

THE UNION VOLUNTEER

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



Volume XXXI No. 1 January 2012

NOTES:

Next club meeting:
Sunday, January 15, 2012
1:00pm at Robbins UMC,
Eaton Rapids, MI
(see attached map)

New Member Co-Chairs:
Jeff Verstraete
Email: Jbvisme@gmail.com

Vickie Verstraete
verstraetevickie@yahoo.com
Phone: 517-663-4759

**Annual membership dues
are due by January 1st.**
\$16.00 – single
\$19.20 – family
\$6.00 – receive newsletter as non-
participating/non-voting member.
Checks should be made out to:
7th Michigan Vol. Inf. Co. B
and sent to:
**PO BOX 16206,
Lansing, MI 48901-6206.**
Members delinquent (haven't paid
by the end of January) will be
notified in the February newsletter.
If dues are not paid by March 1,
Newsletters will be eliminated for
those non-paying members.

Thanks to everyone who submitted information for the newsletter. Please note that the deadline date for submissions is the 25th of each month.

Please have all reports and articles in print-ready form. I am able to accept documents in Wordpad, Rich Text, Word, Word Perfect, OpenOffice, Pagemaker, or PDF. Be sure to ascertain that any items coming from another source are properly credited, or have obtained reprint permission.

Email all submissions to me at:
7thminewsletter@gmail.com
Or mail to:
736 Gettysburg Avenue
Jackson, MI 49203

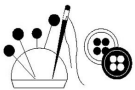
Thank you.

Ellyn Painter, Editor

Ingham Courthouse Monument Dedication

On December 7th, military members of the 7th Michigan were privileged to participate, as an honor and color guard, in the dedication of a Civil War monument at the historic Ingham County courthouse in Mason, MI. The memorial pays tribute to approximately 390 Civil War veterans from the county who died between 1861-1865. Organized by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the fine ceremony featured Keith Harrison as Master of Ceremonies, prayers and readings, and the playing of taps by bugler Mark Heath. Participants included representatives from the County, and American Legion, Civil War veterans' descendants, and others. Additional 7th Michigan members attending included Jim Kirschensteiner, Steve Church, Denny Zank, Steve Hainstock, Jim MacKinnon, Tom Emerick, Dave Slayton, and Don Everett, who brought our National and Regimental flags. Thanks to all who made the ceremony a reality and a valued remembrance.

---- contributed by Gloria Kirschensteiner and Capt. David Slayton



Civilian News

The January sewing party will take place
On Saturday, the 14th, at the home of
Vonda Warren . We start at 10:00am
and work until mid-afternoon. Please
bring a dish to pass for lunch, and what-
ever project you wish to work on. (See
Map at end of newsletter).

7th Michigan Military Minutes- December 27, 2011

2012 Military Structure

Co-Captains: Dave Slayton
Tom Emerick
Lieutenant: Jim MacKinnon
1st Sergeant: Doug McComas
Sergeant: Craig Searles
Jeff Verstraete
Corporal: Dan Conklin
Tom Edwards
Andrew McComas
Rob Stone
Chief Bugler: Mark Heath

Please note that the military minutes in last month's newsletter inadvertently showed an incorrect date for the Shiloh Event. The correct dates are: March 30-April 1, 2012. (see listing below). See pages 11-12 for registration form, and maps to Shiloh.

--- Capt. Tom Emerick

December 2011

No formal meeting of the 7th Michigan was held, but we did have two events of note.

First, on December 7th, military members participated in the dedication of a Civil War monument at the historic Ingham County courthouse in Mason. It was organized by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and other participants included the American Legion, a representative from the County and others I'm not sure of. The ceremony was well done, including the playing of taps by Mark Heath and Master of Ceremony Keith Harrison. It was a privilege to participate as flag bearers and honor guard. Others attending from the 7th included Jim Kirschensteiner, Steve Church, Denny Zank, Steve Hainstock, Jim MacKinnon, Tom Emerick, Don Everett (who brought our National and Regimental flags), and Captain David Slayton. Thank you to all those that came to participate, your effort is appreciated!

Second, on December 10th, the 7th held our annual Christmas Party at Robbins United Methodist Church outside of Eaton Rapids. The food was great, but it's the company of our friends and family that make it special. Credit and thanks goes to the ladies that spent so much time, effort and thought in making the day enjoyable. Great food, beautiful decorations and gifts were provided. Thank you all that made it possible, and those that came to join in the fun.

2012 Military Activities

January 14 – 7th Michigan Tassel Top Mess Breakfast/ Bullet Casting/Cartridge Rolling - Lansing, Michigan

Don Everett, once again, volunteered his home and loading equipment for our annual gathering. We will be casting Minie' balls for the live shoot and as souvenirs for spectators at our living history presentations. We need lots of "volunteers" to roll cartridges to replenish the Club's supply for the 2012 school programs. The festivities kick-off with a 9:00 A.M. breakfast at the Fleetwood Diner located at 2211 S.Cedar Street, Lansing. Don Everett's humble abode is located just around the corner at 1815 E. Irvington Ave., Lansing. Contact person is Dave Slayton (slaytondave@juno.com 517-663-4161). See maps attached.

February 11 - Officers and NCO School of Instruction – Leslie, MI

We need to shake off the rust and prepare for the 150th Shiloh and/or the upcoming season. The 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. B will be hosting a seven-hour infantry drill session from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on **February 11th** at the White Pine Academy. The school will be open an hour in advance so drills can begin promptly at 9:00. Lessons will cover basic maneuvers and formations taken from Casey's School of the Soldier, School of the Company, School of the Battalion, up to and including some Brigade-level evolutions. The 3rd Michigan, Co. F has also requested we review some squad level maneuvers for the benefit of units with oversized companies. Instruction will concentrate on positioning and movements of Corporals,

Sergeants, up through Field Officers within the various evolutions. In addition to basic maneuvers, we will cover Inspection Arms, Dress Parade, "basic" guard mount, Color Company and Color Guard, "basics" of skirmishing, etc. There will be a demonstration of School of the Sword, if Officers are interested, to rehearse the positions utilized during Dress Parade. Mark Heath will be incorporating bugle signals into our movements throughout the day. Brother units or individuals from throughout the state (or out-of-state) are invited to attend. All ranks are invited to participate from privates up through Officers. If you plan to bring younger recruits (too young to serve in the ranks) I will be more than happy to employ them as markers.

All attendees should wear the uniform with their current rank, bring their rifle or sword, accoutrements, and **soft-soled shoes**. Modern athletic shoes are permitted and encouraged as we will be drilling inside a gymnasium on tile floors. Please no heel plates. Leave all ammunition at home.

I am reserving a room at the local Crossroads Restaurant for our noontime meal. This is to take advantage of the restaurant's large room to share camaraderie and partake of our afternoon meal en masse. There also is a MacDonald's within a mile of the school. For brown-baggers there are cafeteria tables and a small kitchenette at the school. There will be coffee and light baked goods at the school in the morning before drill commences.

I plan to prepare a spreadsheet listing the movements to be reviewed and the sections of Casey's from which they are taken. I will distribute this document in electronic format in advance of the drill date for those who want to familiarize themselves with the particulars. Notify me if you want a copy sent to you.

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 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.

I do need to know the number of attendees so please notify me if you plan to attend AND if you want to be included in the restaurant reservations. The 7th Michigan contact is Tom Emerick (517) 669-5607 or tomjoemerick@hotmail.com.

March 10 – Company and Battalion Drill School of Instruction – Leslie, MI

Another opportunity to drill with your pards and prepare for the upcoming season. This will mostly be a repeat of the prior February drill session but utilizing what we have already covered. See event description above. The 7th Michigan contact is Tom Emerick (517) 669-5607 or tomjoemerick@hotmail.com.

March 30 - April 1 – 150th Anniversary Battle of Shiloh/Armies of Tennessee - Counce, TN

The 7th Michigan (and our brethren in the 3rd Michigan, Co. F) will be attending the 150th Shiloh event sponsored by our good friend Earl Zeckman (Overall Union Commander) and hosted by the Armies of Tennessee <http://shiloh150th.com/information.html>. The event location is 145 Possum Trot Rd, Counce, Tennessee 38326. Registration of \$10/person is due by 02/01/2012 but walk-ons are permitted. A registration form is included in the newsletter for those who want to self-register. Tom Emerick will be collecting **cash** or checks made out to the **Armies of Tennessee** at the next Club meeting for those who want Tom to register them. The 7th Michigan contact is Tom Emerick (517) 669-5607 or tomjoemerick@hotmail.com.

At the November meeting the following men indicated they were interested in attending:

Sam Batdorff Tom Emerick Steve Hainstock Nathan Kalmoe Jim MacKinnon Andrew McComas
Doug McComas Rob Stone

September 15-17 – 150th Anniversary Antietam NPS Living History Program – Sharpsburg, MD

The 7th Michigan has been officially invited to participate in this year's NPS Living History Program. We will be camping on the battlefield again and portraying one of the Iron Brigade regiments. Our pards in the

3rd Michigan, Co. F are also planning to go again. The most important uniform requirement is for participants to wear either the Regulation (Hardee) Hat or proper, re-production slouch hat. Gaiters and frock coats are optional but strongly recommended. Website for the Antietam NPS is <http://www.nps.gov/ancm/index.htm> The 7th Michigan contact is Tom Emerick (517) 669-5607 or tomjoemerick@hotmail.com.

At the November meeting the following men indicated they were interested in attending:

Tom Emerick Steve Hainstock Andrew McComas Doug McComas Dave Slayton Rob Stone Dennis Zank

Most Respectfully, Your Obedient Servants

Dave Slayton, Captain
slaytondave@juno.com
(517) 663-4161

Tom Emerick, Captain
tomjoanemerick@hotmail.com
(517) 669-5607

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

To the Membership of the 7th Michigan Company B:

I don't need to tell you this has been a difficult month. You will find in this month's newsletter a letter sent to Col. Dave Shackelford from the Jackson Host Committee upholding the decision which was made to not invite him to serve as overall Commander at the Jackson Event for 2012. This letter has also been sent to all persons who received the letter you received from Dave (including the Cumberland Guard leadership). I accept full responsibility for the clumsy way the decision was originally handled. I apologize to you for the conflict and rumors that were caused by that. That said, I am truly proud for the way you, the membership have responded in this difficult time. The restraint and honor shown by the men and women of the 7th is a credit to the group and demonstrates why we (you) are so well respected in the hobby. This was recognized and admired by many other union and confederate groups across the Midwest.

We now must move forward. Reenacting is not about titles, position, or honors, it is sharing our love of history, our friendship, and our knowledge. It remains our mission to honor and respect those that we represent and portray at events and on the field.

While there are still some internal issues that will need to be resolved from this recent difficulty, we will resolve them and emerge even stronger than we are, as a group, and as friends.

I continue to be,

Your most obedient servant,

Doug McComas

December 19, 2011

Colonel Dave Shackelford
Cumberland Guard
PO Box 20276
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Colonel Shackelford:

Disagreements can occur and passions can flare even among honorable men. The men of the 7th Michigan Company B, US Marine Guard, and 1st Michigan Light Artillery Battery D would like to acknowledge our deepest respect and admiration for the pivotal role you have played in the formation and continued leadership of the Cumberland Guard. In that role you have transformed the hobby in the Midwest by forging alliances and expanding competence and skill sets of individual units and their many members. For this we honor you.

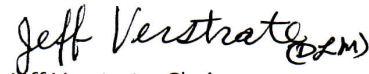
In all things change is inevitable. It has been the infusion of new ideas, new points of view, and new leadership that has allowed the Jackson Civil War Muster to transform itself and remain relevant and important to reenactors and spectators alike over these past 27 years. The key to its success is that it is supported by many and owned by none.

It is my task to inform you that in a meeting of the entire Jackson Host committee, held on December 16, 2011, the decision was made by vote of the committee to not invite you as overall union commander to the event this year. The committee further agreed that for this year, and from this point, the decision to invite both the union and confederate commanders will take place by a vote of the host committee, (which has not been past practice).

The road to these decisions was filled with missteps, misunderstandings, and miscommunication. Please accept our apologies for the clumsy manner in which the decision making process took place. The 7th Michigan Company B and 1st Michigan Light Artillery Battery D are, and do remain, loyal members of the Cumberland Guard. The US Marine Guard remains a strong friend and partner of the Cumberland Guard. We offer you our sincere thanks and gratitude for your many years of faithful service to the hobby and the Jackson event.

Respectfully submitted, (after review and approval of the Jackson Host Committee)
Your most obedient servants:

Representing the Jackson Host Committee,



Jeff Verstrate, Chair,

Representing the 7th Michigan Company B,



Doug McComas
President

EDUCATION DIRECTORS REPORT

We have 4 school programs scheduled for next year. Information will follow as to what equipment to bring and directions and times. The dates are as follows; March 27th Emmanuel Lutheran school Lansing, April 12th Birney School Southfield, April 27th Ovid Middle school Ovid, May 18th Midland Academy Midland. Civilians are wanted for these presentations. New member are welcome as well. Cartridges and caps are provided by the club for firing demonstrations. We have been invited to provide a school program for Scott Shatuck at Mason Middle School. The date will be sometime in the spring. Actual date to be determined after the first of the year.

---submitted by Don Everett

The 7th Michigan Sutler

The 7th has, over the last year, has obtained a collection of Military gear that is for sale to club members. After obtaining some more gear recently we have taken inventory of what we have for sale. The list follows. Most of the equipment is used and sold as is. The gear and prices are for 7th Michigan members only

CLOTHING, MEN'S

Trousers, US, 40/42...\$35
Trousers, US, 38/40...\$35
Trousers, CS, 32/34...\$35
Shell jacket, CS, 38/40...\$40
Shell jacket, CS, 40/42...\$40
Sack coat, US, 50/52...\$20
Sack coat, US, 38/40...\$40
Frock coat, size 44/46...\$75
Military vest, size large...\$20
Long drawers, 40/42...\$10
Shirt, pillow ticking...\$20
Shirt, collarless, white muslin...\$15
Shirt, collarless, red pillow ticking...\$20
Shirt, collarless, red pillow ticking...\$20
Civilian frock coat, black, size 44...\$75
Civilian trousers, black, size 32/34, new...\$40
Civilian vest, black, size large...\$25
Wool sock, white...\$5
NCO sash...\$20
White gloves...\$1 per pair
White gloves, wool...\$1

HATS

Amish straw hat...\$10
Slouch hat, black /w cord...\$22
Slouch hat, black /w cord & bugle...\$25
Kepi, CS/w bugle...\$30
Kepi, CS...\$25

SHOES

Jefferson bootees, size 8...\$30
Jefferson bootees, dress, size 8W...\$40

WEAPONS

Springfield 1861 rifle /w bayonet,
& sling, Armi Sport...\$615
Enfield 1853 rifle w/case & sling
plastic finish, Euro Arms...\$525
Springfield 1861 rifle /w case, tompion,
bayonet, scabbard, & sling, Armi Sport...\$630
Enfield 1853 rifle/w case, tompion, scabbard
& frog, Armi Sport...\$525

ACCOUTERMENTS

Tompion, brass...\$1
Cartridge box tins...\$2
Enfield sling...\$3
Cartridge box, sling, cap pouch, belt...\$50
Canteen, SS bulls eye, sky blue...\$20
Canteen, SS bulls eye, dark blue...\$20
Haversack, tarred...\$20
CS buckle...\$3
US buckle...\$3
US breast plate...\$3

COOKING UTENSILS

Porcelain basin...\$0.50
Cast iron skillet, small...\$2
Tin cup, large...\$1
Tin cup, large...\$3
Teaspoon, fiddle back...\$0.50
Tablespoon, fiddle back...\$0.50
Fork, (2)...\$0.50
Knife...\$0.50

HAVERSACK STUFFERS

Hatchet...\$2
Handkerchief...\$0.50 ea
Poke sacks, various sizes each...\$0.50
Poke sack, muslin...\$0.050
Poke sack, pillow ticking, small...\$1
Poke sack, pillow ticking, large...\$1
Soap, period w/ poke sack...\$1
Pill case, tin...\$1
Housewife...\$3
Housewife, pillow ticking...\$3
Sewing kit, in cap tin...\$3

MISCELLANEOUS

Cleaning rods, wood w/ jag & shotgun brush
adapter...\$7
Oil bottles, tin...\$2
Trigger lock...\$2
Poke sack /w 33 cartridges...\$5
Bag of Paper Ladies & 16 cartridges...\$5
Box of Paper Ladies...\$5
Tin, 250, RWS musket caps...\$10
Musket nipple wrench...\$3
Musket nipple wrench...\$3

---submitted by Don Everett

QUARTERMASTER REPORT

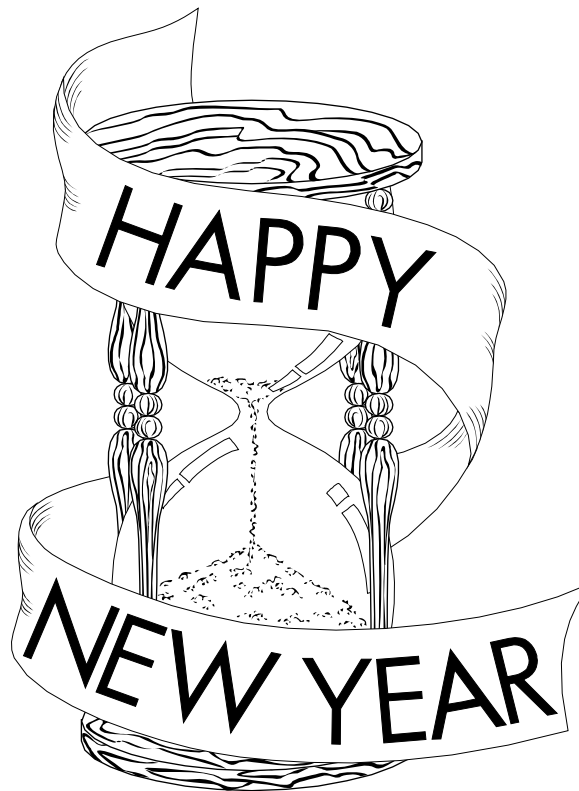
We are planning for a cartridge rolling and casting party Sat Jan, 14 at my house. Meet at the Fleetwood Diner 2211 S Cedar St/ bus I-96, Lansing for breakfast by 9 am. Rolling/casting party to follow at 10:30 at my house (1815 Irvington Ave, Lansing).

We are planning a live shoot in April. Breakfast before at the Robin's Nest on M99 south of Eaton Rapids at 9 am. Shoot to follow at 10:30 am at the Eaton Rapids Conservation Club. Information on date to follow when confirmed.

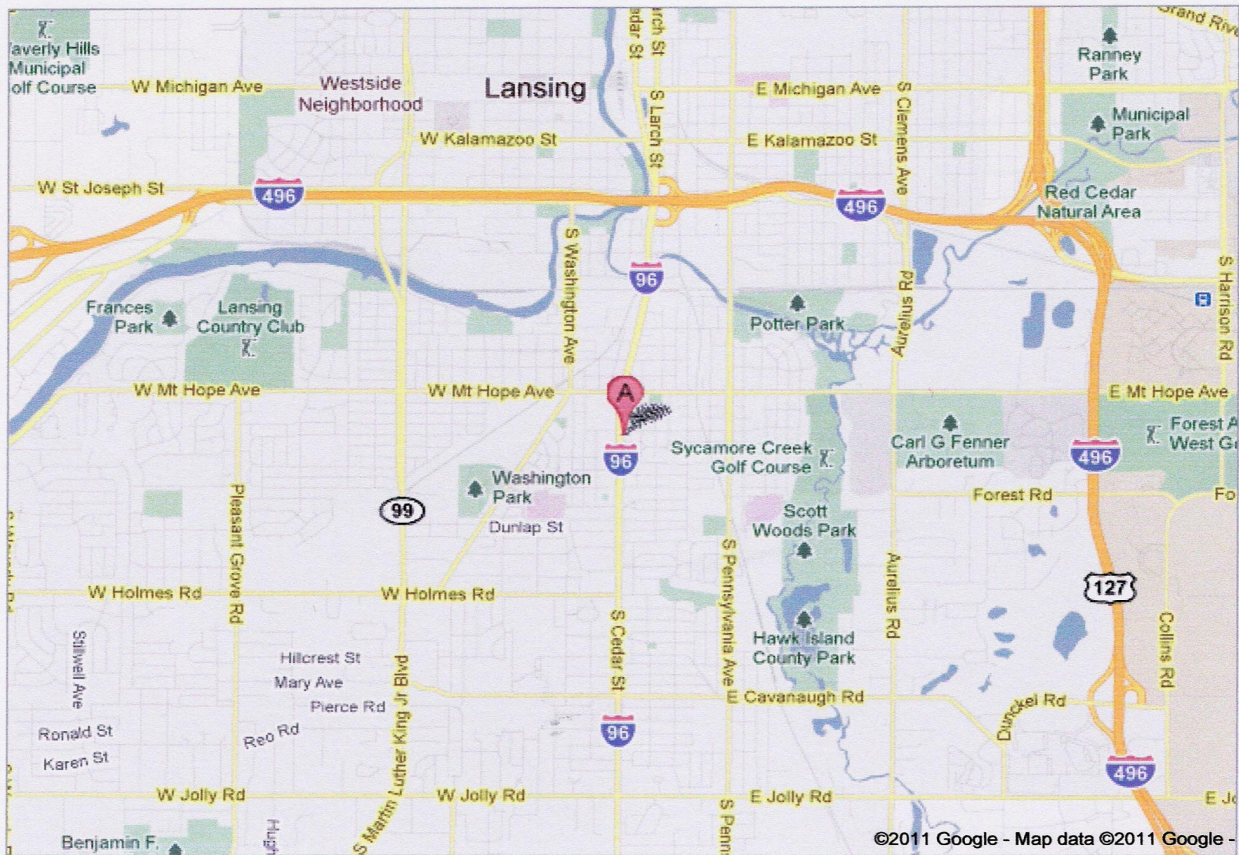
Tee shirts -- we have the following 7th Michigan clothing for sale:
blue, 2 medium- \$7, 2 large- \$7, 1 2XL- \$9. Sweatshirts, blue, 1 medium- \$18.50, 1 Large- \$18.50, 2 X large- \$18.50, 1 2XL- \$21.50. Tote Bags, 1 navy- \$6, 2 red- \$6, 2 black- \$6 and Ball caps- \$15. These will be available at the Nov. meeting.

There will be powder, paper and caps available as well. The new supply of caps is the CCI copper 4 wing style and the new price will be \$7 per tin of 100. They are in real tins, not plastic. Price of 1 pound cans of FFFg powder is priced at \$13.

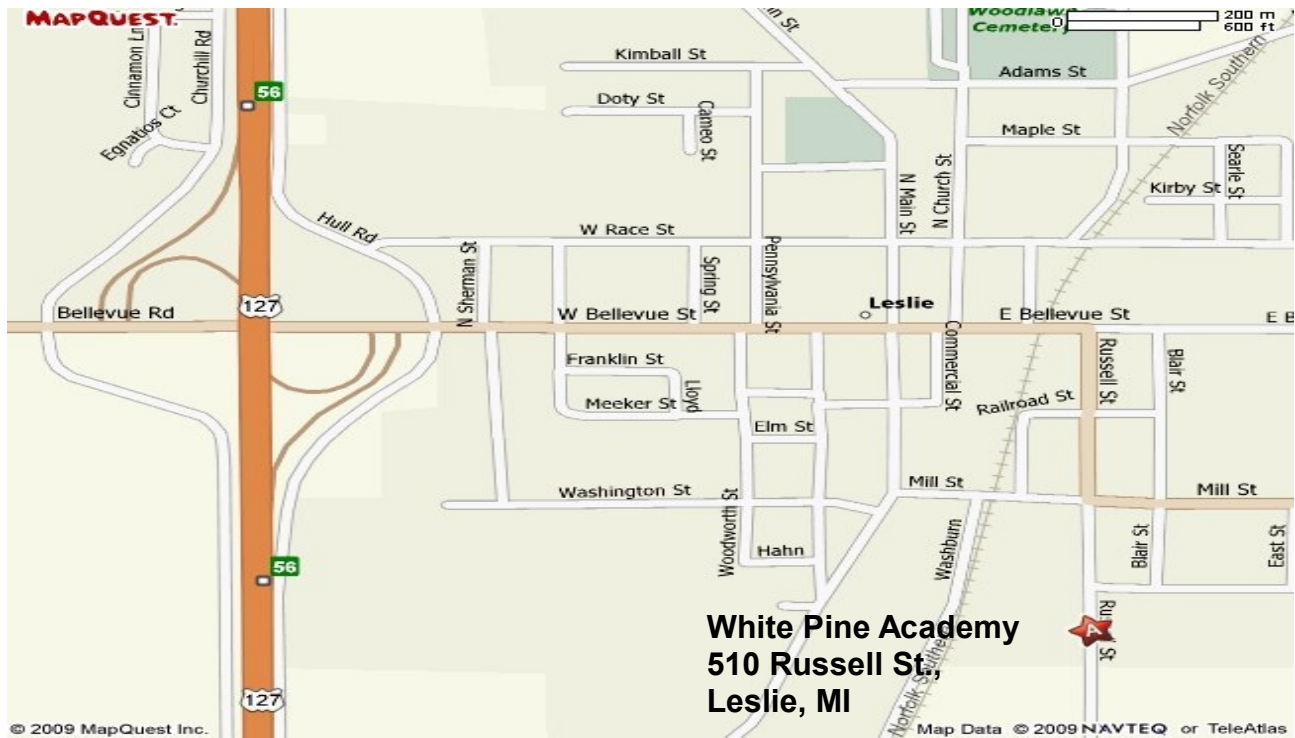
---submitted by Don Everett



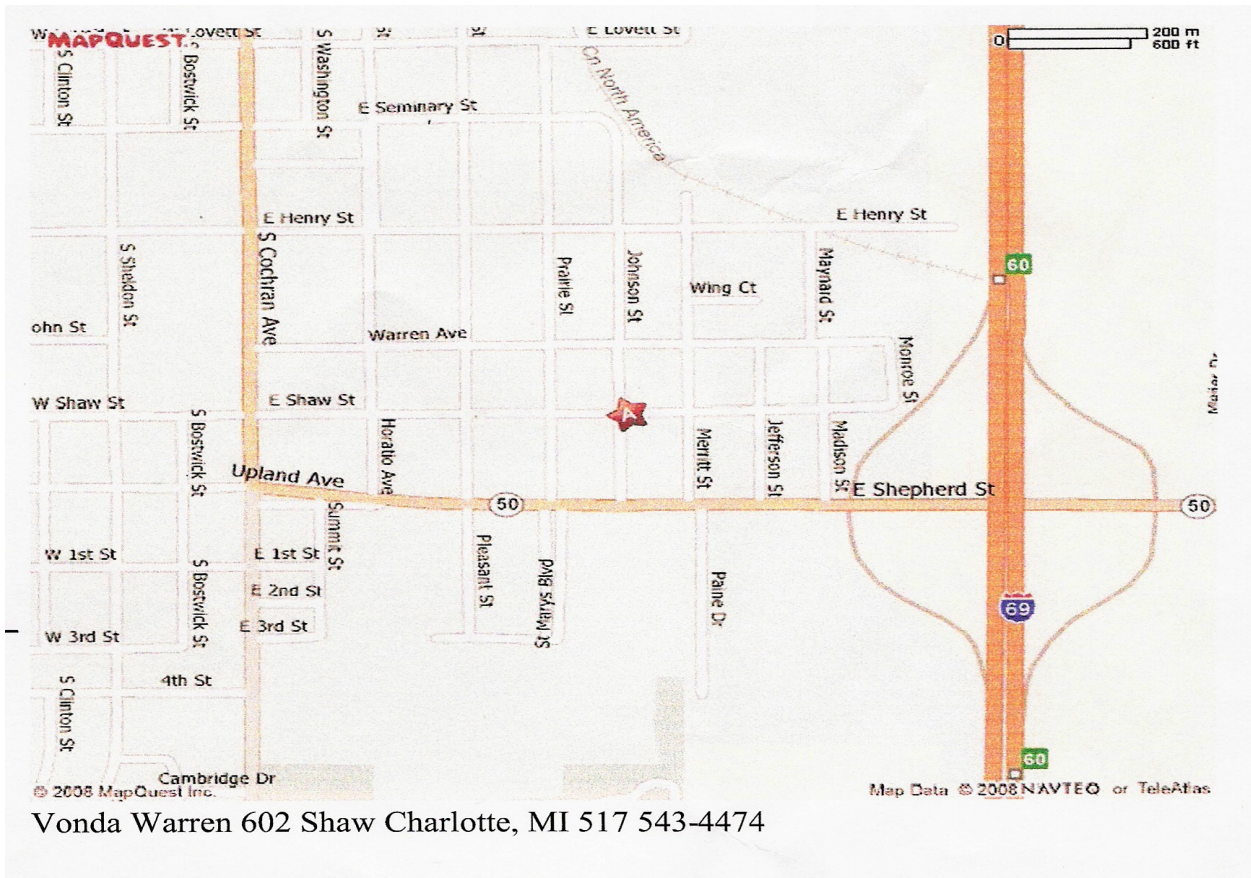
See maps, continuing pages...



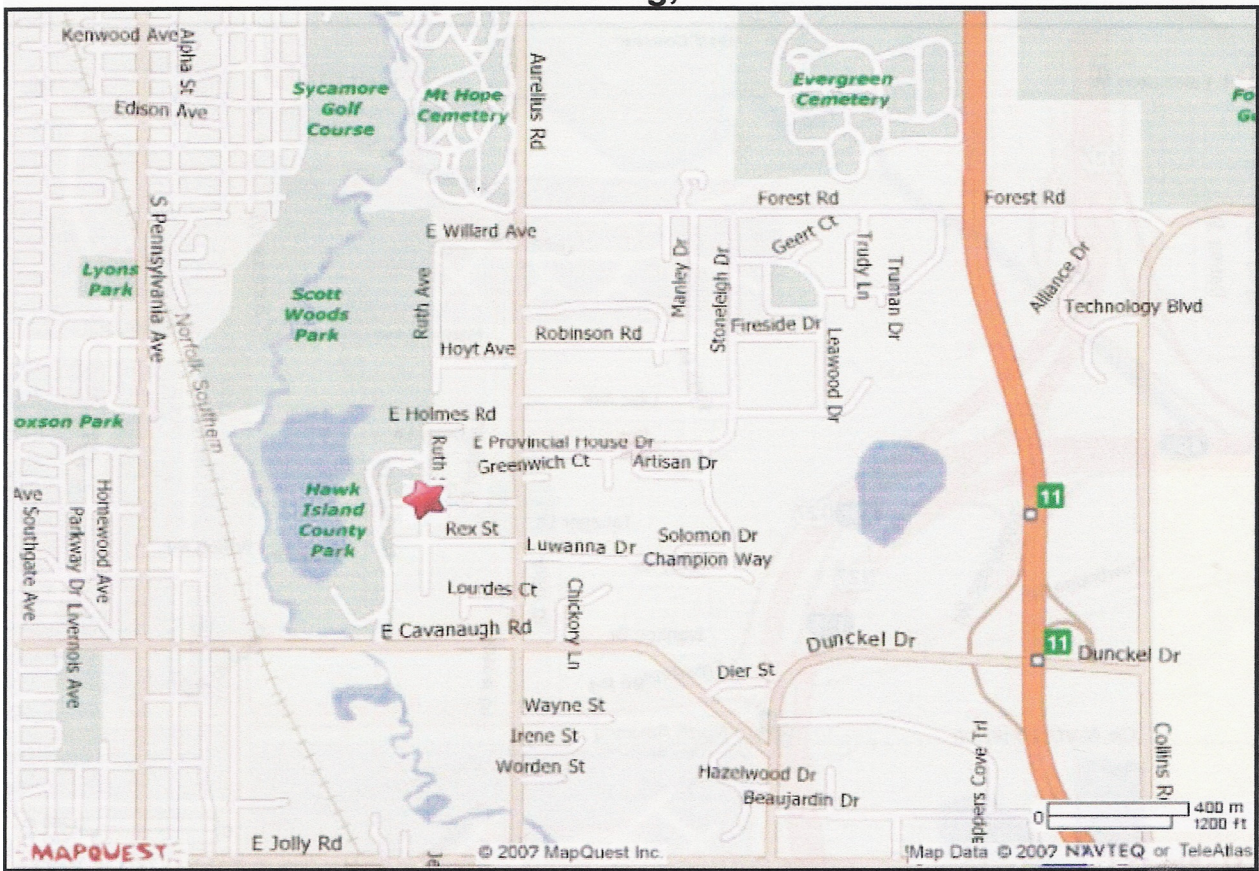
Fleetwood Diner
 2211 S. Cedar, Lansing, MI
 517-267-7606

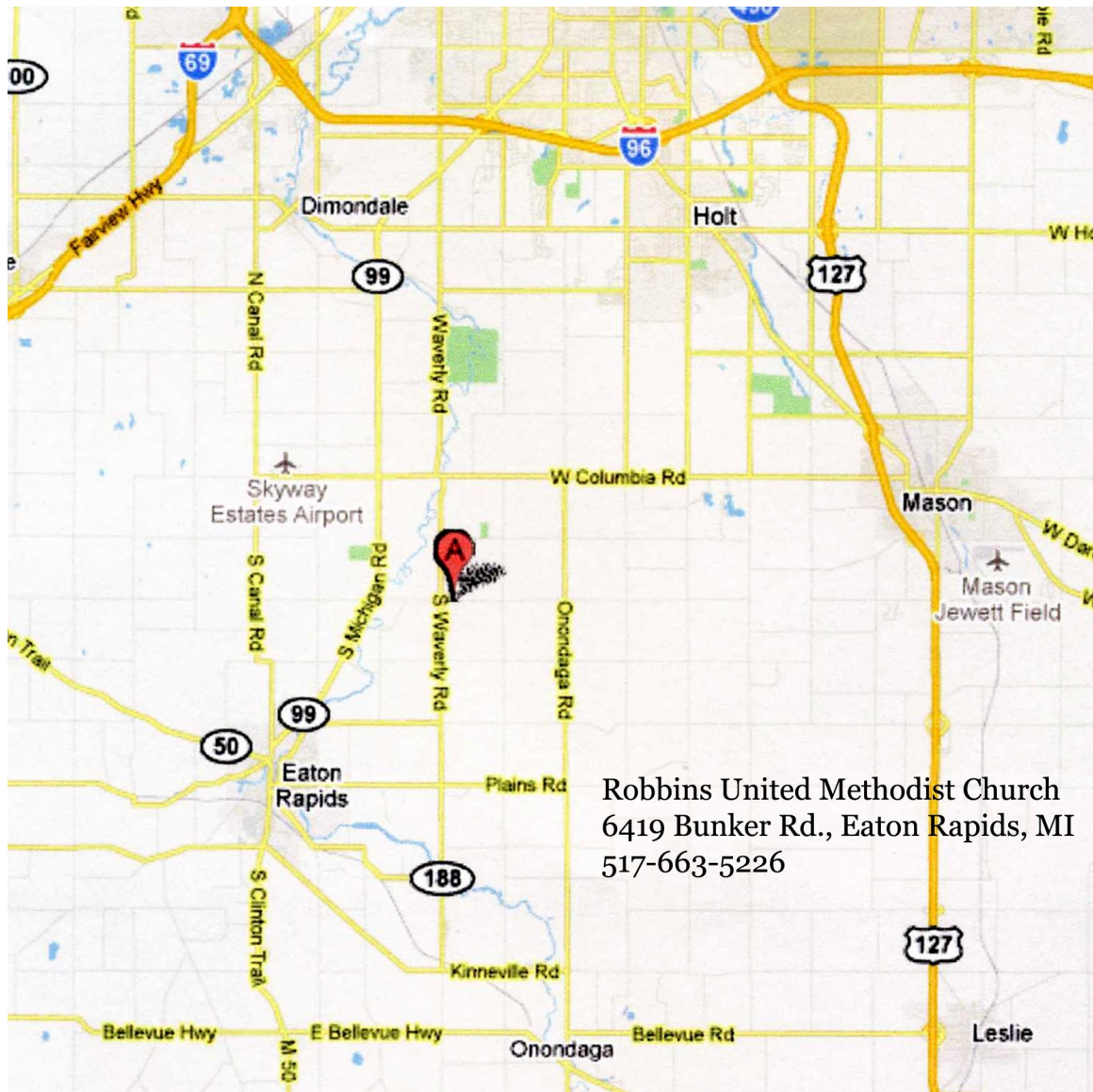


White Pine Academy
 510 Russell St,
 Leslie, MI

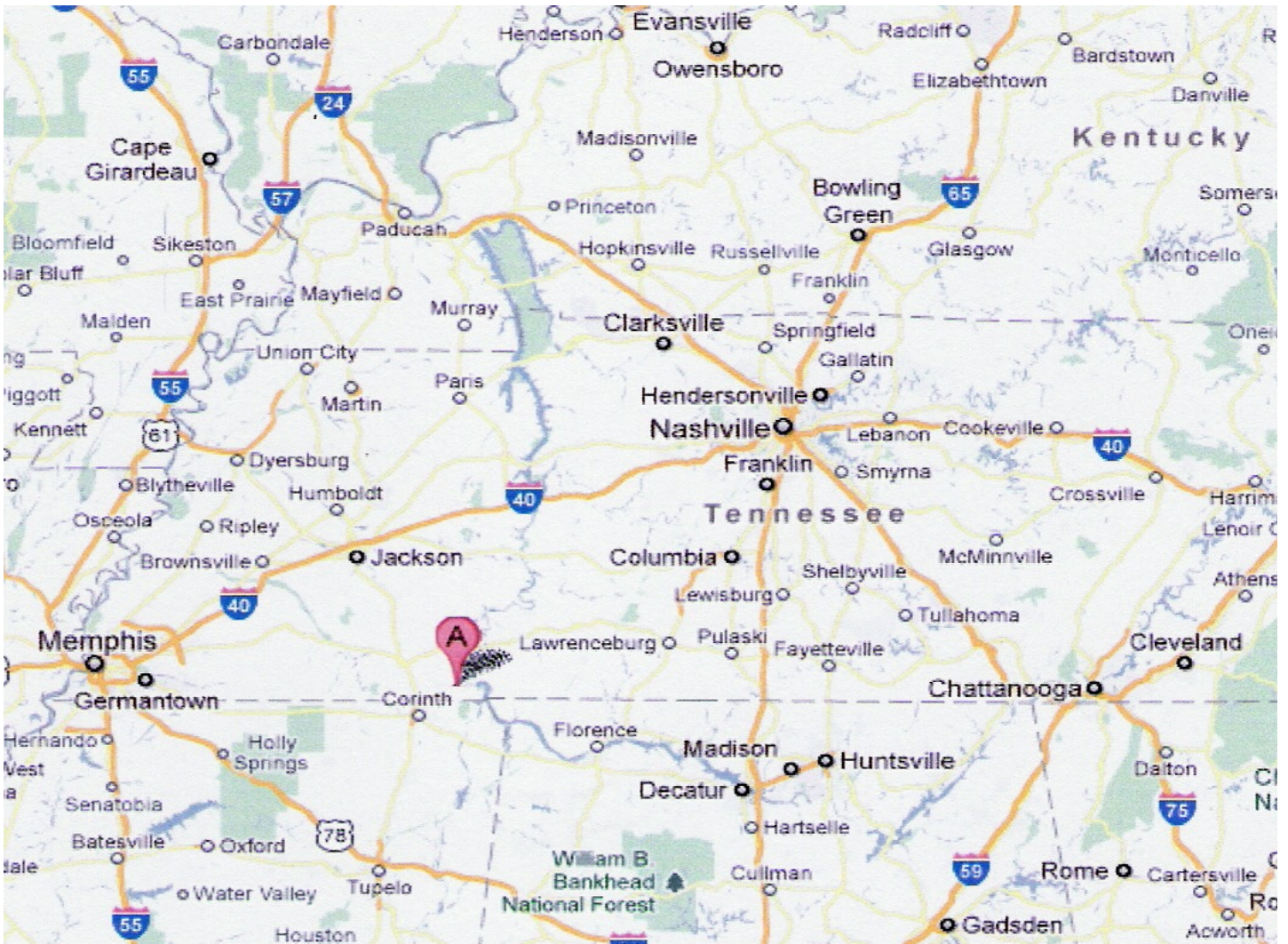


Everetts
1815 Irvington Street
Lansing, MI



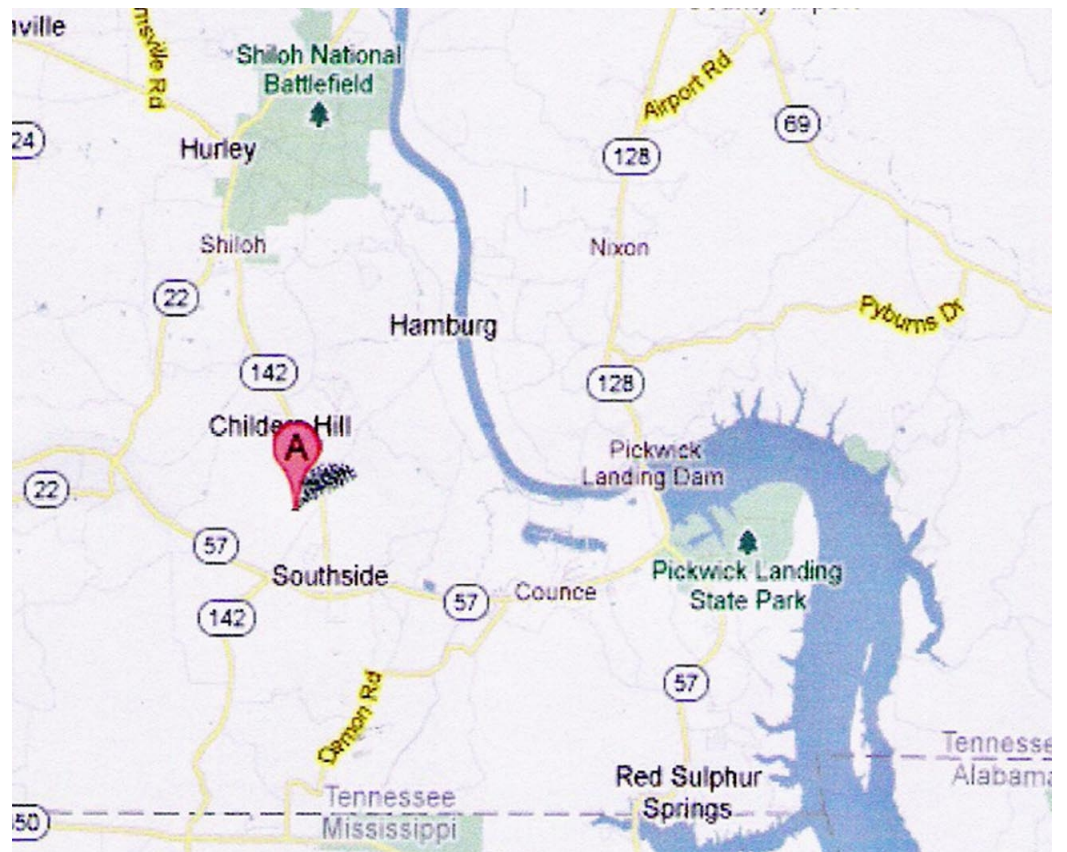


Robbins United Methodist Church
6419 Bunker Rd., Eaton Rapids, MI
517-663-5226



**150th Anniversary
Battle of Shiloh
Armies of Tennessee**

**145 Possum Trot Rd.
Counce, TN 38326**



the 150th BATTLE OF SHILOH

REGISTRATION

Unit Designation: _____

_____ U.S. _____ C.S.
_____ Infantry _____ Mounted Cavalry _____ Dismounted Cavalry _____ Artillery
_____ Medical _____ Signal _____ Band _____ Engineer _____ Civilian

Unit's Website: _____

Unit Contact: _____

Contact's Address: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Contact's Phone Number: _____

Contact's Email: _____

Please list the name and rank of all participants registering for this event.

If Artillery, please include type of piece.

List any additional participants on the back of this form.

- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 1.) _____ | 11.) _____ |
| 2.) _____ | 12.) _____ |
| 3.) _____ | 13.) _____ |
| 4.) _____ | 14.) _____ |
| 5.) _____ | 15.) _____ |
| 6.) _____ | 16.) _____ |
| 7.) _____ | 17.) _____ |
| 8.) _____ | 18.) _____ |
| 9.) _____ | 19.) _____ |
| 10.) _____ | 20.) _____ |

Pre-Registration is \$10 per person. Please send check or money order to:

**Armies of Tennessee
97 Cemetery Road
Lawrenceburg, TN 38464**