

THE UNION VOLUNTEER



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

Volume XL No. 9 September 2021



Items for sale and donation to our boys at the front-7th MI Sanitary Fair, Cascades Muster, Aug. 2006. Photo by E. Painter

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



Have a
Good One!

LABOR
DAY



- Aug 8 -

Wishing a Happy 34th wedding anniversary to these two cuties:

Bill & Teresa Jarrett

photo posted by Teresa on Facebook



To Doug McComas

"...bought and renovated an office condo" at 2575 Spring Arbor Rd., Jackson.

"First day in the new office. [Aug. 31] Still doing a fair amount of work, but man did it feel like home. Love it! Greatest place I can imagine to finish off my career (But not yet). LOL"

---Doug

Civilian News

Hi, Everyone:

We are working on the Blue and Grey living history event to be held at Meridian Village, Oct. 2-3. So far, we have put together a tentative program (next column);

there will be more information on this coming during the month of September.

As to parking, we can off load on Friday after 4:00 pm. I will be asking the Nikoms building owners if we can park in their grassy area. More later.

We have two food trucks coming on both days. Woodall food truck, and Kona Ice for Saturday; for Sunday it will be Krystal's Kitchen BBQ truck and Kona Ice. We are considering putting the food trucks in the larger parking lot, and blocking the entrance to the larger parking lot for public safety.

I am looking for volunteers to help man the gates and direct traffic flow, as well as to help the public navigate from one demonstration to another. I'm working with the Village on these issues, also. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please let Nicole or I know.

Sue Colegrove, Civilian Coordinator / Nicole Mai, Co-Coordinator

See tentative event schedule on next page.



Former 7th MI Member Featured in "The Alpena News" Article

Tom Berriman grew up in the 7th MI, reenacting with his mom, Melinda Berriman Dickenson, when they were members for over 20 years, beginning in the 1990's, and then enlisting in the 7th's military wing as he approached adulthood. Now Tom lives in Alpena, Michigan, where he is the principal of Ella White Elementary School.

The extensive article by Alpena News staff writer Alyssa Ochss, dated Aug. 21, contains many details from Tom about his reenacting experiences, as well as several photos of Tom displaying his uniform and equipment.

Editor's Note: I wanted to reprint here the final photo showing Tom wearing his full uniform, but did not receive a reply when I requested permission from the author. I also wanted to include a picture of Tom when he was a kid in the 7th (I KNOW I have one or two!) but couldn't find one. If any of you has one, please send it to me, and I'll put it in next issue. Thanks. Here is the link to the online article:

<https://www.thealpenanews.com/news/local-news/2021/08/berriman-reco>



**Van Raalte Farms,
Holland, MI
Sept. 18-19, 2021**

TO ARMS!!!

THE DIE IS CAST. GOOD MEN ARE REQUIRED TO QUELL THE REBELLION. WE SHALL ASSEMBLE THE COMPANY AT MANASSAS JUNCTION. ★ DON'T LET YOUR WIVES OR SWEETHEARTS REMEMBER YOU AS A SHIRKER OR COWARD. COVER YOURSELF WITH GLORY. ★ ONE DECISIVE BATTLE AND HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS. ★ 90 DAY ENLISTMENTS.

TO ENLIST CONTACT: Doug McComas, Capt. Of 3rd Michigan Co. B Vol. Colonel D. McConnell, Lieutenant Colonel Stevens, overall commanders, 3rd Michigan

This is the first battle of the war. Please feel free to bring battle shirts, and/or a mix of military and civilian attire.

Please notify me if you are attending.

----Captain Doug McComas

<https://vanraaltefarmcivilwarmuster.wpcostaging.com/reenactors/>

**Blue & Grey Days
Meridian Historical Village,
Okemos, MI Oct. 2-3, 2021
Meridian Village Event Schedule**

Saturday, Oct. 2:

- 9:00 am - Event opens to the public
- 10:00 am Military recruiting
- 10:30 drop spinning demonstration
- 11:00 Civil War era Fashion Talk
- Children's games
- 11:30-12:30 - Lunch
- 1:00 pm-5pm - Blacksmithing
- 3:00 Hooking Rugs demo
- 3:30 pm - Rob Stone -presentation soldiers & their equipment
- 5:00 pm – Event closes for the day

Sunday, Oct. 3:

- 9:00 am - Event opens to the public
- 9:30-10:30 - Church Service
- 11:00 - Cooking Demonstrations
- Children's games
- 12:00 - Lunch
- ? - Weaving and candle making
- 2-4 pm - Barn Dance!!
- 4:30pm – End of Event – Pack up!

**Annual Harvest Civil War
Grand Ball - Oct. 9, 2021**

Photo courtesy of Cyndi Carlson



Time: 6 PM – 10 PM

Location: Central United Methodist Church
215 N Capitol Ave., Lansing, MI 48933

Please join us as we enjoy a congenial evening of dance, refreshments and merriment sponsored by The 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Co. B. Music provided by the Golden Griffon Stringtet Band. Dance prompt conducted by Jim McKinney.

Doors open at 6 PM. Grand March begins at 6:30. Refreshments will be served throughout the evening. Attendees must be 12 years or older. Ticket cost: \$25 per person, \$45 per couple. Young attendees 12 to 17 years of age \$10 each.

Civil War era attire preferred, OR for the ladies, modern/modest formalwear. For the gentleman, modern military dress or modern suit and tie.

Tickets will be available starting August 1, 2021. For more information and to purchase tickets contact:

Gilbert or Cyndi Carlson (517) 782-8199
or email us at: Cyndiinhisservice@yahoo.com

Soon we will be adding the following information to the Facebook page:

“ILLNESSES: Because we would like to keep this ball on as scheduled and not have to cancel it, if you are ill, OR If you believe you have been recently (near the date of October 9) exposed to any contagious illness, even if you have no current symptoms, as a courtesy and consider-ation to everyone, PLEASE DO NOT COME. If you have already purchased a ticket, your MONEY WILL BE REFUNDED.”



"A Grand Affair"



Concluded from the August issue.....

By Ellyn Painter

It is a strange irony that an organization of such obvious benefit as the Sanitary Commission could have had its detractors, but in its early days, men in particular—especially those in the medical profession, military, and government officials—were disparaging or blatantly opposed to the work being done by women. Later, when the Sanitary Fair frenzy began to take over the country, it was the female leadership of the USSC itself that complained. Some said that since women started focusing attention on fair work, they were no longer producing the items of clothing, foodstuffs, bandages, and other home-generated goods the Sanitary Commission had

heretofore transported to the front, and indeed, donations did drop. Perhaps, however, it is the hindsight of history that allows us, at our present distance from the events, to view these upsets as “tempests in a teapot.” Now we can realize that what probably was occurring, rather than a reduction of labor, was simply its redistribution, and that by diverting the flow of production from individual homes and small, isolated local aid societies into the wider channel of the large, flamboyant Sanitary Fairs, the citizenry on the homefront was imbued with a greater sense of cohesion and competitive zeal that resulted not only in enhancing the work of the Commission, but in lifting the spirits of the nation as a whole.

When the Chicago fair opened on October 27, 1863, its organizers hoped to raise \$25,000. As usual, it was the male community and USSC leaders who scoffed that this ambitious goal was unrealistic. At fair’s end two weeks later, everyone, including the female fair officials, was shocked to realize that the sum raised was more than \$80,000.* Five thousand visitors a day had paid a 75-cent admission fee, toured dozens of exhibition halls displaying all manner of articles, including works of art, historical artifacts, battle relics and trophies, items for sale—pianos, agricultural produce, furniture, clothing—and more.

In April, 1864, the largest of all the Sanitary Fairs was held in New York City, and netted \$1 million as did the fair held in Philadelphia.* The New York fair was unusual in that it was operated primarily by wealthy business men, rather than women, a fact which possibly contributed to its raising the most money of any of the fairs, but did so by the unfortunate expedient of forcing control away from women, and by charging such an exorbitant entrance fee that only the rich could afford to attend.

Though most were more accessible to the general public, all the fairs sought to outdo each other in extravagant spectacle and originality of features—the more exotic the better. The popular magazines of the day made hay with the fair craze, offering commentary and even clever ideas to enterprising individuals. In all seriousness, however, the work of the Sanitary Commission and of its exceedingly successful offspring, the Sanitary Fairs, was an enormous gift, not only to the national war effort, but to northern women as well. Most of the organization’s officials and paid workers were men, but the tens of thousands of its volunteers were predominantly women. It was the efficiency and excellent work of the women nurses, especially, that was responsible for the transformation of the nursing profession from being male to female dominated. Despite occasional disputes with male colleagues over control of the business aspects of the Sanitary Fairs (such as occurred in the New York fair), in which they had no legal recourse, the administrative skills they learned and practiced in running the fairs, and their pride of ownership in decisions made about their own contributions to their country’s cause stood women in good stead. As times changed following the war, women in greater numbers entered the work force, or joined the efforts to advance women’s educational, political and economic emancipation in the world at large.

Author's Note: This article is a truncated version of the original published in the 2006 Cascades Civil War Muster Program Book

*In researching this article, the author ran across a number of discrepancies among sources as to the amounts of money raised by the Sanitary Commission and its activities, including the Sanitary Fairs. Likewise, sources listed the total funds raised by the Sanitary Fairs as variously \$4.4 million, or \$6 million, with total funds raised by the Sanitary Commission as approximately \$25 million.

Sources: www.forttejon.org/ussc/ussc.html;
www.harpweek.com;
www.civilwar.bluegrass.net/HomeFront/sanitaryfairs.html
www.edinborough.com
www.routledge-ny.com/ref/womencivilwar.sanitary.pdf

For additional reading on the topic of Sanitary Fairs, see also the book, *With Courage and Delicacy*, by Nancy Scripture Garrison (Savas Publishing Co: Mason City, IA c. 1999).

Visitor: “But don't you think you might have a little of your hair cut off without spoiling the general effect?” Golden-Haired Lass: “Oh, no! I'm keeping it all for the Fair! I'll have scissors, you know, and let the Cavaliers cut off little locks of it at the current prices for gold.”



“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

Illustration: “A Hint for the Sanitary Fair”-
Harpers Weekly, March 19, 1864

<https://www.harpweek.com/09Cartoon/BrowseByDateCartoon.asp?Month=March&Date=19>

