

# THE UNION VOLUNTEER

NEWSLETTER OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> MICHIGAN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY, CO. B, INC.

Volume XXXVII No. 8 August 2019



Don Everett and Doug McComas – August 2014 at the Cascades (Jackson) Civil War Muster. It was the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan's last year as event host. Photo by Denny Price. (Denny was at that time a member of Cascades, Inc., and the officially designated photographer for the Muster).

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019

1:00 PM - ROBBINS UMC

6419 BUNKER RD., EATON RAPIDS, MI

PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND

YOUR VOTE IS NEEDED!!

# DICK & LINDA WILLIAMS FEATURED IN TWO NEWS STORIES IN JULY

In the July 8, 2019 issue of the Lansing State Journal a front page article announced that Dick and Linda Williams are selling the 133-year-old one-room schoolhouse they purchased in the late 1970's. For decades, the Williams's have taken loving care of the Hurd School on South DeWitt Road they meticulously restored and furnished. But age and health issues are now making it difficult for the couple to continue their legacy. Linda, a former teacher, wanted to preserve the historical building that holds fond memories for many local residents. The school was built in 1886, and still had pupils in attendance as late as 1966. See the full article here:

<https://www.lansingstatejournal.com/story/news/local/2019/07/08/visiting>

In another recent feature story, the Victorian playhouse built by Dick 39 years ago for their children was the topic of interest. See that story at:

<https://www.lansingcitypulse.com/stories/look-at-this-39-year-old-victorian-style->



## 2019 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  
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/](http://7thmich.org/)  
Email: [info@7thmich.org](mailto: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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:7thminewsletter@gmail.com)  
Or mail to:  
736 Gettysburg Ave.  
Jackson, MI 49203

Thank-you.  
  
Ellyn Painter, Editor

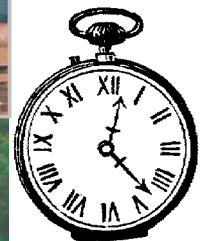


The Playhouse



Schoolmarm  
Linda in the  
schoolhouse,  
summer 2004

## A Look Back....



Group photos taken in summer 2004 at Hurd School, where the 7<sup>th</sup> MI held a *bon voyage* party for former club member Annie Bond (DeTavernier)



## Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum

# ANNUAL CIVIL WAR DISCOVERY CAMP FOR KIDS 8 - 14

G.A.R. Island Park, Eaton Rapids, Michigan

**August 13, 2019**



Michigan will be holding its fourth annual Civil War Discovery Camp on Tuesday August 13, 2019 for students 8 to 14-years old. The students will be arriving at G.A.R. Island Park (off Hamlin Street) in downtown 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 Woman's Relief Corps, 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.

During the day, each student 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".

The cost for students to participate is \$20.00. Additional support for this event this year graciously comes from Meijers (Charlotte), Mark's Place (Eaton Rapids), and the following Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camps: Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17 (Lansing/Sunfield), Austin Blair Camp No. 7 (Jackson), and General Benjamin Pritchard Camp No 20 (Kalamazoo). A copy of the Registration Form is attached.

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

See ATTACHMENT - PDF Registration Form

Attached also is the **July Newsletter for the Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall & Museum**. It is coming out a little later than originally had been hoped - which is the fault of the Board President rather than our Newsletter Editor.

Keith G. Harrison  
Board President



# CHARLTON PARK AFTER-ACTION REPORT

Friday evening loomed hot and blew in a major storm about 2.30 am and was a bit concerning but other than "tanning" the company tent with oak tannin it did no permanent damage. Between the heat, rain and mosquitos, the Saturday schedule was altered and the boys battled in town. We were 3rd company combined with our Zouave friends. We had a total of 11 men, losing a few due to the weather. Saturday was HOT and I finally succumbed to the heat and lack of sleep during the wonderful potluck and after losing consciousness for about an hour missed most of the festivities.



The evening was easy as no dress parade or skirmish. The rain hit again (no wind this time) but it cancelled the tactical at least for a time. After the rain it sprang back to life with cav rushing into camp asking for a company to help push out 8 rebs. Before you knew it almost the entire Union and Confederate armies were in the woods and the Union army surrounded the rebs after hard fighting, leading to a very rare surrender by our friend Ben Cwayna.

Sunday we again battled in town and enjoyed the much cooler day. Again our NCOs were flawless. Scott Graham actually got to fire a weapon. The Jarrett boys brought TWO orders of Cinnabons for the Captain so all is forgiven. A big thanks to Andrew McComas for taking over breakfast duties. You don't realize how much I rely on you on the field in camp and in life.

At the end of the Sunday battle Colonel Rob Roy announced he would be retiring as head of the Cumberland Guard at the end of the season. Few know how much Rob did to repair old wounds and restore the sense of cooperation and respect within the Guard. We, as a group, and I, personally, are indebted to him for his wisdom, kindness and vision. I have the utmost respect for his leadership; it was always earned, not expected, and I hope I continue to imperfectly follow his fine example of leadership.

There is no August event. Go to Hale farms if you can, then join us in September with our pards from the 3rd (VanRaalte) and 17th (Greenmead). I remain grateful to be associated with such a fine group and hobby.

I remain in your service,

*Photo by Dave Downing*

Captain McComas





Our guys in camp, and at left, a closeup of the famous "tanned" tent. Photos by Dave Downing.

"A copy of the minutes of previous club meetings is available upon request to all members in good standing."

© Bill Jarrett, Club Secretary [btjarrett@aol.com](mailto:btjarrett@aol.com)



## HALE FARM EVENT - AUG. 10-11, 2019

Here is the link to the online registration for Hale Farm. The current cost to register is \$10. Registrations received after July 21, 2019, will not be guaranteed complimentary breakfast rations.

<https://330tix.com/events/civil-war-reenactor-registration->

**Congratulations!**

To Doug & Jackie McComas, who celebrated 34 years of marriage on Aug. 2

To Bob & Carol Smith on their Golden wedding anniversary, also on Aug. 2

## QUARTERMASTER REPORT

The new supply of powder is in and it is still \$19 per pound, caps are \$7 per hundred and we still have 7,000 available. We have a new supplier for cartridge paper and have cartridge and arsenal



wrappers cut. Due to the minimum order, we had to purchase enough paper for 26,400 cartridges. I have cut half of it to cartridge size. Contact me if you need paper.

Let me know if you hear of anyone wanting to sell their kit. We are always looking for "new" stock for the Quartermaster.

Don Everett, Quartermaster [djkeverett@comcast.net](mailto:djkeverett@comcast.net)

Hi, everyone! Since this is August, when in years past we've been part of the Jackson Civil War Muster, I thought I'd treat you all to a fond remembrance of our last year as Muster host—The one and only issue of the "Jacksonburgh Bugler", written and produced by our own Captain Doug McComas and distributed to reenactors at the 2014 Muster. Find it on the last two pages of this issue. It is hilarious! Thanks Doug!



## Civilians

Hi, Everyone!

It has been a busy season for the club. I hope everyone was safe and dry during the Charlton event.

The Jackson Muster is cancelled for this year!!

So there is not an officially planned event for August. Some, however, are going to the Hale Farm event.

With the Meridian Villiage we are in the planning stages for our Blue and Grey day!! If you have any ideas or suggestions please let me know

Sue  
[scolegrove@rocketmail.com](mailto:scolegrove@rocketmail.com)  
517-626-0144

Vonda Warren would like to thank everyone who attended the picnic potluck at Charlton Park for providing the wonderful food and fellowship!



Don't be  
Late!  
Reserve  
Your  
Tickets  
NOW!



## The 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Co. B

is proud to announce:

### The 2019 Annual Harvest Civil War Grand Ball

To be held on Saturday, October 12, 2019

At Central United Methodist Church

215 N. Capital, Lansing, Michigan

Take a step back in time as we enjoy a congenial evening of dance, refreshments, and merriment with music by the Golden Griffon Stringtet Band. Caller, Jim McKinney

Doors open at 6 PM, Grand March begins at 6:30 PM.

Attendees must be over 12 years of age.

Ticket cost \$25 per person, \$45 per couple.

Price for dues paid up 7th MI members - \$10;

teen discount for ages 12-17.

Advance tickets will be available August 1st.

Tickets limited.

Attire is 1860's period formal or modest, modern formal evening wear.

For more information contact: Gilbert or Cyndi Carlson

(517) 782-8199

Cyndiinthisservice@yahoo.com

An Event to consider for November:



Hosting delightful Balls & Events for over 25 years - come join us!  
History Hostess, Civil War Lady by Joy Melcher Presents:

[www.GettysburgBall.com](http://www.GettysburgBall.com)

Friday, Nov. 22 - Banquet at 6 p.m. ~ Ball at 8 p.m. Tom & Lesley Mack Callers  
Susquehanna Travellers Band ~ Advance Tickets ~ \$80 Ball & Banquet ~ \$40 Ball only

## REMAINING 7<sup>TH</sup> MI

### MAX EVENTS FOR 2019

cm=club max

mm=military max

Sept 21-22 Van Raalte Farm,  
Holland, MI (Doug McComas) mm

Sept 28-29 Greenmead Guns &  
Gowns (Andrew McComas) cm

Oct. 5-6: Meridian Village Blue and  
Grey days (Sue Colegrove) cm

Oct.12: Harvest Ball (Cyndi Carlson)  
cm

Oct. 18-20: Hartford City, IN (Rob  
Stone) mm

Oct. 20: 7<sup>th</sup> MI Annual Meeting cm &  
mm

Nov.1-3: Mill Spring, KY (Doug  
McComas)

National Event mm

# JACKSONBURG BUGLER

“Everybody Loves the Little Bugler”

August 23, 1864

## Local Mayor a Copperhead Turncoat

Local Mayor and Barber Don Everett has long been suspected of lining his pockets at the expense of the brave boys fighting to preserve the Union. He has, through bribery, threats and intimidation, thus far escaped justice. Just one month ago, when meeting with Confederate agents, Everett narrowly escaped from Pinkerton men when known Confederates came to his aid during a shootout in an attempt to bring him to justice. We have been told that this character has returned to Jacksonburg where, through threats and bribery, he has remained safe from prosecution. We implore Governor Blair to send troops to arrest this man who has been accused of accosting the fair women of our town, excessive drunkenness, shoddy contracts for supplying of the troops, and more horrific crimes too evil to mention.



The knave is known to be armed and has been known to shoot unarmed men or lure them in to his barbershop and do away with unsuspecting customers for both profit and his own enjoyment. He can be stopped! We have received word that there are troops in our vicinity who can root out this scoundrel and the suspected rebels he has collaborated with. We call on the local citizenry to arm themselves and assist in rooting out this horrible character from our fair town.

## Local 1812 Vets Now in Fight

As we have feared, a group of local greybeards have left for the war. Barry Stuler, Bob Smith, and Jim Kirschensteiner, veterans of the fight against the British so many years ago, have arrived in VA. After hearing of old John Burns at Gettysburg, they have vowed to fight. Despite their advanced age, the men insist they are up to the task and have passed their physicals. Upon their arrival at camp the amazed young men of the company christened the group “The Old Farts’ Mess.” We pray for the old gents.

A Formal Ball Will Take Place in the Meadow  
Just Outside of Town this Saturday  
in Honor of Capt. Slayton

## Bugler Faces Court-Martial For Pig Theft

Local farmer Steve Hainstock's quick thinking saved his prize pig “Little Donny” from the clutches of Mark Heath, Regimental Bugler for the 7<sup>th</sup> MI Vol. I. The troops camping nearby have been well supplied and well treated by the local citizenry and Heath's attempted crime was surely not one of need. His Colonel reports that Heath has had “a peculiar fascination with swine.” Hainstock heard a commotion in the sty and coming armed found the bugler with the prize porker slung over his back. Col. Emerick assures us that the attempted theft will be dealt with most severely.

## Wedding Banns

Brittney Jarratt Elizabeth Jarratt Jangssa Slayton

## Conklin Family Marches Off to War

The Conklin clan of Jonesvilled and Hanover are well known in these parts. Pet and Ed have joined the Bully 7<sup>th</sup>. The boys have wanted to joining for some time but duties on the farm have prevailed – Until Now. The boys received word by telegram that their dear friend Woody Mannequin has been hung by the Rebels in Kentucky. A courier for the Federal cause, he was found in civilian clothes with Union orders, and executed as a spy. The boys vow to avenge Woodrow.

## McComas and Verstraete to Be Hanged

Two noted criminals will be hung until dead outside the Courthouse Thursday next. These two men, having robbed the Michigan Central Railroad on its way to Grand Rapids, were surprised by members of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Company F heading home for leave. Despite being heavily intoxicated, the troops captured the thieves after a shootout. The pair have been known for fights and rude behavior in this town for the past 10 years and will not be missed by most. The Emerald Peacock especially had been plagued by these two roustabouts. Mike the barkeep is offering free drinks after the execution.

## News From the War

Capt. Schroeder of the 21<sup>st</sup> MI Vol. Infantry has resigned his commission in order to become a sureon. The good Captain has been responsible for creating many a patient in his career and now plans to right the wrong.

Corporal William Jarrett 7<sup>th</sup> MI Co. B has gone missing after receiving letters from both of his beloved daughters stating their intention of marrying only two days apart. Jarrett was last seen a week ago after receiving the second letter, babbling and sobbing. Corporal Zank attempted to console him but Jarrett threatened him with his rifle. "He was truly mad with grief," said Zank.

Sergeant Rob Stone of Ann Arbor has sworn off gambling and liquor after 30 days in confinement. He was reported to have, on a drunken spree, spent nearly an hour one evening behind the Colonel's tent making noises of some great prehistoric beast. The Col. was not amused.

The Searles boys have contracted measles; both are hoped to survive.

Tom Berriman has escaped from Carolina and found his way back to the Bully 7<sup>th</sup>! Many tales to tell and great rejoicing among the men.

**Battery D News:** Chaplain Jim Newkirk has once again promised it will not rain during the current campaign. We question either his hearing or his pull with the Almighty.

**The U.S. Marine Guard** was recently in a hot fight with the rebels from the 12<sup>th</sup> South Carolina. The rebs were overrun and their captain, a man by the name of Cwayna, was captured with several others. The good Captain, a barrister before the war, has threatened to sue the Marines for false imprisonment, much to the amusement of his captors.

It has been reported that a young private from Detroit, a Scot long thought to be mute, has actually spoken. He was neglected at guard duty for almost a day when he finally screamed for help and relief. When asked why he had not spoken for nearly 3 years of campaigning, he said, "Things was fair until then."

Corporal McComas has been receiving letters from home. The confirmed bachelor has been the subject of much teasing as he had previously been toughest on the boys who had sweethearts back home for pining away, but now he spends hours composing soft words and rereading the notes from home, much to the delight of his pards.

Lt. MacKinnon has fallen off the wagon. A good man but nary a Scot can avoid the "water of life" as they call it in the Highlands.

## Around the Area

Lansing:

Miss Katie Everett has traveled to City Point. She is a baker and is offering her services to provide bread for the boys.

Rev. Dave Downing has been busy with weddings and funerals of late, so busy that on a day of two weddings and 3 funerals he mixed up his notes. The good Reverend was chagrined after starting into his address to the young couple when he absently read "and like all good men who are lost too young to tragedy the pain of their suffering is all the more sorrowful." After a gasp from the bride and a chuckle from the groom, the holy man profusely apologized.

Summit:

Ellyn Painter, seamstress, has sent a great care package of socks to the boys. She had worked all winter and spring to provide for the entire company.

Grand Rapids:

Miss Heather Jarrett, having run off to marry and hearing of her father's response outlined in this paper, was heard to say, "I'm sure father will turn up; he loves cake."

Brooklyn:

Darius Health sends word to his family that he is well and reports of his capture were untrue.

Adrian:

The family of Russ Paul reports he has been promoted to Captain, a good and true man who has shown himself worthy in a fight, rising from private to his current standing.

Hastings:

A certain undertaker is under investigation by the government for false promises of embalming. His assistant, a Mr. Mudge, has informed on him after the spoils were no longer evenly divided.

Carleton:

Joan, the lovely and faithful wife of Col. Emerick, has went visiting to Monroe. She has gone to Saint Mary's after a dream that her dear husband was attacked by a huge, ugly creature while in the field. The Sisters have allowed her a time for prayer at the convent to get over this horrible premonition.

**Miss Conant is seeking women to join the Michigan Christian Commission. Women must be of good character, and single. Inquiries can be sent to her at 1 Cascades Drive, Falls, MI**