

THE UNION VOLUNTEER

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

Volume XXXII No. 12 December 2013



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

Events Coordinator: Dave Downing

Military: Dave Slayton, Captain

Civilian Coordinators: Katie Everett,

Melissa Bateman

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

Christmas Parade & Caroling, Leslie, MI Dec. 2008. Photo by Ellyn Painter

Website: www.7thmichigan.us

Webmaster: Dennis Zank

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Let me begin by wishing you all a Merry Christmas!

Please plan on attending our annual Christmas party at 1 pm on December 7. Don't forget our little surprise.

Dues are due. Don't forget to send them in or see Don especially if you are going to attend Greenfield Village as the list goes in early. It was a great season and I am grateful once again for your support as president and first sergeant. We will plan for our event season in February, then back to the field.

Your most obedient servant

Doug



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:
7thnewsletter@gmail.com

Or mail to:

736 Gettysburg Ave.
Jackson, MI 49203

Thank-you.

Ellyn Painter
Ellyn Painter, Editor



Our **Annual Christmas Party** is Sat. Dec. 7. See pg. 5 for details.

Reminder! Annual club dues are due! Contact Don Everett, Treasurer, or mail check to:
7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. B, Inc.
P.O. Box 16206, Lansing, MI 48901-6206

For Sale: Tent, 6'x9' x6' tall with 10'x12' fly, \$125.00, needs some repair. Caps at \$7.50/tin and Powder at \$14.00/can are available for purchase to members contact Don Everett, Quartermaster

HELP NEEDED! One willing person desperately needed to take over as webmaster for the club's website. Due to his new job, Denny Zank has found it necessary to resign this important position. All interested parties, please contact Denny.



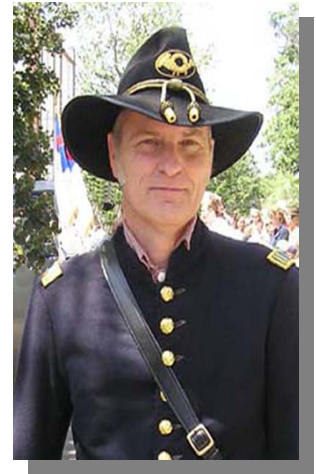
Correction: Regarding the "Time Capsule" article on Nathaniel Finch Clemence in last month's issue, Steve Church submitted this correction: "Dowling is in Barry Co., not Eaton. My mistake."

Condolences: The club expresses its heartfelt sympathy to Scott Shattuck and his family on the passing of Scott's wife, Linda Shattuck.



Military Minutes November 2013

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



2014 Company Drill Sessions

We discussed hosting another drill session in February, as had been done for the last number of years at the White Pine Academy in Leslie, which we would like to do. At this time, we have not been able to confirm whether the Academy building will be available, but will look into that. If available, we hope to have the Ladies of the 7th Michigan provide a lunch as was done in 2013. We also received an invitation from Ben Cwayna, of the 12 South Carolina, to participate in their spring drill at Charlton Park in March. There was not enough interest, so we will have to decline the offer.

Mid-Western Umbrella Organizations

After it was decided the 7th Michigan Military would join the Great Lakes Battalion at the October meeting, they were contacted and we were welcomed to the Battalion. The two representatives from the 7th to the Great Lakes Battalion will be Tom Emerick and David Slayton. We look forward to working with the other member groups at events coming up this year.

The rest of meeting time was filled up with a review of the responsibilities and positioning of the NCOs and officers during various maneuvers. And we also spent time perusing through the collection of used equipment that our Quartermaster has available.

The next meeting will be the 7th Michigan Christmas Party on December 7th at 1:00 pm, at Robbins United Methodist Church, 6419 Bunker Road, Eaton Rapids, MI, 48827.

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



Skating, anyone?

Linda Williams sent in this report on her research so far in seeking a possible site for an ice skating party later on in the winter:

Ingham County, including Lansing, has no outdoor ice rinks - only the rink at Michigan State University - an indoor rink. We really should have an outdoor rink to be as authentic as possible. We could use the Hawk Island pond, but we have to get three million dollars in insurance. The pond is a gravel pit which could have unsafe ice, and it has deep water below; we'd use it at our own risk.

Grand Rapids has a beautiful ice rink right downtown in front of the art museum - akin to Rockefeller Center in New York City. I don't know if the club members would want to drive that far for an hour on the ice (I'd have to find out if they will rent for an hour of exclusive use.) The advantage is that the ice is outside and maintained. If someone has (or knows someone who has) a pond on their property, we could possibly use that, but it would need snow shoveled and the ice would be bumpy. Remember the old days!

I don't know if other cities have similar outdoor rinks with maintained ice, and again, we'd have to consider the drive. I'd like to schedule something for this winter. If that isn't possible, we can consider it for next winter.

When we did this before, the public was invited to watch - again another facet of our teaching people about what people did in the 1860's. Someone's pond may be inaccessible due to spectators having to go through deep snow to the ice, then having nowhere to sit.

From looking at options, I think Grand Rapids is the best location. I'll first need input from reenactors, then I'll need to see if they would allow us an hour for just us to be on the ice... a "living Christmas card" as a gift to Grand Rapids. We could invite the Grand Rapids based 3rd Michigan to join us!

Love, Linda 

If you have ideas or information on this topic, contact Linda at:

517-484-2496

lansinglinda@comcast.net



The Ladies' first sewing party of the season was held at Ellyn Painter's house on Nov. 16. We all had a great time and the ladies made several types of charming Christmas decorations, which will be used at the Club Christmas party on Dec. 7. Photo by Ellyn Painter

December 2013 Civil War Sesquicentennial Report

The November 9, 2013 annual Michigan Reenactors' Conference was a great success. Fifty plus participants attended and updates were provided by the Michigan Historical Commission, the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, and the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners. A total of 173 events were listed for 2013 (180 in 2012 and 163 in 2011). After the Michigan Sesquicentennial updates, upcoming Michigan events and events of interest to Michigan for 2014 were presented by the conference participants. Currently 62 events already have been listed on the state-wide reenactor calendar for 2014! The web address for the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners is <http://www.micw150.us> and for the 2014 events is <http://www.micw150.us/2014events.htm>.

The conference again was sponsored and hosted by the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners, Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, Michigan Department of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Friends of Michigan History, Inc., Michigan Historical Center, Historic Fort Wayne Coalition, and History Remembered, Inc. Events for 2014 can be added anytime by contacting pcinc@prodigy.net.

--December 2013--

7. A Civil War Christmas at the Fort (Historic Fort Wayne 6325 West Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan). The event commemorates American's Civil War Sesquicentennial by learning Christmas traditions from that era. Meet interpreters portraying men who served at Fort Wayne, their Confederate counterparts and the civilians they left behind. Planning is already underway for the 2013 version of *A Civil War Christmas*. Admission Prices for the public: \$5.00 per adult, \$3.00 per child 15 and under, \$5.00 per car secured parking. Group rates are available. Website: <http://historicfortwaynecoalition.com/christmas.html>. Contact: Thomas Berlucchi at tberlucchi@yahoo.com or by Telephone at 248-840-5234.

--January 2014--

1 - June 30, 2015. Exhibit: Honored, Loyal, Brave, and True: Monroe County in the Civil War (Monroe County Historical Museum, 126 S. Monroe Street, Monroe, Michigan). The exhibit tells the story of Monroe County, Michigan's sacrifices and contributions during the Civil War. Included in the museum are artifacts related to Civil War luminaries George Armstrong Custer and Norman Hall. Also featured is Camp Monroe, a hands-on history section for children. \$4/adults, \$2 children. <http://www.MonroeMuseums.org>. Contact: Andy Clark at andy_clark@monroemi.org or by telephone at 734-240-7780.

15. Presentation: Lincoln and Civil Liberties (Lily Theater, Conner Prairie Interactive History Park, 13400 Allisonville Road, Fishers, Indiana). 7:30 PM (Doors open at 7:00 PM). Presenter is Brian Dirck. Website: <http://civilwar.connerprairie.org/share/calendar>. Contact Paul Watson at pwatson001@indy.rr.com.

--February 2014--

10. Presentation: Union Generals (American Legion Post 29, 3200 Lansing Ave, Jackson, Michigan). 7:00 PM. The presenter will be Mr. Fred Prebe, AKA President Abraham Lincoln. The event is sponsored by the Austin Blair Camp No. 7, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Website: <http://www.austinblaircamp7.com/>. Contact: Howard Lloyd at bigrock9917@aol.com.

12. Annual Abraham Lincoln Birthday Commemoration (Lincoln Memorial, Washington, DC). Sponsored by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. Wreath laying. Website: <http://suvchw.org/mollus.htm>.

19. Presentation: Religion During the Civil War (Lily Theater, Conner Prairie Interactive History Park, 13400 Allisonville Road, Fishers, Indiana). 7:30 PM (Doors open at 7:00 PM). Presenter is Jim Johnson. Website: <http://civilwar.connerprairie.org/share/calendar>. Contact Paul Watson at pwatson001@indy.rr.com.

22. 18th Annual Mid-Winter Civil War Grand Ball and Swap Meet (Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capital, Lansing, Michigan) Swap Meet 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM, Ball: 6:00 PM. Music provided by the Golden Griffon. Sponsored by the 8th Arkansas/22nd Michigan Volunteer Infantry. Tickets cost \$15.00 per person. Advance tickets will be available November 15, 2013. Tickets also will be available at the Swap meet and at the door. Contact: Diana Means at Dmeans13@hotmail.com or by Telephone at 810-599-5935.

25. 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.





7th Michigan Christmas Party
Saturday December 7, 2013
12:30-1pm Social Hour
1pm Lunch



Robbins United Methodist Church
6419 Bunker Road
Eaton Rapids, MI, 48827

Lunch – Main Dish/rolls/ beverage and dinner service all provided
Please bring a dish (or two) to pass (depending on family size)
*No Alcohol

Program / Awards – anyone wishing to give out an award or perform
Please contact Pat Downing 517-676-5998 at least a week in advance

THERE WILL ALSO BE A CLUB MEETING,
SO PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND

See you on December 7th

Your Christmas Party Committee

Questions to Pat Downing – 517-676-5998

