

THE UNION VOLUNTEER

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



Volume XXXVII No. 6 June 2019



Nicole Wilson (L) at Greenfield Village, May 25-27, 2019. Photo by Dave Downing, shared on Facebook.

Thanks!

To everyone who submitted photos for this issue. Since I can't make it to most events anymore, I appreciate whoever wishes to take the time to make people pose, and sneak around with a hidden phone or camera at events!



Alright, you turkeys, listen up!

Our Next Club Meeting is:
Sat. June 15
At Turkeyville



Don Everett Receives “Medal of Valor” from Lansing Police Department



2019 Club Leadership

New Member Chairs:
Daniel Mallick (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/
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



From Katie Everett on May 17:

“Some know this and some don't...Last May my Dad was carjacked. He witnessed an accident on the highway and stopped to make sure those involved were OK. The man who carjacked him had caused the accident by driving recklessly trying to avoid the police. We later learned that he had shot and killed a man. My dad refused to give up his car and struggled with the man hoping that if he delayed him long enough the police would get there. During the struggle my dad was pistol whipped but he didn't give up. He wasn't able to stop the man from leaving but he gave the police a chance to get caught up with him. Last night the Lansing Police Department awarded my dad The Medal of Valor; it's the highest honor that can be given to a civilian.

We may not always see eye to eye but he has worked hard to raise me to be the woman I am today. I couldn't be more proud of him!”

Julie Everett also reported regarding the sentencing, on May 15, of the criminal:

“Everything went as we had hoped it would. He got 61 - 75 years - he will be 94 when he would be eligible for parole. It could have been up to 90 years but [the judge] let some of the felonies run concurrently and not consecutively, like the murder and carjacking; I think it was 40 years just for those two...

Thank you to all of you who have supported Don thru this ordeal. I know it has bothered him more than he has let on.”

Julie A. Everett

Save the Flags Says “Thanks!” To Reenactor Participants on May 23

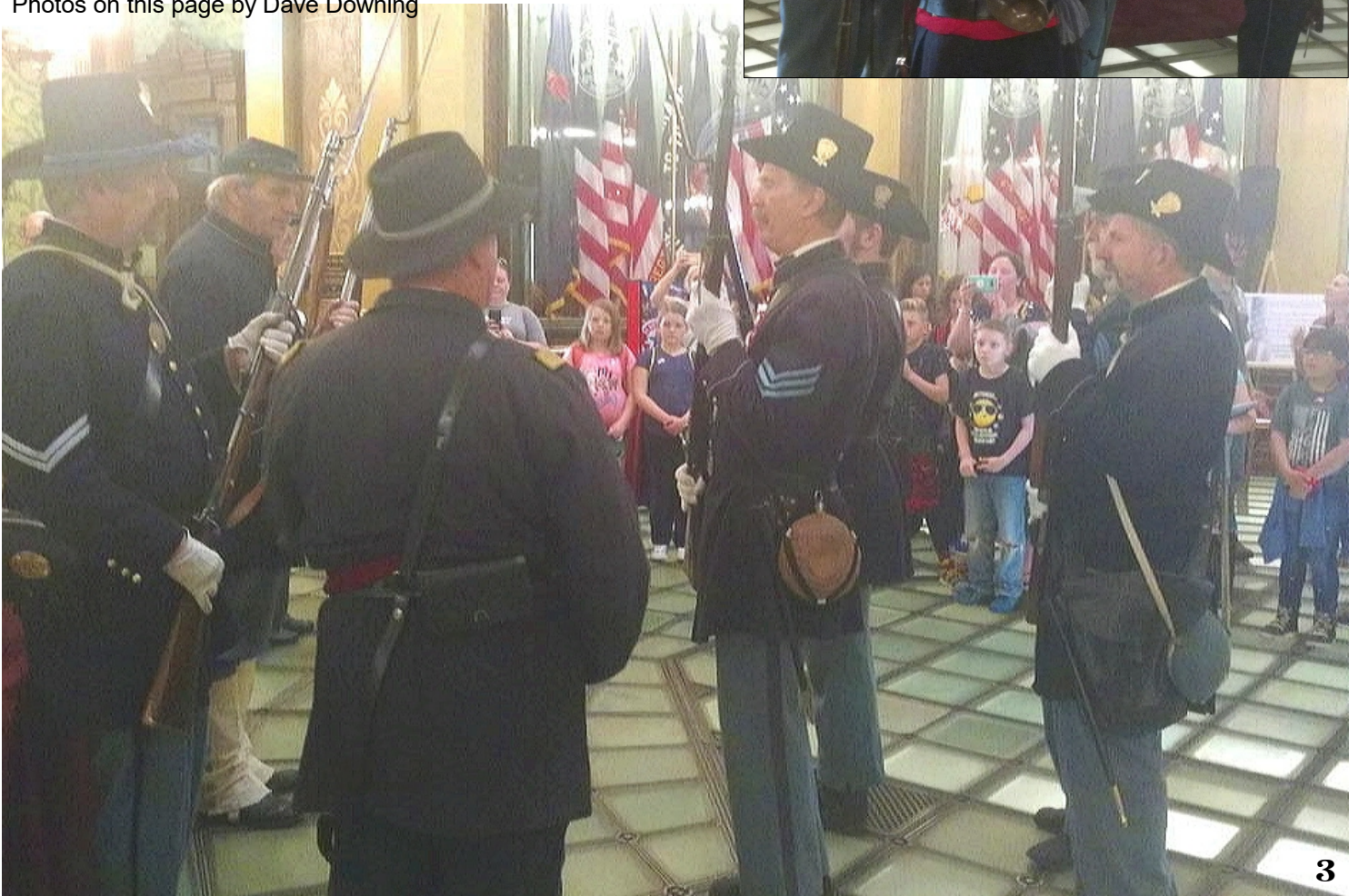
On behalf of the Michigan State Capitol Commission and Save The Flags I would like to thank the following reenactors (many members of the 7th) who served as a flag honor guard at the State Capitol on Thursday, May 23: Doug McComas, Mark Heath, Jim Kirschensteiner, Jim MacKinnon, Kim Horning, David Kimble, Rob Stone, Arnie White, Collin Nash (16th Inf), Dave Downing and Maurice Imhoff (102nd USCT). My apologies to anyone I may have missed—your service here in honoring the Civil War flags and the work you do daily in perpetuating the memory of the old boys in blue is and will not be forgotten!

Matthew J. Van Acker
Director, Tour and Information Service
Chair, Save The Flags
Office: (517) 373-5157
Website: capitol.michigan.gov

----- shared by Doug McComas on Facebook



Photos on this page by Dave Downing





More Lansing Capitol Flags, May 23: Photo above submitted by Doug McComas. (L to R: Rob Stone, Jim Kirschensteiner, Kim Horning). Image at left by Dave Downing.

Civilians

Hi Everyone

Our season got off to a great start with Greenfield Village. Next on our agenda is Turkeyville, June 15-16.

Following that is the June 29 celebration at Meridian Village, from 11am-4pm. We civilians will be demonstrating a Civil War funeral, in the chapel. We will be using Vonda's mid-19th century artifact coffin. Final details are now being worked out for the event. I will keep you posted!

Thank you
Sue

Registration for Turkeyville: June 15-16, 2019

Since my article in the May Newsletter I heard from Al Baerren and Marilyn Hughes adding their names to the list of those wishing to be registered for the event. I have registered all those who expressed interest...13 Military and 16 Civilian. If you weren't on the list of names published last month, plus Al and Marilyn...YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED FOR THE EVENT.

If you decide you want to attend, please use the event webpage (<https://www.turkeyville.com/events/battle-for-turkeyville/>) to add yourself to those registered. If you have questions about the event you can contact me.

Hope to see you there.

Bob Smith, Club Coordinator for Turkeyville



Greenfield Village After Action Report: May 25-27

The first event of the year is always exciting and this one was no exception. The troops were first company all weekend and over the course of the weekend our company was joined by members of the 102nd, 1st Michigan, 15th Michigan and 21st Michigan. The lads shook off the rust in drill on Saturday and we enjoyed fellowship and a wonderful dinner on both Saturday and Sunday provided by Kevin and Gina. On Saturday this was followed up with a round (or 3) of beverages at the Eagle Tavern. Sunday's highlight was mail call. The Kirchenstieners sent a care package of clothing that was distributed and warmly accepted by the men. There were many letters from home but I fear there was a great deal of tragedy. Gertrude the peacock was seemingly reeking havok at home, David Graham was owing a kings sum in gambling and other debts Most disconcerting was Sgt. Malick's correspondence from a lovesick lady from home which he refused to read but we were able to get it and it was read by young private Nick Nau who nearly blushed in the attempt.

The memorial service is always moving Monday and Lt. Andrew McComas led drill on Monday with Captain Robbie Giorlando. They took over the company for the ceremony and I was proud of the work these young men did. Daniel Malick did an amazing job as acting 1st Sgt. It was fun to see Chris and Collin in the ranks as soldiers and the return of others. I can't wait for our next event which is Turkeyville. I hope you can all attend as we move forward into this wonderful new season.

In your service,
Captain McComas



Oh! Cyndi does love her tea!! Shared on Facebook.

3 photos above Right and top, Center by Dave Downing

Underground Railroad Monument Dedicated in Jackson's Earliest Cemetery



Feature story by Ellyn Painter



On Saturday, May 18, I attended the unveiling of a new Michigan Historic Site plaque in Jackson's Mt. Evergreen Cemetery, commemorating the courageous activities of Jackson area residents who hid fugitive slaves and assisted their escape to freedom during the pioneer era of southern Michigan on through the end of the Civil War. It also honors those who risked everything to travel the "Underground Railroad" and gain their freedom.

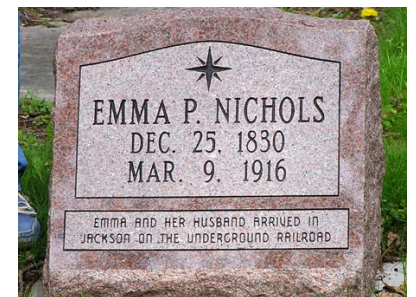
The reverse side of the monument details the history of the cemetery. Before 1843, the city of Jackson did not have a public burial ground. The lovely hilly and wooded acreage is the only land in Jackson County that was never altered by settlers.



Linda Hass, (standing, left rear), local author of two meticulously researched books on the Underground Railroad in Jackson Co., and Lezlie Bowles (standing right front) did the unveiling of the monument. Lezlie and her sister (seated), are descendants of Emma Patton Nichols, a former slave who escaped on the Underground Railroad and settled in Jackson in the late 1840's or early 50's. The man at rear is Mr. DeLand, a descendant of the Jackson pioneer family of that name.



Following the unveiling of the monument, Jackson District Library staff conducted a guided walking tour of the cemetery's historically significant sites.



Emma Nichols worked as a seamstress after she settled in Jackson. Her husband, Richard, also a former escaped slave, operated a barber shop here.

Cemetery, concluded from previous page....

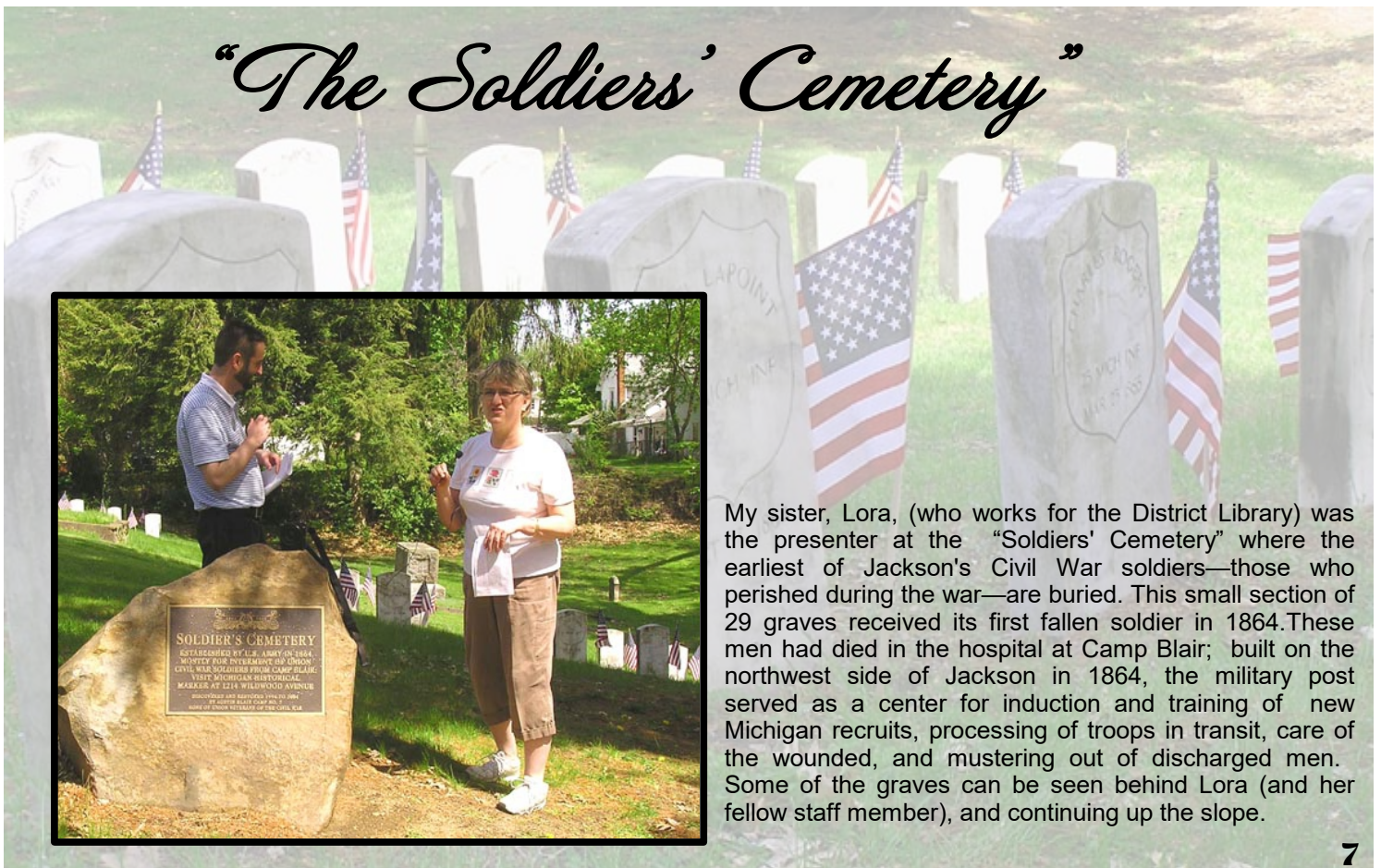
Among the gravesites visited on the tour were those of several notable Civil War personages, including Austin Blair, Michigan governor 1861-65; Col. Charles Deland; There are at least three Medal of Honor recipients from the Civil War buried here as well, one of whom is Brevet Brig. Gen. William H. Withington, who received his award in 1895, for actions at 1st Bull Run.

Also notable is Brevet Brig. Gen. Charles V. Deland, member of one of the first families to settle in Jackson. The Delands were ardent abolitionists, and as a young boy, Charles frequently had the job of transporting fugitive slaves by night to the next Underground Railroad "station" in Grass Lake, a harrowing all-night round trip for the lad, along dark lonely roads.

Capt. Christian Rath (1831-1920) was also a Jackson resident buried at Mt. Evergreen. His name is familiar to many as the executioner of several of the Lincoln assassination conspirators. Rath emigrated to the U.S. from Germany at age 19, and settled in Jackson, where, in civilian life, he was a shoemaker. During the Civil War, he enlisted in the 17th MI Infantry.

The Soldiers' Cemetery

Today, there is a large military section at the front of Mt. Evergreen Cemetery, containing graves of veterans from several different wars, including the Civil War. But near the rear of the cemetery, there is another Civil War burial ground, which for decades, until the 1990's, had been largely forgotten. In 1996, the SUVCW Camp Blair #7, (Jackson's local chapter) discovered and restored 10 Civil War graves in this area, and thought they were finished. But when the Florida descendant of a Jackson CW veteran contacted them, saying that he was told his ancestor was buried in "The Soldiers' Cemetery", no one knew what he meant. A new search was on, and ultimately the Sons discovered 19 additional graves, including the Florida man's ancestor.



My sister, Lora, (who works for the District Library) was the presenter at the "Soldiers' Cemetery" where the earliest of Jackson's Civil War soldiers—those who perished during the war—are buried. This small section of 29 graves received its first fallen soldier in 1864. These men had died in the hospital at Camp Blair; built on the northwest side of Jackson in 1864, the military post served as a center for induction and training of new Michigan recruits, processing of troops in transit, care of the wounded, and mustering out of discharged men. Some of the graves can be seen behind Lora (and her fellow staff member), and continuing up the slope.

CIVIL WAR REENACTORS WANTED

JULY 4TH

EATON RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

Civil War Living History (9 AM - 5 PM)

Parade (11 AM)

Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall & Museum (10AM - 5 PM)

Fireworks (Dusk)



Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Memorial Hall and Museum invites you to celebrate with them the 4th of July! There will be a parade that starts at 11:00 AM and will proceed down Main Street. At dusk be sure to stop by the Eaton Rapid's School Complex to watch the fireworks! In addition, we will also be hosting a Civil War Living History from 9 AM to 5 PM historic G.A.R. Island Park.

Eaton Rapids, as do many cities in Michigan, has a strong sense of its Civil War-era history. However, Eaton Rapids is especially aware of not only the role of its citizens played during the Civil War, but also afterwards with the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Post and Woman's Relief Corps that once existed in the city.

This will be the second year that Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum will be sponsoring a Civil War Living History on Eaton Rapids' G.A.R. Island Park (Hamlin Street). We would greatly appreciate any

Civil War Reenactors who could attend and help provide the public with a glimpse of what it was like to be a Civil War soldier and Civil War-era civilian. Public demonstrations planned include Civil War-era military Camp Life, Drills, Musket firing, Cannon Firing, Equipment Explanations, Civilian Life, and Medical Practices of the day.

We hope that you can attend and spend the day in Eaton Rapids. You will enjoy yourself.

Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum is a federally recognized 501 (c) (3) Michigan Nonprofit Corporation. All contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.

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A Look Back....



7th Michigan members at the Jackson Rose Parade, June, Year ? – possibly 2009? 2010?? Photo courtesy of Ellyn Painter



Lieutenant Custer in Virginia with fellow staff officers, spring 1862. Custer is at right, front, with the dog. Library of Congress photo.

April 20, 1862

Camp Thomas / Warwick Co., Va.

“... At the camp of the 7th Mich. I was welcomed by Col. Winans and other Monroe acquaintances, and partook of their rations: crackers and tea. then in the evening started for my own camp.”

George A. Custer, letter to his sister Lydia Reed, of Monroe, Mich. At the time, he was a lieutenant in the 5th U.S. Cavalry, attached to McClellan's staff.

From *The Custer Story*, Merington, 1950.

---submitted by Steve Church

“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