

THE UNION VOLUNTEER

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



2022 Club Leadership

New Member Chairs:

Daniel Malick (military)

dmalick12@gmail.com

Nicole Mai (civilian)

nicole_scarlett_rose@yahoo.com

President: Tom Emerick

Vice President: Steve Church

Secretary: Joan Emerick

Treasurer/Club Roster: Don Everett

Military: Doug McComas, Captain

Quartermaster: Don Everett

Civilian Coordinator: Nicole Mai

Board Members-at-Large:

Dan Malick, Julie Everett, Caitlene Malick

Club Historian: Doug McComas

Newsletter Editor: Ellyn Painter

Webmaster: Dick Williams

Website: 7thmich.org/

Email: info@7thmich.org

YouTube Channel: [Lincoln Logs](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Email: 7thmichreenactors@gmail.com

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



A *Valentine's Day* winter sleigh ride: John and Vickie (former 7th MI member) St. John. Shared by Vickie on Facebook Feb. 13, 2022



Hello, Friends! According to Dave Downing, taps was duly played for my dead computer, BUT....Drum roll, please....

I now have a working computer again, so, although it is now the END of February, I am finally getting that newsletter to you all.

SO HAPPY!!!

In the interest of historical continuity, I wanted to do this issue, even though the Feb. events are now done and gone. I've added in the stuff that did not appear in my Feb. 1st email to you, (in which I explained my computer problems).

Thanks for your patience. --Ellyn

In This Issue: Honoring Black History Month- "They Changed Lincoln's Mind" (see page 4)



Well, 2022 began with a rocky start as we cancelled our January Civilian gathering and Club meeting due to the recent increase in Covid cases in Michigan. On a lighter note, the newsletter includes some good news from Dave Downing regarding the availability of our new 7th Michigan T-shirts. They look terrific, Dave! Dave also will be submitting a report on the Club breakfast and Museum flag tour held on January 22nd. Thank you, Dave, for all of your efforts. At our Club meeting I am planning to present information regarding the potential 2022 events we may be attending this year. There will also be some recent news discussed regarding Greenfield Village, Harvest Ball, and Jackson. We won't be voting on events until the March Club meeting but I wanted to get the information into members hands to contemplate in the interim. This month we are all looking forward to the Civilian gathering at Sue Colgrove's home and our next face-to-face Club meeting at the church.

On a personal note, Joan is recovering well from her December knee replacement surgery. The other knee surgery is scheduled for the end of January. I am really earning (or valiantly trying to) my keep around the house trying to keep up with the wash, dishes, shopping, etc. Here's hoping 2022 began on a good note for you and all of your loved ones.
Tom

New Club Email Address

Seventh Michigan 7thmichreenactors@gmail.com

Tue, Jan 4 :

This is Nicole Mai, sending you the first email from the gmail account I had to set up to link with the club YouTube channel.

Members should feel free to access it whenever you need information related to the Club. I will be monitoring the address, and either answering each email, or forwarding it to the appropriate person to address the needs within the email.

In addition: Hello everyone. I have uploaded another hair video to the club YouTube channel. Does anyone have anything that's not hair related to post to the YouTube channel? Please send them to me!!!
Nicole

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our YouTube channel, and the accompanying email address (above) will now be included on the sidebar that appears in each issue of the newsletter (on page 1 or 2.)



Dues Are (Still) Due!

For any who have not paid (list below): \$16 single, \$19.20 family. Dues can be paid in person at club meetings or mailed to: 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Co. B, Inc. PO Box 16206, Lansing, MI 49801-6206. As in the past, dues **must be postmarked by Feb. 20, 2022** for you to be on the roster for Greenfield Village. ----Don Everett, Treasurer

Dan "Pete" Conklin

Anthony DiSano/Russ McKenzie

Christopher Harward

Kim Paul/Connie Horning

Gavin/Kelly Lewis

Andrew McComas

Russ McKenzie

Dustin/Amanda Mientkiewicz

Erik/Brittne Myers

Dan O'Connell

Dwayne Robison

Jane Rose

Craig Searles

Danella Sheid

What's Happening Club News



Dave Downing celebrated a birthday on Jan. 11. Happy Belated Birthday, Dave!

Haggard But Happy!



Gideon Louis Robert Fenrich Gideon, 1 month old
Born: January 17, 2022
To Chris & Hannah



From Joan Emerick, on Feb. 2: "Please keep Joy Henderson in your thoughts and prayers. Joy had a bad fall yesterday afternoon and has a fracture in her shoulder and also a broken ankle."

It was also brought to our attention, early in February, that Keith Harrison is undergoing treatment for some major health problems. PLEASE keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Several members have had surgery in the past two months. Nicole Mai had surgery surgery on December 22; she's recovering well. Joan Emerick had knee replacement surgeries in Dec. & January.

7th Michigan Salutes Flags

Sat. Jan. 22, 2022

Members of the 7th Michigan visited the Michigan Historical Center to view some of the state's civil war battle flags. Matt Van Acker, head of the "Save the Flags" project for the state, gave a talk about the flags being preserved. Everyone was taken into the temperature-controlled room where the flags are stored.



Each flag is laid flat on acid-free material on racks so they can be taken out for viewing, or preservation work. The photo here shows the group looking at flag from the 8th Michigan, a unit that an ancestor of Don Everett served. The group also saw 7th Michigan flags as well as the flags of the 6th and 7th Michigan Cavalry.

As a note, two flags from the present-day 7th Michigan reenactors are located in this flag room as well as flags from other reenactor groups. They were retired, and donated to the "Save the Flags" project in 2016 in a ceremony at the State Capitol. That event was to commemorate the return of the original battle flags to the state 150 years before. The retired 7th Michigan reenactor flags are shown to visitors to the flag room (mostly school groups) to demonstrate what the civil war battle flags looked like while on their staffs. They are also taken out for special presentations relating to the flags at the Capitol and state museum.

July, 2016 - 150th anniversary of return of Civil War battle flags. Below: Flags used by 7th Michigan reenactors being donated to "Save the Flags" at 150th ceremony, State Capitol, Lansing, MI



---Dave Downing

Members of the 7th Michigan viewing the original battle flags with Matt VanAcker of the "Save the Flags" project. Photos are courtesy of Dave Downing.



Quartermaster Report

We have a 2-year supply of powder and caps. Our new cap supply consists of Schuetzen musket caps come in tins of 100 and the cost for them is \$9 per tin. We now also have a supply of CCI 4 wing musket caps as well at \$9 per tin of 100. RWS musket caps come in tins of 200 and the cost for them is \$19 per tin. We also have some no 1075 (no 11) RWS pistol caps. RWS no 1075 caps come 250 to a tin and cost \$20 per tin. RWS no1075 pistol caps (no 11) are slightly smaller than CCI or Remington no11 caps. For those of you that are close to a Sport's Warehouse location, they have CCI 4 wing caps available at reasonable prices. When our current supply of powder is exhausted the new price for Schuetzen powder will be \$21 per pound.

Late News: Sportsman's Warehouse is no longer a part of Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's! What this means I don't know yet. They have had an extensive black powder section including musket caps and pistols. I hope that this will continue and possibly expand.

----Don Everett, Quartermaster

Save the date! Sat. April 30 for the Charley Colegrove Memorial Shoot/April McComas and 4 meeting. As before it will be held at the Eaton Rapids Conser-vation Club, 4483 Freeman Rd. Eaton Rapids Mi. Breakfast/ social hour 9am; shooting begins at 10. Lunch potluck & meeting. More detail to come in March newsletter.



Charley Colegrove Memorial Shoot – April 30





2022 Events

February 19: Civilian Sewing Gathering - Sue Colegrove

February 20: 7th MI Club Meeting - Robbins Church

March 19: Civilian Sewing Gathering - Vonda Warren

March 19-20: Kalamazoo Living History Show

March 20: 7th MI Club Meeting - Robbins Church

October 16: Annual Club Meeting & Elections - Robbins Church

November 20: 7th MI Club Meeting - Robbins Church

December 3: Christmas Party - Robbins Church

At the March club meeting, we will be voting on which additional events we will be supporting as a club. Please try to attend. Your voice - and vote - is needed!

They Changed Lincoln's Mind

By Ellyn Painter

Honoring Black History Month



Before dawn on May 13, 1862, Robert Smalls, a 23-year old enslaved man working aboard the Confederate steamer, the CSS Planter, stole the vessel, along with 15 other enslaved people, his own family included, and steered out of Charleston Harbor toward the Union fleet and freedom, not to mention, delivering to the Union the valuable vessel and its cargo. Word quickly spread of the young man's daring escape; the New York Tribune innocently, it is hoped,

simultaneously insulted and praised Smalls, saying "This man, though Black, is a hero..." When the feat came to President Lincoln's ears, he gifted Smalls a monetary award. The face-to-face meeting between the two men later in the summer, coming at a time when Lincoln was still evolving in his views on the advisability of granting Negroes citizenship, made a profound impact on him. It was Smalls who initially entreated Lincoln to enlist blacks as soldiers. Later, African-American activist and publisher Frederick Douglass, did the same. Initially reluctant, Lincoln did so a year later.

African-Americans had been demanding emancipation for decades—ever since the American Revolution. Though Lincoln had always been anti-slavery, he was not an abolitionist. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he sought only to halt the continued spread of slavery across the U.S. territories. As the war continued, however, President Lincoln listened to other black men and women who sought his support of their hopes, not only of freedom, but of equality before the law. Frederick Douglass was particularly vocal in urging Lincoln to retaliate against individual Confederates for their enslavement or murder of captured black Union soldiers, and also entreated him to grant equal pay to black soldiers. Lincoln initially balked at both suggestions, but eventually did equalize the pay of some black soldiers with that of whites.

Two creole men from Louisiana who arrived in Washington with a petition to the president, signed by approximately 1,000 persons, to grant the vote to black men in their state, received the same careful attention, but also the same reluctance on the part of the president to grant their request. The Louisianians countered with the argument that by giving the vote to ALL black males, Lincoln would ensure a loyal, Union-supporting majority in the Southern states. This made sense to Lincoln. Though he again balked at giving such responsibility to the uneducated, he immediately called on the governor of Louisiana to allow "intelligent" black men to join the electorate.

Other relationships with blacks who helped educate Mr. Lincoln as to the capabilities and potential of black Americans included that with Lincoln's Haitian-born barber in Springfield, IL, William de Fleurville. Although Fleurville was a prominent businessman in town, and his barber shop popular male gathering place, probably most of us have probably never heard of him, since it seems that Lincoln's biographers largely wrote the man, as well as the entire black community of Lincoln's home town, out of his life.

Naturally, Lincoln, like all U.S. presidents in the circumstances of their time, was engaged in a difficult balancing act as he navigated the nation, with its various political factions, through the war. He wanted to sustain the nation's support of him - and ultimately win votes in the next election - by not unnecessarily antagonizing those various factions. Most of all, even as he was personally struggling to mature his views on African-Americans and their place in society, he was also a lawyer and a pragmatist, who saw as his first duty the necessity to preserve the Union and end the war. And yet, he did not merely choose to finally embrace the ambitions of blacks for themselves and their descendants out of a sense of inevitability, but because his experiences and interactions with black people, his exposure to their views, the proof black soldiers had demonstrated of their bravery in battle, and the achievements and sacrifices so many black men, and women, had made over the course of the war, convinced him of the merit of their quest for equality with whites. It took Lincoln at least a decade to bridge the gap in his own mind between "emancipation" and "equality." That last was a far more elusive and complex concept, but he got there in the end.

Sources :

<https://housedivided.dickinson.edu/sites/lincoln/why-did-lincoln-try-to-separate-some-aspects-of-equality-from-emancipation>

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<https://ap.gilderlehrman.org/essays/allies-for-emancipation-black-abolitionists>

<https://news.wttw.com/2018/02/08/how-black-americans-shaped-abraham-lincoln-s-life>

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/books/ct-xpm-2013-02-16-ct-prj-0217-lincoln-tragic-pragmatism-john-burt-20130215-story.html>

The White House at time of Lincoln's 1st inauguration. Library of Congress photo.

