

THE UNION VOLUNTEER



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

Volume XXXVII No. 4 April 2018



7th Michigan gentlemen gathered at the Emericks' home in Mason, MI for Military School of the Soldier on March 3. Photo submitted by Tom Emerick.


Welcome
To the World!



Olivia Mae McComas
DOB: March 23, 2018

Next Club Meeting:

Will be on Saturday, April 21
At the Live Shoot.

See details in Don Everett's
report, page 3

More club news on next page.....

Club News

From our Webmaster, David Finch: I have found a resource I would like to share with you while I work on restoring the website. This is an accessible archived version of the website.

<https://web.archive.org/web/20170920031927/http://7thmichigan.us/>

From David Graham on Facebook: Anyone have any interest in participating in a living history type thing at St. John's Middle School? Teacher has expressed interest in having me come in but I need backup. LOL. No dates yet, and I have yet to email her back. Likely be a classroom setting but could possibly evolve into a living history event or something down the road involving the larger community. Contact me at 989-307-8930 or: greaseydave@gmail.com

Chris Sodman's new sutlery: Chris is a high quality wood- worker. If you need something for the upcoming season check him out. Sodman Civil War Woodshop & Supply on Facebook
(Posted on March 3 on Facebook by Doug McComas)

Welcome Our New Club Members! We have quite a few new members this 2018 season:

Eric & Michelle Behnke
Donald & Nancy Buck
Daniel and Lana Clore
Chris Cook
Drayson & Dorothy Doyle
Roger & Debra Emelander
David A. Finch
Scott Graham
Lynn & Jackie Holton
Jay Pearson
Richard & Carol VanDyke
Kennedy James Wilson



Please welcome all these new friends as you run across them at events and meetings! (My apologies if I have missed anyone. Please let me know if there are other names that should be on the list, so I can formally recognize them in the newsletter -- The Editor)



2018 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: Bill Jarrett
Treasurer: Don Everett
Military: Doug McComas, Captain
Civilian Coordinator: Sue Colegrove
Board Members-at-Large:
Chris Sodman, Joy Henderson, Bill Jarrett
Quartermaster: Don Everett
Club Historian: Doug McComas
Webmaster: David Finch

Website: www.7thmichigan.us

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



Charley Colegrove Memorial Shoot:

Our annual Charley Colegrove Memorial Shoot will be Sat. April 21st at the Eaton Rapids Conservation Club 4100 Freeman Rd Eaton Rapids, MI 48827. The day begins with a breakfast at 9 am for a donation of \$2. The shoot will commence at 10; bring any firearm that you would like to shoot. There will be a \$5 fee for shooting to help defray the cost of the range rental. **Hearing protection is required** and eye protection is recommended. Lunch will be a potluck at 12:30. Following lunch the April meeting will convene at 1:30. For more information contact me at 517-393-3475 or djkeverett@comcast.net

---submitted by Don Everett



Sue Colegrove



Quartermaster Report:

We still have some new gear left from the Slayton contingent, but the new stuff is going fast so plan on looking at the March meeting. Powder has arrived and will be \$19 per pound, caps are \$7 per hundred. We will have powder, caps and paper at the upcoming meetings and at events that I will attend this summer. Let me know if you hear of anyone wanting to sell their kit. We are always looking for "new" stock for the Quartermaster.

Education Director's Report:

We have a program scheduled for May 11, 2018 at Birney Middle School in Southfield. We usually car pool or meet there at noon to 12:30. More details to follow. We have not heard from Ovid Middle school if they are going to have a program this year.

Treasurer's Report:

New rosters will be available after Feb 28th and will be available at the next meeting.

Feb. was a busy recruiting month! We would like to welcome back to the 7th Jeff & Lin Sanborn, as well as new members Eric & Michelle Behnke, David Finch, Richard & Carol Van Dyke, Donald & Nancy Buck, Lynn & Jackie Holton, Roger & Debra Emelander, Daniel & Lana Clore, and Drayson & Dorothy Doyle . Let's give all of them a hardy welcome to the 7th!

Charlton Park/Hastings:

Date is July 21st and 22nd setup is after 7am Thurs July 19th. We need to provide help with registration Fri from 8 am to 10 pm. We are again providing games and crafts from 11:30am – 1:00pm on Sat. As last year, ice **WILL NOT** be available on site. Ice will be available at the Party Store at the corner of Charlton Park Rd and M79, ½ mile from the park. When someone goes out for ice we need to make sure that our other members know and can make arrangements to get ice. Cavalry demonstration is moved to 1:45. Battle on Sat has been moved to 2:30 with Medical demonstration moved to 3:45 pm. There will be a kid's muster at noon and a kid's drill at 5:30. Contact me to volunteer for registration or for the children's games at 517-393-3475 or djkeverett@comcast.net

Don Everett,

Quartermaster/ Education Director/ Treasurer



Military Report



Well gentlemen, it's almost here. Our first event of the year will be Greenfield Village. At this writing we have 14 men attending and I'm sure we will fill out the company before May. We have 11 at this point signed up for Gettysburg and I encourage you to go. It WILL be one of those things you won't forget in the hobby.

I am proud that the new NCOs have worked so very hard over the winter to get up to speed in their new roles and they have some good ideas to improve your experience in camp and through our weekends. I'm most proud of our reputation in the hobby. We are an accepting group. What I mean is our major criteria for participating is working hard and being willing to learn and improve. As such we continue to have people join up, take the risk of feeling green and foolish, and grow in fellowship and friendship as fine reenactors.

This group has had a vast amount of turnover in the 15 years I've been with the 7th. My mentors jokingly call themselves the "old farts mess". Someday I too will join their ranks, but

honestly, right now, I'm having way too much fun to slow down.

I encourage you to spread the word to your family and friends. This is a great hobby. It's hard to describe it to someone until they try it. But you all know what I mean.

My personal goals this year: One I shared a couple of months ago -- Be more thankful and share my appreciation for the fine work and effort you all do. Second, I want to continue to learn and study the techniques so I feel I do you justice on the field.

Anyway, pull out the wool! Get those rounds ready! It's finally almost here.

Lastly, I am blessed to share the hobby with my son and now we have a new young lady who may be popping into camp from time to time. Her name is Olivia Mae McComas; all 6 lbs 2 oz of her entered the world on March 23.

Family, friends and fire (and fire water). It doesn't get any better.

In your service,

Captain McComas



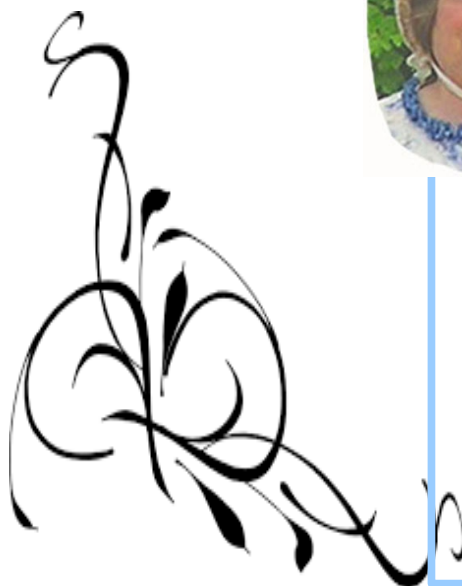
Civilian Report

Happy Easter, Everyone.

The ladies met in March at the home of Carol and Bob Smith's daughter, Maggie. A big thank you to Maggie for the use of your home. We had a great day. The gentlemen met at Bob's house and traveled to Flint.

Our next civilian meeting will be at the Eaton Rapids Conversation Club on April 21. (See Live Shoot report above). The ladies will provide a potluck lunch. I am asking some of the ladies to bring a breakfast passing dish, and others to bring a dish for the potluck lunch. If you have any questions on what food item to bring, please call me. And bring whatever sewing or other project you want to work on. Or—if you prefer to shoot, ladies are most welcome on the range!

Sue Colegrove 517-626-0144 scolegrove@rocketmail.com



March 3, 2018 - Mason, NJ Military School of Instruction

After-Action Report

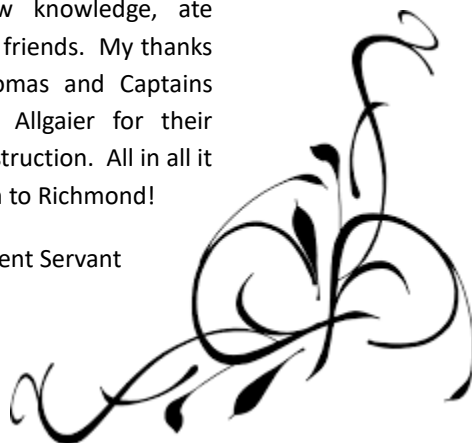
The school was well attended (26 students) with attendees ranging in experience from "fresh fish" to a 37 year veteran of the hobby. A majority of the time was dedicated to class room instruction, especially concentrating on the responsibilities and positioning of NCOs and Company officers within formations and maneuvers.

Following lunch the class was moved outdoors by unanimous vote of the students. They were itching to put lessons into practice and a sunny day, 41 degrees, and wool uniforms made for a perfect time to drill. Mark Heath provided guidance and bugle signal instruction throughout the day. Jim MacKinnon did some class instruction on Skirmish drill followed by putting those lessons into practice outdoors. Michal Schroeder acclimated the troops to a few basic camp signals on the drum and then led the troops on a short walk down the street to accustom them to street cadences. A passerby stopped to take a video of us marching in the street but apparently it has not gone viral yet.

During a school break Don Everett presented club member Wyatt Strauss with a new rifle on behalf of the 7th Michigan membership. Wyatt was surprised and extremely pleased (see attached photo) with the generous gift. He promised to put it to very good use throughout the season. Everyone gained some new knowledge, ate heartily, and made some new friends. My thanks to Lieutenant Andrew McComas and Captains Robert Giorlando and Alan Allgaier for their patience and help with the instruction. All in all it was a very productive day. On to Richmond!

Most Respectfully, Your Obedient Servant

Tom Emerick



Events Update

Just a couple of updates on our events for this year.

Mooresville Civil War Days and Wolcott Mills Events...October 6 - 7

The club decided at the March meeting to support two events at the same time the weekend of October 6-7. We continue to want to support our friends of the 1st MI at their Mooresville Civil War Days, but have been informed that the 7th is to be "featured" at the Wolcott Mills Event the same weekend. Accordingly, the military will be splitting in order to get some attendance at both events. Chris Sodman will remain as the club coordinator for the Mooresville affair and Doug McComus will act as club coordinator for the Wolcott Mills event. Civilians may attend either event according to their own preferences. More information will be provided by the respective coordinators as it becomes available.

Turkeyville Event...June 16 - 17

I've confirmed that I can register us as a club for this event. They've improved the registration form and process. However, in order to do so I need to know who plans on attending the event. Please email me no later than May 1st to let me know if you plan on attending and I'll use the roster to register everyone in your particular family unit as military, civilian and minor in accordance with their usual impression. If I don't hear from you by May 1st I won't be registering you and you'll need to go on line and register yourself. A warning...don't rely on telling me in person at the Live Shoot as we won't be able to attend that this year.

Send your emails of intention to carolsmith40160@yahoo.com.

Thanks,

Bob Smith

Key Effort Events 2018

February: None.

March 3 - Military Training for Officers and NCO's (Tom Emerick): 8am – 4pm, Mason, MI

April 21 - Charlie Colegrove Memorial Shoot (Don Everett): Eaton Rapids Conservation Club, Breakfast at 9:00am (\$2.00), If you shoot suggested donation of \$5.00 **(Don Everett)**

May 25-27 - Coldwater Civil War Days (Tom Emerick): Coldwater, MI

-Friday 25th – School days

-No train – down for maintenance

-See newsletter for more info.

May 27-29 - Greenfield Village (Dave Downing): Dearborn, MI We have 20 people registered

June 16-17 - Turkeyville (Bob Smith): Marshall, MI. We will try to register as a group.

July 5-8 - Gettysburg PA (Doug McComas): This is our National Event

July 21-22 Charlton Park (Don Everett): Hastings, MI. Setup after 7:00am on Thursday 19th.

- Dave Downing will do announcing.

- 7th to do kids games and crafts and help with Registration. Drill kids – Need "Rifles"

- Bring your own Ice.

- 7th MI will have a supper on Saturday Night.

August 24-25-26 - Jackson CW Muster (Kim Horning): , Jackson, MI. Will have school program on Aug 24 for HS students.

September 7-9 - Meridian Village (Sue Colegrove): Okemos, MI

October 13 - 7th MI Harvest Ball (Gilbert & Cyndi Carlson): Central United Methodist Church, Lansing MI

November: None

December : Christmas Party

Other Events 2018

March 17: Living History (Kalamazoo Gun Show)

September 15-16 - Van Raalte Farms CW Muster Holland MI: Put on by our good friends in the 3rd MI Co. F

September 22-23 - Gowns & Guns, Greenmead Historic Village, Livonia MI, sponsored by the 17th MI

October 6-7 - Mooresville CW Days, South Haven MI, See Chris Sodman

October 6-7 - Wolcott Mills Metropark, 63841 Wolcott Rd., Ray MI 48065



152nd Anniversary Commemoration of the Grand Army of the Republic

April 7: 10 AM – 5PM; April 8: Noon - 5 PM

On the night of April 6, 1866, in Decatur, Illinois, 13 veterans of the Union Army of the Civil War, led by Major Benjamin Stephenson, gathered in an upstairs room in a small, unassuming brick building. Little did they realize that the organization they were forming would have so much influence on the country they fought to save. The organization that was created that evening was the Grand Army of the Republic. It would end being one of the largest and most influential veterans' organizations this country has ever seen with virtually every northern state legislatures, Congress, and five presidencies occupied by members of the Grand Army. Among the many issues advocated by the G.A.R. was legislation to benefit both current and future veterans, the promotion of May 30th as Memorial Day throughout the country, and endorsement for the right to vote for women. The organization would last over 90 years and help to establish later veterans' organizations including the Spanish American War Veterans, American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars. It also sanctioned the creation of five Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic that still exist today to ensure the legacy of Grand Army.

Michigan's remembrance and commemoration of the 152nd anniversary of the Grand Army of the Republic will take place with a special Open House on Saturday, April 7, 2018 from 10 AM to 5 PM, and Sunday, April 8, 2018 from Noon to 5 PM at Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum (224 South Main, Eaton Rapids, Michigan). In addition to the two floors of Grand Army artifacts and memorabilia, many other special G.A.R. exhibits will be on display throughout the day in the 1886-built former G.A.R. Post building. Two full floors of special exhibits relating to the 90-years existence and accomplishments of the Grand Army will be available for viewing. A special 152nd birthday cake in honor of the Grand Army will be served on Saturday and refreshments will be served both days. Finally, on Saturday, experts also will be on site to help you identify and evaluate artifacts you may have from most any U.S military era.

Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum is the only such museum in the state that is exclusively dedicated to ensuring the memory, deeds, and accomplishments of the Grand Army of the Republic and its members in Michigan's 460 plus Posts are not forgotten. The Museum is free to the public.

---submitted by Keith Harrison



152nd Anniversary of the Grand Army of the Republic

Michigan's G.A. R. Memorial Hall & Museum
224 S. Main St Eaton Rapids

Saturday April 7— 10am till 5pm
Sunday April 8— Noon till 5pm



2 Floors of Relics

Special Exhibits

Military Artifact Evaluations

Free Admission

"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



Coldwater Spring Ball

Sat., April 28 · 6:00 PM EDT
Coldwater Fraternal Order of Eagles 1907·Coldwater, MI
<https://www.facebook.com/civilwarboard/>



Branch County (Coldwater) Civil War Days

May 25-27, 2018 - - Coldwater, Michigan

The 12th annual Coldwater event honoring our fallen U.S. Civil War ancestors is fast approaching. Amenities include straw, water, firewood, showers, restrooms, modern and authentic camping, powder issue for infantry, ice for \$1.50/bag, and a Saturday evening pot-luck dinner for all re-enactors. Activities will include Civil War artifacts & displays, a historic schoolhouse with period classes & children's games, Ladies Tea & Fashion Show, and Sunday morning period church service. Glen Morningstar Jr. and the Ruffwater Stringband will be providing the music for the Saturday evening authentic-only period ball. The Battle of Stones River (1862-1863) is the battle scenario for the weekend. The military will be serving under the command of Captain Jeff Mattix (1st Michigan) and alongside John Hughes and our long-time compatriots in Robinson's Battery.

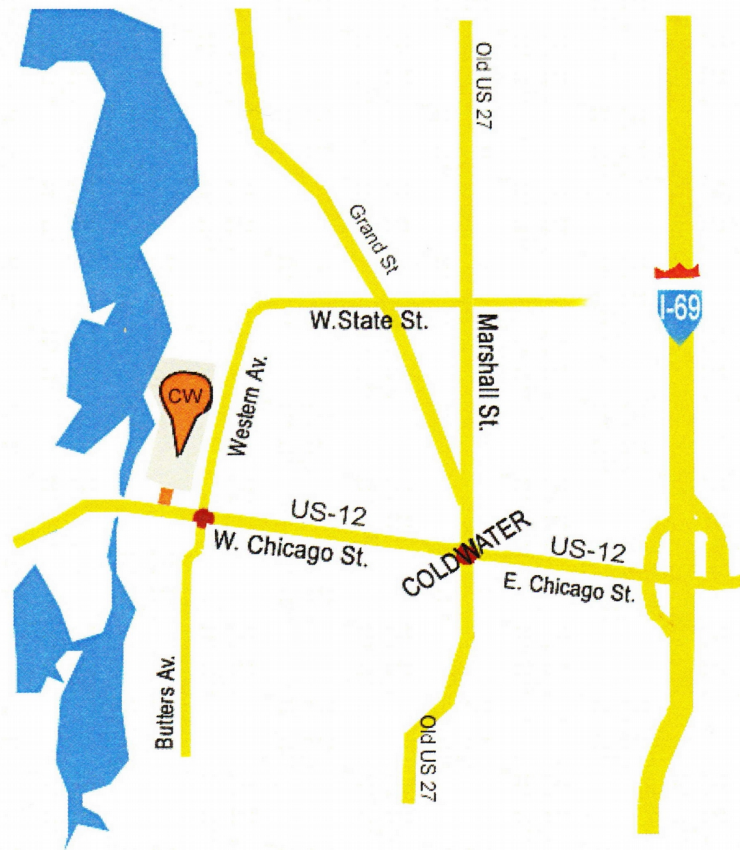
Public hours for the event are Friday (School Education Day), Saturday, and Sunday. Onsite registration and set-up are all day Thursday (5/24) and Friday (5/25). You can drive up to your site to unload except on Friday during the school program from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Vehicles are not permitted in the camps during those hours but you can carry in camp equipment if you so choose. Early arrivals are welcome to participate in the school program too. The event officially ends on Sunday (5/27) but participants are permitted to camp onsite until Monday (5/28) afternoon. All re-enactors who stay overnight Sunday are invited to participate in the local Memorial Day parade/cemetery ceremony Monday morning. For more information, you can contact the committee host at (517) 462-1054 or visit their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/civilwarboard/>

The venue is located north of US-12 and one mile west of downtown Coldwater.

Directions to Branch County Heritage Park:

Travel I-69 to US-12 (aka Michigan Avenue). Take Exit 13 for US-12/Interstate 69 Business. Drive westbound (towards Coldwater) 2.3 miles on US-12. Turn right (north) onto Western Avenue. Drive 0.4 miles and turn left (west) onto Heritage Drive. The event address is Branch County Heritage Park, 1776 Heritage Drive, Coldwater, Michigan 49036.

The 7th Michigan event coordinator is Tom Emerick. Tom will be sending in a registration by April 25th for all interested 7th Michigan attendees. You can contact Tom at tomjoanemerick@hotmail.com or (517) 604-6116.



DIRECTIONS

Off US12 about 1 mile west of
downtown Coldwater
Look for the signs.

For more information and
information about the Friday
train ride with President Lincoln
or the Saturday Train Robbery Ride

Contact Us At:
517-462-1054

