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



Next Club Meeting:

Saturday, Aug. 16 – Muster Work Party (See details in the President's Report, page 2)

Notice of Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting for the 7th Michigan Vol. Inf., Co. B
Will be held on Sunday, October 19, 2014
1:00 pm at Robbins UMC Eaton Rapids, MI
(See map, page 10)

All members are strongly encouraged to attend, since we will, as always, be voting on the new club Leadership positions for the coming year.

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I'm a week past Hastings. Our friends in Battery D, 3rd F, and others put on a great event and this year made it especially clear that the old politics of the past have been truly put to bed. It was good to see so many friends. We are fast approaching Jackson, so a few details and odds and ends follow. Work Party Weekend Lunch and Club meeting at noon the Saturday before Jackson (ie. Aug. 16th). We can work on fashioning some battlefield works of wood after the meeting. A couple of post hole diggers and chainsaws should be sufficient. Plan on staying a little bit after if you can.

We DO NOT HAVE THE PAVILION FOR THE MEETING. We will meet in the Bandshell at 12 pm. I will purchased sandwich fixings, plates, plastic ware and cups. Please bring a passing dish.



If you have not signed up for a work slot for Muster weekend, WE WILL FIND YOU. Please help out where you can. We will be trying to begin construction of the buildings Thursday evening. Cascades Inc. is going to try to have some volunteer labor that night to help with the construction of the false front buildings.

I've been told that Barry, Mark, Jim, Bob and Al are reprising the "Old Farts Mess" for Jackson. I'm so excited to have my pards from early in my time with the 7^{th} back in the ranks at least one more time. I am truly indebted to them all for what they taught me and the patience shown with a green fresh fish so many years ago.

I am officially announcing to those who have not heard that I will not be running for president again in October. It is time for a fresh look and new voices to be heard and take the reins. I have truly appreciated the love and support of the club during my terms and look forward to what lies ahead under new leadership. I hope to run for an at large position and will continue with Jeff on Jackson planning and taking an active role in our military. Thank you for your trust and assistance these past 4 years.

I think our urgent need is to keep reenacting and the 7th alive and growing. Two "old clubs" just announced they are no longer with us. We need to support and encourage those who are interested in the hobby, and reach out to new people and show them what a wonderful hobby this truly is.

I am immensely proud of the 7th Michigan and all you have done for the hobby. I am proud to tell people I am part of this group. I hope everyone can make Jackson and can't wait for our big anniversary party. I look forward to reenacting with my pards for a long time. I want some day to be an "old fart" and join the guys. Let's keep our hobby, our event and our club strong and growing.

I remain your most obedient servant,

DOUG

Civilian Report

Hello all! Our 30th Jackson event will be upon us in just a few short weeks...time really does fly! For the event our civilian group will be in the Special Impressions Area (Jacksonburg) demonstrating children's toys, games and crafts. We will have tables set up for people to make ribbon rosettes and church babies. We will also have a selection of toys for children and adults to try out. Plus special appearances by the Pocket Lady (thank you Vonda). We will need some volunteers to help work the stations at our tent. We will have 2 shifts each day from 9am-12noon and 1pm-4pm. Any help will be appreciated. Please let me know if you are able to help and when you are available.

At the Jackson work party we will be putting the Pocket Lady prizes into bags and prepping the materials for the crafts. If there is anything left to do we will be working to finish it Thursday evening and Friday before the event. Thank you to all the ladies who helped to make the bags! I am looking forward to seeing you all at Jackson!

Katie Everett Civilian Chair cinderellie_2003@yahoo.com (517)420-6837

MILITARY MINUTES – JULY 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

HASTINGS After Action Report Captain Slayton

The 7th Michigan was well represented at Hastings this year, by both the civilian and military contingents. There were, however, rumors about a



local barber of ill-repute causing trouble in the town on Saturday. There was no time to investigateas there was a lot of activity, starting with company drill at 8:00 am, forming the battalion at 9:30 am to march out for the 10:00 am battle in the high meadow at the northeast end of the park. The 7th Michigan was designated the 5th company (eleven stalwart soldiers strong) and started the battle as skirmishers placed between the opposing cannons. We held our own with their skirmishers until a full company of rebels came out and pushed us back. Then support finally arrived and we held the right flank for a time. However, as our numbers dwindled and the other Union boys were busy with the main body of Sesech, we had to fall back. The ever so valiant Captain. beloved by the entire army, was finally targeted by about 10 Rebs and was sent to glory. Sadness pervaded the sunlit field of battle as the Federals mourned and the Rebels hailed a courageous foe. 1st Sergeant McComas took over but was soon overwhelmed by superior numbers and decided to retire to fight another day with the two remaining soldiers. The last thing the heroic Captain heard we something like "Run boys!! – Skedaddle!". Thankfully, a hidden company of Federals popped out of the woods and ambushed the Rebs who had dared challenge the remnant boys of the 7th.

We then resurrected and hiked back to town. The timely resurrection cancelled the plans of the 7th Michigan boys to ransack my tent. After a short rest there was Battalion drill at noon-thirty. Another short

siesta and then the alarm was given at 3:00 pm. A battle in town ensued to drive out the Rebels. We heard they were looking for the barber to gain the reward. The 7th was once again asked to guard the left flank. One squad engaged a few renegade Rebs coming around the back of the buildings and the remainder stayed with 4th company on the main battle line. After a hard fight, the Union prevailed and pushed the Confederates out of the town. I was proud of the way the 7th handled it duties on this hot July day. Orders arrived for me to go on detached duty for a special assignment, and I promptly complied by handing over the remains of the company to 1st Sergeant McComas.

In your service, Capt. David Slayton



HASTINGS

After Action Report 1st Sergeant McComas

Following the Saturday battle a number of the boys participated in the candle-light tour medical scenario. Your first sergeant suffered a soon to be mortal head wound and pleaded with an

unscrupulous undertaker and his underling a "Mr. Mudge" to send my body home in a good rosewood coffin. (The name is not Scot; I am a Scot, ya bloody fool!) Several of the boys had suffered a worse fate and a young roust-about by the name of Adam Jarrett was relieved of his ungodly gambling gain by said undertakers. "So not to shame his parents."

Late Saturday it was announced that there

Late Saturday it was announced that there would be no tactical in the morning, only drill. Troops opined as to the cause but at 9 am Sunday, as we went to drill, we circled the Confederate battalion. They returned the favor and with Cavalry as the intermediary the commanders agreed to an unscripted and unjudged tactical. Our boys were now under the command of Cpt. Speikerman from the 114th PA. We were held in ambush with the 4th Michigan for a fight that never came and were then marched around the enemy, arriving too late for the fight and shooting not a single round.

Just before the afternoon battle two Pinkerton men attempted to arrest the Barber, a scoundrel who was seen in wanted posters throughout Charlton Park. Pistols blazed and I ran for the safety of Union Camp, not awaiting the outcome of this bloody work

The Sunday battle was moved from town to the meadow and once again the bully 7th was called on as skirmishers still under the able command of Cpt. Speikerman. The boys pushed back the rebels and





Can anyone recognize and claim these poor, dead boys?



withstood a cavalry charge by forming square before desperately being recalled by Col. Van to prevent the main body of the battalion from being flanked and driven off the field.

That's where the fight became one of the hottest in recent memory. The boys were moved repeatedly to cover the flanks of the battalion and were forced to refuse our line on both flanks at least 3 times. The rebs then attempted to break our line with a cavalry charge but this, too, was repelled with assistance from the remnants of the 3rd Michigan. Our bloodied but resolute company then faced the head-on advance from a fresh company of rebs. Things looked hopeless but the rebs fired by company and Major 'Baughman ordered the tattered mixed company of 3rd F, 114th PA and 7th MI, outnumbered two to one, to charge the dumbfounded rebs. To their shock we overtook the company, making them our prisoners. The rebel commander told me "that was an amazing charge by your men! I thought we had you dead to rights." The battle as a whole did end in a marginal rebel victory as the main body of Union troops were finally driven off the field.

At the end of the day none other than Col. Van came to the valiant men in 4th Company and said, "You boys turned certain disaster into near victory. I didn't believe troops could move that fast. You have my appreciation and thanks." One final note; on our way back to camp we observed two Pinkerton men in a standoff with Confederate troopers (perhaps these were accomplices of the aforementioned barber). We don't know what wrong was being righted but the two Pinkerton men (Mark and Pete) seemed destined to meet the great reward.

In all, Hastings continues to grow and mature. Our friends and partners, Battery D, ran a great event and we fell in with many of our old pards who welcomed us warmly into the ranks as friends and brothers.

Respectfully submitted, Your most obedient servant, 1st Sergeant Doug McComas

UPCOMING EVENTS

Please check your schedules and availability to attend the maximum events listed below as they are the "maximum effort events the 7th Michigan decided to support. Next up is Jackson, a special event since it is the 30th anniversary. We are hoping for a 30 man company to celebrate this signature event.

August 23-24: Jackson Muster

This is the 30th Anniversary of this premier Michigan event. PLEASE consider coming this year for the special activities, but also to see if we can field a <u>30 man company</u>. Let's be not only the biggest company, but the best unit on the field. Mark your calendars!

- September 20-21: Van Raalte Farm, Holland
- October: Harvest Ball, Lansing

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me. Most respectfully, Your Obedient Servant

Dave Slavton, Captain

Dave Slayton, Captain slaytondave@juno.com (517) 663-4161 "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

PLANS FOR JACKSON August 22-24, 2014 –

The 30th Annual Jackson Civil War Muster Jackson, Michigan

Tom Emerick reported the Jackson County Parks is providing scrap tree trunks, limbs, brush, etc.. for use as temporary breastworks.

Doug McComas has volunteered a load of hefty tree limbs from storm damage on his property to complement their donation. The wood "supply" will be especially appreciated to construct simple breastworks for General Wagner's division (US) to be driven from during the Franklin battle.

The Union infantry camp will be located near the driving range. In keeping with an 1864 impression each company will be assigned a large bivouac area. Unit commanders will determine what tentage their troops will bring and whether a formal street will be set up. Units are encouraged to camp campaign-style but we will not be restricting types of tentage. Jackson County Parks has granted permission to camp in the woods by the driving range and have cook fires. Company commanders desiring to bivouac in the woods please notify Tom in advance.

Saturday's battles will be taken from the 1864 Wilderness campaign. The first scenario is a recreation of the Saunders Field engagement. The second scenario simulates the Widow Tap Farm portion of the battle. Sunday's battles are taken from late 1864 Tennessee campaign. The first scenario will be a recreation of the Union Army (Schofield) slipping by the CS Army (Hood)

and the subsequent Battle of Spring Hill. The second scenario recreates the Battle of Franklin to include the stampede of a portion of Gen. Wagner's division (US).

Last year Jim Newkirk and John Clark (1St MI Lt. Arty., Battery D) suggested we develop scenarios highlighting the effect artillery has on infantry. For years the artillery has kind of been on the sidelines as the infantry marched back in forth in front of them (without taking hits, no less). So, during a recent conversation at Hastings, Russ Paul volunteered the 4th Michigan for duty as cannon fodder for canister shots during the battles. Not to be outdone. Dave Baumann and John Vohlken volunteered the 3rd Michigan, Co. F for the same duty AND indicated they would bring their own fake, bloody appendages to enhance the scenario. Michael Jantzen and the 33rd Virginia offered their services (again) for any hand-tohand combat scenarios. This will come in especially handy during the Franklin scenario when the Confederates storm into the Union lines at the Carter house. Tom Patton, aka QM Sergeant Harley Puckett, of the 4th Michigan has offered his reproduction supply wagon the use during the battles as he did last year. Paul Wood, who portrays Robert E. Lee as a Living Historian in the Special Impressions Area, has volunteered to serve in a cameo (noncommanding) capacity during the Widow Tapp Farm scenario if the Confederate commander so desires to take advantage of his services.

Please feel free to contact Tom at mailto:tomjoanemerick@hotmail.com or (517) 669-5607 if you have any questions.

REMINDER

To all Members, regarding the matching fund set up by the 7th MI for the benefit of Britta and Alvin, the widow and son of Matts Geschwind, who passed away May 25 following the last of several surguries for esophageal cancer. (See June issue for details). Contributions to the fund will be accepted from now until our **August 16th meeting.**

Please make out checks to:

7th MI Volunteer Inf., Co. B

with subject Britta and Alvin, and send to our P.O.box. (P.O. Box 16206 Lansing, MI 48901-6206)

WE STILL NEED YOU!

Must be willing to work long hours with no pay, and barely any recognition...BUT with the pride of participation in putting on one of the greatest events ever - The Jackson Civil War Muster

Please apply immediately to Don Everett

This is the 30th
Anniversary of
the Muster
So extra help is
needed.

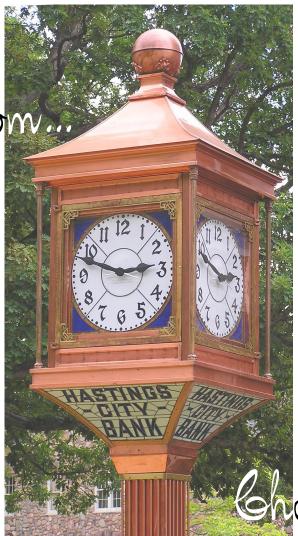
tt@comcast.net

The Muster
is only three
weeks away.

Time is running out!
So sign up now!

More Scenes from...







See Anson with his "weather stone." It predicts the weather, don't you see. If the stone is wet, it's raining; if it's white, it's snowing; if moving, it's windy, and if it's gone, it's a tornado, so skeeeeedaaddle!

Anson is also displaying one of the "mice" he caught in his "trap." I'm not sure, but I fear it's meant for the cook pot! Anson cooked ALOT of food this weekend. Thanks, Lorrie and Anson, for sharing!

Park Park July 19-20, 2014











Photos by Ellyn Painter



My mother sent me an article about the recent dedication of a monument for Camp Monroe in Monroe, Michigan. The article refers to the 7th Michigan Cavalry but the monument is actually for the 7th Michigan Infantry. Apparently they used some of the left over funds we donated to the other Civil War monument a few years ago to purchase this one. Wish the Unit had been invited to attend.

---submitted by Tom Emerick

See the full article at: http://www.monroenews.com/news/2014/jul/06/civil-wars-camp-monroe-dedicated/



----Submitted by Keith Harrison



NEWS RELEASE

June 25, 2014

FULL-COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY BOOK CAPTURES MICHIGAN'S CIVIL WAR HISTORY

FLINT, MI-- EAST LANSING, MI—The American Civil War Years: The Michigan Experience (the reenactors' telling) has been independently published by iMichigan Productions of Flint, a 501(c)3 educational multi-media production company, to capture Michigan's rich Civil War history.

The beautiful 136-page book features full-color photographs of American Civil War reenactors as their actions tell the stories of going off to war, camp life, battles and surrender. The photography of Wayne Dabney of Ann Arbor and Leon C. Collins of Grand Blanc is featured.

The book focuses on Michigan's role in the Civil War and its many contributions to the war effort. It highlights African-Americans and Native Americans who fought for the Union cause along with the rest of Michigan 90,000 soldiers. It demonstrates the roles of women both in battle and in society, and covers the politics of the times. The photos throughout the book were taken in Michigan by Michigan photographers.

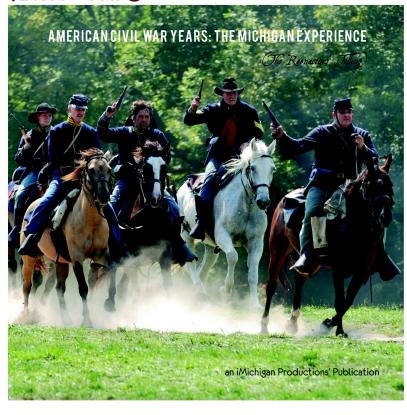
It also features a Foreword by noted Michigan historian John Gibney of Ann Arbor and Introduction and Epilogue by Flint-area author and broadcaster Michael J. Thorp. In addition, it offers a bounty of resources about Michigan's Civil War history to encourage learning activities and day trips for families and classrooms alike.

The book was edited by Donna Ullrich of Perrinton and designed by University of Michigan-Flint senior art major Shekinah Shazaam of Clio with a grant from the University's Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program.

All proceeds of the book stay in Michigan, paying Michigan media artists and supporting iMP educational projects. It is available at Amazon.com for \$25.99 plus shipping and handling.

Monroe News photo by TOM HAWLEY Jim Liedle, of Post 1138 in Monroe plays taps at the dedication of the historical marker "Camp Monroe" a Civil War training camp which existed took place off St. Mary's Avenue near Lorain St. in Monroe Friday morning.

\$25.99 + \$&H @ HTTPS://WWW.CREATESPACE.COM/4644614



This beautiful 136-page book features full-color photographs of American Civil War reenactors as their actions tell the stories of going off to war, camp life, battles and surrender. The book focuses on Michigan's role in the Civil War and its many contributions to the war effort. It highlights African-Americans and Native Americans who fought for the Union cause along with the rest of Michigan 90,000 soldiers. It demonstrates the roles of women both in battle and in society, and covers the politics of the times. In addition, it offers a bounty of resources about Michigan's Civil War history to encourage learning activities and day trips for families and classrooms alike. The photos were shot throughout Michigan by Michigan photographers. All proceeds of this book stay in Michigan, paying Michigan media artists and supporting iMP educational projects.

AMERICAN CIVIL WARE MICHIGAN EXPERIENCE



"Listen to the stories of Michigan's soldiers, leaders, and citizens of the time. Examine Michigan's contributions and their affect on the outcome of the conflict Investigate the character of the Civil War and its affect on Michigan and American society."

—John Gibney, Michigan historian "As the Civil War constitutes a grave and pivotal point not only in our national history but that of Michigan, the story of Michigan's involvement is a story that needs and merits greater exploration and understanding."

Kent Wieland, chair, Communication,
 Media and the Arts Department,
 Lansing Community College





"Thank God for Michigan." --Abraham Lincoln

a 501c3 non-profit Educational Production Company www.americancivilwaryears.com

August 2014 Civil War Sesquicentennial Report

Of the 127 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), 10 have been reported for August. Additional information on each of these events may be obtained by going to www.micw150.us/2014events.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.

--August 2014--

- **2 3**. **Civil War Days 2014** (228 South Ridge Street, Sanilac County Village and Museum, Port Sanilac, Michigan). Website and Registration: http://sanilaccountymuseum.org. Contact Email: sanilacmuseum.org or by Telephone at 810-622-9946.
- **6 & 13**. **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 opened in September of 2013. Located in the historic 1886 James B. Brainerd Post No. 111 GAR building at 224 South Main in Eaton Rapids, the museum is free to the public; Website: http://garmuseum.com/. Contact: Deb Malewski, Board Secretary, at GARmichigan@gmail.com/.
- **9 10**. Chesterfield Civil War Days (Chesterfield Historical Village Park, 47275 Sugarbush Rd Between 21 Mile and Cotton Rds., Chesterfield Township, Michigan). Suggested donations: \$1.00 per adult, \$2.00 Families. Website: http://chesterfieldhistoricalsociety.org. Contact: Tommy Spanski at 313-779-3357.
- **9 10**. Hale Farm & Village Civil War Reenactment (Hale Farm & Village, 2686 Oak Hill Road, Bath, Ohio). Website and Registration: http://www.wrhs.org/Properties/Civil_War_Reenactment_Encampment. Contact halereservations@wrhs.org or by telephone at 330-666-3711.
- **9 10.** Milford Memories (Central Park, Milford, Michigan). Hosted by the 9th Kentucky (CS). Website: www.milfordmemories.com. Contact is Joan Spiroff nspiroff@comcast.net or by Telephone at 248-685-1772 **16.** Annual Sunfield Farmers' Picnic and Parade (M-43, Sunfield, Michigan). Website: http://suvcw.org/mi/017/announcements.htm. Contact: Paul David Arnold at arnoldsuvcwmi@sbcglobal.net.
- **20**. Day Camp: Civil War Discovery Camp for Kids Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum (224 S. Main Street, Eaton Rapids, Michigan). 10:00 AM 3:00 PM. Boys and girls 8 12 years of age. Cost: \$15, or two from the same family for \$25. Pre-registration by Monday, August 18th is required. Website: http://garmuseum.com/. Contact: Deb Malewski, Board Secretary, at GARmichigan@gmail.com/.
- **21.Presentation:** *The Importance of Women in the Civil War* (Jackson District Library, Carnegie Branch Basement Auditorium, 244 West Michigan Ave., Jackson, Michigan) 6:30 PM. Historian Shirley Hodges will be the speaker. Contact: Debby in the Reference Department at 517-788-4087.
- 23 24. 30th Annual Jackson, Michigan Cascades Civil War Muster (Cascades Falls Park, 1401 S Brown St, Jackson, Michigan). Free to the public, but donations appreciated. Battles Saturday and Sunday, Military Ball Saturday night, Night Artillery Firing. Special Impression Area. Website: http://www.7thmichigan.us/Jackson_Civil_War_Muster.htm Cascades Website: http://civilwarmuster.org/. Cascades Contact: 517-788-4320.
- **30 31.** Fenian Raid-Port Huron Celebration (Desmond Landing, 520 Water Street, Port Huron Michigan). The Fenian Brotherhood was an Irish republican organization founded in the United States in 1858. Between 1866 and 1871, the Fenian Brotherhood, which was based in the United States and which was composed of many former Union and Confederate Irish veterans (with considerable military experience), raided Canada in an attempt to take over British army forts, customs posts and other targets in Canada, in order to bring pressure on Britain to exchange Ireland's freedom for possession of their Province of Canada. Contact: Joe Ann Burgett at thefenianraid@gmail.com or by Telephone at 810-689-0109.

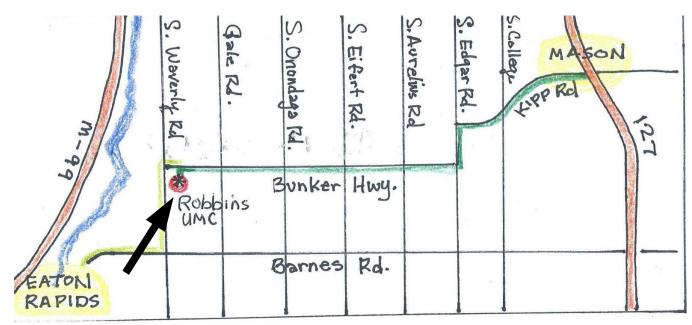
Keith G. Harrison, Chair 7th Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee

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.

9

MICHIGAN CIVIL WAR Sesquicentennial

1861-1865



Robbins United Methodist Church - 6419 Bunker Rd. (Hwy), Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 517-663-5226

MAP Not To Scale Roads are 1 mile apart