

THE UNION VOLUNTEER 7TH

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

Volume XXXVI No. 12 December 2017



*Have yourselves a
Merry Christmas
Little*

7th Michigan group at Meridian Historical Village, Okemos, MI. Photo courtesy of the "Friends of Historic Meridian."



The 7th MI Annual Christmas Party
is Saturday, December 2.



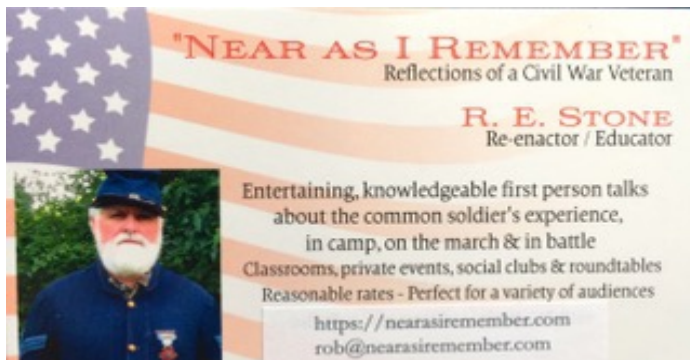
Cinnamon stick tree ornaments made at the
Ladies' Sewing Party on Nov. 18.

2018 DUES ARE DUE...



Items of Interest

From Rob Stone: "My first-person speaker's bureau, "Near as I Remember," is now listed on the All Michigan Civil War site: allmichigancivilwar.com/presentations.html I would be remiss in not thanking William Eichler for his willingness to add me to the AMCW site!"



David Graham reported on Facebook that the 102nd US Colored Troops got their new regimental flag. Now they are working on restoring the original state flag.

From Sue Colegrove:

"I would like to thank everyone for your thoughts and prayers and kindness and love at the passing of my mother, Billie Wreggelsworth. It meant a great deal to me.

Thank you to Dave and Pat Downing for your kindness and reminding me that the 7th Michigan are all family.. Love to you all."

LINKS:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QNRqLHD8S1c&feature=youtu.be>

Link above for **R.E. Stone- Curated Eccentricities Video Blog**

Rob Stone's new video series. The brief introduction video explains what viewers will see. In the first talk, he discusses the various uses for the Civil War soldier's gum blanket.

Some of you have probably seen this recent WLNS-TV news story and interview featuring Dave Downing, and shared by him on Facebook, Nov. 7. For those who haven't, here is the video link: <http://wlms.com/2017/11/07/medal-of-honor-mundell-ranney-and-withington/> The story is about three mid-Michigan Civil War Medal of Honor recipients, one of whom was Dave's great-great-grandfather, Walter Mundell, who captured a Confederate flag during battle. The second soldier highlighted in the news story was from Lansing, a well-known doctor named George E. Ranney, who had a Lansing park named after him. The third, General William Withington, from Jackson, later became a state senator. There were 62 Civil War soldiers from Michigan who received the Medal of Honor.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CivilianCivilWarCloset/> This is a Facebook group for Civilian Civil War reenactors which might be helpful to any of our new civilian members looking for clothing for their wardrobes, or wishing to learn about civilian life during the Civil War period. Several 7th MI men and ladies are members. Check it out!



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: Doug McComas
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: Dennis Zank

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
Ellyn Painter, Editor

Christmas in the Village

At the Meridian Historical Village

**Sunday, December 10th
2-4 pm**



**Join the Friends of Historic
Meridian, the 7th Michigan
Volunteer Infantry, Co. B, the
Renaissance Singers and a Jolly
Man in the Red Suit!!!
Holiday Door Swags by the
Meridian Garden Club**



**Crafts in the Schoolhouse
Refreshments available for a
donation in the Inn & Tavern**



**FREE Admission
to the Historic
Buildings
decorated for
the holidays!**

***Community
Tree Lighting
At 4:00***



Military Report

May you all have a blessed and Merry Christmas. I am truly blessed to have such good friends and family. Unlike many clubs, we continue to get together through the winter for drill, fellowship and fun. Please come on out this winter and spend some time with your pards.

January we will select events and Military will focus on the role of the NCO.

It should be an exciting season

Not much to say this month. Enjoy the holiday!

Captain McComas

Men of the Military: Activities at Meridian Village on Dec 10. 2-4.

We will be representing soldiers in winter quarters on the holiday. Bring some simple fare to share (hardtack for example) and any basic gift. Write a letter home (in advance) or write one there describing your missing of home and the holidays. We will be in the cabin and our civilians on the other side will be representing the holiday on the homefront. The contrast should be a good representation of the holiday during the war.



Read any good Civil War related books lately?

A year ago, I expressed the wish to start a book review feature. A couple of people responded, to whom I am grateful, but I've forgotten about it over the months, and I expect all of you have too! Sooo- if you feel so inclined, I would be overjoyed to receive a brief review on any book you feel may be of interest to the members.

Thanks!
The Editor



Civilian Report

Hi Everyone

A busy time of Year!!

On Dec 2, we will be having our annual Christmas party at Robbins United Methodist Church. Set up is at 11:00am, with social hour from 12:30-1:00pm. Dinner will begin at 1:00.

Please bring a dish to pass.



As last year, there will be an ice cream with assorted toppings for dessert.

We will be auctioning off the quilt the ladies have made.

MERIDIAN VILLAGE CHRISTMAS

On Sunday, Dec 10 there is an event with Meridian Village. Any 7th MI members participating should plan to arrive at 1:30 to set up for the 2:00 starting time. The theme is 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'. The ladies will be working on ornaments, as we will be decorating a tree in the log cabin. We will make paper chains with the visiting children and sing carols.

A few of the military will be joining us. Doug and I think it would be good to have letters from home telling about the upcoming holiday and speaking of how much they miss their soldier. We're looking for volunteers to write and read some of their letters.

There will be no sewing circle for December.

Our next sewing circle will be Saturday, January 20th, at Joan Emerick's house. Instead of going out for breakfast we will be having Brunch at 10:00. So please bring something for either a breakfast dish or something for lunch. We will be helping new member Hannah Zywicki with getting her outfitted for events. I have also asked Vonda to bring some of her bonnets for those of us that don't have any yet to study.

Thank you.

Sue Colegrove, Civilian Coordinator

Reenactor Conference Report - 2018 Events Summary

On November 4th I attended the annual Reenactor Conference on behalf of the 7th. This annual event provides an early opportunity for the various Civil War Reenacting groups in Michigan to announce the dates and particulars of their planned events for the coming season. Most of the events are "same old-same-old" as to date and planned activities, so I'll only elaborate in the listing below where there was something of unusual interest. Please look over this list and be prepared to weigh in as to your preferences for the club to select as selected events when we start that process at our January club meeting. Note: not all groups present had a flyer or webpage yet, so I've annotated those for which we have additional information.

January....None

February 24.....8th Arkansas Ball at the Methodist Church in Lansing, 6 pm with Grand March at 6:30 pm. Music by the Golden Griffons. (Flyer available)

March.....Military School of the Soldier, at Tom & Joan Emerick's house in Mason, sponsored by the 7th. Originally this was scheduled for the 10th, but due to a wedding it must be rescheduled. More info' to follow.

17- 18...Kalamazoo Living History Show (aka "Gun Show")

24 - 25...Civilian Conference in Monroe, MI. They boast of very good presenters including Elizabeth Stuart Clark. (Flyer available)

April 7...Civil War Trust/National Park Trust Day at Historic Ft. Wayne and River Raisin Battlefield. 9 am -3 pm.

Free T-shirts to all participants. More information available on the Fort Wayne Coalition Webpage.

28th...Coldwater Spring Ball, 7 pm to 10 pm. Tickets advance and at the door, \$25

May 6 -7...Grand Ledge Victorian Days Event?? No representatives and not further information.

12 - 13...Hartford City Indiana...usually a Cumberland Guard Max Effort, but no representatives or other information was available. Note: This is Mothers' Day Weekend.

26 -28...Coldwater Civil War Days...This has become the modern camping alternative for Greenfield Village. We had a pretty good showing last year and folks had good things to report. This year they will do the Battle of Stones River. There will be no steam train rides as it is down for its 10 yr boiler inspection. Glenn Morningstar will be calling the ball on Saturday night. (Flyer and registration info available)

27 - 29...Greenfield Village Civil War Muster...I have good news and bad news. The good news is that Jim Johnston and Brian Egan are back in charge of the event. The bad news is that modern camping is still not going to be allowed. All else will be the same as usual.

June 2 - 3...Auglaize Village, Defiance, Ohio. This is supposed to be similar to Crossroads Village, but without the train and boat. No representatives or other information was available.

9-10...Civil War Days at Historic Ft. Wayne. Set-up allowed on Friday. (Flyer and webpage available)

9-10...Michigan Heritage Park Civil War Weekend, Whitehall, MI. This is a 4th year event that was not on the calendar last year. Not sure who is sponsoring it, but it is in 3rd Mich. territory. (Flyer available)

16-17...Turkeyville Event...boasts that it will be bigger and better this year with several groups coming from Ohio and Pa, a professional "pyro-technician" to provide ground and aerial charges...a dinner for reenactors and a ball with Glenn Morningstar. This year they are planning an 8 mi "march in" on Friday. Thursday set-up is OK. They will be using the "black/red" cartridge distribution in order to assure more accurate "wounded and killed." We have people involved in the planning and organizing.

23-24...Field Music School, at Ft. McHenry in Baltimore, MD. (Flyer available)

23-24...Lexington, MI...no information available.

July 5-8...155th Gettysburg...THE national event for this year. Already designated as max effort by the various military organizations. [Information...gac3@comcast.net](mailto:gac3@comcast.net)

21-22...Charleton Park, Hastings, MI....we co-sponsor this event. It's pretty much as usual. (Flyer available)

August 5-6...No mention of Ft. Wilkins or any representatives...health issues among Batty D may be impacting.

12-13...Hale Farm, Ohio. This one is a hike, but having been several times, it's a very good event with a historic village where the docents are in first person. Lots of fun to interact with them.

15th...GAR Discover Camp, Eaton Rapids (on "duck poop island") 9 am - 3 pm. Living history. Lunch provided.

24, 25 and 26...Jackson Cascades Civil War Muster...pretty much the same except they will have Wayne Mott, a notable speaker from the Civil War Museum in Harrisburg, PA, presenting talks.

continued on next page.....

September 1-2...Mid Michigan Civil War Muster, Big Rapids, MI. Sponsored by the 10th MI.

7-9...Meridian Village Civil War Weekend...co-sponsored by ourselves and the 102nd C.T. This will be similar to the event we did there in July, but we will have the entire weekend (not just a few hours of one day) and it will be all Civil War themed. This is one of our key efforts to create a cornerstone event for the club since departing Jackson.

15-16...Van Raalte Farm Event, Holland, MI. This is the 10th year for this event which is popular, particularly with our military. (Flyer available)

15-16...Caesar's Creek Pioneer Village, Waynesville, OH. Living history first year event. (Flyer available)

22-23...Gowns and Guns, Greenmead Historical Village, Livonia, MI. Sponsored by 17th MI. They say they "really need infantry"... "lots of food provided".... "mostly a living history, unless more troops show up then may have a skirmish." (Flyer available)

?-?...River of Time Event, Bay City, MI...Little information about this event. An unfortunate incident last year involving a Nazi-type WWII reenactor has the city fathers nervous. The event may be somewhat limited, if it occurs.

October 6-7...Wolcott Mills is back this year! But at this point there is no webpage or flyer. No representative present.

13...7th Michigan Harvest Ball. After the glowing success of this last year's ball, looking forward to a repeat.

That wraps up what we know at this point. See you at the January Club Meeting where we can start kicking around our plans for 2018.

Bob Smith, Events Coordinator



"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

From Rob Van to Grand Armies of the Republic: Gettysburg 2018

2018 Gettysburg is starting to look like a significant event for the GAR. Right now, this is what the schedule looks like from a high level view:

Event Schedule
July 5, 6, 7, & 8, 2018

Thursday, July 5th

1:00 p.m.

North of the Mason Dixon – Buford Probes the Enemy Position

Live Mortar Fire Demonstration (follows battle)

Gettysburg Address (followed by Lincoln Photo Op)

6:00 p.m.

The Enemy Approaches – Pennsylvania Militia Opposes Gen. Early

Friday, July 6th

10:00 a.m.

Those Damn Black Hats – Repulsing Rebel Assault on Seminary Ridge

Ridge

Live Mortar Fire Demonstration (follows battle)

Gettysburg Address (followed by Lincoln Photo Op)

4:00 p.m.

Springing the Trap– Cavalry Ambush at Hunterstown

6:00 p.m.

Thundering Hell – Defending East Cemetery Hill

Saturday, July 7th

11:00 a.m.

A Bloody Harvest – Battle of the Wheatfield

Live Mortar Fire Demonstration (follows battle)

1:00 p.m.

We Have No Time – Stuart's Calvary Arrives on the Field

5:00 p.m.

Attack That Stone Wall – Anderson Attacks the Federal Center

Gettysburg Address (followed by Lincoln Photo Op)

Sunday, July 8th

10:30 a.m.

Come On You Wolverines – East Calvary Field

Live Mortar Fire Demonstration (follows battle)

2:30 p.m.

High Tide at Gettysburg – Pickett's Charge

Gettysburg Address (followed by Lincoln Photo Op)

The popular Christmas carol, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day", actually had its basis in the American Civil War.

The American poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow was no stranger to tragedy. As the Civil War was inflaming the nation, in the summer of 1861, he lost his wife, Fanny, when her dress caught fire while she was using hot sealing wax to secure a package. Longfellow himself was severely burned in his futile attempt to rescue her. He carried the scars--both external and internal--to the end of his days. The first Christmas after her death, he wrote "How inexpressibly sad are all holidays." The next Christmas was no better for him, and the war still raged on.

As the Christmas of 1863 drew near, on Dec. 1, the poet received a telegram informing him that his son, Charles, had been badly wounded on Nov. 27. The bullet clipped the spine, and for awhile it was feared that paralysis might result. Charlie survived his wound, but his military career was over, and his recovery took many months. Another bleak holiday season followed. On Christmas day, 1863, [NOTE: one source says 1864] desperately needing peace of mind over his "trouble and anxiety," Longfellow sat down to try and reflect on God, and on the joys of the season. He observed a world of war and injustice that seemed to mock the Christmas sentiments of "peace on earth," but eventually he attained a confident hope even in his despair. The poem he wrote that day, called "Christmas Bells," was later set to music by Englishman John Calkin.

*I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
and wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*And thought how, as the day had
come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*Then from each black, accursed
mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

*It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!*

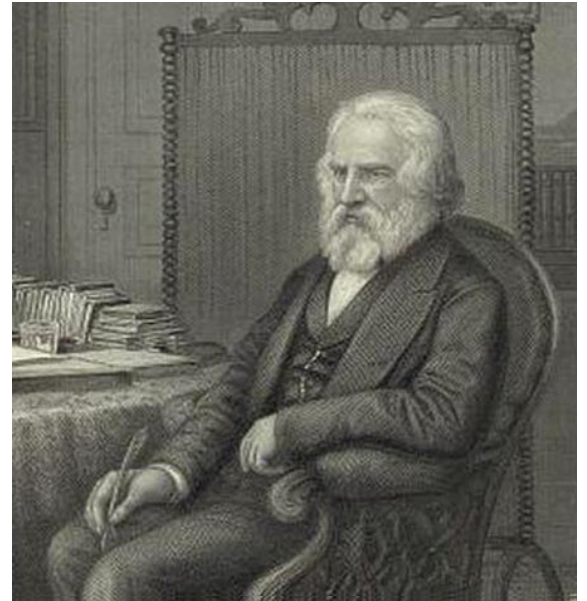
*And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."*

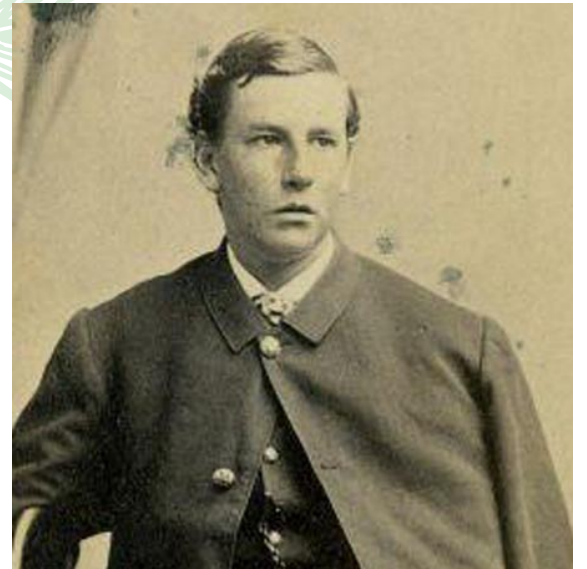
- Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Sources:

<http://staugustine.com/living/religion/2014-12-04/story-behind-song-i-heard-bells-christmas-day>
https://www.huffingtonpost.com/don-meyer-phd/i-heard-the-bells-on-chri_b_2316476.html
<https://www.militarytimes.com/off-duty/2015/12/22/this-christmas-story-comes-from-the-civil-war/>
<https://www.civilwar.org/learn/articles/christmas-bells>



Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



Charles Appleton Longfellow
Photos from www.civilwar.org

Peace
On
Earth