blanket, dark gray, heavy wool	2	\$35.00 each	new
Wool blanket, dark gray, light wool	2	\$30.00 each	new
Rag blanket, dark gray	2	\$15.00 each	new
Quilt, small, pink, red, white	1	\$40.00	used
Damask tablecloth, ivory color	1	\$20.00	used
Quilt, red, white and blue	1	\$10.00	used
Quilted pillow covers with zippers	2	\$5.00 each	used
Wool blanket, red and brown plaid	1	\$20.00	used
Afghan, crochet autumn colors	1	\$25.00	used
Accouterments			
Gun cases	10	\$10.00 each	new
Enfield bayonet	2	\$40.00 each	new
NCO sash	2	\$20.00 each	new
Officer sash	2	\$20.00 each	new
Enfield rifle sling	2	\$20.00 each	new
Springfield rifle sling	2	\$20.00 each	new
Cartridge box slings	5	\$20.00 each	new
Leather shoelaces	12	\$1.00 each	new
Nipple wrench	2	\$5.00 each	new

Cleaning kit	4	\$20.00 each	new
Confederate gray wool kepi, medium	1	\$25.00	new
Confederate gray, jean cloth, medium	1	\$30.00	new
Union, dk blue kepi,	7 various sizes	\$25.00 each	new
Cartridge box with tins	4	\$45.00 each	new
Blue stainless steel canteen	2	\$40.00 each	new
Gray stainless steel canteen	2	\$40.00 each	new
Braces (suspenders)	6 pair	\$15.00 each	new
Pocket watches, battery powered	6	\$10.00 each	new
Pocket watch, wind -up	1	\$15.00	new
Watch chain	1	\$1.00	new
Small wood crate	1	\$2.00	new