THE UNION VOLUNTE

NEWSLETTER OF THE 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. B. Inc.

No. 2 Volume XXXV February 2016

Club Leadership

New Member Chairman: Katie Everett (civilian) cinderellie_2003@yahoo.com

President: Rob Stone Vice President: Katie Everett Secretary: Bill Jarrett Treasurer: Don Everett
Military: Doug McComas, Captain Civilian Coordinator: Katie Everett Board Members-at-Large: Doug McComas, Joy Henderson, **Dave Downing** 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 Painter, Editor



Painting: "Reveille on a Winter Morning" - by Henry Bacon. Oil on canvas, c. 1862. It is also described as "a scene of the 13th Reg't, Massachusetts Infantry, Camp Jackson, Williamsport, Maryland, Jan.1-Mar.1, 1862." West Point Museum of Art. Corporal Bacon (1839-1912) was a war correspondent for Frank Leslie's Illustrated Weekly, and belonged to Co. D of the 13th Mass. Info from www.13thmass.org/1862/williamsport62.html.

Next Club Meeting:

Sunday, Feb. 21, 2016 1:00pm Robbins UMC Eaton Rapids

Club Meetings will be on the 3rd Sunday of the month from October to April and then will be announced.



Dues are Due! Final Notice! See page 3

A Word From the President

During January's club meeting I used a light bulb for a prop. Why? I want to ask everyone to start cooking up ideas that will help propel the Seventh Michigan into the new phase of its history. It's what we've been talking since late 2015, and while Bob Smith is ably piloting a committee that will get us started, I believe all members can make a contribution. (Feel free to email me your ideas: info@chosenword.biz.)

In addition to holding up the bulb, I pointed out that, without energy, it was of no use. The energy the club needs comes from . . . wait for it . . . the women and men who have a stake in reinforcing the reputation of a unit that has, for decades, been seen as one of the best in the re-enacting hobby. I'm not likely to stop flogging this topic, but I won't apologize for it!

During February's meeting we shall vote on the 2016 campaign events that meet the criteria of what have been referred to in the past as "max events." Discussion is underway to replace this term with one that supports the characteristics of an event that will attract a wide spectrum of the membership. I hope the list we come up with will be to your liking.



The last thing I will ask is, when it is possible, please attend club meetings. There's no requirement to do so, and many of us have schedules that make it difficult. I understand, so don't feel guilty about it!

Rob



Military Report - January, 2016

Thanks to all who attended the January meeting.

Events: Look for the memo for the Officer/NCO School of Instruction at the Emerick's. Everyone is welcome but RSVP is a must. (See next page)

If you are an NCO I very much need you to attend. As Lincoln is famously quoted, "you are all green together" We all need this valuable information for the upcoming season. Thanks to Tom and Joan for hosting.

Perryville: We will fall in under Rob Van and the Cumberland Guard. When registering put Cumberland Guard in the Battallion/brigade area of your registration. It would be great to have a big turnout for this event. The battlefield is actual and exceptional.

While not discussed at the meeting the **Ella Sharp school/public event** will be a go! As military we will have a garrison camp with flag raising/guard mount and typical duties through Friday there will also be a recruitment station, and drilling of the school children as well as several civilian stations. Set up on Thursday and we can stay through Sunday if we choose. All amenities, a cash bar available on Saturday evening, rations are all part of the deal. They are checking to see if modern camping is possible. The only down side I see is that it's the weekend before Greenfield Village.

Don Everett disassembled a lockplate for the boys. This is an important skill to keep your valuable musket operational.

We ended drill with our NCOs forming the company. Please plan on event discussion and skirmish drill for our February meeting.

I remain your most obedient servant,

2016 Command

Captain: Doug McComas Chief Bugler: Mark Heath Lieutenant: Dave Slayton 1st Sergeant: Dan Conklin 2nd & 3rd Sergeants: Andrew McComas Bill Jarrett Corporals: Dan Malick Scott Timoszyk Denny Zank Rob Stone

Doug 2

Officer & NCO School of Instruction Mason, Michigan -- March 12, 2016

On to Richmond!!!

All 7th Michigan military (including privates, musicians, and male civilians of all ages) are invited to attend our annual winter training session. Military uniforms are to be worn by those serving in the ranks. Enlisted need to bring rifles, bayonets, and accoutrements (no ammunition) and officers their kits to include swords. Classroom instruction will held be indoors. We will be drilling outside (weather permitting) so dress accordingly. Comrades from fellow mid-western units will be extended an invitation to participate.

We will concentrate on the duties and positions of NCOs and officers within formations most commonly employed at the company and battalion levels at re-enactments. Manual of arms, firing positions, military etiquette, Color Guard, bugle signals, etc. will be reviewed. Instruction will be taken from Casey's Infantry Tactics, U.S. Regulations (1861), and Dom Dal Bello's Parade, Inspection and basic Evolutions of the Infantry Battalion (4th edition) or PIE. If interested in reviewing anything in particular (especially for our new NCOs and Company officers) please feel to send me a note in advance time permitting.

School commences at 9:00 AM and should finish by 3:00 PM. Early birds are welcome after 8:00 AM. Coffee and donuts (breakfast) and a party sub accompanied by side dishes (lunch) will be provided FREE of charge. You are more than welcome to contribute a side dish if you wish. All attendees need to RSVP so we have adequate food for all and to prevent foraging by the troops in the local area. It would be appreciated if you each bring a camp stool or small chair to ensure we have enough seating.

Directions to drill in Mason:

Take US-127 to the Kipp Road Exit 64. Travel eastbound ½ mile to second stop light at Hull Road in front of the Meijer's store. Turn left (north) at the light onto S. Jefferson Street (Hull Road becomes Jefferson Street for northbound traffic). Drive ½ mile, cross over the railroad tracks, and arrive at 106 E. South Street immediately on your right.

Contact is Tom Emerick at tomjoanemerick@hotmail.com or (517) 604-6116. Drill location address is 106 E. South Street, Mason, Michigan 48854

Most Respectfully, Your Obedient Servant Tom

Dues!

Lianne Chivkas

The following members have not paid their 2016 dues. If they are not received by Feb 29, 2016 they will not be included in the roster for Greenfield Village and will not be able to attend that event! They will also not receive any more newsletters until dues are paid. List is up to date as of Jan 20, 2016.

Violet Szenas

Jim Haynor Fred/Bonnie Priebe Carol Bachand **Craig Searles** Rose Batdorf Joy Henderson

Ian Searles Armin Berg Marilyn/Ned Hughes

Robert/Dawn Smit Aaron Bolder Kendall/Teresa Loomis

Robert/Sandra Chapman Dale/Debra Marvin/VanElst Michael/Suzanne Smith

Shane/Rachel Chapman Andrew McComas Kimberly Strong Dean Mielke

Carl/Patricia Moss Sue Colgrove Scott Timoszyk

Gregory/Carmin Nolin/Salin Bert/Julie Varady Craig/Gretchen Crispin

Kevin Doyle Daniel O'Connell Grea/ Denise Vincent

Mark Parks Casey/Melissa Wallick/Bateman Ian Halbeisen

Cathy Wilcox Jacquelyn/Jeremy Hall-Bales/Bales

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

January Club Meeting Highlights

New Members Committee Chair:

The military position is open, as Jeff Verstraete has decided to suspend his membership in the club, at least temporarily. Katie Everett will handle civilian new membership duties.

Event Strategy Committee:

See Bob's report at right. We need to emphasize recruiting at every possible event, and develop our "presence" at events that hold recruiting promise.

In conjunction with this approach, Katie Everett is looking for ideas on how to better include our male civilians at events --any ideas, gentlemen, please contact her. Also, the civilians are exploring ways we can make ourselves more engaged with visitors at events--possible "spotters" to man our civilian tent to specifically notice visitors and invite them in to our area.

July 4, 2016 - Independence Day Parade -Mason, Michigan

The Club participated in the parade for the first time last year. Tom and Joan Emerick have offered to once again have a cookout at their house following it. Katie Everett indicated she should be able to procure a flatbed trailer for the Civilian contingent to ride on too. Parade steps off at 7:30 p.m.

September 10, 2016 - Frontier Days Parade - Charlotte, Michigan

Vonda Warren has invited the Club to participate in her hometown parade along with a potluck dinner to follow at her home. This was a Club favorite for several years. Parade steps off at 10:30 a.m

Good and Welfare:

Sympathy/Get Well Cards were sent to: Jim Newkick for his wife, Connie, and Craig Crispen for his Grandmother.

Dave Downing had surgery; he is in ICU but doing better.

Doug McComas is a new grandpa and Denny Zank is a great-grandpa.

Old Business:

<u>Antietam Battlefield Marker</u> – A motion was passed to contribute \$500 to the monument effort. Doug McComas has begun scanning the Brown Books for the Michigan portion.

"A copy of the minutes of previous club meetings is available upon request to all members in good standing."



Event Strategy Committee Report

The committee has developed a proposed club strategy that emphasizes the importance of recruiting new members, increasing our presence at older and newer events, leveraging our relationship with other units in insuring the success of the events they sponsor and more individual accountability for various functions at events. To support this strategy the committee has suggested a number of tactics, including:

- Increasing the effectiveness of our use of social media and our webpage.
- Sending of 'emissaries" from the 7th to those who sponsor events that could benefit from our increased influence.
- Development of "recruiting teams" to represent the 7th at all appropriate events
- Develop partnerships with other units to for mutual event support and recruiting reciprocity.

At the next club meeting the committee will recommend the events on which the club concentrate its efforts in the coming reenacting season.

If you think this is lacking, give me a phone call some evening and we can consider changes or additions.

---Bob Smith, Committee Chair



iug McComas, proud grandpa.

Education Director's Report

We have two confirmed school programs so far this year. Ovid Middle School, Ovid, on April 15th and Birney Middle School, Southfield, on June10th.

Quartermaster Report

We have a supply of powder at \$15 per pound and a supply of caps at \$7 per 100. I will have Quarter-master merchandize at the Feb, March, and April meetings. If you would like to look at a rifle let me know and I will bring it to a meeting. After April I will be publishing an inventory list in the newsletter so you can shop from the list.

We will be having the Charlie Colegrove shoot as scheduled.

---submitted by Don Everett, Education Director; Quartermaster

April 23 - 3rd Annual Charlie Colegrove Memorial Shoot

Eaton Rapids Conservation Club has been rented on Sat April 23rd for breakfast (club to provide if we can find some members to prepare it) at 9am, the shoot, lunch (pot luck), and April meeting. If you are going to shoot there is a \$5 donation to defray the cost of the rental. Bring what firearms you would like to shoot. Pete (Dan) Conklin has offered his Spencer carbine as the weapon to use for the competition shoot. Thanks Dan.

The range was reopened on Jan 8, 2016 on the advice of the club's Attorney and the NRA. The NRA is sending a team to inspect the range and suggest what upgrades are necessary. The range will remain open during upgrades, however, a portion (ie, 50yd range) may not available during upgrades.

----submitted by Don Everett

Report: Ella Sharp Museum Civil War Days





The first organizational meeting for the event was held Thurs. pm Jan. 21st, and Sat. Jan. 23 - I went on Saturday, and was the only person there, besides the host, Traie Shelhart, Education Coordinator for Ella Sharp Museum.

February is
Black History Month
Frederick Douglass'
Birthday: Feb. 14

I was told by Traje that between 30 and 40. 7th MI members have expressed interest in participating. This would be a great turn-out from our club! If you plan on participating, please try to make it to one or more monthly meetings; things are developing and changing as the plan takes shape. The February meetings will be: Thursday 6:30pm Feb. 18, and the same content repeated Sat. Feb. 20 at 11:00am, at Ella Sharp Museum, 3225 4th St., Jackson, MI

Contact: Traie Shelhart - office (517) 787-2320 ext 227 cell phone: 517-945-8717 Email: traie38@yahoo.com

Please review the attached maps of the Ella Sharp event area (pages 8-9). Help is still needed in several areas. Also, Traie is open for suggestions as to things we might wish to do. There is a room at the rear of the farmhouse, as well as a community building, which could be utilized for ladies' presentations, or military scenarios. This event is expected to be an annual one, and will hopefully grow and develop in coming years.

Driving Directions to Lorrie Roland's House: 4274 Drumheller Rd., Bath, MI 48808

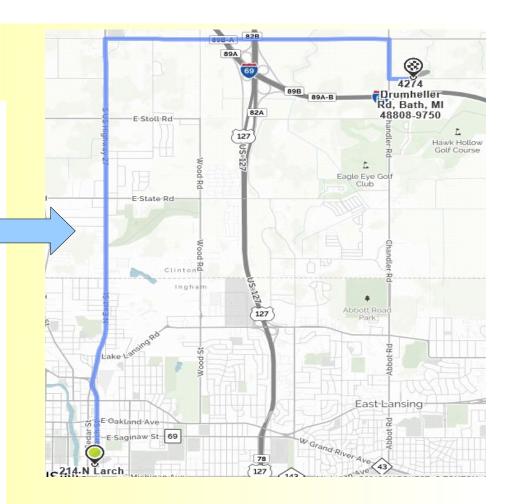
From Lansing:

- -Head North on Cedar St
- -Stay North on Cedar St, it will become N. Larch, then North East St, then US HWY 27
- -Turn right onto E. Clark Rd
- -Turn Right onto Chandler Rd
- -Take first left onto Drumheller Rd
- -The house will be on the right

From Lansing area and points south: 127 North to Exit 79, Lake Lansing Rd. Turn Right onto W. Lake Lansing Rd. Go about 1 mile. Left onto Abbot Rd. (Speedway Gas on the right. Go about 3/4 of a mile. Abbot Rd. Becomes Chandler Rd. Go 2.5 miles. Right onto Drumheller Rd. Go .3 miles. House is on the right. (42 miles from Jackson; 20 from Mason).

From points west and southwest of Lansing: Take I-69 N toward Lansing. Go 18 miles. Merge onto I-69 N via Exit 91 toward Flint. Go approx. 7 miles. Take Old US-27 Exit 87. Go .4 miles. Right onto S US Highway 27. Go about 1/4 mile. Left onto E. Clark Rd. Go 3 miles. Right onto Chandler Rd. Go 1/2 mile. First left onto Drumheller Rd. Go 1/4 mile. 4274 Drumheller Rd. Is on the right. (about 33 miles from Charlotte).

From points east of Lansing (Durand, Flint area): Merge onto I-69 W. Go approx. 43 miles. Take Exit 92, Webster Rd. toward Bath. Go .3 miles. Left onto Webster Rd. Go approx. 1 mile. Left onto Clark Rd. (Tommy's Pizza & Subs is on the right.) Go 1.8 miles. Left onto Chandler Rd. Go 1/2 mile, then take first left onto Drumheller Rd. Go 1/4 mile. 4274 Drumheller Rd. is on the right. (approx. 48 miles from Flint).



Civilian News : 1

Hello All! I would like to thank Sue for hosting the January sewing party, we all had a great time! Our next sewing party will be **Saturday**February 20th at Lorrie Roland's home. For this sewing party we are going to do something a little different, instead of going out for breakfast before we are going to meet at Lorrie's at 10am and have brunch shortly after. Please bring a breakfast or lunch dish to pass.

For our March sewing party we will be going on a field trip to the Kalamazoo Living History Show and some fabric shopping. For those who are interested we will be carpooling to Kalamazoo. If you do not wish to car pool you can meet us for breakfast at 9am or at the show at 10:30am. More information to follow in the March newsletter. We will be having our April sewing party with the gentlemen at the live shoot. As we did last year lunch will be a pot luck. We can plan more at the February club meeting.

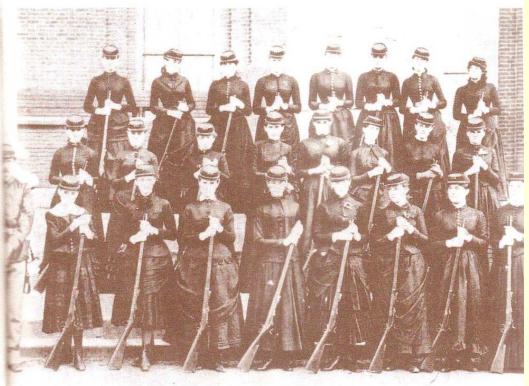
I would like to thank all of our civilians for their input on different activities to boost our enthusiasm and our ability to engage with the spectators. I think this year will be a lot of fun and I am really looking forward to it. To further help get ready for the upcoming season we are going to be having another ladies retreat weekend to work on civil war clothing and impressions. Vonda has offered her home for the weekend of April 1-3. You will need to bring bedding and something to sleep on (cot, air mattress, etc.) and whatever you would like to work on. We will have patterns to trace, photos of originals for inspiration, and years of experience! If you don't have something civil war related to work on still join us, we always have a good time! More details will come in the March newsletter. Looking forward to seeing all of you in February!

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

THE WOMEN'S WAR

s the conscription law attested, the Civil War was a white man's war. Women were not expected to take part, other than to make bandages and knit socks for the troops. But like the underage boys who enlisted anyway, women wanted to play a bigger role than men were willing to allow them, and they did.

A small number of women actually saw battlefield action in the Civil War; they disguised themselves as boys and volunteered for the army. It is impossible to know how many women posed as men, but several dozen were discovered by doctors



Civil War women volunteers

Everyone:
Please note-my home phone number is:
517-782-4387.
It is printed incorrectly in the membership roster.
Thank-you.
Ellyn Painter



The extremely interestin photo at left, showing

The extremely interesting photo at left, showing a group of women in Civil War military style garb standing at parade rest, was sent to me by Tom and Joan Emerick. It is from a book entitled *The Day Fort Sumter Was Fired On* by Jim Haskins. (page 45). As can be seen, the caption identifies them as "Civil War women volunteers." But are they?

Are these

Civil War

While the women are wearing Civil War kepi-style caps, their dresses are clearly not from the 1860's. My own estimate is roughly 1876-1883 - ie., between the two bustle periods-or possibly 1887-1890. Also, the very short "Annie Oakley" style dresses on two of the women places them about 1880—OR makes these ladies teen-agers (which the one at far left appears to be!)

It was all very curious to me, so I did a bit of hunting online; I looked the book up on Amazon.com. The web page for the book contains

a review by a customer who identified herself as a Civil War reenactor, and said, in part: "The dresses worn by the ladies in the photo are of a style not worn until at least 1880. Further study of the photo reveals that the ladies' hats all appear to have the emblem "G.A.R" on them. This means that, far from being a photo of Civil War 'women volunteers', it is most likely a photo of the Women's Auxilliery to the Grand Army of the Republic -- an organization comprised of Union veterans after the Civil War."

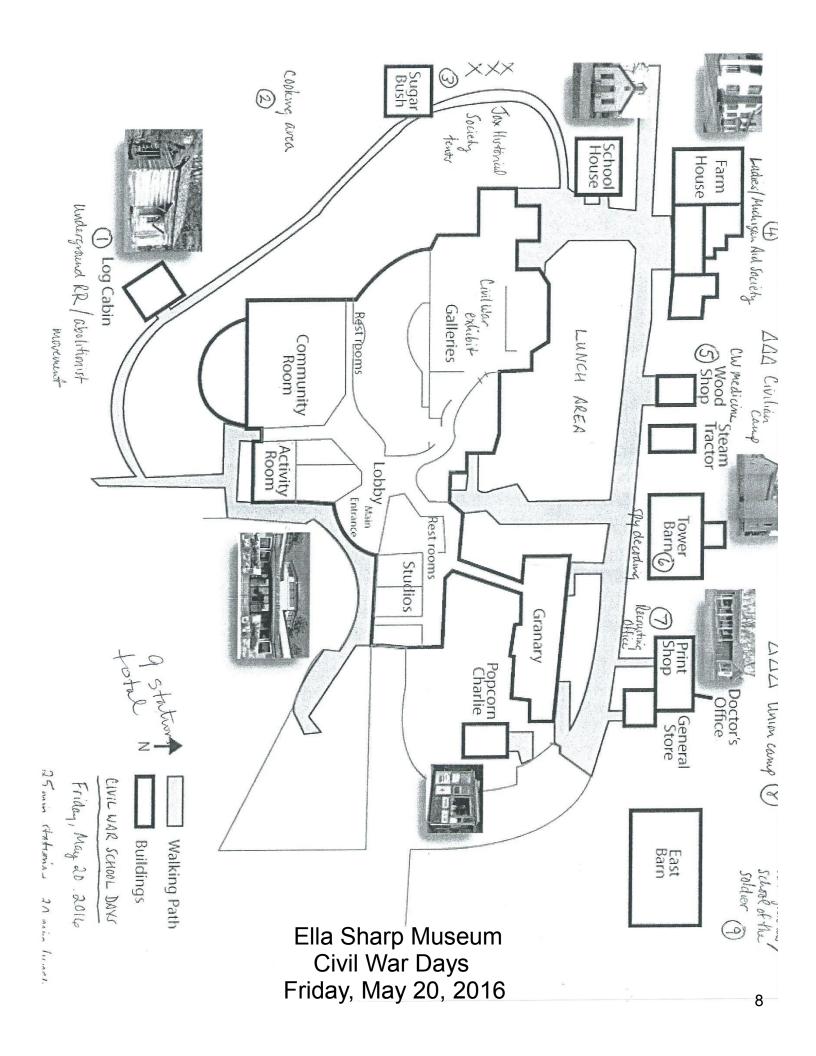
I missed the G.A.R. detail, but looking closer, I would say she's correct. Certainly the man standing at far left in the photo is dressed in a Civil War uniform, but he's a guy, probably served in the War, and so would HAVE a proper uniform. But the ladies....? From my experience: You can't always believe everything you read in a history book.

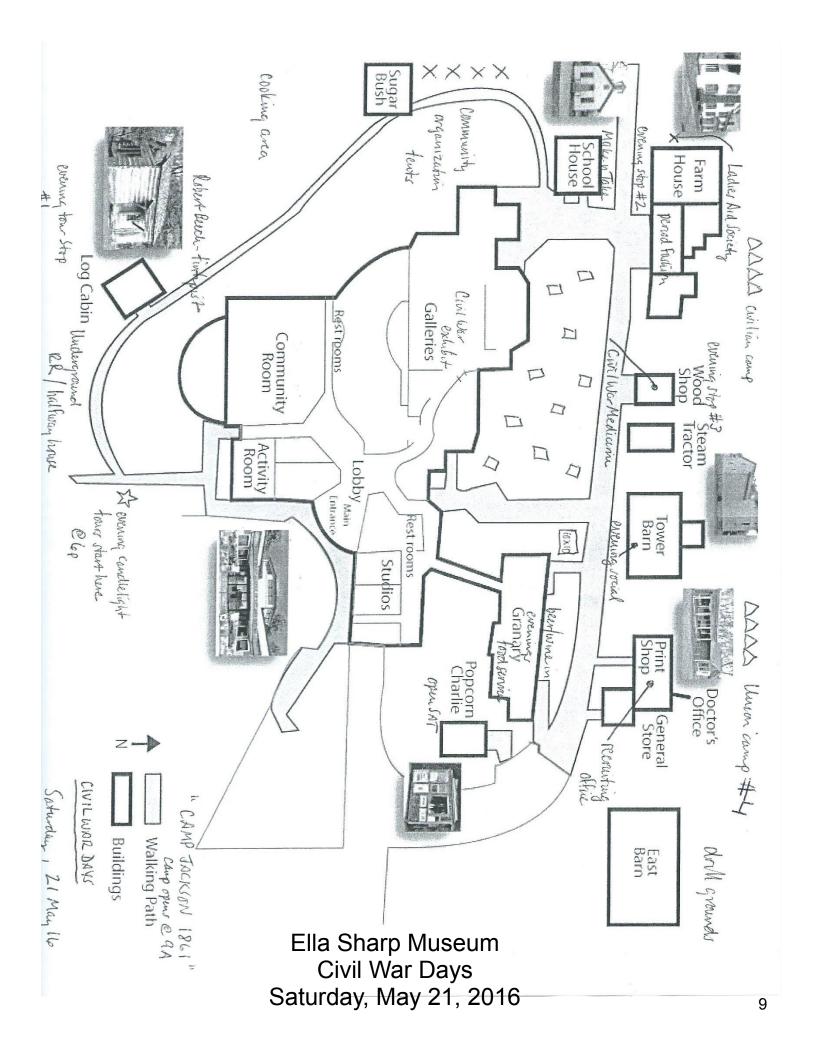
If anybody (ladies OR gentlemen) has any information to offer about possible units of "women volunteers"-- who wore women's clothes while serving in the military, that is-- or wants to express an opinion of the photo, I'd be glad to receive your comments.

Thanks.

----The Editor

cwseamstress@sbcglobal.net





The Blue Bottle Respite Tent Update Julie Sarge

The Blue Bottle Respite Tent's 2016 goals:

- 1. Present an impression that demonstrates the direct and indirect ways in which the Civil War and Spiritualism affected one another.
- 2. Provide military and civilian re-enactors a brief respite from the adversities of re-enacting a war.

In the impression "GOOD DEATH", Modern Spiritualist Medium Zuleika Dean Attie, portrayed by 7th Michigan civilian reenactor Julie Sarge, presents an educationally engaging program that examines the affects that the Civil War had on Spiritualism (an American religion born in the I840's based on the belief that the dead can and do communicate with the living) and vice versa. Here is a brief overview: "GOOD DEATH"

- WAS IT A GOOD DEATH OR A BAD DEATH? Identifies the attributes of both types of death according to 1860's standards.
- COMMUNICATION BEYOND THE 5 SIMPLE SENSES

Identifies 19 human senses and sensorial input with both physical and metaphysical considerations.

CLEAN HOLLOW STRAWS

Explains the role and responsibilities of honest Modern Spiritualist Mediums.

SPIRITUALIST MEDIUMS OR SWINDLING FRAUDS?

Compares and contrasts these two types of work.

SEANCES, CIRCLES, AND SITTINGS

Identifies these 3 common Spiritualist settings

SLOW DEATH BY NOSTALGIA

Examines the PTSD/PTSS of Civil War soldiers and civilians in terms of soul wound trauma of the spirit.

GHOST PAINS BEYOND THE VEIL

Identifies the attributes of successful and unsuccessful deaths. Identifies 4 different types of ghost pains.

• SITTINGS WITH MISS ZULEIKA DEAN ATTIE, MSM

Defines the expectations of both medium and client in the context of a sitting.

That's a lot of information to convey in half an hour, so we will be practicing a lot to keep a smooth flow to the presentation. We welcome volunteer audiences!

To provide military and civilian re-enactors a brief respite from the adversities of re-enacting a war, we are requesting input from the re-enacting community. We have a tentative list of needs to alleviate based on observations and commentary: thirst, hunger, exhaustion, boredom, dread, grief, soul wound trauma, ghost pains, and concern for those beyond the veil. Which needs did we miss?

Which needs are most pressing in a re-enactment?

Which needs are most widespread?

Which needs would most likely prompt you to seek respite at The Blue Bottle?

Please take a moment to help us pinpoint how we best can serve the re-enacting community. Email us at thewindweaversholding@gmail.com.

Thank you!

See next page for Blue Bottle Survey

THE BLUE BOTTLE IS AN EXAMPLE OF A FUNCTIONAL IMPRESSION, AN IMPRESSION THAT SERVES THE NEEDS OF THE REENACTING COMMUNITY AS WELL AS THOSE OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC. WE ASK THAT YOU TAKE A COUPLE OF MINUTES TO COMPLETE THIS BRIEF SURVEY SO THE WE CAN BE MORE

EFFECTIVE IN OUR GOAL OF PROVIDING RESPITE AND HEALING. PLEASE RANK THESE IN ORDER OF IMPORTANCE: 1 = IMPORTANT 2=somewhat important 3=NOT IMPORTANT ICE(FOR COOLING SELF ON HOT DAYS) _ICE WATER (TO DRINK ON HOT DAYS) A BOWL OF SOUP OR STEW _A COOKIE AN APPLE COFFEE __SUGAR/CREAM FOR COFFEE HERB TEAS (PEPPERMINT, LICORICE ROOT, SPEARMINT) ___ OTHER FOOD/NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: A PLACE TO LAY DOWN AND REST AWAY FROM PUBLIC A PLACE TO SIT AND REST AWAY FROM PUBLIC A PLACE TO REST WHEN OVERHEATED (NON-EMERGENCY) _A PLACE TO WRITE/JOURNAL/RESOLVE PROBLEMS A PLACE TO READ/PLAY PERIOD GAME(SOLITAIRE) _A PLACE TO PLAY PERIOD CHESS/CHECKERS, ETC. A PACKET CONTAINING TWEEZERS, BAND-AID, ANTISEPTIC, GAUZE TO DISGUISE MODERN BAND-AID. A PLACE TO WASH HANDS/FACE. Poison Ivy/Poison Oak Wash (to minimize rash)

___A PLACE TO DISCUSS EERIE HAPPENINGS OCCURRING DURING REENACTMENTS/AT BATTLESITES, ETC. ___A PLACE TO DISCUSS UNSETTLING ASPECTS OF BEING A SOLDIER COMMON TO ANY ERA.

____A PLACE TO PORTRAY A CONVALESCENT SOLDIER
PREPARING TO RETURN TO THE RANKS
____A PLACE TO PORTRAY A CONVALESCENT SOLDIER
PREPARING TO MUSTER OUT
____A PLACE TO PORTRAY A CIVILIAN TOO OLD FOR SOLDIERING
BUT STILL ABLE TO SERVE BY HELPING WITH RESPITE
CARE/BUILDING ITEMS FOR MILITARY, ETC.

___A PLACE TO PORTRAY WOMEN/LADIES WHO SERVED AS NURSES/COOKS/ADVOCATES FOR THE WOUNDED/CONVALESCING.

____A PLACE TO EDUCATE OTHERS REGARDING THE EMOTIONAL ASPECTS OF WAR THAT AFFECT BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN POPULATIONS BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER WAR.

__A PLACE TO PORTRAY _____

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST SOMETHING NOT MENTIONED HEREIN, PLEASE CONTACT JULIE SARGE AT 616.241.3004. THANK YOU.