

# THE UNION VOLUNTEER



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

Volume XXXVI No. 4 April 2017



Cyndi and Gilbert Carlson at the 30<sup>th</sup> Indiana's Annual Grand Ball, Ft. Wayne, IN – March 25, 2017





## Club Leadership

**New Member Chairs:**  
Daniel Malick (military)  
dmalick12@gmail.com  
Julie Everett (civilian)  
djkeverett@comcast.net

**President:** Dave Downing  
**Vice President:** Steve Church  
**Secretary:** Doug McComas  
**Treasurer:** Don Everett  
**Military:** Doug McComas, Captain  
**Civilian Coordinator:** Sue Colegrove  
**Board Members-at-Large:**  
Dan Conklin, Joy Henderson,  
Bill Jarrett  
**Quartermaster:** Don Everett  
**Club Historian:** Doug McComas  
**Webmaster:** Dennis Zank

**Website:** [www.7thmichigan.us](http://www.7thmichigan.us)

*Time to get out the ol' camping gear....  
The season has begun!*



**Next Club Meeting:**  
**Saturday, April 29**  
Eaton Rapids Conservation Club  
(see Map on last page)

**Registration Deadline for Greenfield Village: April 15!**  
(See page 7)

**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.

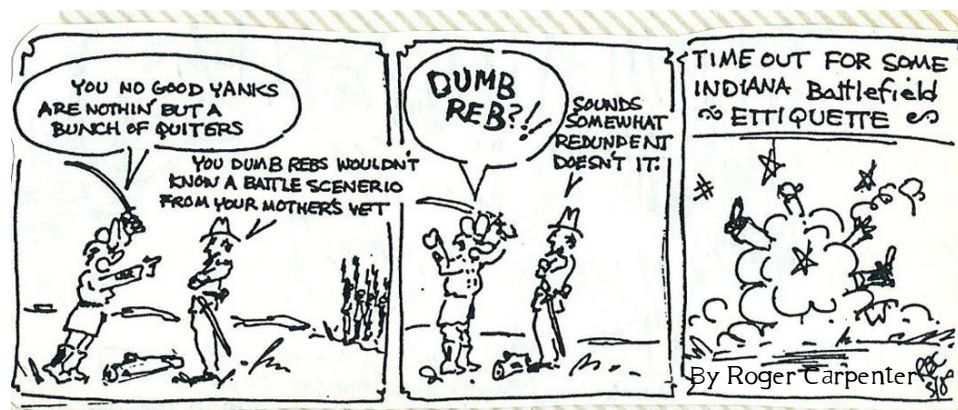
Email submissions to me at:  
[7thminewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:7thminewsletter@gmail.com)

Or mail to:  
736 Gettysburg Ave.  
Jackson, MI 49203

Thank-you.

*Ellyn*  
Ellyn Painter, Editor

Pards! Are we all set for some good battles this season? YES!!!



By Roger Carpenter





# March Membership Meeting Highlights:

**New Members:** Please make welcome two new club members, Hannah and Rebekah Malick. They are the sisters of Dan Malick. Hannah attended the March meeting.

## Greenfield Village Registration: FINAL DAY is APRIL 15.

If you have not yet registered for GFV, please note also the new link below for getting onto the participant registration page on the Henry Ford website. Some of you have had trouble accessing the site with the previous link. This one works:

<http://www.event.com/.../event-summary...>

Please see the new information from Dave Downing on a later page, and note also the two additional document attachments pertaining to GFV in the email including this issue of the newsletter. Both are important! We are also printing again the information that was included in the March issue, just to make sure everyone has seen it. Remember – there will be NO MODERN CAMPING available this year, and the location for registration has moved. Also, we will only be able to register at GFV on Friday, and Saturday morning, so if you plan on attending for only part of the weekend, you will need to make other arrangements to register, OR attend on Saturday.



Hannah Malick

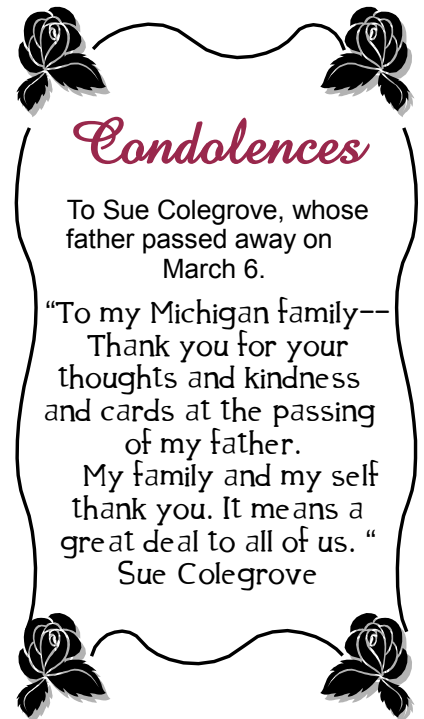
**Michigan Service Buttons:** The club will be purchasing a supply of the uniform buttons that we gave out to participants at the Return of the Flags event last July. Gloria Kirschensteiner reports that it is the small size that are correct for both sack coats and frock coats. (It was the large size that we used on the ribbon rosettes at the Flag event). Sack coats require 4 buttons, and frocks 11 – 9 down the front and two in back. The cost per button is \$1.25 on the website, if anyone wants to buy them direct; however, we will probably be able to get a better price by purchasing in quantity. President Downing will take the proposal with the Executive Board, for a decision on how many gross will be purchased. (Probably two or three gross). Men (or ladies!) wishing to purchase buttons would be wise to buy a couple extra in the event of lost buttons. More info to follow. Below is a link to the sutlery with the buttons for those who want to look at them.

<http://winchestersutler.com/BUTN.html>

**Ella Sharp Museum Possible Event:** Despite the fact that we initially learned that the Ella Sharp event we participated in last May in Jackson is not scheduled to be held this coming year due to a failure by The Ella to receive a renewal of last year's school grant, they have shown a willingness to discuss with the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan the possibility of putting on a living history Civil War event with our participation. Our leadership and other members present at the March meeting agreed that we want to pursue this. President Dave Downing stated: "The grant money is more about their funding than ours. We've never let not getting paid to do something like this stand in our way. It's great community engagement, an awesome recruiting opportunity, and fits into our mission statement. ... Creating a partnership with them shouldn't go on the back burner and let another year pass."

(UPDATE: Just before publishing this issue, the editor was told by Dave Downing that he has had an initial talk with the new education director at The Ella. They are interested in doing a school program on a Friday, similar to last year's, but want to wait til 2018. Sounds like their interest may differ somewhat from ours, but Dave wishes to discuss this further at our April 29 meeting at the Live Shoot. Stay tuned!

**Coldwater Civil War Days An Alternative to Greenfield Village:** Coldwater's annual event falls on Memorial Day weekend, but some who modern camp are rethinking their participation at Greenfield Village since GFV announced their removal of modern camping from the event. Coldwater may prove a nice alternative. See Bob Smith's article on page 4.



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

Doug McComas, Club Secretary

 [dougmccomas@comcast.net](mailto:dougmccomas@comcast.net)



# President's Report

First off I would like to mention that I noticed a couple things at the last meeting. First, that there was a very good turnout and those that were there were actively participating. Secondly, after the meeting was over members hung around and talked for quite some time, moving around the room to talk to various people. If, after the meeting, people ran for the door and went home that would have been quite troubling. But seeing most hang out and talking to each other afterward was very encouraging.

For the record, I did have a chance, finally, to talk to the organizer at Greenfield Village about the modern camping situation there. They did not single out the civil war event for their decision to not allow modern camping. The decision was made to not allow modern camping on-site for any event due to liability concerns. That is totally understandable in this day of litigation. I'm actually surprised we weren't hit with this years ago.

On the plus side – by the showing of hands at our meeting it appears that we will have a nice showing of military at Greenfield Village. This is a paying event for us, but beyond that, Greenfield Village is a world-renowned living history site, and for us to be able to be there is a privilege. Many might not know, or remember, attending the event there is by invitation only. It took years for an opening for us to participate as a group back over twenty years ago. We had to apply to even be considered to attend. We should not take being invited to participate there lightly...besides, we get paid as an organization based on our members showing up.

One of the items brought up at the last meeting was to purchase smaller versions of the buttons used last summer at the flag ceremony at the Capitol so people could put them on their uniforms. We are in the process of ordering some and hope to have them in time so we can be wearing Michigan buttons when this season begins.

Thanks for doing what you do.

Dave



## Quartermaster Report

The remaining supply of powder at \$15 per pound was sold or used for Club cartridges at the Jan meeting. We have a supply of caps at \$7 per 100. I will have them at the rest of the meetings. Powder now is \$18 per pound.

We will have powder, caps and paper at the April meeting. Also the 7<sup>th</sup> Sutler will have our goods for sale at the meeting. If you are looking for a rifle or something in particular contact me to make sure I bring it.

## Education Director's Report

**Please note the date for the Birney Middle School program has changed.** The new date is May 19<sup>th</sup>. A date for the Ovid Middle School program has been set for May 5<sup>th</sup>. Arrival times will posted in future newsletters.

## Live Shoot / April Meeting

The date of Sat April 29<sup>th</sup> was confirmed at the Jan. meeting. As before we will provide breakfast for a \$2 fee before the shoot. We will have a pot luck lunch before the meeting; plan on bringing a dish to pass. Sue Colgrove is coordinating the breakfast and pot luck lunch. There will be a fee of \$5 for shooting to help defray the cost of the rental of the clubhouse/range. The April Club meeting will follow lunch.

Don Everett,  
Quartermaster/ Education Director/ Treasurer





# Military Report



Just spent the weekend in Drill at Historic Fort Wayne (where were you guys?!). The weather was brisk but the rain held off and Denny Whiting, Russ Paul, Nate Tingley as well as Tom Emerick and Jim MacKinnon were patient and helped me immensely over the weekend to continue to learn my new role and be prepared for the upcoming season. There were about 22 men (mostly from the GLB) at drill.

It was good to put on the wool, especially with my son Andrew to share the weekend with.

Speaking of the Fort, Tom Berlucchi provided the wonderful news that the process has been started to make the fort a national park. This will provide as much as 7.5 million dollars to restore and develop the fort. The parade ground will also be part of the park but will be at a lower designation that will allow for the continuation of Civil War days and other battles and skirmishes.

He and all who have worked so hard for these many years to keep the fort open should be commended for their labor of love.

I was given the great honor of captaining the the 3<sup>rd</sup> company of 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion under Marty Walker at Shiloh. I feel a mixture of excitement and

a little anxiety over my first command at a national event. I know the boys will perform well and hope to provide competent leadership over the weekend.

Next month the season really starts and we already have nearly 20 men committed for Greenfield Village. If you missed the drill think about heading down to Jonesville for the Grosvenor House living history on May 20 to shake off the rust before our first major event the next weekend. (See map on last page)

It's an exciting time in the hobby. We have new men in the ranks and increasing numbers again. Our Michigan pards are taking on new roles and we are back to a place of cooperation and fun again. Here is hoping that those old battles and egos never re-emerge in the hobby.

Let the season begin!

As always I remain,

Your most obedient servant,

Captain McComas



Doug, with new grandson,  
Sawyer James Walter  
March 30, 2017  
Congratulations,  
Gramps!!

(from Facebook)

*Thought I'd share this as an encouragement to hang tight and wait for it: Spring! This determined little fellow hung on for 15 or 20 minutes, determined to eat the last remnants of seeds in my suet cage hanging from a tree outside my living room window. The birds apparently didn't want it, so I let him go for it, while my cats and I got the entertainment of watching him. ---The Editor*



Mama said  
there'd be  
days like  
this...



## The Modern Camping Alternative for Memorial Day Weekend

Many of us were surprised by the fact that this year, for the first time, there will be no Modern Camping available for participants in the Greenfield Village Civil War Muster. Since a show of hands at the recent club meeting indicated that a good number of members would not be attending Greenfield Village since they wouldn't have anywhere to stay, we thought it a good idea to offer an alternative event for the Memorial Day weekend that did have Modern Camping available.

The town of Coldwater, MI and the 18th Michigan are putting on their annual Civil War Days on May 26, 27 and 28. That's a Friday, Saturday and Sunday event with set up starting Thursday night and departure on Sunday afternoon. They don't have activities on Monday, Memorial Day. I was able to get some basic information by phone and they are sending me additional details and a unit registration packet that I will share at the Live Shoot Club Meeting. (Their webpage is currently inoperative.)

The few bits of information I already have are:

- Friday is "Education Day" and the camps entertain 800 to 1000 local school students
- Steam train rides are available (but at a cost for all but U.S. Military Veterans) on Friday and Saturday
- There is a pot luck meal on Saturday night
- There is a Ball, outdoors in a park following the meal
- A Church service is provided on Sunday morning at 10
- Modern Camp is on a parking lot with modern bathrooms and port-a-jons, plus water nearby.
- There are also Authentic Civilian and Military Camps

If you are interested in this event, come to the Live Shoot Meeting in April and learn more. I'll be sending in a unit registration around May 1st for all those who plan to attend.

Bob Smith

Event Strategy Committee Chairman



### Civilian Report

Hi everyone:

We will be having our April sewing circle at the Eaton Rapids Conservation Club on Saturday the 29<sup>th</sup>.

I will hopefully be there by 8:00 to get things ready for breakfast.

Please bring your fabrics for the quilt, and also refer to the list of other things to bring that we sent out last month..

Also bring your food for pot luck lunch and also breakfast items, if you signed up for that.

Also, ladies, if you would like to shoot you are more than welcome to do so. I believe the cost is \$5.00.

I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Sue Colegrove

## On Target at the Live Shoot

By Dave Downing

For several years I've wanted to try something at the live shoot and am hoping to get some volunteers to help try this out. It would be to try our own version of a test to qualify as a sharpshooter. Back during the war a person had to hit ten out of ten in a circle 50-inches in diameter at a distance of 200 yards to qualify. This year I thought we could try out our own version and if it works make a more concerted effort next year.

Here's how it would go:

- \*a target with a circle 50-inches in diameter placed at 100 yards
- \*use any period civil war firearm, any ammunition (no artillery...) Weapons with period scopes are allowed.
- \*place 3 out of 5 shots within the 50-inch circle (any shot even touching the circle will count as a hit)
- \*those that hit 3 out of 5 will receive a ribbon, or other designation as a qualified sharpshooter

If there is anyone that wants to try this out I'll have the targets at the live shoot and will supervise the shooting. Maybe if the 3 out of 5 seems to be too easy we'll 'raise the bar' some for next year. If you think you might be interested please let me know so I can make sure there are enough targets on site.





# Greenfield Village FINAL Info:

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 15!

Here are a couple of useful items for you for Greenfield Village. (PLEASE SEE ATTACHMENTS) First is a map giving directions on how to get there, but more important it shows where the new location is for registration. If you look, the CW Check-in is west of the museum, over by the Automotive Hall of Fame. You can park in the lot over there and register at the tent. The easiest way to get there is off of Oakwood Blvd.

Also there is a document which is a tutorial for you to refer to if you need to change your registration to add guests. This is only after you have registered yourself and if you need to modify your guest list. Remember that they only are interested in having people registered who are going to participate at the event. Each person registering will be able to obtain up to 3 guest buttons as in years past.

Below is the link to get onto the registration page.

<http://www.cvent.com/.../event-summary...> This one works. (Note that right after the www. it is "c"-vent, not "e"-vent).

You should read the instructions very carefully because a couple of things have changed this year. Most important is that the hours for registration have changed. There no longer will be registration on Sunday. If you are planning on coming on Sunday you will need to make arrangements ahead of time for someone to pick up your materials for you and then get with them when you arrive.

Attached are what you will find on the web site so you can have a copy yourself without having to go through saving it on your computer from the internet site.

Please register as soon as possible. The cutoff date is April 15. You have plenty of time if you do it right away. Greenfield Village has our current roster. Once you register online your name will be checked against the roster and you will be approved.

Thanks-

Dave Downing

7th Mich. Inf.

### **CHECK-IN**

All participants in the 2017 Civil War Remembrance program **must** check-in in at the Check-In tent prior to entering the Greenfield Village, Eagle Tavern Gate or Blue Gate. **Walk-up Registration and check-ins will not be allowed.**

\*Sutlers and Exhibitors should pick up their Check-In Packets at Town Hall (Sutlers) and Village Pavilion (Exhibitors).

**Check-In will be held in a new location for 2017** - directions and a map will be sent before the event. **All participant must show credentials (button) to enter Security Gates.** All participants will enter Greenfield Village via the Eagle Gate following *Eagle Lane*. It is recommended that Participants bring a copy of their confirmation.

**Check-In Hours:** Friday, May 26, 2017 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 27, 2017 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

No Sunday or Monday Check-In (*Contact your Unit Commander for alternate arrangements*)

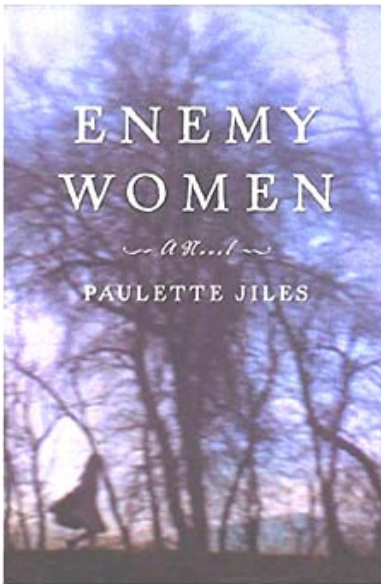
**YOU MUST MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ARRIVE DURING CHECK-IN HOURS.** If you have an emergency on the way and will be arriving after Check-In hours, you must call our Security Team at 313.982.6096. ***If a participant is planning to arrive outside of registration hours or will be arriving Sunday or Monday, you must make prior arrangements with your Civil War Commander.***

ICE FOR SALE

We will have bags of ice available for purchase during specific time at a set location – more information to come.







## Book Review: *Enemy Women*

by Ellyn Painter

When eighteen-year-old Adair Colley's family home is set afire, and her aging father taken prisoner by a band of ostensibly Union soldiers who are in fact, probably merely bandits, she and her younger sisters become refugees, until--despite the Colley family's avowed neutrality--a fellow traveler's spite results in Adair's arrest for "enemy collaboration." This is an equivocal term in the Missouri of the Civil War years, for this border state--especially in the Ozark back country area of southeastern Missouri where Adair's family farm is located-- is torn by lawlessness and treachery and its citizens are as likely to become victims of their nearest neighbors as of the two legitimate armies, neither of which are really in charge. After being held in a women's prison in St. Louis, Adair hides from roving guerrilla militias on both sides of the war, who will steal her meager possessions, or quite possibly her virtue or her life, as she attempts to make her way back home.

This well-written novel possesses an almost literary quality and is unique in that it takes place in a locale about which we do not generally think much when considering the effects of the Civil War. No vast armies faced off in battlelines across its farmlands and woods; its towns were not reduced to rubble by shelling, nor its streets and fields littered with hundreds of corpses festering under a hot summer sun. Yet the war in Missouri took a heavy toll. This book tells some of that story. The author, Paulette Jiles, was born and raised in the Missouri Ozarks, so is able to capture the nuances and particular voice of this region. In short, my only complaint against the novel is the rather inexplicable book jacket photo on the hardback version of the book (the one I read) that shows the shadowy figure of a girl running through a woods wearing a flared-style knee length skirt that looks much more like the 1960's than 1860's. Very odd choice!

A companion book that I found intriguing, and which Ms. Jiles cited as one of her research sources is [Inside War: The Guerrilla Conflict in Missouri During the American Civil War](#) by Michael Fellman. Missouri was a slave state that rejected secession, thus it was a different kind of war that was fought in Missouri, where conflicting values and views of which side of the war was God's side often resided in the same individual. Anti-slavery back country folk, for instance, carried resentment not only for slave-holding Southerners, but against smug Northerners who insulted them in the newspapers as ignorant, backward "Pukes." In Fellman's words, the war here "truly was a spontaneous creation of the people, by the people, and against the people." Later in the book, he referred to the "blurring of combatants," which also aptly describes the difficulty the Union army had in distinguishing not only who was on which side, but between civilians and soldiers, leading them to begin engaging in guerrilla-style "hit-and-run" warfare, like the enemy, a practice which alienated many Unionist civilians, but was applauded by others. Very fascinating book.

Thanks to those who have contributed book reviews in the past few months. Anyone else with a good Civil War related book who wants to send in a review - I'm accepting!

Wishing you all a Happy Easter on April 15.

THE  
IRIS





