

THE UNION VOLUNTEER

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

Volume XXXIX No. 11 November 2020



Weekend warriors at "McComas Meadow" mini-muster, Oct. 3-4, 2020. Photo by Doug McComas.

Dues Are Due!

It's that time of year again. Your annual dues need to be received by **Feb 20, 2021** for you to be included in the roster for **Greenfield Village's Remembrance Day** event.

Because most members pay at the in-person annual meeting, which we did not have this year, we are just starting to receive payments, thus, the list of members that owe for 2021 is long.

Dues are: \$16 for single, \$19.20 for family. Due to the lack of face to face meetings please mail dues to: 7th Michigan Infantry Co. B, Inc., PO Box 16206, Lansing MI 48901-6206.

REMINDER LIST FOR MEMBERS THAT HAVE NOT PAID 2021 DUES....see 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;
co-coordinator: Nicole Mai
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

List of members still owing dues for 2021:

Al Baerren	Christopher Harward	Anson/Lorrie Roland
Armin Berg	Mark Heath	Jeff/Lin Sanborn
Donald/Nancy Buck	Joy Henderson	Craig Searles
Jack Byers	Kim/Connie Horning	Rob Stone
Rev. Robert/Sandra Chapman	Celeste Hude	Wyatt Strauss
Steve/Catherine Church	Marilyn/Ned Hughes	Richard/Carol VanDyke
Daniel/Lana Clore	Bill Jarrett	Vonda Warren
Sue Colegrove	Jim Gloria Kirshensteiner	Dick/Linda Williams
Dan Conklin	Jim MacKinnon	
George Conklin	Paul/Nicole Mai	
Joseph/Anthony DiSano	Lyle/Walter Malaski	
Dave/Pat Downing	Dan/Caitlene Malick	
Drayson/Dorothy Doyle	Dale/Debra Marvin/VanElst	
Dave Dzierbicki	Andrew McComas	
Tom Edwards	Doug McComas	
Roger/Debra Emelander	Russ McKenzie	
Tom/Joan Emerick	Dustin/Amanda	
Chris/Hannah Fenrich	Mientkiewicz	
Keith/Jean Harrison	Ellyn Painter	
	Jay Pearson	

Quartermaster Report

Uncle Don's Sutlery - I mean the 7th 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. See attached list of items and prices for club members. It has been updated to show what we have. We also still have the used items that we had in the past. If you are looking for something check the list or get in touch with me to check the old stock. Powder is \$19 per pound, caps are \$7 per tin. We have acquired 2 pairs of brogans size 11, one almost new (\$40), and one older pair that has new soles and heels (\$30). ****FREE**** We also have a supply of magazines that are free. They include National Geographic and Time/Life special editions. There are also books on various Civil War subjects, including 2 table top atlases. ****FREE**** I will have them at in person meetings for a while; if they are not taken they will be donated to a Library or trashed. 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.



A suggestion was put forward that we replace the large ladies wall tent with a 7x7x9 A tent with doors on both ends and add another 12 foot fly so we could have a small fly on both ends. The A tent would be easier to put up. You can stand up in the 7 foot A. This is a suggestion and I would have brought it to the Ladies meeting on the 25th but there wasn't many ladies that were able to attend the Zoom meeting. The Ladies and Civilians need to think about and discuss this suggestion over the winter. If you would like you can contact the Quartermaster at 517-393-3475 or djkeverett@comcast.net with your questions and comments. We will bring this up at the next face to face meeting we are able to have.

Don Everett, Quartermaster



After-Action Report: The "Mini-Muster" at "McComas Meadow", Oct. 3-4, 2020



Photo by Doug McComas

Given the 33 degree evening on Friday the encampment was moved to Saturday morning. The fall morning was picture perfect with mid-fifties and sunshine. The encampment was a shared affair with Jeremy Buschlen from the 5th, Charles Turlo from the 17th and Curtis James Parr, US Marines joining, myself, Andrew McComas, David Dzierbicki Daniel Malick, Rob Stone and Nick Nau from the 7th. We were also blessed to have a visit from our pard Jim MacKinnon; fortunately, he did not see my attempts to teach skirmish drill.

After camp was set the boys were called to roll, and arms inspection before a good solid drill. We reviewed all the basics of arms positions, facing, doubling and undoubling files, stacking arms, wheels, and by company into line. The lads then worked through firings by company, rank, file and at the obliques and ended the drill with a perfect crisp volley. Given the entire season layoff it was all the more extraordinary.

After cooking lunch rations and some campfire time the lads again returned to drill, and our afternoon drill focused on skirmish drill deploying and plying, moving without and with firing and moving and firing by the flank. The lads did a fine job and we worked together to shake off the cobwebs. When this failed, Charles Turlo was able to whip out Casey's and we resolved any confusion forthright.

Even with our small numbers the group decided that a bit of unscripted conflict was in order. The nine men were divided and Lt. Andrew McComas took charge of the Rebs, and yours truly, the Union. We determined that each side would have five minutes to find and deploy in position with the other finding and engaging until there was a victor. The Rebs were wiley in their effort, luring the Union commander into a bottleneck between a swamp and outbuilding, and slowing picking off men as we continued like a frustrated Burnside to try to take the well defended high ground, until we were defeated. Then it was time for the Union. Learning from past mistakes, the Union soldiers were massed in a pine thicket with strong cover and open space on all sides. Then, in an effort to confuse them, Captain McComas did something he never does: stayed put. The position was excellent and we remained there waiting for the Rebs until finally, spying an opportunity, Jeremy Buschlen captured one rebel but sadly was then captured by a hidden foe himself.



Photo by Curtis Parr

Curtis James Parr held the Union right until a lack of ammunition led him to retreat to a deceased Nick Nau to scrounge cartridges. This act lured Daniel Malick from safety, but before he could finish Curtis off the resourceful private grabbed the deceased man's weapon and dispatched the foe. The whole experience led to much camp fire talks, lies and boasts as the boys were rewarded for their efforts with steaks and potatoes washed down with multiple libations including "tequila creme".

As evening moved on the lads retired to their tents and were met around 1 am with changing weather and rain. They persevered through morning, relit the fire and cooked rations when it was decided that The Task was done and we decided to break camp around 11 am.

I would like to thank all who came. It was wonderful to be together and to share time in the wool for at least one day. We found the ground positive and usable in the future for training or small encampments or events. It was also a milestone

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event for Private Nick Nau who did double duty drumming, and falling into the ranks with his weapon, firing blanks live for the first time. I believe we all struggled to leave as, even after packing up, we stood in the rain sharing and talking. It was truly a wonderful experience that I will always treasure. I did take at least a couple of pictures for Ellyn Painter and our newsletter but I'll let you wait till then to see the brave lads. The little event gave us all hope, was good for the soul and reminded us of how much we love our hobby and our pards. Can't wait until we can be back at events in number and share a fire with even more friends.

I remain in your service, Captain McComas



Annual Meeting – held Oct. 25 on ZOOM

Due to the present social difficulties, our Annual Meeting was held via Zoom. The meeting was short - about 30-35 minutes, and was chaired by President Dave Downing.

Motion made and passed to continue the present board members into next year, until we are able to have a face-to-face meeting where proper voting can take place.

Military: Similar motion made and approved to have Captain McComas and all military NCOs continue in their current posts until a live meeting can be held. Doug would also like to consider having another mini-muster on his property this coming spring (2021), similar to the recent "McComas Meadows" event, providing the Covid situation permits.

Christmas party: Pat Downing reported - There will be no Christmas party this year; we are not sure that the Robbins UMC is open, and in any case, the State disallows inside gatherings of more than 25 people.

Dave Downing would like to try for another Zoom meeting to be scheduled after the first of the year.



Photo by Doug McComas



Turn back your clocks 1 hour this weekend

(translation: an extra hour to sleep in!)



Civilian Report

Hi Everyone:

As you know we are planning for next year. We welcome any and all ideas for the coming year, for our ladies. I'm suggesting a weekend retreat! A day or two shopping trip, possibly in Shishewana. Or, if anyone has other suggestions as far as good places to go shopping, please let Nicole or myself know. We are also looking for suggestions for things to do at some of our events.

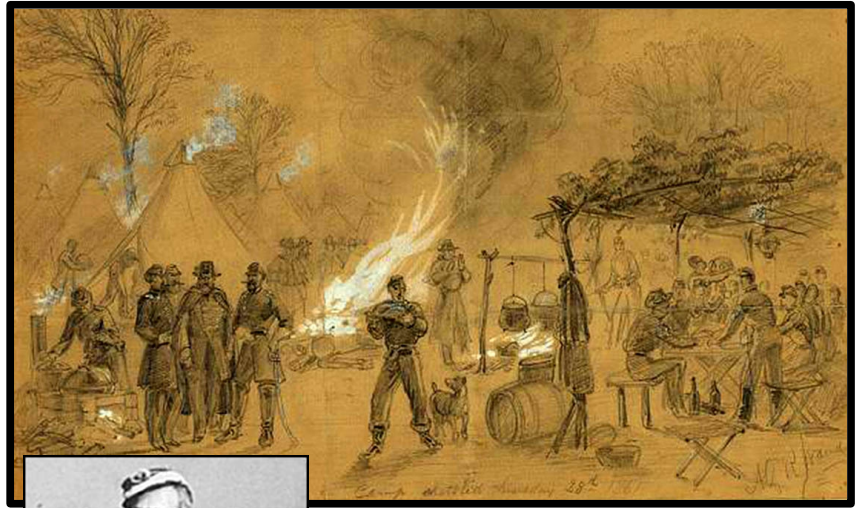
I have a meeting coming up with Meridian Villiage; will keep you informed.

I hope everyone is well and safe. Take care, Sue





Even though we won't be able to have those big family get-togethers this year, I hope you all find a way to connect with loved ones and have a joyful Thanksgiving Day!



Gen. Blenker

Title: "Thanksgiving in Camp" sketched by artist Alfred R. Waud on Thursday, Nov. 28th, 1861. Frederic Ray tentatively identifies this as the camp of General Louis Blenker. Repository, Library of Congress.

General Louis Blenker was a colorful character in the American Civil War. A former commander of insurgent troops in his native Germany during the German revolution of 1848-49, he and other leaders were forced to flee when the revolution was suppressed, with the result that he soon emigrated to the United States. When the Civil War broke out, he became organizer and colonel of the 8th New York Volunteer Infantry regiment. For gallantry at Bull Run he was promoted to brigadier general. Later in the war, however, accusations of financial irregularities, carelessness, and unlawful looting and theft by his troops dogged his command, though these allegations were largely unproven. Nonetheless, his career was ruined, although General McClellan's esteem of him as an officer remained strong. Blenker was soon superseded by Franz Sigel, and mustered out of service on March 31, 1863. That October, he died from injuries sustained while with his command at Warrenton, VA.

Source: Wikipedia

Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall & Museum October Newsletter

Attached is our October 2020 Newsletter as compiled by our editor, James B. Pahl. We hope that you enjoy our newsletter and please feel free to come and visit Michigan's only 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.

Although not shut down we are under, now, the Michigan Health Department Directive. The restriction that affects us the most is the one regarding the number of people in the museum at any given time. This affects our ability to hold our seminars and discourages some larger groups from scheduling meetings. Despite all this, the museum remains open the first two Wednesdays of each month, National Patriotic Holidays (for instance this upcoming Veterans Day, November 11th), and by appointment. Also, and at this time, we will be open from Noon to 8 PM December 5th for the Annual Eaton Rapids Christmas Parade.

Finally, fundraising for our 2021 Sponsorship program has begun. If you can, we would greatly appreciate your consideration in becoming a

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Museum Sponsor for 2021. This donation is tax-deductible and your donation will help us recover from the disastrous 2020 year. The last page of this newsletter has a 2021 Sponsorship form that you can fill in and send back to us.

Thank you and we are all looking towards a less restrictive but healthy 2021.

Keith G. Harrison, Board President
Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall & Museum
517-922-6427
garmichigan@gmail.com



The 2020 Reenactor Calendar Virtual Meeting

Saturday, November 7, 2020
10:30 AM-12:30PM

The 2020 Reenactor Calendar Meeting to schedule the 2021 Reenacting Season will not be a face-to-face meeting. Rather it will be a virtual meeting. Presented below are the instructions how to access the virtual "Go To Meeting."

"Go To Meeting" is a free app that can be downloaded and will not harm your computer or tablet. It works best using a laptop or desktop computer, with camera, and headset, with built in microphone. You can use a tablet and use your cell phone to call in to speak if needed. There is sometimes some feedback on the others listening so I would recommend not having the devices close to each other; again it works best using laptop or desktop computers. You may also, if you want, just call in on the phone number provided and not see any of the participants.

During the meeting, Tom Berlucci will read each date for 2021 and then ask for information pertaining to events on that date. Event Fliers: If you have a flier for your event, please send it in advance to both Keith Harrison and Tom Berlucci at pcinc@prodigy.net and tberlucci@yahoo.com and Tom can bring them up on the screen for everyone to see when you would be discussing your event. We also will be watching the message screen for each weekend to call out to whoever would like to speak for their event on that weekend.

It will be a little cumbersome but we will be able to get through it all. Tom will be starting the meeting about twenty (20) minutes before the start time of 10:30 AM to assist anyone who has questions. It may take several attempts to log onto meeting so please keep trying until you get on.

GO TO MEETING INSTRUCTIONS: Please join the meeting from your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/773813781><https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/773813781>

You can also dial in using your phone. (For supported devices, tap a one-touch number below to join instantly.)

Telephone Number to Call: 1 (669) 224-3412

Access Code: 773813781 Once you enter the code, you will be prompted to enter # (One-touch: tel:+16692243412,,773813781#)

New to GoTo Meeting? Get the app now and be ready when the meeting starts:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/773813781>: We look forward to seeing everyone,

Thomas Berlucci
Chairman - Historic Fort Wayne Coalition
Michigan Civil War History Partners
Jackson Civil War Muster Team
Cell: 1-248-840-5234
Home: 1-248-835-1321
tberlucci@yahoo.com

Keith G. Harrison
President - Michigan's G.A.R.
Memorial Hall & Museum
Michigan Civil War History Partners
Jackson Civil War Muster Team
Cell 517-930-2995
pcinc@prodigy.net



"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





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

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October, 2020



MUSEUM UPDATE AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

As you are aware, the museum closed its doors for the month of April and May. With the relaxing of the Governor's Orders, the Museum was able to re-open June 10. However, several of our special programs have had to be cancelled, which makes for a short newsletter this quarter. However, artifact donations continue to come in every month. Don't forget tours can be arranged almost anytime by appointment - for groups as large as one! Don't hesitate.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS

November 2020

November 4th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

November 7th (1 PM) - SUVCW Benjamin Pritchard Camp #20 Meeting

~~November 8th (1 PM - 4 PM) - Offsite Event: Annual Massing of Colors Program hosted by Friends of Michigan History (State Museum, Lansing) - CANCELLED~~

November 11th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open – Special Veterans Day Exhibit

November 12th (7 PM) - Board Meeting

~~November 17th (7 PM) - Museum Seminar - *The Eleventh Corps at Gettysburg* (Speaker: Dr. Jim Pula) - CANCELLED~~

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

No Board Meeting in December



William B. Gould, Civil War Navy veteran, poses with his six sons at his Boston home in 1917. Three of the sons served in the Spanish-American War with Co. L, 6th Mass Inf. Two of the 3 also served in WW1, as did their 3 younger brothers. Two of the six saw combat in France with Co. L, 372nd Inf.

FEATURED RECENT ACQUISITION

Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association Certificate Acquired by Museum

Certificate for G.A.R. Massachusetts Department Ezra Batcheller Post 51 membership in the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association. The staining damage to this picture was caused by acid leaching from the wood that was initially put on the back of this picture. Upon receipt of this donation from New York, the wood backing was replaced with a non-acid backing, thereby preventing any further damage.

Donated by Daren A. Rathkopf



RECENT ACQUISITIONS



Ballot Box - Juliet E. Stevens Tent 14 - DUVCW

Label: "*Presented to the Tent by R.H. Stevens and Edith S. Clark*".

The Tent existed from 1918 - 2013. It was based in Corunna and later moved to Lansing, Michigan before it folded.



Rochester Evening Express 4/19/1861



G.A.R. Associate Membership Badge

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 very generously given a donation or became a 2021 Sponsor during this emergency! We do appreciate every one of you!





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..

2021

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.