

# THE UNION VOLUNTEER 7<sup>TH</sup>

NEWSLETTER OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> MICHIGAN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY, CO. B, INC.

Volume XXXIII No. 1 January 2014



The Jarrett family – Annual 7<sup>th</sup> MI Christmas Party, Dec. 7, 2013  
Photo by E. Painter

## President's Report

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas Holiday. I heard several reports of "old time Christmases" from our friends in the greater Lansing area after losing power for extensive periods of time. I hope by the time you receive this that everyone is reconnected to the modern grid.

The holiday got me thinking about ritual and traditions. Most of us have those things we do each holiday season: a certain recipe, special ornaments, or family activities. We miss those who are unable to return home or who have passed on before us. I'm sure the men of the 7<sup>th</sup> spent the holiday in winter quarters in contemplation of those things continuing to happen at home in their absence. Perhaps they swapped stories of home, shared some small trinkets, or wrote to those they loved. By this time there were many missing at roll call from Camp Benton only a short time before. For some, the promise of a furlough for recruiting at home would have brightened the dark night. It was 1864 where the 7<sup>th</sup> received the flag that still resides in the Monroe Museum, a labor of love from a grateful community during that return home.

This season, as you stand behind that flag that the civilians of our group and our generation also so lovingly and painstakingly made, I hope you will reflect on the importance of our actions. It remains important to transmit the commitment, resolve and sacrifice of our ancestors to our current generation. Our portrayals and remembrance continue a tradition that was forged in war, and continued by veterans throughout their lives. As the "150's" near a close, the hobby will change but it will also continue to reflect and respect the traditions that were demonstrated so many years ago by the soldiers and families who supported them.

Let's dedicate this year to doing them proud.

Your most obedient servant

Doug





## 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  
Events Coordinator: Dave Downing  
Military: Dave Slayton, Captain  
Civilian Coordinators: Katie Everett,  
Melissa Bateman  
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](http://www.7thmichigan.us)  
Webmaster: Dennis Zank

### Newsletter Submission Guidelines:

Thanks to all who submitted info for this month's issue.  
Deadline date for submissions is the 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:7thminewsletter@gmail.com)  
Or mail to:  
736 Gettysburg Ave.  
Jackson, MI 49203

Thank-you.

*Ellyn*  
Ellyn Painter, Editor

Former 7<sup>th</sup> MI member Annie Bond deTavernier is now a military wife and mother living in Texas. The photo at right shows her in Fredericksburg, VA, Sept. 2003, with other 7<sup>th</sup> MI folks present for our monument dedication and other related festivities.



Dear Annie and Family,

On behalf of all of us in the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan, we wish you and your family a very merry Christmas. We all appreciated the very nice "box from home" you sent to the soldiers at the front in Jackson this past summer. The guys REALLY enjoyed the "preserves from home" as you can see from the pictures below.

While talking about the box, Marie Searles had a great idea. She suggested we return the box (it's a really great looking box) to you at Christmas time with gifts from Michigan for you and your family. So that's what we are doing. Members of the club pitched in with tokens from Michigan for you all to enjoy and remember us up in the frozen northland at this happiest time of year.

I don't know if you have a mantle at your home in Texas or not, but the personalized Christmas stockings Gloria knitted for your children can be hung anywhere convenient and used this Christmas and Christmases to come. And the doily was made by a new member, Sandy, just for you!

There are also two envelopes with Christmas trivia questions the club members played at our Christmas party this year. One envelope has the questions and one the answers. Be sure to open the questions first, see how well you all do in answering them, then look at the answers. It's fun!

Again, on behalf of all of us in the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan, Co. B, we wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Sincerely,  
The folks in the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan







Captain Slayton

## Military minutes - December 2013

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

*A reminder...Annual dues are due. Please send your checks NOT to me, but to the P.O. Box on our website. Blessings to all you who lost power during the ice storm. Hope you are all re-enlightened!*



We had another great Christmas Party on December 11<sup>th</sup>, with good food, interesting games and fine fellowship. It is always good to gather with our friends and family of the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan. One of the games was to figure out when various toys or games were introduced, going back to the early 1900's. The table I was at won that game, thanks to all the old guys we collected there before we started. I want to particularly thank the ladies that took the time and effort to bring wagon loads of decorations and the main dishes to eat. Your efforts are appreciated and not overlooked.

### 2014 Company Drill Sessions

We have been able to reserve the building at the White Pine Academy in Leslie on Saturday February 15<sup>th</sup> to hold our winter/spring drill session. We have not set a starting time, but it will likely be 9:00 am. If available, we hope to have the Ladies of the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan provide a lunch as was done in 2013. So mark your calendars and attend if you can to knock of some rust and prepare for another season of reenacting. More details will follow as they become available.

The next meeting will be January 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm, at Robbins United Methodist Church, 6419 Bunker Road, Eaton Rapids, MI, 48827.

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

*more*



Vonda's Xtra fancy Christmas cowboy boots!



# Christmas Party Photos...

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

 William Jarrett,  
Club Secretary  
btjarrett@aol.com

# January 2104 Civil War Sesquicentennial Report

Of the 66 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](http://www.micw150.us)), there are 8 events listed for January through February. Additional information on each of these events may be obtained by going to [www.micw150.us/2013events.htm](http://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](mailto: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.

## --January 2014--

1 - June 30, 2015. Exhibit: Honored, Loyal, Brave, and True: Monroe County in the Civil War (Monroe County Historical Museum, 126 S. Monroe Street, Monroe, Michigan). The exhibit tells the story of Monroe County, Michigan's sacrifices and contributions during the Civil War. Included in the museum are artifacts related to Civil War luminaries George Armstrong Custer and Norman Hall. Also featured is Camp Monroe, a hands-on history section for children. \$4 adults, \$2 children. Website: <http://www.MonroeMuseums.org>. Contact: Andy Clark at [andy\\_clark@monroemi.org](mailto:andy_clark@monroemi.org) or by telephone at 734-240-7780.

15. Presentation: Lincoln and Civil Liberties (Lily Theater, Conner Prairie Interactive History Park, 13400 Allisonville Road, Fishers, Indiana). 7:30 PM (Doors open at 7:00 PM). Presenter is Brian Dirck. Website: <http://civilwar.connerprairie.org/share/calendar>. Contact Paul Watson at [pwatson001@indy.rr.com](mailto:pwatson001@indy.rr.com).

25. Meeting: Cumberland Guard Annual Meeting. (Lutheran Hospital, 7950 West Jefferson Boulevard, Fort Wayne, Indiana, Function Rooms 3 & 4). 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM. Contact Keith Harrison at [pcinc@prodigy.net](mailto:pcinc@prodigy.net).

## --February 2014--

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. Website: <http://www.austinblaircamp7.com/>. Contact: Howard Lloyd at [bigrock9917@aol.com](mailto: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 laying. Website: <http://suvchw.org/mollus.htm>.

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. Website: <http://civilwar.connerprairie.org/share/calendar>. Contact Paul Watson at [pwatson001@indy.rr.com](mailto:pwatson001@indy.rr.com).

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. Music provided by the Golden Griffon. Sponsored by the 8th Arkansas/22nd Michigan Volunteer Infantry. 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](mailto:Dmeans13@hotmail.com) or by Telephone at 810-599-5935.

25. FREE Sesquicentennial Civil War Seminar - Seminar to be Announced (Sunfield United Brethren Church, 8436 West Grand Ledge Hwy (M-43) in Sunfield, Michigan). 7:00 PM. Each year, the Lansing/Sunfield, Camp #17, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War sponsor a series of FREE Civil War History Seminars. Website: <http://suvchw.org/mi/017/announcements.htm>. Contact: Paul David Arnold at [arnoldsuvchwmi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:arnoldsuvchwmi@sbcglobal.net).

Keith G. Harrison, Chair

7th Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee

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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.