

THE UNION VOLUNTEER

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

Vol. XXXV No. 7 July 2016



Marie Searles elaborates on her predicament to officers during court martial proceedings on her behalf at Turkeyville, on Sat. June 18. See the exciting story on page 3).

JULY EVENTS:

July 4 Parade - Mason, MI

Return of the Flags
Sat. July 9 - Lansing, MI

Charlton Park - July 16-17

Next Club Meeting:
Sunday, Sept. 18 1:00pm
Robbins UMC, Eaton Rapids

Dave Downing is looking better all the time following his long illness, as seen in this photo of him at Turkeyville recently. (From his Facebook page.) See more photos of the Turkeyville event on page 3.



News & Announcements



Congratulations to Jim & Gloria Kirschensteiner who recently celebrated 48 years of marriage!

Please keep **Sandra McCarrick** in your thoughts and prayers. She is recovering nicely from colitis, but is scheduled for carotid artery surgery soon.

Good News! A health update was received from **Linda Williams**. The prognosis on her vocal chord problem is much better than previously thought. She still experiences "laryngospasms"—in which the vocal chords spasm shut so she can't breathe—but this is temporary, and will not cause suffocation!! Her voice is returning and is nearly back to normal. This is such a relief, as she feared she would never talk again!

Club Leadership

New Member Chairman:

Daniel Malick (military)
dmalick12@gmail.com

Katie Everett (civilian)
cinderellie_2003@yahoo.com

President: Rob Stone

Vice President: Katie Everett

Secretary: Bill Jarrett

Treasurer: Don Everett

Military: Doug McComas, Captain

Civilian Coordinator: Katie 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:

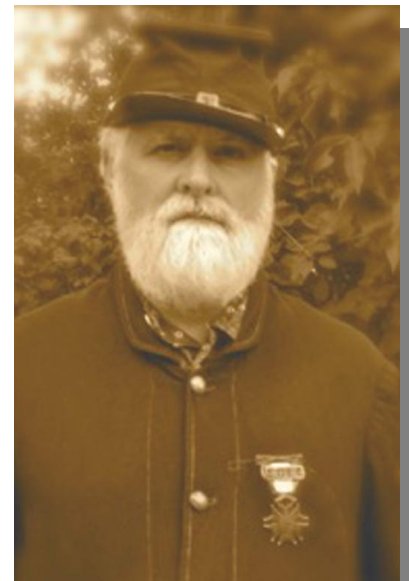
736 Gettysburg Ave.
Jackson, MI 49203

Thank-you.

Ellyn Painter, Editor

A Word From the President...

This month's comments will be short and sweet. Difficult though it may be to believe, the halfway mark of the 2016 campaign season is at hand. Thus far the re-enactments and living history events the Seventh Michigan has attended have been blessed with bearable weather and pretty good participation from both the civilian and military wings of the club. As usual, I'm expressing my hope that more of our troops will be able to fall in the ranks during the balance of the season!



In light of an update given by Dave Downing during the club meeting at Turkeyville, I can report that the "Returning of the Flags" ceremony is shaping up to be something that will create special memories for anyone that takes part in it. I consider the flag return to be the final chapter in the Civil War Sesquicentennial. It gives people involved in the hobby—many of us for decades—the opportunity to dwell on helping draw attention to our forebears' patriotism and sacrifice during those four terrible years. No one knows what the future of re-enacting will be like: regardless of the course things take, I think we all can be proud of the parts we've played in honoring the nation's past.

Rob



As can be seen in the photo at right, Marie's... uh... "predicament" was pretty obvious and QUITE surprising to her friends! But, while the court martial against the soldier involved did not quite achieve the overwhelming vindication of her virtue Ms. Searles hoped for AND DESERVED!!!!, we were told she was delivered of a beautiful, healthy baby girl later in the weekend, proving that virtue does have its rewards. (I think?) Photos by Elynn Painter



Above: The miscreant, left, with his lawyer at his court martial.



Julie Sarge, at the Blue Bottle Respite Tent



Joy Henderson, with grandson, Orion



The Editor, with the turkeys

Below: The WHOLE Union Army in firing position



Upcoming Events

July 4th 2016 (Monday) Independence Day Parade - Mason, MI

The 7th Michigan is once again participating in the annual gala parade through downtown Mason. We will be mustering in the Mason High School parking lot at 6:30 PM with the parade step off time at 7:30 PM. The Military will be firing rounds along the parade route (please bring 40 rounds) and there will be a trailer for the Civilians to ride on. Joan & Tom Emerick are opening their home to 7th Michigan members beginning at 5:00 PM in case anyone needs to change or freshen up. They will also be hosting a potluck dessert and coffee time after the parade for those interested in socializing following the festivities. For those in need of storing cold food or beverages there will be room provided in a refrigerator and freezer.

The Emerick residence is located 5/10 of a mile from the Mason High School (1001 W. Barnes St.) where the parade begins and ends.

Contact information is Joan & Tom Emerick, telephone number (517) 604-6116.

Email address: tomjoanemerick@hotmail.com and home address of 106 E. South Street, Mason, Michigan 48854

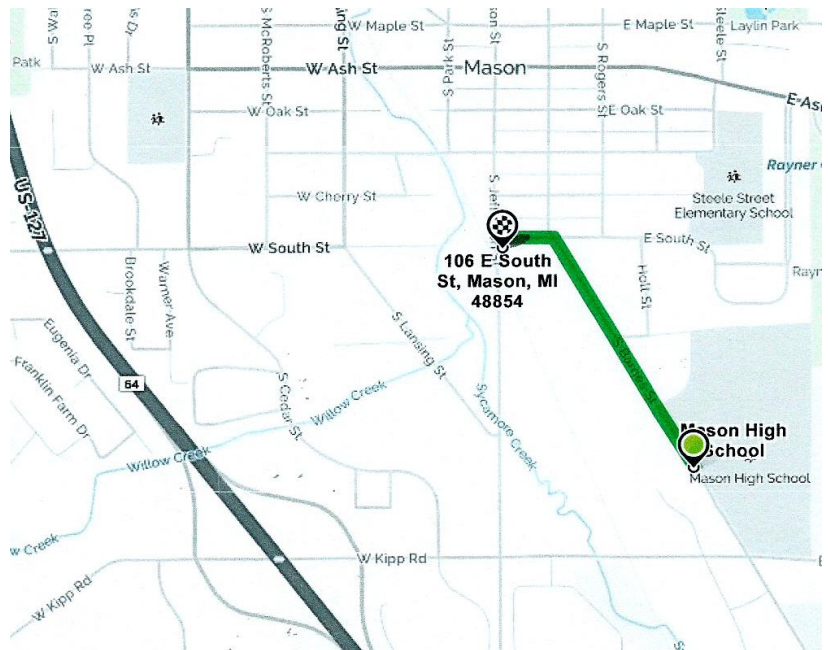
Please feel free to contact Joan or Tom if you have any questions regarding the parade, refreshment/social time, or location of their home.

Return of the Flags – Sat. July 9 State Capitol, Lansing, MI

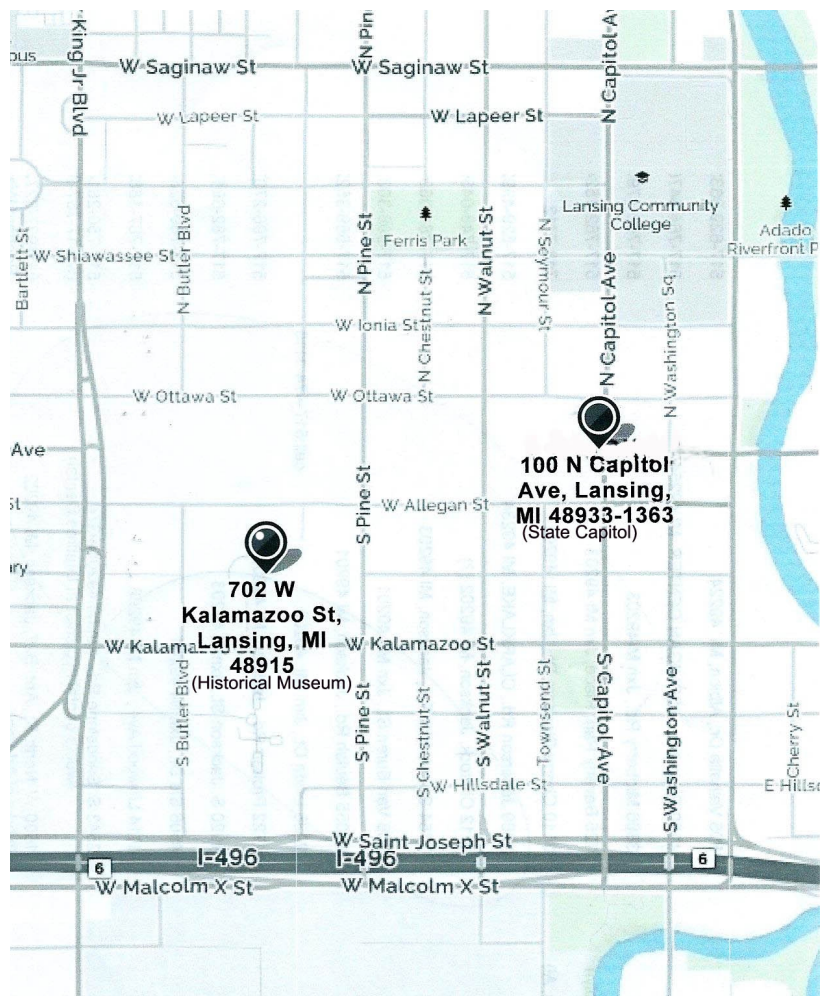
Ceremony to commemorate the return of Michigan's Civil War battle flags back in 1866. The 7th Michigan is donating their old colors to the Save the Flags project, along with several other reenactment units. The reproduction flags will be housed in 'flag storage' with the original battle flags, and used for demonstrations to schools, community groups, etc around the state as well as when visitors come to Lansing to see the original flags.

Time: 10am to 4:00pm, Ceremony at 1:00. The Club has agreed to do registration for this event. Jim McKinnon volunteered but will need help with registration. So far, flags to be returned are 7th MI, 4th MI, 17th MI, and a Michigan cavalry unit.

See following page for detailed schedule of events for the day, and additional IMPORTANT information.



Route from Mason High School to Emericks' house. To Mason High School from 127 – take Kipp Rd. exit east to Barnes Rd.



Distance between early parking area at the Michigan Historical Museum (entrance on W. Kalamazoo St.) and State Capitol, where the festivities will be held.

RETURN OF THE FLAGS – JULY 9

Below is an outline of information from Dave Downing for the event on July 9:

We will not be needing to set up a 7th MI fly as the state is going to put up a 40 by 60 foot tent for us and the other exhibitors. There should be plenty of room. We will also have two tables there for our use. One for registration, and one for our own recruiting/info or etc.

For the military, we will do the "kissing of the flag" as it is retired just as the original veterans did when they turned their flags back over to the City of Monroe when the war was over. The MC will be reading from the description of the original retirement while this is going on. When called, the flags will be brought up to the podium on the steps and turned over to the Sons of Veterans Reserve representatives, who will then hang on to them until the ceremony is over, and then will be taken to an office inside the Capitol until we can move them over to flag storage in the museum. There will be a total of 8 flags retired by us and other groups.

Please read through the order of events for the special information on parking at access to the Capitol for before 11am that morning. JULY 9 RETURN OF THE FLAGS

ORDER OF EVENTS

THE STATE OF MICHIGAN COMMEMORATES THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE RETURN OF THE CIVIL WAR VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR BATTLE FLAGS
AND
THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF "SAVE THE FLAGS"
JULY 9th, 2016

State Capitol open to the public for guided tours 10:00a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Reenactor check in and registration starting at 10:00 a.m. Seventh Michigan Infantry table/tent

10:30 a.m.- Flag adoption ceremony in Capitol rotunda honoring:

The Multi Lakes Association for Civil War Studies

Ms. Rebecca Efird

The late Ms. Gretchen Starr¹

11:00a.m. - Demonstration and firing by the First Michigan Light Artillery Battery D

11:00a.m. - Vernors pop courtesy of Dr. Pepper/Snapple Group/Vernors

11:30 a.m. - Performance by the Fifth Michigan Regiment Band

12:00 p.m.- Battery demonstration and firing by the First Michigan Light Artillery Battery

12:00 p.m.- Boston Coolers courtesy of Dr. Pepper/Snapple Group/Vernors And Hudsonville Ice Cream

12:30p.m. - Infantry demonstration and musket firing

1:00 p.m. - Ceremony will include troops marching in under the escort of the Michigan National Guard Color Guard, posting of the colors, and stacking of arms. Troops will then be dispersed during the ceremony and reformed for the retirement of the colors and the musket volley at the end of the ceremony. Several reenactor flags and a Grand Army of the Republic flag will be donated to "Save The Flags." Ms. Kerry Chartkoff, Founding chair of "Save The Flags" will be presented with the Milliken/Adams/Kelley 2016 award for Michigan Historic Preservation. Ms. Emily Ernst will also be honored for her third flag adoption.

2:30 p.m.- 126th Michigan National Guard Marching Band concert.

Feel free to bring lawn chairs, blankets and picnic lunches. Parking for the event is available in the west lot directly behind the Capitol—entrance off Allegan Street and parking is free on all city streets surrounding the Capitol.

SPECIAL NOTE

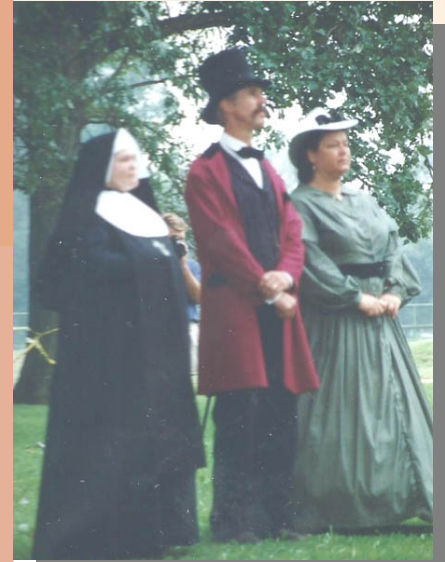
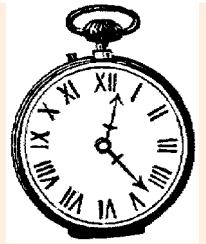
Due to a scheduled early morning 5K Color Run in Downtown Lansing early arrivals should plan to park in the State Historical Museum parking lot (entry on Kalamazoo street). Parking at and near the Capitol will be accessible again at 11:00 a.m. For those dropping off items for display, at the corner of Allegan and Washington there will be a barricade with Lansing Police on duty. Tell them you need access to the parking lot at the Capitol for our event and they will give you access. Parking is on the west side of the Capitol.

Exhibitors/vendors should call 517/373-5157 for special instructions for early and pre-event Capitol parking lot access.



A Look Back In Time....

7th MI members at the Cascades Civil War Muster, (approx. 1995 or 96?? Anyone remember the exact year?) reenacting the presentation, by the ladies of Monroe, MI, of the battle flag made by them for the 7th Michigan regiment as it went off to war. Our own exact reproduction of that flag, (beautifully wrought by the Kirschensteiner ladies), seen here in the reenactment—and NEW at the time!--is now 20 years old, and is the flag which we will retire and donate to the State of Michigan on July 9. Photos courtesy of Vonda Warren.



More Events....

Charlton Park Civil War Reenactment – Hastings, MI July 16-17, 2016


All 7th MI members are automatically pre-registered by our club, but participants must register and sign a waiver when you reach the event. An information sheet (PDF) can be downloaded from the Charlton Park website. Don Everett is the 7th MI coordinator for this event.

Frontier Days Parade - Charlotte, MI Saturday, September 10, 2016

The 7th Michigan is registered to participate in the annual parade through the streets of Charlotte. We will be mustering at Vonda Warren's home in advance of the parade and there will be a trailer for the Civilians to ride on. Vonda has graciously offered to host a potluck dinner after the parade for Club members interested in socializing following the festivities. Tom Emerick is the co-coordinator for the event and more information will be provided as the date comes closer.

"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

Correction:

It was pointed out to me that in the previous issue I inadvertently made a misleading statement regarding the cost of Harvest Ball tickets to club members.

The club DID vote to increase the price for 7th MI members, but the new price is now \$10, NOT \$25, as implied. The \$25 cost is for non-members. ---The Editor



Meridian Village, Okemos, MI Saturday, September 10, 2016

Bob Smith reports that they are very interested in having the 7th MI there and even expanding the event. Meridian conflicts with the Charlotte Parade, but we will split the club and cover both events.

At the Meridian Village we will have full use of a cabin, and be able to cook there. There will possibly be a barn dance, and an open area is being made available to the club to do a skirmish or drills.

American Heritage Festival - Saturday, September 24, 2016 Woldemar Nature Center, Lansing, MI

Time: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM. More info in a later issue.

Williamson History Day/Civil War Reenactment – Sunday, Oct. 9, 2016

Some members of our club participated in this event last year. Jim Kirschensteiner has received communication from Earl Wolf from Williamston. Because the event involves local high school students getting credit for attending, the date must conform to the 2016-17 school calendar. Jim reports that the date conflicts with Perryville, but he thinks we'll have enough soldiers and civilians to be able to pull it off. More info to follow in a later newsletter.

The 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Co. B
is proud to announce:

The 2016 Annual Harvest Civil War Grand Ball

To be held on Saturday, October 22, 2016
At Central United Methodist Church
215 N. Capital
Lansing, Michigan

Take a step back in time as we enjoy a congenial evening of dance, refreshments, and merriment with music by the Ruffwater String Band.

Dance prompt conducted by Glen Morningstar Jr.

Doors open at 6 PM, Grand March begins at 7 PM.

Attendees must be over 12 years of age.

Ticket cost \$25 per person, \$40 per couple.

Youngsters 12-16 years of age \$10 each.

Advance tickets will be available August 1st.

Tickets limited.

Attire is 1860's period formal or modest,
modern formal evening wear.

For more information contact: Gilbert or Cyndi Carlson
(517) 782-8199
Cyndiinhisservice@yahoo.com

The Blue Bottle Respite Tent Update

2016 Goals:

1. Provide a place for brief respite from the adversities of re-enacting a war for military and civilian reenactors in need of such respite.

“Water for the Thirsty” means a four gallon cooler of water is available.

“Food for the Hungry” means that fruit, cookies, and, at times, Forager Soup will be available.

Turkeyville Service Stats:

- 3 people received water (scouts from Otsego troop)
- 5 people received food (3 scouts had cookies; 2 men from the 7th had apples)
- {6/18/16 leftovers went to scouts; 6/19/16 leftovers went to 7th soldiers after the battle}

Note: No one requested rest on benches; no one requested ice pack for cooling off.

2. Provide a well-researched and historically accurate impression to interpret how the Civil War and Spiritualism directly and indirectly affected one another.

“Healing for the Wounded in Spirit” means that sittings and consultations are available for those in need on either side of the veil. {No fees/no donations as per non-profit status of 7th}

Turkeyville Service Stats:

- 1 individual side of veil
- 2 individuals other side of veil
- 1 group other side of veil

“Is That a Real Fire?”

It’s a question that we’ve all been asked, and over the years it’s become a running joke of sorts. “Is that a real fire?”

I know when it’s a real fire, because I’ve had a lot of experiences with fires. I can smell the smoke, see the heat shimmers, feel the heat, and hear the crackle. My eyes water with the sting of smoke blown in them as the wind shifts. I know the slow temperature change as wood oxidizes into ash. Sometimes I know it’s a real fire because I painstakingly made it myself, striving to do so with one match only.

“Is that a real fire?” Okay, maybe the people who ask that question have had pitifully few to no experiences with camp fires at all. Maybe. Maybe not.

“Is that a real fire?” What if the question really is: “What’s REAL and what’s PRETEND at this event?”

There’s no signs to tell us the difference between PRETENSE and REALITY at most events; there’s hardly ever a point person or docent/tour guide. There’s no printed handbills, no orientation, no audio/video guided programs that explain this.

Anyone stopping by The Blue Bottle Respite Tent, therefore, depends upon me to help them understand this difference. I now have the responsibility to weave into my interpretation the sometimes subtle difference between what is real, and what is not.

“Is that a real fire?” they’ll ask next time.

“Well, that’s good question.” I’ll pause. “Let’s think what makes a fire real, then you tell me what you think: real fire or pretend fire, all right?” (It’s a start.)

[Thanks to the young soldier at Greenfield. In the midst of our discussion, he said, “Then, we’ve got to respect the public.”]

