

THE UNION VOLUNTEER ^{7TH}

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



Volume XXXIII No. 7 July 2014



Our patriotic Gang, at Ella Sharp Park for the Jackson Rose Parade – June 1, 2014. Photo by Ellyn Painter



President's Report

The season is in full swing. Charlton Park and Jackson loom ahead. I thought I might give you my "top 10" of reenacting memories.

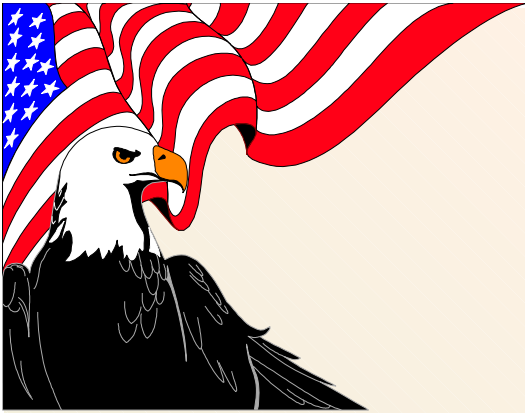
10. Pigs in the Park (Jackson 2013)
09. Presenting Don with a coon's posterior (Jackson)
08. Having my likeness struck with my son by Marty Bertera (Greenfield Village)
07. Having my likeness struck with my daughter Rebecca (Harvest Ball)
06. My first National Event (Atlanta)
05. The first (and only) time my wife dressed for the ball (Jackson)
- 04 Perryville
- 03 Crossing the Rappahannock in the Pontoon
- 02 Reenacting Road Trip with Don, Dave and Steve coming back from Fredricksburg
- 01 My first Jackson - "The Crater" - chasing behind 1st Sgt. Sam Lowe in the mist and knowing I wanted to do this forever



There are many more of course; this list could be repeated over and over with different memories. But when I look at the list it's a nice mix. Fun, Family and History - The 7th in a nutshell. May I see you in the field.

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
Military: Dave Slayton, Captain
Civilian Coordinator: Katie Everett
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

Newsletter Submission Guidelines:

Thanks to all who submitted info
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 (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
Or mail to:
736 Gettysburg Ave.
Jackson, MI 49203

Ellyn Thank-you.

Ellyn Painter, Editor

REMINDER

To all Members, regarding the matching fund set up by the 7th
MI for the benefit of Britta and Alvin, the widow and son of
Matts Geschwind, who passed away May 25 following the last
of several surgeries for esophageal cancer. (See June issue
for details). Contributions to the fund will be accepted
from now until our August 16th meeting.

Please make out donation checks to:

7th MI Volunteer Inf., Co. B

with subject Britta and Alvin, and send to our PO box.

(P.O. Box 16206 . Lansing, MI 48901-6206)

WE NEED YOU!

Must be willing to work long hours with no pay, and barely
any recognition...BUT with the pride of participation in
putting on one of the greatest events ever -

The Jackson Civil War Muster

Please apply immediately to Don Everett

[@djkeverett@comcast.net](mailto:djkeverett@comcast.net)

Remember:
This is the 30th
Anniversary of
the Muster
So extra help is
needed.

Sign up early
for the best
choice of job
positions!



Military Minutes - June 2014

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



Captain Dave Slayton

Turkeyville- Capt. Slayton's Report

The weekend was great! The weather cooperated, even though it was chilly Friday night. We had a good turnout from the 7th Michigan boys (11-12 as I recall) on Saturday, and we had 7-8 others fall in from the 1st Michigan and the 18th Michigan. Our thanks to them for joining up with us to make a company we could split into platoons on Saturday to attack the entrenched Confederates after driving them back. We had superb support from the artillery as usual, who came with four cannon, plus the Confederates had as many, some being mountain howitzers. It was a fun scenario. I had to depart Saturday night on leave to see my family at church on Sunday and celebrate Father's Day, so our esteemed 1st Sergeant, Doug McComas, took command of the troops that survived Saturday's attack and were available for duty. The 1st Sergeant's report is included below, and please note that his after action reports are superb. And a corporal has likewise penned a fine report from the ranks. Both reports are included below.

-----In your service, *Capt. David Slayton*

Turkeyville- 1st Sergeant McComas' Report

Turkeyville was a wonderful event. The hosts provided a maze of earthworks, rifle pits and redoubts and always treat the reenactors very well. Saturday's battle pitted the Union army under the overall command of Cpt. Slayton against the formidable works. The rebs had several surprises, not the least of which were a mountain howitzer hidden in the tall grass. The combined company of the the 7th, 1st, 18th and a few others deployed skirmishers with good effect and were able to take the gun and supporting positions of rebs but the works seemed impossibly well defended. Then . . . firing slowed to almost a stop. It became clear the 1864 rebs in our Arkansas scenario had run out of ammunition. This realization ran through the troops who then swept the works, taking them with little trouble. I had the opportunity to assist a poor rebel known by all as "Charlie" who had taken a nasty wound and murmured for water.

Rumor has it the Union army on Sunday did their best to inflame the Rebs by posting a red union suit under the flag with the confederate battle flag prominently displayed in the posterior of said union suit. The newly supplied and highly indignant rebs raked the remaining diminished forces from the field and the works. In all, as usual, a fun, laid back event that allows for people to be given chances to try new things larger events don't allow for. I would like to thank Captain Slayton for his confidence in allowing me to assume command of the 1st platoon through Saturday's engagement and the veteran boys of the bully 7th were able to ignore my mistakes and inexperience to perform amazingly well. On to Hastings!!

-----1st Sergeant Doug McComas

Turkeyville-Corporal Casper's Report

Early in the morning in honor of our formidable foe, our gallant bugler with the help of a sergeant and corporal raised a union suit with the stars and bars appropriately attached to the trap door, directly under the stars and stripes. This may be part of the reason of the overwhelming ferociousness of the enemy. After an extended volley from cannons from both sides, our pickets were recalled by the bugler, then there was some small arms fire exchanged prior to finally seeing the enemy from the trenches we were in. After a prolonged contest between the two infantries we stopped their advance, and even drove them back. The enemy finally was able to break the line and flank us and took the redoubt. After that it was just a matter of time before they took the cannons and flag. We were able to increase the numbers in our ranks Sunday with men from surgeon call and the bugler picked up a rifle and defended the flag. Casualties were moderate, but the corporal was one of the dead. So this report is being written by a ghostwriter.

-----Respectfully submitted, Cpl. C.

Military Minutes, concluded

Upcoming Events

Please check your schedules and availability to attend the maximum events listed below as they are the "maximum effort events the 7th Michigan decided to support.

- July 19-20: Charlton Park, Hastings
Please contact me about registration if you haven't let me know by the time you receive this newsletter, as it was supposed to be done by **JULY 1st**. You can register after that, but there is a \$10 late charge.
- August 23-24: Jackson Muster
This is the 30th Anniversary of this premier Michigan event. PLEASE consider coming this year for the special activities, but also to see if we can field a 30 man company. Let's be not only the biggest company, but the best unit on the field. Mark your calendars!
- September 20-21: Van Raalte Farm, Holland
- October: Harvest Ball, Lansing

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me.
Most respectfully, Your Obedient Servant,
Dave Slayton, Captain
slaytondave@juno.com
(517) 663-4161



My apologies for all the typos in the June Issue! I did my final proofread at 2:30 AM, just before mailing, which as you can imagine, is not my most productive hour of the "day."

Also, in the last issue, I forgot a photo caption (see photo below). It should read: "Here are Sue, Ellyn, and Coletta, modeling the latest style of ladies' headgear - "sunshade bonnets."

Blessings to all.



**PLEASE WELCOME
OUR NEW
CLUB MEMBERS**

Michael & Suzanne Smith
from Bronson, MI

Gregory Nolin &
Carmen Salin
Also from Bronson, MI

And

Joe Davis
from Jackson, MI

July 2014 Civil War Sesquicentennial Report

Of the 123 Sesquicentennial events already listed on the Reenactors' Civil War Sesquicentennial Calendar for 2014 on the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners' website (<http://www.micw150.us/>), only three have been reported for July [must be the heat of summer]. Additional information on each of these events may be obtained by going to July 2014 Civil War Sesquicentennial Report

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--July 2014--

2 – 4 (Independence Day) & 9 . Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum (224 S. Main Street, Eaton Rapids, Michigan). 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. The GAR Memorial Hall and Museum was built in 1886 and was used by the Eaton Rapids James B. Brainerd GAR Post #111 from the late 1886 to 1924 when it stopped meeting there. The GAR Post was subsequently disbanded in 1928. The GAR building has since been used for several purposes until it was obtained by the non-profit corporation, Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum, Inc in 2013. The bottom floor of the building houses a Museum and contains many GAR memorabilia. The upper floor of the building is set up as it was when the Civil War Union veterans met there from 1886 to 1924. Additional GAR memorabilia also is present on this floor. The GAR Memorial Hall and Museum is opened the first two Wednesdays each month, most patriotic days, special events, and by appointment. Admission to the GAR Memorial Hall and Museum is free. For those individuals who wish to help support the GAR Museum, both Charter (\$100) and General (\$25) memberships are available. Also, if you are interested in helping out by volunteering at the museum, please let us know. Website: <http://garmuseum.com/>. Contact: Deb Malewski, Board Secretary, at GARMichigan@gmail.com/.

12 - 13. 54th Annual Underground Railroad Days (Vandalia, Michigan). Saturday: 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM, Sunday: 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The Village of Vandalia, Michigan and the Underground Railroad Society of Cass County (URSCC) will co sponsor the 5th annual Underground Railroad Days Saturday July 13 from 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM and Sunday July 14 from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM in Vandalia. The two-day celebration of the history of the Underground Railroad (UGRR) in this area will feature guided tours of UGRR sites, information booths and displays, tours of the Bonine House (home of UGRR stationmaster James E. Bonine), Civil War Living History Encampment, a replica of a Ramptown cabin for storytelling and song, as well as presentations on various aspects of the UGRR in Cass County. A complete schedule of activities will be published closer to the celebration. Website: <http://www.urscc.org>. Contact: Cathy LaPointe at info@urscc.org or by telephone at 269-445-7358.

18 - 20. Charlton Park Civil War Muster (2545 S. Charlton Park Road, Hastings, Michigan). Hosted by Battery D, 3rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry Company F., and Barry County Parks. Confederate and Union Infantry, Cavalry, and Artillery units. Shop on Sutler Row, play parlor games, Two battles on Saturday, one battle on Sunday. Admission is Adults \$5.00, Kids \$3.00 ages 5 - 12 years, 4 and under are free. All Reenactors are requested to Preregister at no charge. The on-site registration fee is \$10.00 per reenactor. Preregistration required/fee for walk-ons. Website and registration form/information at http://www.charltonpark.org/news_events/special_events.html. Contact: info@charltonpark.org.

Keith G. Harrison, Chair

7th Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee



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.

MICHIGAN CIVIL WAR
Sesquicentennial
1861-1865