

THE UNION VOLUNTEER 7TH

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

Volume XXXIII No. 4 April 2014



President's Report

Well, it's finally spring in Michigan! We will be starting the season next month with school programs, Jonesville, and Greenfield Village. June brings the Rose Parade and Turkeyville. July is Charleton Park and August our grand 30th Celebration of Cascades.

The last four years have been challenging, interesting and rewarding. I'm always amazed at how much knowledge, faith, and love are in this group. I would like to thank Kim Strong for "cleaning up" our policy changes. I always appreciate a skill that I don't possess.

I've been looking forward to this season very much and the recent weather change has just fueled my desire to get in the field even more. The hobby may shrink or grow, people change, but the joy of good friends and a love of history remains constant.

I feel blessed to have you all in our group and in my life. I have made great friends, fought necessary battles, and even won a few. My new favorite quote applies completely to the 7th. Someone quipped, "If you think you are the smartest guy in the room you're in the wrong room". I learn something every time I'm with my pards. Sometimes it's about reenacting, sometimes it's about life.

I thank you all for those gifts.

I remain your most obedient servant,

Doug



Andersonville – photo by Jim Kirschensteiner

Our meeting this month has been rescheduled to

Sunday, April 27th

(Easter falls on the 3rd Sunday)

1:00 pm Robbins UMC

Eaton Rapids

Ladies' Sewing Party

Saturday, April 26

(see page 2 for details)

Have a  Happy
Easter



2014 Leadership

New Member co-Chairs:
Jeff Verstraete (military)
jbvisme@gmail.com
Heather Jarrett (civilian)
princessh15@live.com

President: Doug McComas
Vice President: Anson Roland
Secretary: Bill Jarrett
Treasurer: Don Everett
Military: Dave Slayton, Captain
Civilian Coordinator: Katie Everett
Board Members-at-Large:
Marie Searles, Pat Downing,
Jeff Verstraete

Annual Membership Dues:
\$16.00 – single
\$19.20 – family
\$6.00 – to receive newsletter as
non-participating/non-voting member

Website:
www.7thmichigan.us

Newsletter Submission Guidelines:

Thanks to all who submitted info 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 (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 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

CIVILIAN REPORT



Hello All! I would like to thank Sandy for hosting the March sewing party, we all had a great time! Our April sewing party will be at Vonda Warren's on the 26th. We will meet for breakfast at the Eaton Place at 9 am. If you don't want to join us for breakfast you can meet us at Vonda's at 10 am. As always please bring a dish to pass for lunch.

At our April club meeting we will need to finalize our plans for Jackson. We have quite a few ideas floating around and we will need to pick just a few. If you have any suggestions please bring them.

If anyone is interested there is a quilt show in Lansing May 17-18 at the Best Western Plus. The hours are Sat 9-5 Sun 10-4. The address is 6820 S. Cedar St., Lansing MI 48911. If you would like more information you can see their website: www.lansingareapatchers.com

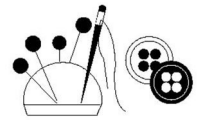
Save The Date! We have our date for our Annual Ladies Retreat weekend, Sept 26-28. More information to follow.

Looking forward to a great season!

Katie Everett
Civilian Co-Chair

Vonda's Address:
602 Shaw
Charlotte, MI 48813

The Eaton Place:
218 S Cochran Ave
Charlotte, MI 48813



CORRECTIONS:

In the March issue, the gentleman pictured on the front cover, right hand side, in the red vest, was incorrectly identified as being the guest of the Rolands. His name is Joe Buckenberget, and he was the guest of Sue Colegrove. My sincere apologies. - The Editor

Also in the last issue, Sandy McCarrick's address was given incorrectly as 7204 E. Grand River, Lot 21. That was her old address. For future reference, please note that the correct one is 332 Carolyn Drive, Portland, MI.



WEBMASTER NEEDED!

The 7th Michigan is still desperately in need of a replacement for our webmaster, Dennis Zank, as, due to his new job, he is no longer able to continue in this capacity. If you can help, please contact Denny at :
denny_suvcw_camp17@ameritech.net



This season's 7th Michigan "Max" Events

1. Greenfield Village, May 24 – 26th: Dave Downing will be the Event Coordinator for 2013/2014.

Be sure to see the attachments for online registration instructions. Note that one form is for returning participants, the other for first timers.

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS APRIL 23

Please contact Dave Downing if you need help with Greenfield Village registration, or have someone register for you.

Downing_Dave@hotmail.com
517-676-5998

2. Rose Parade (Jackson) June

3. Turkeyville June 14-15th

4. Charlton Park, July 19-20th

5. Harvest Ball –October 11th, 2014

6. Jackson CW Muster, August 23 – 24th

7. Van Raalte, September 20-21st

Military minutes - March 2014

Captain: Dave Slayton

Lieutenant: Jim MacKinnon

1st Sergeant: Doug McComas

Sergeants: Dan Conklin, Rob Stone

Corporals: Tom Edwards, Andrew McComas, Dennis Zank, Bill Jarrett

Chief Bugler: Mark Heath

As we finally approach spring, please check your schedules and availability to attend the maximum events listed above as they are the "maximum effort" events the 7th Michigan decided to support. It's just a better experience when we have as many as possible attend, and the public gets more of an idea what it was like. I encourage both military and civilian members to plan ahead if you can to attend these reenactments. Greenfield Village is the first one, and more information will be forthcoming on how to register, but it should be virtually the same as last year (online registration).

- May 24-26: Greenfield Village, Dearborn
- June 1st: Rose Parade in Jackson
- June 14-15: Turkeyville (north of Marshall)
- July 19-20: Charlton Park, Hastings
- August 23-24: Jackson Muster
- September 20-21: Van Raalte Farm, Holland
- October: Harvest Ball, Lansing

There are other events and training opportunities available, as noted below:

Living History Programs:

Help is always welcome at these school programs. If you can attend, please contact Don Everett (517-393-3475).

- April 25th, noon to 4pm – Ovid Middle School
- May 9th, 8am – 3pm, Dexter Middle School
- May 16th, 1pm – 3pm, Southfield, Birney Middle School

7th Michigan Annual Target Shoot ~ April 26th:

The date is April 26th, and we are trying something different. Instead of a restaurant, we will be served breakfast at 8:30 am, at Robbins Church about 5 miles northeast of Eaton Rapids (6419 Bunker Rd, Eaton Rapids) by Jeff Verstaete and Anson Roland. Then it is off to the Eaton Rapids Conservation Club west of Eaton Rapids (4388 Freeman Rd., Eaton Rapids, MI, 48827) at 10:00 am for target shooting with the wide variety of arms that our members or you bring. Rumor has it there may be a competition!

150th Wilderness Event – May 2-4, 2014

Individuals have been invited by Ben Cywana and his unit to fall in with them if we are not going as a unit. Currently we have 4 men interested in going to this national event. If interested in going as well, please contact Jim McKinnon (eq_jim@ingham.org) of the 7th Michigan for possible car-pooling. See Ben's note (next page) for more information:

"My company is going to the 150th Wilderness the first weekend in May. We are planning on going Federal for the first time in years. If there is any interest from the 7th in going, please let me know as they are more than welcome to fall in with us if you are not going as a unit."

*Benjamin L. Cwayna, The Law Office of Benjamin L. Cwayna, PLLC, 414 S. Clinton Street, Grand Ledge, MI 48837.
(517) 622-1900, Fax: (517) 622-1909, ben@cwaynalaw.com*

PLEASE NOTE, the next meeting will be April 27th which is not the normal third Sunday, at 1:00 pm, at Robbins United Methodist Church, 6419 Bunker Road, Eaton Rapids, MI, 48827. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Most respectfully,
Your Obedient Servant:
Dave Slayton, Captain
slaytondave@juno.com
(517) 663-4161

More Civil War sites to visit... Fort Donelson, Tennessee



*Gun emplacements at Fort Donelson, TN
Photos by Jim Kirschensteiner*



We visited Ft. Donelson with Bob and Carol Smith and Barry and Stormi Stuler. We stayed at an historical bed and breakfast plantation house. It was really a very nice place, but, unfortunately, it's not there anymore. It burned down and hasn't been replaced. There are other B&B's in the Dover, Tennessee area though. That part of Tennessee is very "genteel". The fort has a very commanding view of the Cumberland River and I could easily see why it was selected for a fort location. The park also has a large CW period artillery collection scattered throughout the grounds. It's a nice place to visit and have a mint julep.

----- Jim Kirschensteiner

To all who can —
please try to take photos at
events you go to this season.
I am unable to attend many events
now, so new photos from the
membership will allow me to keep
things fresh, instead of having to
continually recycle old pics. Thanks
for your help.



A Visit To Andersonville

by Tim Cunningham

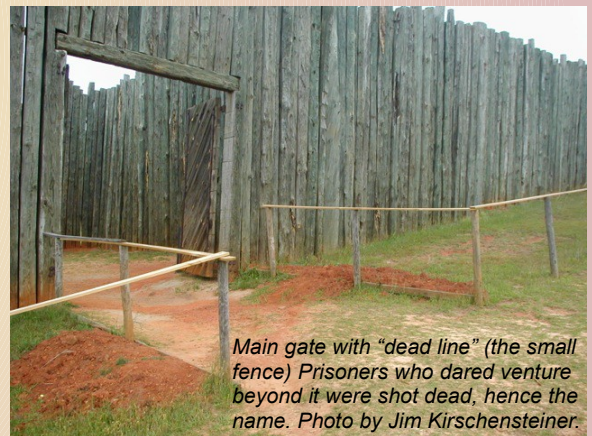
There can be no more tragic place in America than the National Prisoner of War Museum and Memorial at Andersonville, Georgia. For those of us who revere the men who fought the American Civil War it should be a place of pilgrimage at least once in a lifetime. To place it in perspective the 13,000 men who died there in less than a year are more than all the American military deaths in all of the nation's conflicts since the Vietnam War. Twice as many as we have lost in thirteen years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan combined. The story of Andersonville is well known but when a visitor sees the actual sight it's easier to understand how it happened.

Camp Sumter, as it was officially called, opened in February of 1864. It was a stockade of a mere 26 acres. From February to September of 1864 over 45,000 Federal soldiers were held there. It was located in one of the most rural, isolated parts of Georgia, making food distribution difficult, if not impossible. The only source of water and sewage was Sweetwater Creek which ran dry in the late summer. There was no shelter, only an open field. Scurvy and dysentery were the big killers, but exposure and starvation took their toll as well. By the mid-summer of 1864 over a hundred a day perished. The suffering finally came to a halt in September when Sherman's victorious army took Atlanta. Fearing Sherman would march south and seize Camp Sumter, the Confederate war department transferred all prisoners well enough to travel to other camps. The commandant, Capt. Henry Wirz, was the only Confederate officer of the war to be tried and executed for war crimes.

February 20th of this year dawned foggy and misty in North Florida. I had spent 3 days at the Olustee Reenactment, 3 days backpacking through the Osceola National Forest and the St Marks National Wildlife Preserve, and was recuperating at Best Western Motel. During the three hour drive from the Gulf Coast of Florida to Southern Georgia I was amazed at the number of pecan trees. Everyone with an acre or more of land had a grove. Andersonville is the kind of place you have to make a special trip to see. It's not on the beaten path to Florida like many other Civil War Sites. It's a full hour's drive on two lane roads west of I-75. President Jimmy Carter's home in Plains is about 20 miles away.

Continued next page...

Monument to Michigan soldiers and sailors imprisoned at Andersonville. Photo by Tim Cunningham.



Main gate with "dead line" (the small fence) Prisoners who dared venture beyond it were shot dead, hence the name. Photo by Jim Kirschensteiner.



Andersonville stockade with guard tower. Photo by Jim Kirschensteiner.



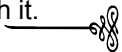
Center grave is that of 7th Michigan, Co. C soldier Byron Cusick, from Hillsdale Co., who died June 18, 1864 at Andersonville, only a month after arrival. Captured at the Wilderness. Photo by TimCunningham



Two things surprised me about Andersonville. One, it's not only a cemetery for the Civil War dead, it is also a National Veterans final resting place. In fact, a funeral was in progress while I was there. Two, it is also the National Parks Museum to all Americans who have suffered imprisonment at the hands of the nation's enemies. The museum has many impressive displays and pictures of Camp Sumter, as well as many harrowing photos of World War II prisoners held by the Japanese. Closer to our time, the terrible ordeal faced by those taken by the North Vietnamese is well documented. It also has an easy to research data base listing names and all available information of soldiers taken prisoner in the Civil War. I found quite a few from the 7th Michigan, most of whom were captured in the Wilderness campaign. The Park Service staff was quite knowledgeable and helpful. They appreciated a visitor who had a bit of prior knowledge. The theater shows a very emotional film which features veterans, including Senator John McCain, recalling their wartime experiences. The staff was particularly interested in filming an interview with my step-father who is one of the few surviving Americans to have been taken prisoner and escaped captivity in the Korean War.

The cemetery itself is a sobering place. The gravestones are small, about 2 feet high placed only an inch or two apart. The fact is the dead were buried in mass graves without coffins, shoulder to shoulder. I found two that marked the resting place of veterans of the 7th Michigan. The 26 acres that was the stockade of Camp Sumter is an open field marked with impressive monuments placed there by the northern states whose sons lie buried nearby. They also have a few cheesy replicas showing what the stockade walls looked like. It is a humbling experience to stand on the hill overlooking Sweetwater Creek knowing what suffering had taken place on that few acres of Georgia ground.

As stated, Andersonville is a special place and requires a special trip. If you go allow at least a half day. It's well worth it.



“The fact is the dead were buried in mass graves without coffins, shoulder to shoulder.”



Grave of field musician Joseph Wyatt, from Ohio, who perished at Andersonville. Photo by Tim Cunningham

Rolling and lushly green now, in 1864 this was the barren, disease-ridden prison compound where thousands languished. Photo by Jim Kirschensteiner



Center front marker is that of Jim Kirschensteiner's ancestor, John Conlin of New York. Photo courtesy of Jim K.

Remaining School Programs

Contact Don Everett if you can participate:
djkeverett@comcast.net
517-393-3475

- April 25th Ovid, meet at 12:00, program is 1:00-3:00pm
- May 9th Dexter, program is 7:55am – 3:30pm
- May 16th Berney in Southfield, program is at 1:00pm

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

William Jarrett, Club Secretary
btjarrett@aol.com

April 2014 Civil War Sesquicentennial Report

Of the 112 Sesquicentennial events already listed on the Reenactors' Civil War Sesquicentennial Calendar for 2014 on the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners' website (www.micw150.us), there are 11 events listed for April. Additional information on each of these events may be obtained by going to www.micw150.us/2013events.htm and clicking on the month in question. Michigan events and events of interest to Michigan for 2014 can be added anytime by contacting pcinc@prodigy.net. Last year a total of 174 events were listed, which was a little less than the 180 in 2012, but a little more than the 163 in 2011.

--April 2014--

- 2 & 12. Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum** (224 S. Main Street, Eaton Rapids, Michigan). 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. The GAR Memorial Hall and Museum is opened the first two Wednesdays each month, most patriotic days, special events, and by appointment. Admission to the GAR Memorial Hall and Museum is free. Contact: Deb Malewski, Board Secretary, at GARmichigan@gmail.com.
- 4 - 5. Civil War Show: Crossroad of America Civil War/Political Show** (5330 Hornet Ave, Beech Grove, Indiana). April 4: 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM, April 5: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Thousands of Civil War and Political Artifacts. Antique Firearms permitted. Website: <http://ironbrigaderelics.com>.
- 5. Civil War Trust- National Park Day** (Historical Fort Wayne, 6325 Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan). Start time: 9 AM. Since 1996, the Civil War Trust has sponsored Park Day, an annual hands-on preservation event to help Civil War battlefields and historic sites take on maintenance projects large and small. For the last two years, Historic Fort Wayne has been the only site in the State of Michigan to host this event. Contact: Tom Berlucchi at TBERLUCCHI@YAHOO.COM, Telephone: 248-840-5234.
- 9. Grand Army of the Republic Day at the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum** (224 S. Main Street, Eaton Rapids, Michigan). 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Website: <http://garmuseum.com/>. Contact: Deb Malewski, Board Secretary, at GARmichigan@gmail.com.
- 10. Presentation: Marines and the Civil War** (Monroe County Civil War Round Table, Ellis Library and Reference Center, 3700 South Custer, Monroe, Michigan). 7:00 PM. Speaker: Mike Unsworth, from Michigan State University. This event is free and open to the public. Please contact Charmaine Wawrzyniec for more information, 734-241-5277.
- 11 - 12. 57th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony** (Oakridge Cemetery, Springfield, Illinois). Sponsored by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. Parade to and Wreath laying at the Tomb of Abraham Lincoln. Contact rpetro7776@aol.com or by Telephone at 636-274-4567.
- 14. Two Presentations: Commerce in Jackson County and the War in the West** (American Legion Post 29, 3200 Lansing Ave, Jackson, Michigan). 7:00 PM. The presenters will be William Anderson, who will talk about commerce in Jackson County, and Michael Culp of the 13th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Association, who will talk about war in the west. Sponsored by the Jackson SUVCW Camp. Contact: Howard Lloyd at bigrock9917@aol.com.
- 16. Presentation: Origins of the Confederacy** (Lily Theater, Conner Prairie Interactive History Park, 13400 Allisonville Road, Fishers, Indiana). 7:30 PM (Doors open at 7:00 PM). Presenter is Robert May. Contact Paul Watson at pwatson001@indy.rr.com.
- 26. 4th Annual Coldwater Civil War Spring Ball** (Historic Masonic Temple, 45 East Chicago St, Coldwater, Michigan). 7:00 PM – 10:00 PM. Contact: Dave McKee at dm307mckee@charter.net or Telephone at 517-924-0438.
- 26 - 27. Battalion Drill:** (Historical Fort Wayne, 6325 Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan). Contact: Will Eichler at will@williameichler.com.
- 29. FREE Sesquicentennial Civil War Seminar -Seminar to be Announced** (Sunfield United Brethren Church, 8436 West Grand Ledge Hwy (M-43) in Sunfield, Michigan). 7:00 PM. Each year, the Lansing/Sunfield, Camp #17, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War sponsor a series of FREE Civil War History Seminars. Website: <http://suvchw.org/mi/017/announcements.htm> Contact: Paul David Arnold at arnoldsuvchwmi@sbcglobal.net.

Keith G. Harrison, Chair
7th Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee



The Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners is composed of over 1,000 Civil War reenactors and living history historians; patriotic and hereditary organizations; scholars and educators, roundtables; local and statewide libraries, historical societies, genealogical societies; local and statewide museums; and numerous local Michigan communities that sponsor special and annual historical programs related to the Civil War. Each year the History Partners hosts the annual Reenactors' Conference in November and creates the statewide Reenactors' Events Calendar.