

THE UNION VOLUNTEER



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

Volume XXXIII No. 2 February 2014



Winter Quarters at Brandy Station, VA 1864 (Library of Congress)

“Dec. 20, 1864— The weather is cold, but we keep up our drills believing it is to be better for the men.”

— Elisha Hunt Rhodes, 2nd Rhode Island Volunteers

**NEXT CLUB
MEETING:
SUNDAY, FEB. 16
1:00 PM
ROBBINS UMC,
EATON RAPIDS**

**MILITARY SCHOOL
OF INSTRUCTION
AND
CIVILIAN SEWING BEE
SATURDAY, FEB. 15
LESLIE, MI
SEE PAGE 5**

**LAST REMINDER
FOR
ANNUAL DUES ...
SEE THE
TREASURER'S
REPORT,
PAGE 6**

“ The view is wild, bleak, and desolate. The elements, which have been warring for the last fortnight, have called a truce and left a sea of mud. ”

– George P. McClellan 155th Pennsylvania Infantry, Army of the Potomac, 1863

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
Military: Dave Slayton, Captain
Civilian Coordinator: Katie Everett
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

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Friends,



I'm sitting in my family room watching the thermometer drop and the wind whistle to once again drop the temperature to wind chills of 20-30 below. I hope I can keep this visual in July when the heat index is over 100, but I doubt it.

People like to complain. Sometimes it's good natured grouching, sometimes it's more serious. We complain about the weather, officer's, NCO's, event planners, porta-johns, you name it. Events are too thread counter, or too farby. There are too many cannon, or too few. Rebs that don't take hits and units that "go rogue" and don't follow scenarios. You can always find several wags complaining around the campfire every evening.

In the midst of this brutal winter it's easy to complain. But let's try to focus on those things we should be thankful for. Drill in Leslie will be February 15. I can't wait to put on the wool again and spend a day with my pards and their families. Also this month we will determine our "max events". The list has shrunk a bit but there are still quality events to attend and share our companionship with our brothers and sisters in the hobby. If you have made a good friend (or several), can look down the line and see a parent or child in the ranks, or in the crowd, then there is much to be thankful for. The 7th is known for its openness, competence, and caring- what a gift just to be part of that.

Let's be thankful that we have a hobby that brings us all together and a country that we are able to gather in fun, fellowship and reverence to honor our friends, our country and our ancestors. So even as we complain about all the "problems" in the hobby, let us give a small smile, raise a large glass and be thankful for each other.

Your most obedient servant,

Doug



MILITARY MINUTES

- JANUARY 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

The military discussed what information we have to date on 2014 events, and then got a refresher on skirmish drill from Lt. MacKinnon. See below for details on things discussed.

2014 Company Drill Sessions

We are hosting our annual Spring Drill at the White Pine Academy in Leslie on Saturday February 15th. The building will be open at 8:00 am with coffee and donuts, drill starts at 9:00 am. We will drill from 9 am – Noon, lunch will be provided by the ladies of the 7th (they are looking for some to bring a dish to pass), then drill from 1 pm – 4 pm. Bring your uniform, rifle and leathers. Mark your calendars and attend if you can to knock off some rust and prepare for another season of reenacting. If anyone knows of someone interested in starting the hobby, this is a great chance to introduce them to the 7th and start learning the ropes. **See the separate article in the newsletter for details.**

National Park System – Living History

Tom Emerick reported the 24th Michigan confirmed they will not be hosting a Gettysburg nor Antietam NPS Living History program in 2014. Sad to see excellent annual programs and camping on the actual battlefields with our comrades in arms fall by the wayside.

Fort Wayne – 4th Michigan Drill

We have been invited to participate in the spring drill of the 4th Michigan. Here are the details, and note the deadline to register and pay is March 15th.

WINTER CAMP 2014

When? March 28-30, 2014

Where? Historic Fort Wayne, Detroit, MI

Why? To brush off the cobwebs and get into the groove of all things Civil War!

We've moved our adventure to Historic Fort Wayne in Detroit, MI! It's closer to home and offers a great opportunity to support something that is near and dear to our hearts! And, we've lowered the price from last year! Friday night is a time to relax and get settled in! Hotdogs, chips, cookies, and pop will be available all evening long to snack on. Saturday includes drill for the guys and plenty of hands on activities and workshops for the ladies and kiddies! There is the possibility of an after dinner speaker this year too!

Your registration includes all meals and lodging for the entire weekend! Workshops may require an additional cost and/or a request to bring supplies. You'll need to bring your own bedding (whatever you use for events in the summer!). So here's the breakdown for costs! There are several different options so everyone can participate!

FAMILY RATE (parents and children under the age of 18): \$50

INDIVIDUAL RATE : \$25 per person

SATURDAY ONLY (breakfast, lunch and dinner) \$18 per person

SATURDAY EVENING ONLY (dinner and evening activities) \$15 per person

New 4th Michigan recruits(first timers): \$35 for the weekend (and it includes your 2014 dues!)
Registration Deadline: March 15. All fees must be paid in full no later than March 15.
Checks can be made payable to the 4th Michigan (with Winter Camp in the notation section) and mailed to: David Fildey, 117 N. Main Street, P.O. Box 129, Leslie, MI 49251

Should you wish to provide and cook your own food, you are more than welcome to do so. Just please keep in mind that the meals we have planned require the use of the kitchen, so you may have to prepare yours over a fire. Also, if you provide and cook for yourself we would still request a minimum of a \$5 donation, which we will pass along with our donation to the HFWC for use of the facilities. If any of you have any questions please feel to contact me via Facebook, email, or phone (248-515-3349). Hope you can join us!
Russ Paul
4th Michigan, Co. A

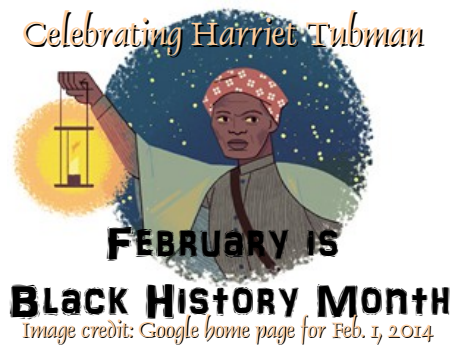
150th Wilderness Event – May 2-4, 2014

We have yet to discuss what will be our maximum effort events, but should we decide on this as a national event, individuals have been invited by Ben Cywana to fall in with them if we are not going as a unit. See Ben's note below:

My company is going to the 150th Wilderness the first weekend in May. We are planning on going Federal for the first time in years. If there is any interest from the 7th in going, please let me know as they are more than welcome to fall in with us if you are not going as a unit. Benjamin L. Cwayna, The Law Office of Benjamin L. Cwayna, PLLC, 414 S. Clinton Street, Grand Ledge, MI 48837. (517) 622-1900, Fax: (517) 622-1909, ben@cwaynalaw.com

The next meeting will be February 16th at 1:00 pm,
at Robbins United Methodist Church, 6419 Bunker
Road, Eaton Rapids, MI, 48827. I hope you can join us!

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



Civilian News

Hello all!

I hope everyone is staying warm this winter.

I would like to apologize for not getting anything in last month's newsletter about the sewing party.

I would also like to thank Lorrie for agreeing to host at the last minute.

Our next sewing party will be on February 15th at White Pine Academy in Leslie. We will be having at the same place that the military will be hosting their winter drill. The doors to the school will be open at 8 am for early arrivals and the men's drill session starts at 9am and ends at 4pm. There will be pastries and coffee for breakfast for anyone attending. Just like last year the 7th civilians will be providing a pot luck lunch for all attendees. Right now we will have sloppy joes and a variety of soups, salads, and breads.

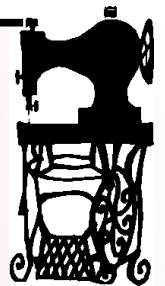
There are refrigerators but no heat source so if you would like to bring something it will either need to be kept cold or have it's own heat source (like a crock pot). We will be in one of the classrooms. There are tables and outlets for sewing machines if you would like to bring one.

Our sewing parties are set for the rest of the year. In March we will be going to Sandy's and in April we will be at Vonda's. More information will follow in next month's newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you all at the sewing party and meeting!

Katie Everett
Civilian Co-Chair

Directions to White Pine Academy – see next page



Military School of Instruction/ Civilian Sewing Bee - Sat. Feb. 15, 2014 - Leslie, MI

The 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. B

will be hosting its sixth annual winter infantry drill session from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the White Pine Academy. The school will open at 8:00 for early arrivals with coffee and pastries (free) available before drill commences. Brother units or individuals (both Union and Confederate) from throughout the state or out-of-state are invited to attend.

Lessons will cover the basics of soldiering and maneuvers taken from Casey's Infantry Tactics School of the Soldier, School of the Company, and School of the Battalion along with instructions from the 1861 U.S. Infantry Regulations.

- Marching and Facing Basics
- Manual of Arms/Stacking Arms
- Bugle Calls
- Firing positions
- Loading positions
- Skirmish Drill
- Salutations
- Common Company-level maneuvers
- Common Battalion-level maneuvers
- Basic Officer/NCO positions throughout the maneuvers
- Dress Parade/Color Guard (time permitting)

Mark Heath will be teaching the Bugle Call class as well as incorporating bugle signals into our movements throughout the day. Jim MacKinnon will be guiding us through the Skirmish Drill session. The Sergeants will be assigned and expected to instruct specific Manual of Arms positions.

All ranks are invited to participate from privates up through officers. Attendees should wear the uniform with their current rank, bring their rifle or sword, accoutrements, and **soft-soled shoes**. You also are welcome to drop down in rank if you so choose to do so. Modern athletic shoes are **strongly** recommended and encouraged as we are drilling inside a gymnasium on a tile floor. Please no heel plates. Leave all ammunition at home.

Civilian Social/Sewing Bee

Concurrent with the Military drill, the 7th Michigan civilians will be onsite working on sewing (modern and period) projects throughout the day. Any and all Civilians from other units are invited to spend the day working on projects or just socializing. Modern Clothing is appropriate to wear.

Potluck Dinner

The 7th Michigan Civilians have graciously volunteered to prepare a potluck dinner (free) for those wishing to eat at the school at lunchtime. As of now the lunch menu consists of soups, salads, sloppy joes, and breads. Anyone wishing to bring a dish to pass is welcome to do so. For brown-baggers there are refrigerators, a microwave, and a small kitchenette available for use. There are three restaurants and a McDonalds within a mile of the school for those who wish to dine out.

RSVP

All who are planning to attend please notify me in advance so we can plan accordingly. Attendees wishing to take advantage of the **potluck dinner** need to RSVP by **February 7th** to permit the Ladies time enough to obtain the victuals. Anyone wishing to contribute to the **potluck dinner** please also notify us by **February 7th**. Any civilians with questions feel free to contact the 7th Michigan Civilian Chairperson, Katie Everett, at 517-393-3475 or mailto:cinderellie_2003@yahoo.com.

The White Pine Academy address is 510 Russell Street, Leslie, MI 49251. It is located 4/10 of a mile south of downtown Leslie. Take US-127 to exit 56, go east to the first stoplight, go through the stoplight 5/10 of mile, and turn right (south) onto Russell St. The Mill St. stop sign is 3/10 of a mile south on Russell. The school is 1/10 of a mile past Mill St. on west side of the road.

Please do notify me if you or individuals from your units plan to attend and feel free to contact me should you have any questions. If you lose your way traveling to the drill site you can reach me on my cellular telephone at (517) 230-8242.

Most Respectfully, Your Obedient Servant

Tom Emerick,
Private, 7th MI Vol. Inf., Co. B
(517)669-5607

<mailto:tomjoanemerick@hotmail.com>

TREASURER'S REPORT

DUES ARE DUE! If you have not paid your dues by March 1, you will not be on the roster for Greenfield Village and will not be invited to attend Memorial day weekend.

Those not paying dues will not receive the newsletter starting in March.

These members have not paid their dues for 2014:

Allison Bailey
Carol Blanchard
Rose Batdorff
Maggie/Quentin Brainerd
Bernadette Butgereit
Bruce/Marcia Butgereit
David Chain
Leigh Cole/Kim Bernardo
Coletta Crews
Craig/Gretchen Crispen
Kevin Doyle
Brandon Emond
Adam Gaines
LuAnn Gaines
Charles/Jessica Hainstock
Ian Halbeisen
Keith/Jean Harrison
Jim Hayner
Mark Heath
Celeste Hude
Marilyn/Ned Hughes
Mary Jones
Nathan Kalmoe
Claude/Joanne Lawrence
Daniel Malick
Steve/Angela Morgan
Douglas/Jerri Munn
Loraine Reynolds/Sheryl Diamond
Robert/Dawn Smit
Scott Timoszyk
Carla Tuma
Casey Wallick/Melissa Bateman
Ryan/Melanie Woll

Dues are \$16.00 for an individual and \$19.20 for a family.

Checks are to be made out to the

7th Michigan Vol. Inf., Co B, Inc.

And sent to:

PO BOX 16206

LANSING MI 48901-6206

Don Everett, Treasurer

QUARTERMASTER REPORT

We still have a lot of gear available. The best way to see what's new is to attend a meeting as I bring the sutlery with me. Steve Hainstock is right on with his Facebook posting about the weather being cold makes it a good time to go over your gear and see what needs repair or replacing for next season. I will also have powder, caps & paper at the meetings as well as the Feb 15th drill session. If you know what gear you might be interested in contact me and I can bring it to the Feb drill as well.

----Don Everett, Quartermaster

EDUCATION REPORT

We are well booked for School Programs this season. All members are welcome and encouraged to come to a School Program and help out as a presenter. The old timers will give you a hand in helping with the presentation. We try to do both Military and Civilian impressions so men and women are welcome. These programs are one way that we fund our organization please consider helping as they all bring donations.

Feb 20, 2014 Jonesville. Williams Elementary School. 440 Adrian St. Jonesville. Program is from 5 to 6 pm. Be there b 4:30 if possible to set up.

April 25, 2014 Ovid Middle School. Program begins at 1pm til the end of the school day. We will have rounds for firing demonstration. Directions to follow in later newsletter.

May 9 Dexter Middle School. Program beginning with the start of the school day and runs all day. We may be able to delay it till 9am as we did last year. Military note remove the nipple from your musket to make it non firing. Direction to follow in later newsletter.

May 16th Southfield Birney Middle School. Program from 1pm til close of school. We will be judging projects as well as providing a 1 hour program. Directions to follow in later newsletter.

We are also in discussion with a Middle School in Paw Paw and a senior living facility for programs. As always we try to carpool to these programs to cut down on travel. If you can help contact me at a meeting or by e-mail at djkeverett@comcast.net or by phone at 517-393-3475 and leave a message.

---Don Everett, Education Director



Civil War era soldier by winter quarters hut. Image from website of Pamplin Historical Park & The National Museum of the Soldier www.pamplinpark.org



Pamplin Historical Park

And The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier



Nat'l Museum of the Soldier



Tudor Hall Plantation



All images are from the Pamplin Park website: www.pamplinpark.org

HEY PARDS, this sounds like a possibly great destination for a **club roadtrip**. Perhaps the perfect excuse, in fact, for a long weekend getaway to warmer climes during those tedious northern winter months. When I was searching the internet this week, looking for images of winter quarters to use in this issue, I came across the website for Pamplin Park, a **National Historic Landmark** for Civil War enthusiasts of all kinds. (They DO have winter hours, from Dec. thru March).

Located in Dinwiddie County, near Petersburg, Virginia, visitors will have an opportunity to get a southern perspective on the war, as well as an overall look at southern life during the mid 19th century. The park is located on the site of the April 2, 1865 "Breakthrough," the battle that ended the Petersburg Campaign and led to the evacuation of Richmond, the Confederate capital. Also including, among its 424 acres, some of the best preserved fortifications on any Civil War battlefield, the park maintains three miles of interpreted trails around the earthworks.

There are actually four museums, the Museum of the Civil War Soldier forming the centerpiece of the park and containing an impressive artifacts collection. Visitors experience the life of Civil War soldiers via interactive computers, videos, life-sized dioramas, and the multi-sensory battlefield simulation, "Trial By Fire." Other museums interpret plantation life, and slavery in America. There are also living history demonstrations played out in the Field Quarter, the Military Encampment, and other sites. The military camp reflects life of the Confederate soldier in typical camps from Virginia to Texas, and is located on ground once utilized as a winter camp by Brigadier General Samuel McGowan's (South Carolina) Brigade from October 1864 through March 1865.

Four lovely restored or reconstructed antebellum homes reside on the property as well. Some are open to the public. All of the homes and their original owners experienced the war first hand, as various episodes of the Petersburg Campaign ebbed and flowed across the land they occupied.

All in all, Pamplin Historical Park appears to be a four-star destination, worthy of a long drive and a visit.
The Editor

We have received the following update from Linda Williams regarding Mats Geschwind:

Mats has esophageal cancer and a new esophagus is being built for him. His surgery will be on February 17th to install this.

Mats has been under treatment for awhile now, so this was not a recent diagnosis. If you would like to send cards, Mats and Britta's address is:

Mats and Britta Geschwind

Esplanaden 5A

76144 Norrtalje

Sweden

Of course you'll need overseas postage. They cost about \$1.10 each and are "forever stamps."

Love, Linda

And this also from Linda:

Dick will have a serious back surgery on

February 18, the day after Mats' surgery.

Dick will be in the hospital about two weeks, then in a nursing home for two months.

*Love,
Linda*



ACCORDING TO MLIVE, THE CASCADES CIVIL WAR MUSTER IS THE 3RD MOST POPULAR EVENT IN JACKSON COUNTY. THE MUSTER IS MORE POPULAR THAN THE BALLOON FESTIVAL.

Photo from www.experiencejackson.com

February 2014 Civil War Sesquicentennial Report

Of the 103 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), there are 9 events listed for February. Additional information on each of these events may be obtained by going to www.micw150.us/2013events.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.

--February 2014--

5. Grand Army of the Republic Display: *Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum* (224 S. Main Street, Eaton Rapids, Michigan). 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. The bottom floor of the GAR building houses a Museum and contains many GAR memorabilia. The upper floor of the building is set up as it was when the Civil War Union veterans met there from 1886 to 1924. Additional GAR memorabilia also is present on this floor. The GAR Memorial Hall and Museum is opened the first two Wednesdays each month, most patriotic days, special events, and by appointment. Admission to the GAR Memorial Hall and Museum is free. Website: <http://garmuseum.com/>. Contact: Deb Malewski, Board Secretary, at GARmichigan@gmail.com.

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. 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 lying. Website: <http://suvcw.org/mollus.htm>.

12. Lincoln's Birthday Display: *Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum* (224 S. Main Street, Eaton Rapids, Michigan). 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. The bottom floor of the GAR building houses a Museum and contains many GAR memorabilia. The upper floor of the building is set up as it was when the Civil War Union veterans met there from 1886 to 1924. Additional GAR memorabilia also is present on this floor. The GAR Memorial Hall and Museum is opened the first two Wednesdays each month, most patriotic days, special events, and by appointment. Admission to the GAR Memorial Hall and Museum is free. Website: <http://garmuseum.com/>. Contact: Deb Malewski, Board Secretary, at GARmichigan@gmail.com.

13. Presentation: *The Michigan 5th Cavalry* (Monroe County Civil War Round Table, Ellis Library and Reference Center, 3700 South Custer, Monroe, Michigan). 7:00 PM. Dan Puschell is the speaker. This event is free and open to the public. Please contact Charmaine Wawrzyniec for more information, 734-241-5277.

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. Contact Paul Watson at pwatson001@indy.rr.com.

20. Presentation: *Wet Plate or Collodion Photography* (Monroe County Historical Museum, 126 S. Monroe Street, Monroe, Michigan). 7:00 PM. Learn the history of *Wet Plate* or *Collodion* photography used from the early 1850s to the early 1880s with Robert Beech. Contact: Christine Kull at chris_kull@monroemi.org or by telephone at 734-240-7787.

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. 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 - *Little Known Facts about the Lincolns and the Civil War* (Sunfield United Brethren Church, 8436 West Grand Ledge Hwy (M-43) in Sunfield, Michigan). 7:00 PM. 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.



Here I am, snug in winter quarters at "Little Round Top" (my hilltop home on Gettysburg Ave In Jackson). Hope you are all keeping warm!

The Crazy Cupid says:
Show someone you luv 'em.
Snow-blow their driveway!
Happy Valentines Day

