

THE UNION VOLUNTEER ^{7TH}

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



Volume XL No. 8 August 2021



A Look Back....

Mayor Everett gives opening remarks at the 7th Michigan's Sanitary Fair, at the Cascades Civil War Muster, August 2006. Photo by E. Painter

Inside this Issue:

*Charlton Park After-Action Reports – 7th MI Club News
– Article: Sanitary Fairs – Updates on Upcoming Events
Civil War Discovery Camp for Kids – and more*



2021 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



Happy 73rd birthday to Don Everett, on July 3.

Gilbert Carlson also celebrated a birthday in July!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qv3imziPRjI>



This youtube.com link leads to a
short video of Rob Stone giving an
introduction to his series of Civil
War presentations, called "Near As I
Remember". Find out more at:
nearasiremember.com



2021 Harvest Ball - Oct. 9

As of right now it is a "go" on the ball. We have an OK
from the church and unless something changes from
the government regulations we should be fine. So we
are promoting it as much as we can, hoping that others in the Seventh will
promote it, also. We could use one other person to help out with the food
during the evening of October 9. Contact Gilbert or myself if you can help.

Cyndi Carlson cyndiinhisservice@yahoo.com

Photos courtesy of <http://garmuseum.weebly.com/>



4th of July Celebration at GAR Hall & Museum

A report from Nicole Mai:

“So, my family and I went to the Living History
event, put on by the GAR in Eaton Rapids this
past weekend. It was so much fun! We were
the only civilian tent. We had a lot of
spectators, considering. We set up Friday
night and tore down Sunday afternoon.
Sunday they had a craft



show, Kona Ice truck, inflatables, fireworks, and a parade. My kids
walked in the parade. I'll definitely do it again, if they want us! ”



From the President...

Charlton Park was the first chance of an event with several different units after more than a year. It was great to see everyone, smell the smoke and hear the gunfire. The turnout was nice for the weekend, even for spectators.

There was a potluck and meeting at Charlton Park as is our tradition there. It was nice being able to see everyone in person at an event after so long. There were no major issues brought up at our meeting. Watch Facebook and the Newsletter for information on upcoming events. Also, there was talk about doing an inventory of the club's trailer sometime yet this summer; more information will follow. ---Dave Downing

Military Report

Charlton Park After-Action Report

WE'RE BACK! First reenactment in nearly 2 years for many. We hugged old friends, we sat by the campfire, mourned those we lost and lied about battles past.

Friday evening was rainy but allowed windows to set up and keep dry. Friday was truly a celebration as we all moved from camp to camp greeting friends old and new and catching up on what was missed. A bit of rain chased most into the tents around midnight and this was followed by pretty good storms around 2 am.

That was it, however. The morning came comfortable and clear and we found ourselves ready for an adventure. We began with a very rusty drill. Our company had 6 fresh fish and a captain unpracticed for over a year. We made it through and moved to picket duty at noon. Here the boys performed splendidly; working with the rest of the west wing we split into platoons and flanked the entire Confederate army. We were able to hold them at bay for some time until a desperate charge of at least company strength forced us to withdraw. The afternoon battle began with more conflict in the woods and fighting toward town. The company was led to the slaughter by the captain and only a few escaped the senseless and futile charge made at the entire Confederate army.

Evening brought a wonderful meal by our civilians and a club meeting followed by dress parade.

Sunday morning began with a tactical. Ben Cwayna, the rebel commander, split his forces, which diverted the army and then made a mad dash for Union camp. After losing the colonel and wing commander, our company recognized the intentions and headed back toward camp encountering most of the reb army. Undeterred, the men took to the high ground in the heavy swale to escape and defend, then picked their way back to camp through the undergrowth. Arriving at camp, we were disheartened to see the rebs in Union camp with only a few cav trying to respond. The boys gave their best but were unsupported and forced to surrender after a brief fight.

Another round of picket proved uneventful. Then the battle began in town. The captain, having a great forboding, tied a bandana to his head and told several he felt "cross". Alas, his fears were confirmed as he went down early in the fight from a rebel ball and turned over the command to first sergeant Malick, who reportedly performed honorably and intelligently, leading the company to victory.

In all, after all we have experienced, it was just wonderful to be back. To be with friends and share what we loved. It was wonderful to have so many new men in the company and see and share their excitement with the hobby. I'd like to thank our new colonel, Nick Miner, who did a wonderful job, despite learning if it came to saving him or the company he came up second best. Daniel Malick, Charles Turlo, David Dzierbicki, and Andrew McComas truly ran the company all weekend, making a smooth experience for all. I am truly grateful to have such a fine crew. Tom Emerick was a wonder teacher once again, and working with my old friends Marty Walker, Scot Spiekerman, and Ryan VanMaldegen was a great treat. There is so much more but you get the idea. It was a great time for all and we so appreciated the opportunity to be back together doing what we love. Next one is September's Van Raalte Farm in Hollland. Please come, and then on to Stone's River!

In your service, Captain McComas



Another View:

Charlton Park, Hastings 2021 After Action Report

by Col. Nick Miner

We took a really great step in the right direction this past weekend after the Covid hiatus from the hobby. It was really good to see everyone. We (most of us, at least) arrived Friday in some afternoon rain which stopped in time for most of us to get set up without getting too wet. As I was making my way from fire to fire, it was really nice to see old pards catching up like we hadn't lost any time between events. Unfortunately, some pretty heavy rain and lightning forced most people into tents or under cover for the night, around midnight. We did wake up to dry weather on Saturday morning, though.

Saturday morning saw Lt.Col. Scott Lawalin move his right wing out onto our picket line with orders to prevent a Confederate advance into the town. About mid-morning, a message came that the Confederates were advancing in force towards our camp. We had to break our battalion drill and dispatch the 3rd MI under Lt. Ryan VanMaldegen to the end of the trail where they were successful in preventing the enemy advance. Unbeknownst to the advancing Confederate infantry, we also had the combined Indiana company led by Cpt. William Behrman moving in behind them to cut off a retreat. It was a very successful engagement which prevented the capture of the camp. In the early afternoon, Maj. Marty Walker moved his left wing out to replace the right wing and posted companies on the picket line. They made a determined probe ahead into the enemy camp to scout out the enemy size. A couple of hours later, a determined push from the Confederate forces, joined by the 114th PA under Cpt. Scot Spiekerman, forced the left wing to withdraw into the town where their retreat was covered by Cpt. Kevin Yeager and the members of the Michigan Cavalry Brigade. The engagement did not go well for us, despite some very skilled maneuvering by the company under Cpt. Russ Paul. We ended up losing significant numbers forcing us to withdraw from the town.

A slightly chilly Sunday morning opened with a skirmish which saw the cavalry engage the Confederate infantry with the assistance of Lt. Chad Johnson and his Tiger Light Guard company. The Confederates withdrew shortly after being engaged to maneuver and were caught slightly off guard by the combined unit company led by Cpt. Douglas McComas who were able to get a couple of company volleys into the disorganized rebel formation as they attempted to cross the road. The enemy reformed and charged, forcing a short retreat, but the pursuit continued down to near our camp again where the cavalry met the Confederate force and the engagement ended. Again, in the afternoon, pickets were pushed out onto

concluded next column...



Nick Miner, concluded....

the line and were almost immediately met in force by the Confederate infantry forcing a moving withdrawal, again assisted by the Michigan Cavalry Brigade. The Confederates were drawn into the town where the overwhelming numbers of our battalion made for a quick victory. I'd also like to mention Brittany Frederick and Allison Schimenti who really did an amazing job by setting up an aid society on the edge of the camp which was a popular stop all weekend for the battalion to stop and grab a refreshment or snack.

It was my first time taking the field as the battalion commander and I would like to thank the company commanders and NCO's who made the weekend a success for everyone. I would also like to personally extend my thanks to Marty Walker and Scott Lawalin for each taking up a wing of the battalion and helping me, and Tom Emerick (Joan Belman Emerick) for his invaluable services over the weekend as the Adjutant. Also to Sgt. Maj. Nick Leach and Cpt. Nathan Malone for jumping in wherever necessary, and to Mark D. Heath and TJ Berlucchi for lending their musical skills to the weekend. We had just under 100 rifles present in the battalion the entire weekend which I think is a credit to all of you for coming out and attending after having such a long pause to the hobby we all enjoy, and I thank you for it. Let's keep moving forward together.

Your Obedient,

Colonel Nick Miner,
Cumberland Guard



*Photos by Daniel
O'Connell, 7th MI*



ANNUAL KIDS' CIVIL WAR DISCOVERY CAMP AUGUST 10, 2021 10AM-3PM

See also the separate PDF attachment: Registration Form



Hello, Friends:

I know I've harped on this issue in the past, so I regret the need to bring it up again, but here it is.

On those occasions when I am asked to send out a group email to all members, PLEASE read it carefully, and if a response is requested, or you have a question, reply to the person who the message is from, NOT to me. I am merely the messenger, and will not have the information you need.

The same applies to questions you address to me that deal with matters other than the newsletter. The sidebar that appears in every newsletter issue contains info on who is in charge of what, where to send your dues payment, our website address, etc. Your club roster has the contact info.

In closing, I am always happy to respond to any concerns you have dealing with the newsletter, and welcome your comments. Keep in mind, however, that I only look at the newsletter email inbox a couple times a month, so you'll have a better chance of a timely reply by using my personal email address.

OK. My rant is over.
Thank-you all for your patience.
Ellyn



MICHIGAN'S G.A.R. MEMORIAL HALL & MUSEUM

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC, MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT,
JAMES S. BRAINERD POST #111 MEMORIAL HALL AND MUSEUM, INC.

224 South Main Street
Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827
Email: GARMichigan@gmail.com
Website: <https://garmuseum.weebly.com/>
Face Book: GARBrainerdPost111MemorialHallAndMuseum

CIVIL WAR DISCOVERY CAMP

🌸 August 10, 2021 🌸

Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Memorial Hall and Museum in Eaton Rapids, Michigan will be holding its fourth annual Civil War Discovery Camp on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 for students 8-years to 14-years old. The students will be arriving at Howe Memorial Park in Eaton Rapids at 10 AM, where they will spend several hours of planned activities, including learning the Civil War manual of arms with wooden muskets, how to march, how the Civil War soldier lived, and much more. The students will be told about the park and its association with the G.A.R., the Museum, and the Civil War Veterans. They then will be split into groups and provided information about the life of a Civil War soldier and each allowed to fire a reproduction Civil War musket (with prior parental approval). All musket handling will be under strict adult supervision. Adults will load (with powder only), cap, and hold the musket. Student only will be allowed to pull the trigger. All students that fire a musket will be wearing safety glasses. Lunch will be provided to the students while on the island. Around 2 PM, the students will be marched back to the G.A.R. Museum for a tour and to learn about what the G.A.R. Civil War veterans and their auxiliary, the Woman's Relief Corps, did after the war. Following the tour, each camper will be paid \$13 in replica 1860s Civil War federal money and then discharged from "military service".



For additional information and the registration form, go to the G.A.R. Museum's website at <https://garmuseum.com/civil-war-discovery-camp.html> or contact Keith Harrison at 517-922-6427, or email us at GARMichigan@gmail.com



Civilian News

I am still in the planning stages for the Blue and Grey Days event, which we will host the weekend of Oct. 2-3, 2021. We will have military events, vendors, and live demonstrations. There will be games and hands on things for the children to do. I'm looking for anyone that might know a sutler who would be willing to come.

In June, I had a meeting with the Director of Parks and Rec for Meridian Township. She gave me lots of good information. She liked the idea of possibly a barn dance on Sunday; she may have an idea for a sponsor to help pay for the band. She will get back to me on that.

It was also suggested that we change the name of the "Blue and Grey Days" to something like: "Blue and Grey Muster" or "Blue and Grey Living History Days", to hopefully bring more visitors, and especially more children. Please let me know what you think. I'm in favor of "Blue and Grey Living History Days". We are also in need of someone to handle registration for our event! Please contact me if you could do this for us. And please come and join us!

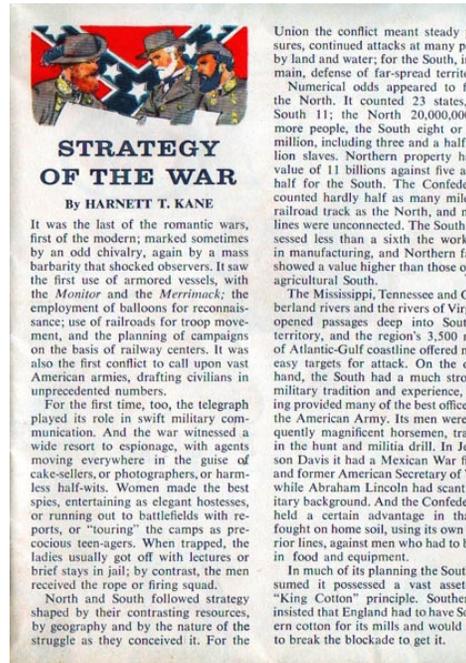
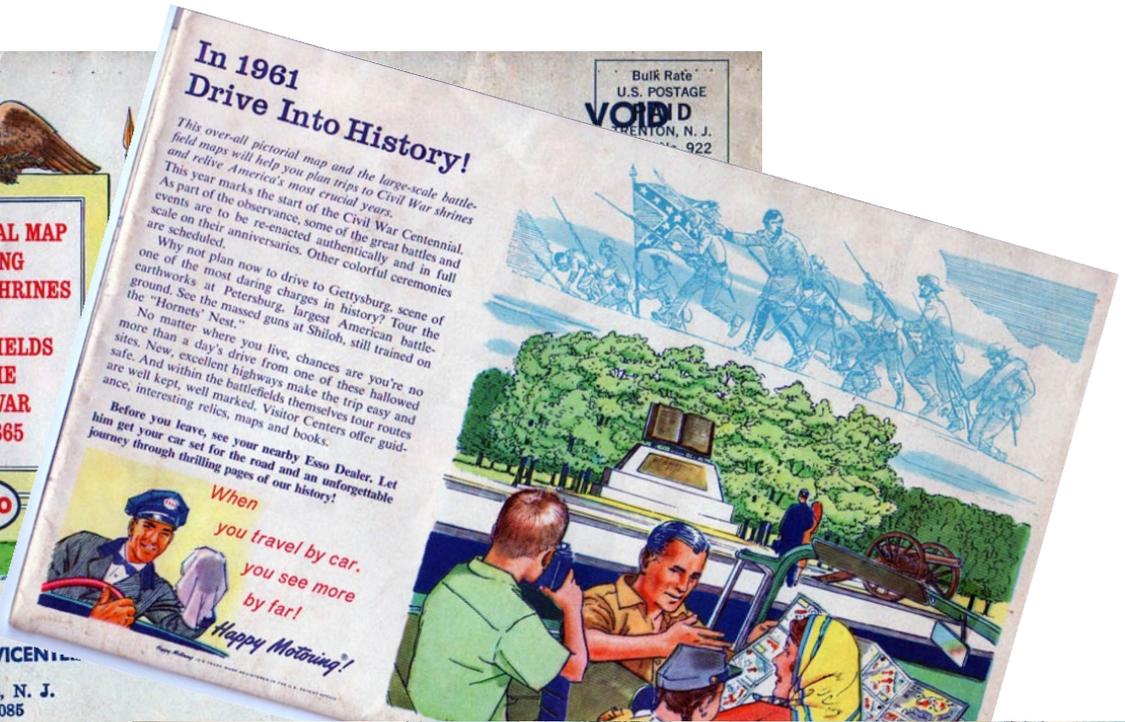
---Sue Colegrove, Civilian Coordinator



Remember the "Centennial"?

Here's a memory and an artifact shared by Jim Kirschensteiner:

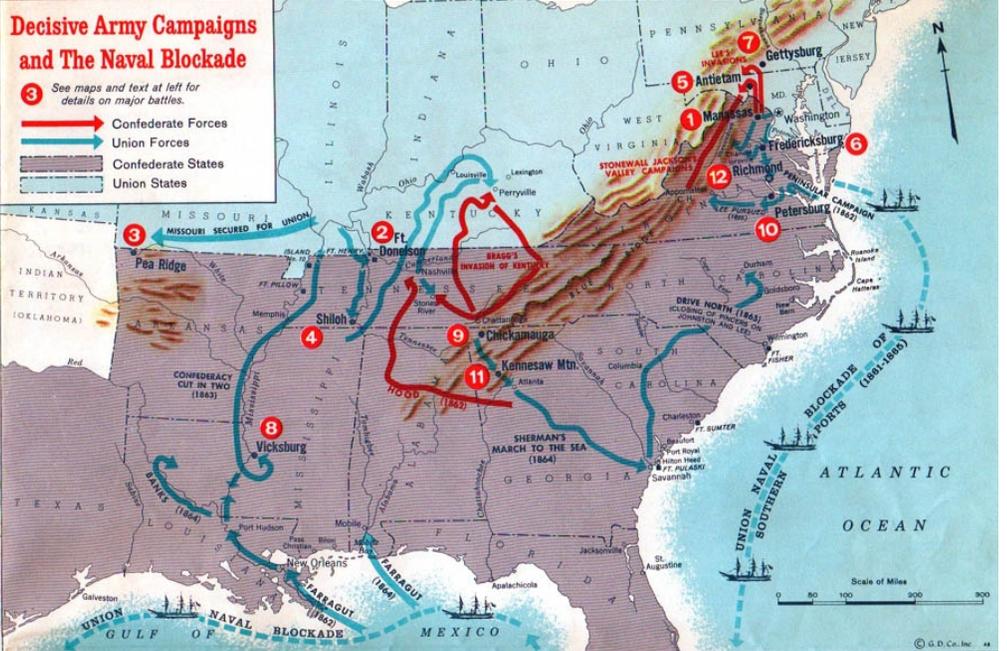
"My brother-in-law sent me this 1961 ESSO gas station booklet that was published at the beginning of the centennial of the Civil War. I remember growing up during the centennial and it was a really big deal. This booklet was just one of many things published at the time. The booklet folds out into maps and discussions on the major battles and many minor battles. It represents what was known at the time. I scanned 4 parts of the booklet." -----Jim



Decisive Army Campaigns and The Naval Blockade

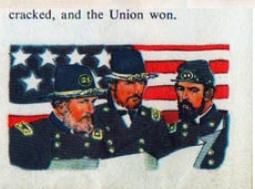
See maps and text at left for details on major battles.

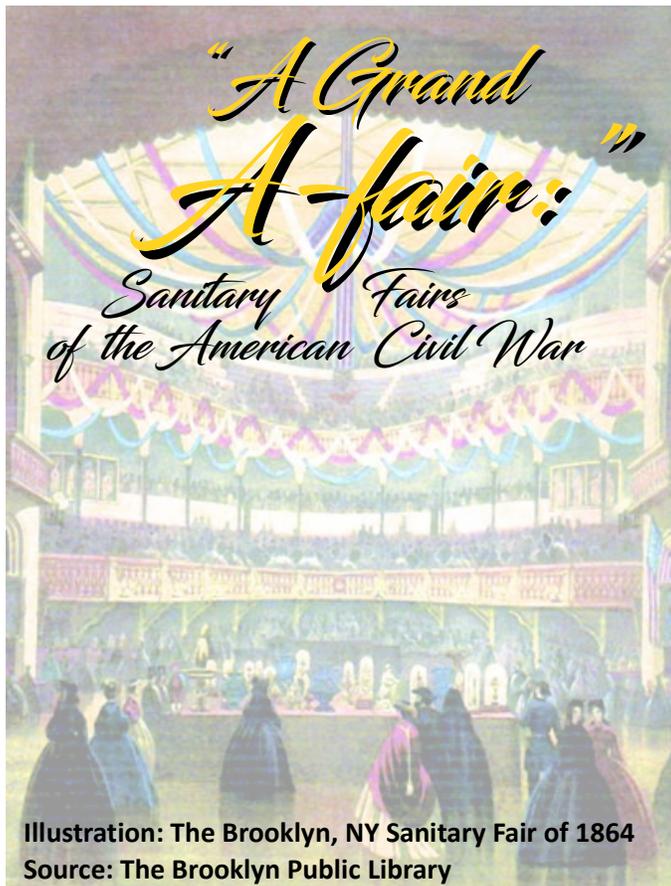
→ Confederate Forces
→ Union Forces
 Confederate States
 Union States



...ments was colored by the fact that the capitals, Washington and Richmond, lay so close together, and were potentially so vulnerable. For the Confederacy Richmond had particular importance as a center of supplies and heart of the traditional Old Dominion, the original South.

Year by year each side struggled for one great, staggering victory—destruction of a main army, conquest of the rival capital. Repeatedly each ap-





By Ellyn Painter



On August 24, 1864, a young reporter for the *San Francisco Daily Morning Call* named Samuel Clemens, covered the "Ladies Fair"---- that took place at Union Hall, on Howard St. [in Brooklyn, NY]. The eager correspondent, who would later gain literary fame as Mark Twain, described a succession of ample arches, swathed in evergreens and draped with flags and embellished with various designs, which ringed the huge hall. Miniature shops and alcoves were arranged beneath the drapery, "in which the loveliest possible clerks will stand and dispose of all manner of wares at ruinously moderate prices..."

Though this "great Fair" described by Mr. Clemens was sponsored by the Christian Commission, and many of the booths set up to aid the soldiers of a nation at war were staffed by the members of various local churches, comprising several denominations, this civilian fund-raiser was not dissimilar to numerous such events sponsored by the United States Sanitary Commission. During the latter half of the Civil War, "Sanitary Fairs" became a national craze.

Formed in the early weeks of the war, the Sanitary Commission was a civilian-driven, federally authorized organization dedicated to the

improvement of sanitation and other health conditions for Union soldiers in the field. It had offices and warehouses in most major northern cities and towns for the collection and coordination of donations, and operated a vast transport network for the movement of goods from depots to the battlefield hospitals, as well as sending nurses and other support staff who set up and operated medical stations near the front.

The Sanitary Commission also outfitted several steamships as floating hospitals, and were the first to use hospital trains and a field ambulance corps. Its many female volunteers collected food, clothing, medical supplies and other goods for Union troops, operated Soldiers' Homes for invalided soldiers, or offered free room and board for those on furlough, knitted socks, sewed shirts, rolled bandages, and raised money. Depot volunteers organized and packed supplies sent to their men at the front by wives, sisters, mothers, and sweethearts from the numerous local soldiers' aid societies all over the north. The Commission also sent official inspectors to the front, who made detailed reports of conditions in the military camps. By the end of the war, the Sanitary Commission was responsible for having cut in half the disease rate of the Union Army, and had raised \$25 million in support of the northern cause. After the war, the Commission aided soldiers in the attainment of back pay and pensions.

See more of this article in next month's newsletter.

Author's Note: The above is a truncated version of the article which was originally printed in the 2006 Cascades Civil War Muster Program Book.



~ Our Sanitary Fair, at Cascades Civil War Muster, Aug. 2006. Photo by E. Painter

"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