

THE UNION VOLUNTEER



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

Volume XXXVI No. 2 February 2017



Next Club Meeting:

Sunday, Feb. 19, 2017

1:00pm at
Robbins UMC,
Eaton Rapids

Ladies' Retreat

Feb. 17-19

(see page 4)



I reckon we
should all brace
ourselves for
more of this. It
ain't over 'til it's
over. At least
not in Michigan!

There is still time to pay your dues, but not much....!

Members that have not paid 2017 dues as of Jan 20, 2017.

Carol Bachand
Al Baerren
Kevin Doyle
Thomas Edwards
Diane Geck
Joy Henderson
Marilyn/Ned Hughes
Dale/Debra Marvin/VanElst
Dean Mielke
Douglas/Jerri Munn
Gregory/Carmen Nolin/Salin
Craig Searles
Ian Searles
Robert/Dawn Smit

If you have paid your dues and you are on this list contact me at djkeverett@comcast.net or 517-393-3475.

Remember if your dues are not paid by **Feb 28th 2017** you will not be on the March 1 roster that is sent to Greenfield Village for the Remembrance weekend May 27,28,29 2017 Memorial Day weekend.

Nor will you continue to receive the 7th MI club newsletter!



President's Report:

This year is starting out with some promise of good things to come. It can be as good as choose to make it. The reason the club has been around for over 30 years and is as strong as it is now comes from a lot of people giving of their time and effort to make things happen. They got involved. I know most of you reading this are doing what you can, and for that you deserve everyone's thanks for making the club a better organization. It's one thing to be a member of an organization and get all the benefits of being a member, show up at the events you feel like going to... and quite another thing to actually get involved. You'll find out how rewarding

getting involved can become if you give it a chance. One thing to keep in mind, dues for the club are due. If you want be included in the roster of people to participate at Greenfield Village you need to have your dues paid up and be in good standing by Feb. 28. On March 1 the Village will be getting our roster of club members to allow to register for participating this year.

I'd like to say 'thanks' to those posting items on the 7th Facebook page. It's one of the places I check out regularly. Let's keep the conversation going. That communication will be invaluable to keep updated on what's happening this year.

Dave



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:
Dan Conklin, 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 Painter, Editor





MILITARY REPORT

I am really looking forward to the upcoming season.

Over the past season we added 4 men to the ranks, found a new spirit of cooperation and mutual respect in the hobby, and completed a plan to continue to grow the 7th. I'm sure this year will be even more positive.

One of the most exciting events, in my humble opinion, is the formation of a coalition that is known as The Grand Army of the Republic. This is a collaborative venture with our friends in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, and Michigan to plan, host, and run national events. Our Battalion, the GLB, is a signatory to this cooperative agreement and it has helped bring back the cooperation and friendship this hobby has been so well known for. Whenever you see blue you are among friends!

Please try to attend the next club meeting. Our military meeting will feature the dulcet tones of our own Mark Heath (the bugle). We pride ourselves on knowing the bugle calls and responding to the bugle and this is our review session for the upcoming year.

Our first event will be March 25. This will be with our friends in the Great Lakes Battalion and will be our spring tune up for Shiloh.

Speaking of Shiloh, get your registration money (\$20) to Don Everett by Feb. 8 and notify me that you plan on coming. Our first registration deadline is Feb 15; we will be sending in our first group registration. As of this writing we have 6 military and 1 civilian. Let's shoot for company strength.

I will close by thanking you for the wonderful opportunity to serve as your Captain. I can think of no better group of men and women to be associated with.

As always I am in your service,

Capt. McComas



Grand Armies of the Republic is the collaborative group that will be union command at Shiloh and will continue to work on national events. Join the Facebook page for updates on Shiloh and other events that the GAR collaborative will be hosting. Original post by Rob Van. Shared by Doug McComas on the 7th MI's Facebook page.



Welcome!
New Club
Members



Three newcomers to the 7th Michigan attended the January meeting. Above: David Graham, from St. Johns, MI; at right are Kim and Connie Horning, who live in Napoleon, MI (between Jackson and Brooklyn). Please be sure to welcome them to the club when you see them at events.

January Meeting Highlights

Bob Smith reported at the January meeting on the Key Effort Events Committee. At the February club meeting we will be discussing which events will be on this list in the coming season. We will also continue to select a coordinator from the club for each event chosen, so please contact Bob if you would like to volunteer for that job for a certain event.

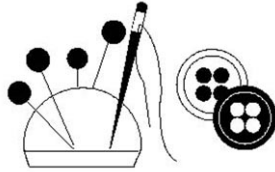
Charlton Park: There will be no reenactor breakfast this year. As last year, there will be no ice available onsite. Help will be needed at registration. (See page 6 for more details).

Don Everett reported that he, Jim MacKinnon, and Jim Kirschensteiner had a fine time at the first resurrected Guys' Breakfast on January 14. The next one is on Feb. 4. (see Education Director's Report, page 6, for details.)

We will soon be receiving an updated 2017 Club Roster, so please watch for it. It contains contact info on all club members.



Civilian Report



Hi, Everyone:

In January, the sewing circle met at Sue Colegrove's house. There was much laughter, fun, and friendship shared.

Our February sewing party will be combined with a full weekend Ladies' Retreat, Feb. 17-19, at Vonda Warren's home in Charlotte. You can come for the whole weekend, or only part of it. If you plan to spend the night, (either Friday, Saturday, or both), please bring your own bedding, and an inflatable mattress or cot to sleep on (or just sleep on the floor).

Saturday will be conducted similarly to our usual sewing parties. Vonda will be making soup, but you may bring an accompanying passing dish if desired. And bring whatever projects you wish to work on through the weekend. You may arrive at Vonda's anytime after 4:00pm on Friday. The weekend will end around noon on Sunday, when all will be traveling to the Robbins church for the February club meeting.

We ladies plan to meet at 9:00am this coming Saturday, Feb. 4 for breakfast at the Big Boy restaurant at 660 N. Cedar, in Mason, to finalize meal plans for the retreat. (It is also just a nice excuse to get together for breakfast!) Please feel free to join us. Tentatively, so far, the meal schedule for the retreat weekend is as follows: Friday supper - Vonda will make a pot of soup, but we can also order pizza if desired. Saturday breakfast - either we can go out for breakfast, or cook at Vonda's house. Saturday lunch - as described above. Saturday supper - pizza. Sunday breakfast - to be decided. I will be sending out a separate message later on what to bring for meals and ideas.

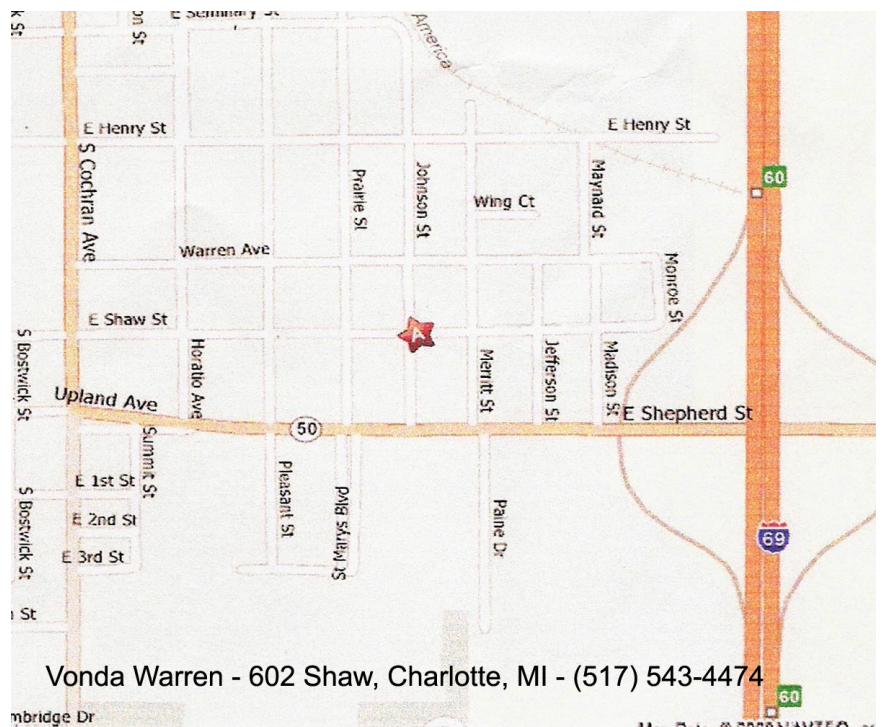
The civilians are considering making a quilt this year. It has been several years since we last made one. At the January club meeting we discussed a couple of different possibilities for how to structure the quilt. This is a project we can work on at events throughout the upcoming season. Please bring Civil War appropriate scrap dress fabric to the retreat in February, as well as ideas for blocks, etc. We will be finalizing our plans for the quilt at that time.

For our March 18 get-together we will be meeting in (or car pooling to) Kalamazoo to attend the Kalamazoo Living History Show (formerly the Kalamazoo Gun Show). Meet for breakfast at the Denny's restaurant in Kalamazoo at 9:00am first. (More info later)

Saturday, April 29 is the Live Shoot at our usual place, the Eaton Rapids Conservation Club. As in years past, this will be a combined club meeting, potluck breakfast and lunch, and civilian sewing party. There will be more info on this coming from the Quartermaster. We will need people to volunteer to bring food for both the breakfast, and the lunch meals. Please contact me if you can bring a breakfast item, as we will not have a company cook preparing breakfast this year.

July 1: Meridian Village will be celebrating Meridian Township's 175th Anniversary at their Heritage Festival on that date. They have invited the 7th Michigan to participate. Civilians would again have use of the cabin all day. More details coming; I will find out more when I attend the Village's March meeting.

Sue Colegrove, Civilian Coordinator
scolegrove@rocketmail.com
517-626-0144



Quartermaster Report

The remaining supply of powder at \$15 per pound was sold or used for Club cartridges at the Jan. meeting. We have a supply of caps at \$7 per 100. I will have them at the rest of the meetings. Powder now is \$18 per pound. We have 1 pound of Skirmish powder at \$13.

We will have powder, caps and paper at the Feb. meeting. Also the 7th Sutler will have our goods for sale at the meeting. If you are looking for a rifle or something in particular contact me to make sure I bring it. ---Don Everett

Education Director's Report

Please note the date for the Birney Middle School program has changed. The new date is May 19th. A date for the Ovid Middle School program has been set for May 5th. Arrival times will posted in future newsletters.

Live Shoot/ April meeting:

The date of Sat April 29th was confirmed at the Jan meeting. As before we will provide breakfast for a nominal fee before the shoot. We will have a pot luck lunch before the meeting, plan on brining a dish to pass. Sue Colgrove is coordinating the breakfast and pot luck lunch. There will be a fee of \$5 for shooting to help defray the cost of the rental of the clubhouse/range. The April Club meeting will follow lunch.

For 2017 we have resurrected the Saturday Guy's breakfasts with something to do afterwards. The first breakfast was held Jan. 14th at Sophia's House of Pancakes. Though sparsely attended we had a good time and a great breakfast. Guys please join us for one of the remaining dates Remember all guys are welcome not just Military, the Civilian men are welcome as well.

Continued on next page.....

Book Review

By Bob Smith

At the most recent club meeting Ellyn said she'd like to start a book review feature in the Newsletter. I volunteered to kick it off with a review of the first four books of a five book series by Ralph Peters. These books are historical novels in the vein of the ones done by Michael and later Jeff Sharra. They are very well researched and extremely realistic and readable. Some of you may have read this author's works under his former pen name, Owen Parry. He produced a series of very entertaining Civil War Murder Mysteries featuring a little Welshman by the name of Able Jones. These books were popular in the club for a time. The present series, like the Able Jones books, carries characters over from book to book to create a larger narrative. So, while the books will stand alone, I'd recommend reading them in order. The books I've read thus far are...

Cain At Gettysburg... Unlike other Gettysburg centered books, this one concentrates on the first day action north of the town and then on Pickett's Charge. The slightly different focus gives a different view of the battle.

Hell or Richmond... Covers the Wilderness through Cold Harbor

Valley of the Shadow... Is strictly about the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864 and particularly on Sheridan and Early. Since my great-great-grandfather was wounded and captured in the battle of Third Winchester I particularly enjoyed this book.

The Damned of Petersburg... starts with the Battle of the Crater and ends with Hatcher's Run. This book is darker and even a bit depressing (as was *The Last Full Measure* by Shaara) owing to the large waste of lives during the siege and the terrible price to be paid for the all but given outcome of a Northern victory in the war. It also deals with the rampant racism on both sides and the atrocities visited on the black troops by both Confederate and Union soldiers.

One more book is forthcoming, not yet named, but would logically deal with Five Forks thru Appomattox. I found all these books to be enjoyable, accurate and very readable. I look forward to the final book. I have passed copies of books 2,3 and 4 to Ellyn and as she reads them they will be passed around the club.

Hope you get a chance to read them. —————



Calling all book lovers!
If you've read a great
Civil War related novel
or non-fiction title,
please send me a review
(one or two short
paragraphs is fine) for
the newsletter.

Education Director's Report, concluded:

The remaining dates and locations are Feb. 4th 9am at the Mason Depot Diner, 111 Mason St. (just off Ash St.), Mason MI 48854. Afterwards for anyone that wishes to attend the Gun Show at the Ingham County Fairgrounds I will have a supply of \$1 off coupons for the Gun Show. March 18th 9am at Denny's, 3817 Cork St. (just off Sprinkle Rd.), Kalamazoo MI 49001. After breakfast anyone that wishes can attend the Kalamazoo Living History Show.

Charlton Park Information:

First, as last year ice will not be available at the park. It can be purchased at the party store at the corner of M-79 and Charlton Park Rd. We will coordinate with each other to make sure that we have ice. Those that wish can set up on Thursday. There will not be a breakfast on Sat. or Sun. The co-hosts would like some help with registration. Please consider taking a shift at the barn to help out. We also need to provide people to cover modern camp. They have decided to have a Mayoral debate and election on Saturday and announce a winner on Sunday before the battle. I need an opponent to run against. There was discussion of possibly alternating years for the lantern tours and the barn dance to increase participation.

Shiloh:

I have the following people that have paid their \$20 registration fee for the Shiloh dough McComas, Steve Church, Dan Malick, Jim MacKinnon, Kim Horning, Connie Horning, and Rob Stone. If you are planning on attending the quickest way to get you registration fee in is to send it to my home address rather than the PO Box. As it only get checked once a week. Send to: Don Everett, 1815 Irvington Ave., Lansing, MI 48910

And last I would like to welcome our new members David Graham, Kim and Connie Horning. We look forward to seeing them at meetings, activities and events this year. We're glad you came to us.

Don Everett,
Quartermaster/ Education Director/ Treasurer



Photos by Ellyn Painter and Celeste Hude. Thanks, Celeste for the loan of your phone camera!



The guys rolling cartridges at the January meeting. Quite an efficient assembly line!



- Cumberland Guard Annual Meeting - January 14, 2017, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Tom Emerick represented the 7th Michigan, Co. B at the recent annual Cumberland Guard meeting. The meeting was hosted by Guard commander, and good friend of the 7th Michigan, Colonel Rob Van. Many of the attendees were our comrades-in-arms from Indiana (30th, 49th), and Michigan (3rd, 4th, 1st USSS Co. B, Great Lakes Battalion). Introductions were made, past and future unit events discussed, etc. Most of the meeting concentrated on discussion of a new umbrella organization, Grand Armies of the Republic (GAR), and the 2017 Shiloh national-level event.

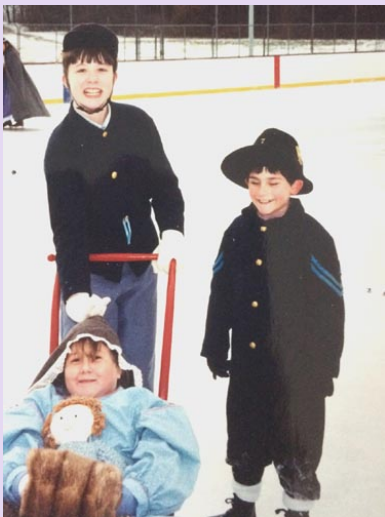
Bob Minton, Army of the Ohio and First Federal Division Commander, and Colonel Van elaborated on the purpose and organization of the modern day GAR. In brief, it was initially formed by unit representatives at the Perryville 2016 re-enactment. It is intended to improve cooperation amongst the various western units as well as to increase fellowship and participation at the larger events. Discussion covered the destructive conflicts previously existing between the larger regional re-enacting organizations to the detriment of the hobby as a whole. We also reviewed the reduction in re-enactor numbers and events following the 150th event cycle. Hopefully a new era of cooperation will carry us forward into the future.

Bob and Rob next reviewed some of the 2017 Shiloh event details (i.e, command organization, schedule, location, authenticity, etc.) that is being co-hosted by our good friend Earl Zeckman of the Atlanta Campaign, Inc. General Minton is overall commander of the Union Army. Rob Van is commander of the 1st Brigade currently composed of units from the Army of the Wabash, Cumberland Guard, Great Lakes Battalion, and Military Division of the Mississippi. The event is looking to be a great re-enactor event with the well-scripted battles and troops led by experienced and capable commanders. We will be fighting and bivouacking on the actual Shiloh battlefield.

While at the meeting I spoke with Dennis Whiting and Nathan Tingley of the Great Lakes Battalion regarding the GLB battalion drill at Historic Fort Wayne scheduled for March 25. Nathan will be leading the NCO training sessions and I was asked to conduct some of the Officer training portions of the program. Tom Berlucchi also requested I commit some time to work with the younger Field Musicians (fifes and drums) over the weekend which I gladly agreed to.

Most Respectfully, Your Obedient Servant

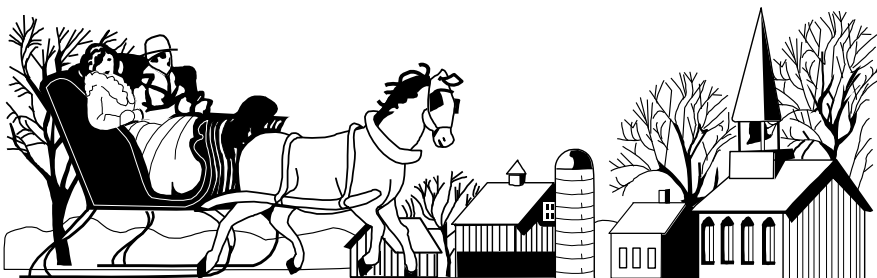
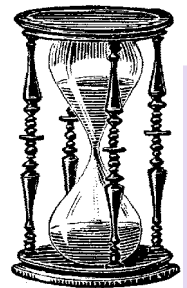
Tom



Some of our younger 7th Michigan members during a club skating party in the 1990's (?) at Washington Park in Lansing. All grown up now, the "kids" are: Katie Everett, Kyle Emerick, Mandy Downing, and Lynn Henderson.

---submitted by Tom & Joan Emerick

A Look Back...



"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