

THE UNION VOLUNTEER

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

Volume XL No. 3 March 2021



Remember those long ago 7th MI ice skating days in Lansing? Former members Sarah Kirschensteiner (Buffington) and Tim Sheehy are shown above in this photo from Vonda Warren's album from the late 1980's. Ahhh, but winter's almost over....!

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:

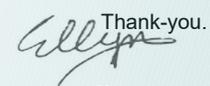
Thanks to all who submitted information for this month's issue. Deadline date for submissions is the 25th of each month. Please have all reports, articles, notices, etc. in print-ready form. I am able to accept documents in most of the usual word processing programs or formats.

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

In This Issue:



**Final Notice: Dues Are Due!
Have You Paid?**

Highlights of Feb. 20-21 ZOOM Mtgs.

**Good News! There WILL Be a 2021
Reenacting Season! (at least partially)**

March is Women's History Month



ZOOM Meeting Reports: First, from Our President....

Feb. 20 and 21 were "virtual" days for the 7th. The guys had a BYOB (bring your own breakfast) get together on Saturday the 20th, and then things were turned over to the civilians later for a get together. On Sunday there was a military meeting followed by the club meeting. The main purpose is to keep us connected during the virus - at least virtually. There will be another set of Zoom meetings in March as it's hoped there may be information on what events may or may not be offered this year.

The purpose of the Saturday get togethers is just that - a get together. Nothing formal for a meeting, just spend some time like we would at an event... just talking. Leave the formal meeting stuff for the meetings.

More will be sent out closer to the time of the Zoom dates for links - but plan on a breakfast again on a Saturday, and we can turn things over to the civilians again afterwards. If the military and civilians want to have meetings before the actual club meeting which will happen on a Sunday we can set those up. Just let me know. -Dave

Plan on the next set of Zoom events for March 20 and 21.

Editor's Note: Dave sent a screen shot of the meeting showing everyone on Zoom. Below is the link:

<https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21ALbh2M69MkEkiKI&cid=7FE30D2D919BF4F5&id=7FE30D2D919BF4F5%21134&parId=7FE30D2D919BF4F5>

Participants were: Dave & Pat Downing (hosts), Don Everett, Sue Colegrove, Tom & Joan Emerick, Tom Edwards, Steve Church, Nicole Mai, Bob & Carol Smith, Jim Kirschensteiner, Andrew McComas, Amanda Mientkiewicz, ahbae (ah... might that be Al Baerren?), and newcomer Dee Shied. The Editor's apologies if she forgot anyone.

Military Report: Lt. Andrew McComas

The military discussed possible upcoming events for the season. Despite many Michigan events being canceled or highly unlikely, several out of state events are going to go on. In addition, there was hinting of a possible national event that was just confirmed yesterday as happening and was posted to the Facebook page. Captain McComas is offering another mini muster at "McComas Meadows" some time during the first two weeks of May. That date is still to be determined. -- Lt. McComas

Additional Comments from Capt. Doug McComas: As of now: First event May 1-2, McComas meadow. June 16, Napanee, Indiana. October 23- 24, Stones River, Tennessee. There will be more; we ARE having a season this year. Be ready! Captain McComas



Photo from Friends of Greenfield Village (GFV) Facebook page

Civilian Report: Sue Colegrove

Hello, Everyone: I hope you are all doing well..



Our civilian Zoom meeting went well; we decided to begin using a smaller Ladies' tent at events. The bigger tent will be sold to Nicole Mai and her family. At our general meeting we got to meet new members, Dee and Amanda.

We also talked about different ideas for different items we can make or help children make when coming to an event. Lots of good ideas were exchanged. Also, I am looking for people to do crafts at events: for example, people to make quilts, maybe demonstrate lace making, or spinning of wool, etc. If anybody has any ideas for other crafts that we could work on at events, please let me know. If any of our civilian men do wood carving or something of that nature, which they would be willing to demonstrate at events, that would be fantastic. Again, please let me know what you are willing to do.

As of now we are waiting to hear what will happen with the Covid 19 situation so as to see what events might be happening. Meridian Village is still open at this time -- Sue





Quartermaster Report 2/25/2021

Uncle Don's Sutlery-- I mean the 7th Sutlery-- has acquired the remainder of Chris Sodman's store. With the exception of a few items everything is new. 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 just acquired 2 pairs of brogans size 11, one almost new (\$40) one older pair that has new soles and heels (\$30). 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.

****FREE FREE FREE**** We have back issues of Camp Chase Gazette, Hallowed ground, Time Life Civil War Specials and National Geographic specials that are free. There are also books on various Civil War subjects including 2 copies of a table top Military Atlas of the Civil War, companion book to Ken Burns series, Top Sergeant: the life and times of the Sgt. Major of the army, Founding Myths: stories that hide our patriotic past, An Illustrated History of the Civil War, Civil War Gentlemen: 1860's Apparel Arts & Uniforms The Civil War day by Day, The American Civil War 365 Days, Time Chart History of the Civil War, and Time Life Battle Atlas of the Civil War. This is a small sample of what we have. I will have them at in person meetings for a while (when we are allowed to have meetings), if they are not taken they will be donated to a Library or trashed. We have also received a donation to the club of 6 canvas camp stools and 3 modern nylon camp stools from Dick and Linda Williams. They are free to any member that wants them. ****FREE FREE FREE****

Dues are due.

It's that time of year again: dues are due. If you have not paid dues by March 1st this is the last newsletter you will receive. The list of members that owe 2021 dues is long because most members pay dues at the annual meeting. 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. (Editor's Note: This information also always appears on the sidebar on page 1 or 2 of each newsletter issue.)

If you paid dues by mail after Feb. 25th they will not show up as paid until the April newsletter. If you are on this list and have paid your dues contact me to straighten out any problems. I apologize for any inconvenience.

----Don Everett, Quartermaster

REMINDER FOR MEMBERS THAT HAVE NOT PAID 2021 DUES

- Donald/Nancy Buck
- Jack Byers
- Sue Colgrove
- Dan Conklin
- Keven/Gina Courter
- Joseph/Anthony DiSano
- Drayson/Dorothy Doyle
- Chris/Hannah Fenrich
- David Graham
- Scott Graham
- Joy Henderson
- Bill Jarrett
- Paul/Nicole Mai
- Lyle/Walter Malaski
- Dan/Caitlene Malick
- Dale/Debra Marvin/VanElst
- Russ McKenzie
- Dustin/Amanda Mientkiewicz
- Jay Pearson
- Anson/Lorrie Roland

Congratulations, Friends!



Posted on Facebook Feb. 25: This photo was taken yesterday afternoon as we unveiled the 102nd U.S. Colored Troops Memorial Highway sign that will be placed on I-375 in Detroit. In 2013, Coleman A. Young II passed Senate Bill 93, which renamed I-375 in honor of the brave and noble men of the 102nd. This regiment was Michigan's first and only African American regiment during the American Civil War.

I am beyond happy to have helped make this happen! A huge thank you goes out to Mr. Young, Michigan Department of Transportation, American 1 Event Center, photographer Wayne Dabney and our generous donors for all of the help these past couple years!
--- Maurice Imhoff, 102nd U.S. Colored Troops

"On one side of our little detail of 300 men the 54th Massachusetts (colored) was drawn up, on the other side a white regiment, the 127th New York. Here our forces sustained a charge from the enemy and charged in turn. In this affair the 102nd covered themselves in glory. It is acknowledged without stint on all hands that our regiment maintained the steadfast line of battle and fought with the greatest determination of any troops on the ground."

— An un-named correspondent of the "first real fight" of the 102nd at the battle of Honey Hill, South Carolina.



2021 Events Information

What We Know So Far...



Charlton Park: YES

The newsletter editor received a News Flash from Don Everett on Sat. 2/27:

Charlton Park Is ON for 2021!

The Charlton Park event, July 17-18, will almost certainly take place this year, albeit with a few changes. Barry County Parks Director, Dan Patton, has consulted with the Health Department, which has said groups of 500 will be allowed to assemble. It may be a "members only" event, and the usual two weekend battles will probably not take place, as this spectacle would draw more than the allotted 500 person crowd. Civilian camping would remain the same, but military arrangements may be altered. Dan Patton is not yet announcing all this publicly, but he does not want to go a second year with no event. This means that unless mask wearing is still required, the event is ON. Stay tuned for updates.

Greenfield Village: NO



On Feb. 1, Nicole Mai posted, on the club's Facebook page, the below email she received from Greenfield Village:

Dear Civil War Remembrance Participant,

On behalf of the entire Civil War Remembrance Team, we wish you a Happy New Year and hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. We have begun our planning for 2021, and we thought it important to share some information regarding the upcoming season in Greenfield Village.

As everyone understands, even with the hope and promise of the COVID-19 vaccines now being administered, we have a long road ahead before the pandemic is behind us. **With the safety of our guests, partners and staff in mind, we have decided to cancel Civil War Remembrance for 2021.**

All of our special events are not created equal. While we were able to successfully present both Hallowe'en and Holiday Nights in Greenfield Village in the last quarter of 2020, neither of these events involved large numbers of participants staying on-site for several days. With both of these events, our guests were on campus for relatively short amounts of time, and we were able to safely stagger arrival times to spread things out.

We feel that even by late spring, it will be too soon to invite large numbers of participants to gather in close quarters in Greenfield Village. The required social distancing and safety measures will hinder and even potentially prevent many of the activities that make Civil War Remembrance so vibrant and exciting.

As always, we appreciate your patience and dedication as we work through these difficult times. The Greenfield Village Programs staff is always available to answer any questions you may have. **Melissa Wydendorf**, manager of program relations and event logistics, and **Grace Johnson**, assistant manager of program relations and event logistics, are working remotely at this time and can be available to address any questions and concerns. Our Civil War Remembrance leaders, **Brian Egen** and **Jim Johnson**, also can be available if you wish to reach them.

Thank you all again.



Greenfield Village Programs Team



**DAYS OF THE BLUE & THE GREY
NAPPANEE, INDIANA
JUNE 11, 12, 13, 2021**

Located at the former Amish Acres site along US 6 on the Western edge of Nappanee Indiana.

These 67 acres present a unique opportunity for bringing history to life. Please join the 7th Indiana Light artillery and Power From The Past of Nappanee, in our inaugural event of Civil War history.



In Honor of *National Women's History Month,*

which celebrates the accomplishments of American women, is this story below of the first female Pinkerton detective, Kate Warne.



By Ellyn Painter

Although Kate Warne was one of Allan Pinkerton's most trusted and valued agents, she is relatively unknown today. This remarkable young woman became the first female detective in the U.S., hired by Pinkerton in 1856, who was surprised when he discovered that she was answering an employment ad of his not for a clerical position, but for that of detective. He was reluctant to consider her until she convinced him by arguing how women agents could be useful in ways and environments where males could not gain access. Pinkerton himself noted that his young agent, though not beautiful, had an intellectual, honest face, which convinced people to confide in her.

A native of the tiny town of Erin, in Chemung County, New York, she was just 23 years old, and already a widow when she applied to the Chicago office of the Pinkerton Detective Agency. She proved the worth of female agents time and again, and it was because of her example that Pinkerton soon hired more women operatives, and put Warne in charge of his Female Detective Bureau, with the title of Supervisor of Women Agents.

Her most well-known and important mission before the Civil War was "The Baltimore Plot" involving the investigation of secessionist activity and threats of damage to the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad in Maryland. Mrs. Warne frequently worked undercover, sometimes posing as Allan Pinkerton's wife or other aliases. (Allan Pinkerton's business partner, his brother Robert, resented Kate's presence in the agency, suspecting that she was, in fact, Allan's mistress. Who knows?)

In Baltimore, she was easily able to pass as a Southern socialite at secessionist social functions. In early 1861 Pinkerton chose Warne as one of several agents placed in Maryland to undertake the investigation, which soon uncovered the details of a plot to murder president-elect Abraham Lincoln during his train trip from his Springfield, Illinois home, enroute to his inauguration in Washington, D.C. The train schedule required Lincoln to disembark the train at Baltimore, take a short carriage ride to another rail line, and enter another train to finish the journey. It was during this interlude that the plotters hoped to do the deed. Kate Warne planned and carried out many of the details for smuggling Lincoln, disguised as an invalid, into Washington via a different time schedule. Mrs. Warne posed as his sister and caretaker, conveying the new president and his entourage safely onto sleeping cars in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and staying with him to Baltimore, where the sleeping cars were connected to another train that took the party to Washington.

Preciseinvestigation.com says it is alleged that she once went undercover as a Union soldier in full uniform; the site displays a presumed photo of her dressed thus, with short cropped hair, and sitting with booted, crossed legs. On the Internet I saw several photos claiming to be of Kate Warne, including the one I have displayed with this article (which has her name and the year, 1866, inscribed at the bottom), but it is hard to know which are authentic and the images don't seem to resemble the same person. One website states there are no known photos of her in existence. Again, who knows?

During and after the War, Kate Warne traveled frequently with Allan Pinkerton, and participated in other high-profile cases. He said of her: "She has never let me down." Sadly, Mrs. Warne died while still a young woman. She passed away in January 1868, age 34 or 35, from pneumonia. She was buried in the Pinkerton family plot at Graceland Cemetery in Chicago.

To his credit, and that of his world-renowned agency, Allan Pinkerton was a man ahead of his time, choosing to look beyond gender and race. He had been active in the Underground Railroad, and opposed the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850. Although it would be another 35 years before women were allowed to serve as officers on any police force in America, and the dawn of



Watercolor, Chicago History Museum, 1866

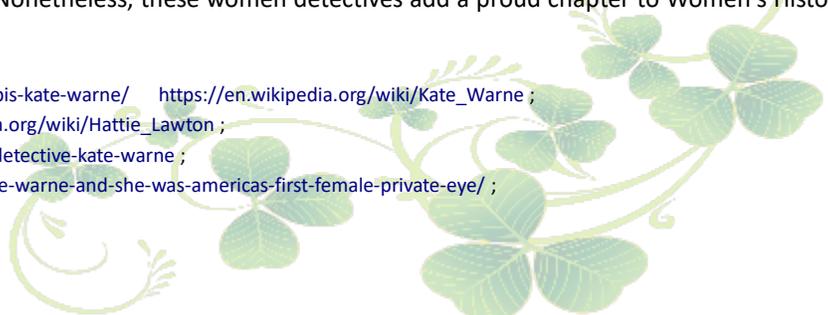


Kate Warne, concluded.....

the 20th century before female detectives were readily accepted, Pinkerton and Kate Warne paved the way for women's future achievements in the male-dominated "private eye" business.

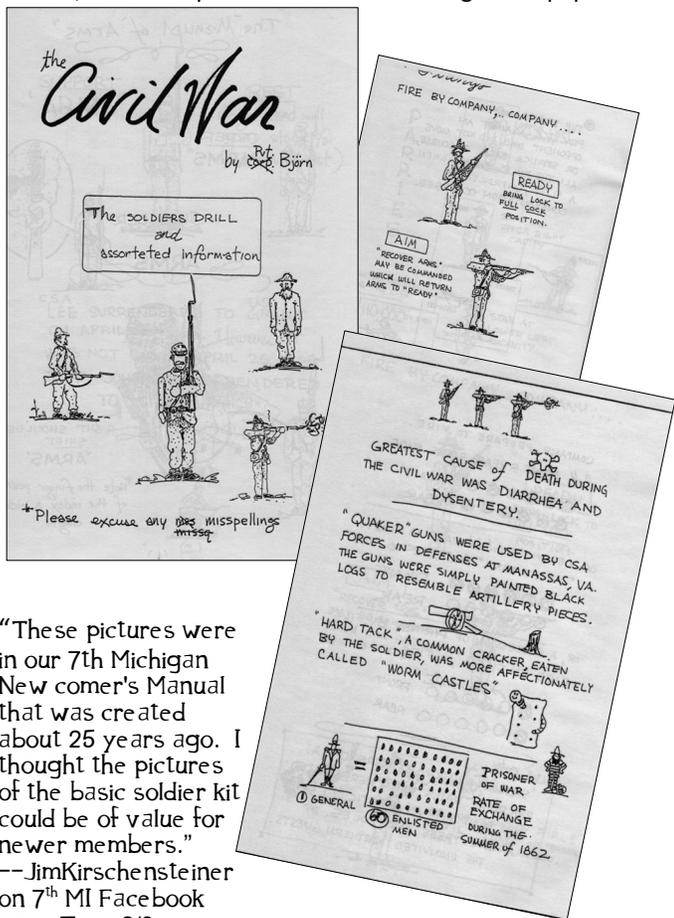
Some other early women Pinkerton agents were: Elizabeth Van Lew, the Southern Union sympathizer from Richmond, Virginia who ran the most successful Union spy ring from the heart of the Confederacy; Hattie Lewis Lawton, hired in 1860, whom historians believe was the agency's first female agent of mixed race. In 1862, she was undercover with operative Timothy Webster, posing as Webster's wife. The pair was captured by Confederates; she was imprisoned, but later released, while Webster was executed. *True West Magazine*, in their online article about "Lady Pinks" says Lawton was the second female agent employed by Pinkerton's, but later in the article discusses another notable woman, Elizabeth H. Baker, stating that she "had been working as an operative for Pinkerton's detective agency since late 1857..." So, who was second? Unfortunately, many agency records were destroyed in a Chicago fire, either in 1931, (sources again differ) or in 1871--which would be The Great Chicago Fire, the one blamed on Mrs. O'Leary's poor little cow. Thus, details on years of service for some agents are unclear. Nonetheless, these women detectives add a proud chapter to Women's History in America.

Sources: <https://www.preciseinvestigation.com/the-world-s-greatest-pis-kate-warne/> ; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kate_Warne ; <https://truwestmagazine.com/lady-pinkertons/> ; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hattie_Lawton ; <https://pinkerton.com/our-insights/blog/unsung-heroes-first-female-detective-kate-warne> ; <https://thefoldingchairhistory.com/2018/08/21/her-names-warne-kate-warne-and-she-was-americas-first-female-private-eye/> ; <https://allthatsinteresting.com/kate-warne>



Some 7th MI "Memorabilia" from Roger Carpenter

Former member Roger Carpenter is a talented cartoonist, and at the time, was kind of our in-house artist. Good memories. Jim K. posted the entire manual on Facebook, in full size, as well as photos of correct clothing and equipment.



"These pictures were in our 7th Michigan New comer's Manual that was created about 25 years ago. I thought the pictures of the basic soldier kit could be of value for newer members."
-- Jim Kirschensteiner on 7th MI Facebook page Tues 2/9

Posted on Facebook by Robinson's Battery:

When Georgia Howled: Sherman on the March

A good hour-long film on YouTube:

Produced by Georgia Public Broadcasting and the Atlanta History Center

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=U8kSUDp>



Recognize this guy? He's ex-7th Michigan member Ted Christoff.

The co-owner, along with brother Tom (at left), of Jackson's Christoff & Sons Floor Coverings was recently featured on JTV's (local Jackson station) Bart Hawley Show, on Feb. 3, after they won the Annual Brick Award, presented by the Jackson Commercial Contractors Association to an area business "in recognition of substantial investment on the interior or exterior of your business location."

Posted on Facebook by Rob Stone.

