

THE UNION VOLUNTEER

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

Volume XXXV No. 1 January 2016



Joan Emerick, Celeste Hude, & Julie Sarge with their creation, "Howard," at the 7th MI Christmas Party, Dec. 5. (He's a bag robot, I *think*.) Photo by Ellyn Painter

7th Michigan

Vol. Inf., Co. B

35th
Anniversary

1981 - 2016

This year marks 35 years since our club was founded.

In the months to come, we will be discussing some ways in which we might celebrate our proud heritage.



Next Club Meeting: Sun. Jan. 17 1:00pm Robbins UMC

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



It is easy to *make* New Year's resolutions; the challenge is to *keep* them. I've never been good at it, and know I am far from alone in facing this dilemma. Maybe the thing to do is restrict one's self to a succinct, well-thought-out list, one that consists of goals that can be attained without going nuts.

What am I getting to here? As mentioned in previous posts, I believe the Seventh Michigan, Company B is on the cusp of a bright new chapter in its history. (I'm likely to say this a lot, pard and pard-ettes.)

The club is soon to vote on the events that the membership will be urged to attend in the 2016 campaign season. I believe the list that results from our deliberations will take into account our present numbers and ability to represent the unit.

I hope everyone will give serious consideration to attending as many events this year as possible. Be on the lookout for opportunities to encourage others to check out the hobby of Civil War re-enacting!

ROB STONE

CIVIL WAR COLLECTIONS ONLINE

The University of Michigan's Bentley Historical Library has announced the availability of a new resource called Civil War Collections Online. It features digitized content from 157 collections documenting the involvement of Michigan and Michiganders in the war.

The collections range in size from a single letter or diary fragment up to multiple folders of letters as well as volumes of diaries, notebooks, or reminiscences. The materials vary greatly in terms of literacy, legibility, and content. Diary entries might be brief comments about the weather or descriptions of camp life and battles. In addition to detailing military life, the letter collections address the experiences of people on the home front.

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/b/bhlcivilwar/>

submitted by Rob Stone

REMINDER--- CLUB DUES ARE DUE.

Family: \$19.20; Individual: \$16

Checks payable to: 7th Michigan Volunteer Inf., Co. B
P.O. Box 16206, Lansing, MI 48901-6206

Those still unpaid by end of Feb. will not receive the March newsletter, NOR will you be included on the roster for Greenfield Village attendance!



Club Leadership

New Member Chairman:

Jeff Verstraete (military & civilian)
jbvisme@gmail.com

President: Rob Stone

Vice President: Katie Everett

Secretary: Bill Jarrett

Treasurer: Don Everett

Military: Doug McComas, Captain

Civilian Coordinator: Julie 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
Ellyn Painter, Editor

Civilian News

Hello all!

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! I am looking forward to all that 2016 has to bring!

I would like to thank all of the ladies that helped to make our snowmen table favors for the Christmas party. I would like to thank everyone that helped set up and organize the Christmas party and all who attended.

We have been discussing different impressions and activities for our civilian to do at events and I would like to continue to brainstorm new ideas at meetings throughout the winter months. If you have any ideas to discuss please bring them with you to the club meeting. I think we have a tremendous amount of talent in our group and we should let it shine and share it with others!

We will be having our January sewing party at Sue Colgrove's house on Saturday January 16th. For those who would like to meet for breakfast we are meeting at Flap Jacks on Waverly Rd at 9am. If you do not wish to join us for breakfast you can meet us at Sue's house at 10am. As always please bring a dish to pass for lunch. Hope to see you there!

There has been some discussion about having another ladies weekend late winter/early spring to help get ready for the upcoming season. I would like to finalize plans and dates for this at our breakout session during the club meeting.

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

Sue Colegrove's
Address:
3415 S Catherine
Lansing MI

Flap Jacks
1601 S Waverly
Lansing, MI

MILITARY REPORT

I trust you all had a very Merry Christmas. We were blessed with a grandson on December 10. Easton Michael Walter is a healthy little joy for this holiday season.

At our November meeting we agreed that Perryville was a strong possibility for a national event. I had a very good conversation with Will Eichler and feel like this most likely is not our best fit for that event. There will be other places and times to work under Will. I will explore other alternatives for us and report back. Stay tuned.

NCO's will be given lists before spring of their platoon contacts. The expectation is that everyone will be contacted by an NCO before each event to ask if there are any needs and if you can attend the event.

At our January meeting Don Everett will be disassembling a musket including the lock plate. If you have not seen this it is an important piece of knowledge on the care and cleaning of your weapon.

We once again agreed to focus our winter and spring tune ups on skirmish drill. Please brush up on the process so that we can take the field ready to perform these maneuvers at events.

I look forward to an exciting season.

Your most obedient servant

DOUG





Christmas Party

December 5, 2015
Robbins UMC,
Eaton Rapids

"Table Creations"

This holiday activity taught us all to play well with others and perform creative tasks under a time deadline without throwing a tantrum.



Photos by Ellyn Painter



Julie Everett with her "Going Greener" Award. At her job, Julie raised her division to 90% usage of E-85 in state vehicles, so won an award. She was flown to Washington, D.C. to accept the award.

THE BLUE BOTTLE RESPITE TENT — BY JULIE SARGE

New for the 2016 season is The Blue Bottle Respite Tent.

Its two-fold purpose? To present an impression that demonstrates how the Civil War and Spiritualism directly and indirectly affected one another and to provide a brief respite from the stress and trauma of re-enacting the war for those civilians and soldiers in need of such respite.

7th Michigan newcomer, Julie Sarge, portrays Zuleika Dean Attie, a single, hardworking woman who earned her living as a Modern Spiritualist Medium before her church, River's Edge Spiritualist Church in Kent County, Michigan, sent her to assist in the war relief work. This persona is based on several actual people from the era.

(Modern Spiritualism, based on the belief that the dead can, and do, communicate with the living, began in the United States in the 1840's and gained in popularity in the '50's and '60's. As the war death toll rose, the funerary and mourning traditions were shaken apart, and many people, including President Lincoln, turned to modern spiritualist mediums for assistance in contacting those beyond the veil as they sought to come to terms with deaths of family and friends.)

The general public and re-enactors learn how the war and Spiritualism affected one another by attending presentations out under the awning/fly. Inside the 12' by 14' wall tent, re-enactors (soldiers and civilians, Union and Confederate) find help in dealing with the adversities of war/re-enacting war: thirst, hunger, exhaustion, boredom, dread, grief, soul loss, ghost pains, and concern for those beyond the veil.

Those interested in a "sitting" (the term used in that era for consultations with a Modern Spiritualist Medium) can sign up for a twenty minute session for a nominal fee, which, along with donations, supports the respite tent. Sitzings are provided by Julie Sarge AKA Zuleika Dean Attie, a well-trained and experienced medium.

The following is Miss Attie's letter to her church:

Letters home from The Blue Bottle Respite Tent

Dear Nollie,

Elspeth and I arrived at the Union encampment late yesterday, safe and sound but so travel-stained and bespattered with mud that the soldiers on guard duty mistook us for "laundresses" or worse---at our ages, too! They ordered us away as fast as our "muck-covered ar--s could go." Elspeth was shocked speechless, but I was (as Cousin Sukey would say) plain angrified. I said firmly, "I shan't move my 'muck-covered ar-e' one inch until you tell your commander that Miss Zuleika Dean Attie, MSM, from River's Edge Spiritualist Church in Kent County, Michigan, has arrived as planned to set up a respite tent to serve soldiers and civilians affected by the adversities of this war."

Sergeant Micah Darling (and, yes, Nollie, that truly is his name!) overheard this exchange and immediately interceded on our behalf. He escorted us to an area that "ain't fouled overmuch with ordure." Word of our arrival soon spread, and a dozen or so soldiers helped us unload crates and pitch tents. They asked us so many questions so quickly that Elspeth and I were hard put to answer them, but we did our best:

Yes, we're here to serve soldiers and civilians affected by the adversities of war, mainly thirst, hunger, exhaustion, boredom, dread, grief, soul loss, ghost pains, and concern for those beyond the veil.

Yes, we usually have fresh water, coffee, forager soup, and gingerbread free to those in need.

Yes, we brought checkers, chess, backgammon, dominoes, and solitaire to help alleviate boredom between battles.

Yes, there's a quiet place to rest, write letters, and draw.

Yes, we provide sittings for those who seek them.

Yes, we accept donations and those donations along with fees for sittings help fund the respite tent.

Private Sullivan Coburn promptly named the big tent "The Blue Bottle" in memory of Irish healer Biddy Early, who used that item---empty, of course!---in her healing work years ago. So, my dear Nollie, you may direct further letters to Miss Zuleika Dean Attie, MSM, The Blue Bottle Respite Tent, in care of the Army of the Potomac, USA.

I remain your friend,

Zuleika D. Attie

PS Please send shovel, saw, hammer, and appropriate size nails to construct a privy. They are few and far between, and we must build our own.


This concludes the introduction to The Blue Bottle Respite Tent Project.

Those who have questions, suggestions, and/or a desire to help with the project can contact Julie Sarge at:

thewindweaversholding@gmail.com.

"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