

# THE UNION VOLUNTEER



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

Volume XXXVI No. 7 July 2017



Have  
a Fun 4<sup>th</sup>!

The Carlson family at Greenfield Village Civil War Days, Memorial Day weekend, 2017. Photo shared by Cyndi Carlson on Facebook.

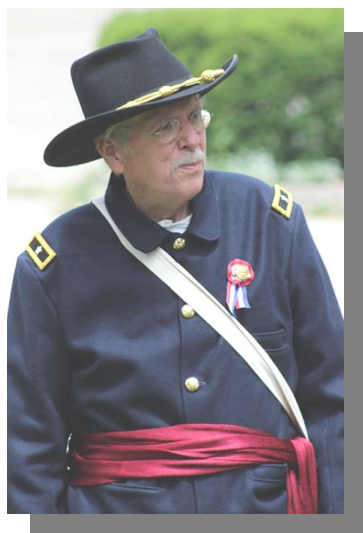






Charlton Park, July 2012. Photo courtesy of Bill Jarrett.

Next Key Event:  
(Hastings, MI) –  
July 15-16 



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**W**ith July upon us, and the season practically half over by now, it's certainly been one to remember. There is a different attitude in the hobby now. Many are seeing the 'big picture' rather than what the hobby can do to boost their own ego, or make them feel superior. Having been in reenacting for going on forty years now I have to say it is very refreshing, and bodes well for reenacting to continue into the future.

The State of Michigan buttons are in, but it appears that there might have to be some adjustment to the button holes to make them work. More on that at our next club meeting, which will be at Charlton Park, by the way. We will get together at a specific time to be announced at the event - but will be around supper time in the modern camping area (like we did last year). If you haven't been there before, at the road which goes along the river, take it to the east (follow the sign to the 'beach area') and look for tables set up near the pavilion.

A quick note on Greenfield Village - reports from them indicate it was one well attended, nearly breaking attendance levels again (totals are not in yet). We made the maximum amount in a stipend again this year. I'm told we also had a good turnout that weekend at the event in Coldwater. There are still plenty of events on the schedule. Hopefully, we will see you soon!

Dave Downing

### Club Leadership

#### New Member Chairs:

Daniel Malick (military)  
dmalick12@gmail.com  
Julie Everett (civilian)  
djkeverett@comcast.net

President: Dave Downing  
Vice President: Steve Church  
Secretary: Doug McComas  
Treasurer: Don Everett  
Military: Doug McComas, Captain  
Civilian Coordinator: Sue Colegrove  
Board Members-at-Large:  
Dan Conklin, Joy Henderson,  
Bill Jarrett  
Quartermaster: Don Everett  
Club Historian: Doug McComas  
Webmaster: Dennis Zank

Website: [www.7thmichigan.us](http://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 **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 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](mailto:7thminewsletter@gmail.com)

Or mail to:  
736 Gettysburg Ave.  
Jackson, MI 49203

Thank-you.

  
Ellyn Painter, Editor



# Military: Turkeyville (July 17-18)

## After Action Report

Despite the threatening forecast there was little rain and a great time. The only casualty was one fly Saturday night (unfortunately mine).

The battles were both smaller western engagements that were interesting to the crowd and reenactors. The first highlighted the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry and gave the teaching that there were black soldiers and that that unit also, at that time, had black officers.

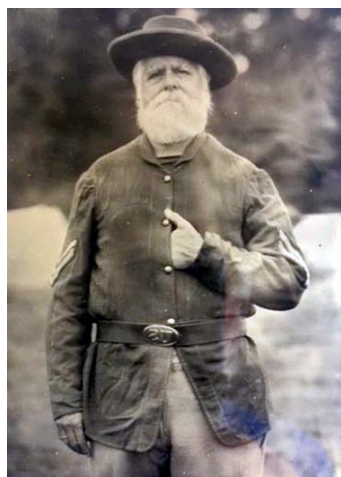
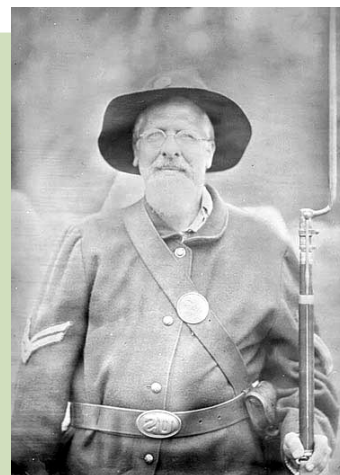
The men moved in platoons and sections in and out of the woods to repel the rebs and performed splendidly. Our 1st company consisted of US Marine Guards, Zouaves, 102nd and 7th MI and 2nd company were our friends from the 1st MI; we were under the capable guidance of Denny Whiting and adjutant Al Nathan Tingley. The men of the Seventh responded well throughout the event and it's clear we are jelling in our new roles.

It was nice to have Andrew McComas, and Ethan and Adam Jarrett in the ranks with their fathers on this Father's Day weekend. Turkeyville always treats us well with pizza, pop, and beer on Friday, donuts and coffee each morning and a meal Saturday evening. Jeff Verstraete, Andrew Verstraete and Noah showed up for a visit and it was great to see them all. Several of the ladies and the barber were also there with a tent and double fly, as was the Blue Bottle respite tent and others. Our experience is always improved by our civilians and what they add to our weekend. There was a ball, but as you know, I'm not much of a dancer so can't give you much feedback there. Next stop July 1 Meridian Village.

In your service, Captain McComas



*Turkeyville Tintypes*



Ann Arbor-based photographer Robert R. Beech attends re-enactments throughout the Midwest. During the 2017 Battle for Turkeyville he made tintypes of several 7<sup>th</sup> MI members. Marilyn Hughes (top, left) poses as "the gossip over the fence." Center: Doug & Andrew McComas. Continuing clockwise from top: Denny Zank, David Graham, Chris Sodman, and Rob Stone. Mr. Beech is also the photographer who took the wonderful group shot, in which many of us appear, on the porch of the Ella Sharp house in Jackson, May 2016.

# Rowing Shells at Montgomery Bell Academy to be Named after Civil War “Battle of Nashville” Naval Ships

Our second oldest son, Richard Kesor, and family relocated to Nashville, Tennessee last July (we helped move them too!). He is a teacher and rowing coach at Montgomery Bell Academy located in Nashville. Montgomery Bell Academy recently purchased new rowing shells this year and were perplexed as to what to name them. They eventually decided to name them after the US naval ships involved in the 1864 Battle of Nashville.

So the names of the Montgomery Bell Academy shells are (will be) as follows:

USS Carondelet	USS New Era
USS Neosho	USS Silver Lake
USS Moose	USS Brilliant
USS Fairplay	USS Reindeer



----submitted by Tom & Joan Emerick



Two of the original ships that participated in the Battle of Nashville: U.S. Steamer “Carondelet,” and the gunboat “New Era.”



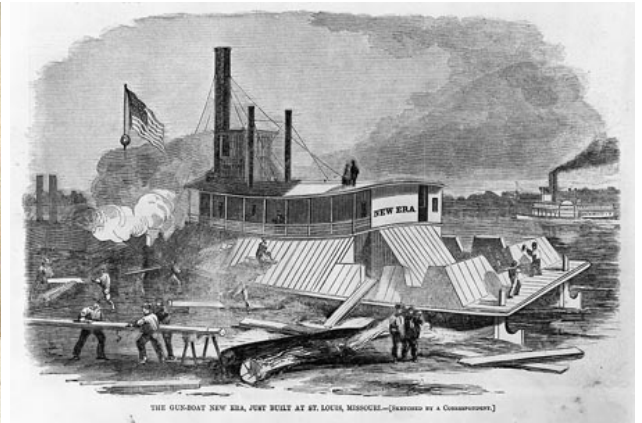
Hi Everyone:

A busy season . Our up coming event is July 1st at Meridian Village. It is going to be a big event. Sue Colegrove and Doug NCComas are the event coordinators.

Our next is Charlton Park on July 15-16, with Don Everett as the coordinator for this event.

Don told us at our annual meeting there will be no ice at the park. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Don.

Sue Colegrove, Civilian Coordinator  
Joy Henderson, Co-Coordinator



## The Naval Battle of Nashville - Dec. 1864

“From the time of James Robertson’s arrival in 1779 to the coming of the railroads in the 1850’s the Cumberland River had been Nashville’s main connection to the outside world, and remained important during the Civil War.

All the standard histories of the Battle of Nashville have a brief account of a naval action fought at Bell’s Bend on the Cumberland River between Federal gunboats and Confederate horse artillery under the command of Lieutenant Colonel D. C. Kelley. The story told by these accounts is that the gunboats were driven back by the Confederate batteries and that the Confederates maintained a blockade on the Cumberland River until driven away by Federal cavalry on December 15.

The real story is a bit more complicated. There was not just one battle – there were three. The first was a night action that covered a successful cutting out expedition by Union sailors. The second was an inconclusive daylight exchange between two powerful Union ironclads and three Confederate batteries. The final action was an attack on two separate batteries on December 15 which was coordinated with Thomas’ army. These battles marked the last naval actions in the war on western waters.”

Excerpt from article by John Allyn © John Allyn 2011 at:

<http://www.bonps.org/the-battle/nashville-naval-battle/>

John Allyn is a Nashville attorney and scholarly expert on the Battle of Nashville. He is president of the Nashville City Cemetery and a director on the Board of BONPS.



## A Note from Rob Stone:

Club members participating in the May 2016 Ella Sharp Museum Civil War school event might have met then-docent Alexandra Cash. A Jackson native, Alex received a journalism degree from MSU; served in Morocco with the Peace Corps; and she has spent the last year as an assistant language teacher in a high school in Japan.

Knowing Alex's interest in the Civil War, I invited her to portray a private soldier at this year's Jackson Muster. With her enthusiastic agreement I pulled together for her basic information on marching and the Manual of Arms: Quartermaster Don collected the equipment she will need for the impression. I hope those in the Seventh attending the Jackson re-enactment will welcome Private Cash, and I thank you in advance for your hospitality and friendliness toward a "fresh fish."

(The reality of women in the ranks was controversial in the 1860s: it remains so with some in the re-enacting community. I recommend reading De Anne Blanton and Lauren M. Cook's excellent 2002 book, *They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the Civil War*.)

## REBEL: Another Woman Soldier

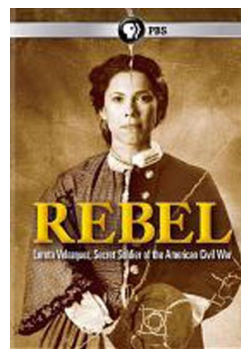
Rob's submission, at left, reminded me of a PBS docudrama my sister and I recently watched on a DVD from our public library, about another woman soldier from the Civil War whom, I confess, I had never heard of. "Rebel: Loreta Velazquez, Secret Soldier of the American Civil War," tells the story of this unlikely, and virtually unknown, female fighter. Later in life, she wrote her memoir, but due to her writing being debunked as "pure fiction" by such famous Confederates as Gen. Jubal Early, Velazquez, the movie claims, was deliberately expunged from history. What little is known of her now comes from that detailed memoir she wrote, *The Woman in Battle: A Narrative of the Exploits, Adventures, and Travels of Madame Loreta Janetta Velazquez, Otherwise Known as Lieutenant Harry T. Buford, Confederate States Army*. With typical 19<sup>th</sup> century literary overkill, the lengthy title practically sums up the whole story, but not quite.

In addition to her sex, Velazquez's nationality, Cuban, makes her story unique. Born into a wealthy family, Loreta was sent to New Orleans to be educated as a high-born lady, but even as a child, she chafed against the strictures placed on females of her era. After her husband and two children tragically died in an epidemic, she enlisted in the Confederate army at the outbreak of the Civil War. Disguised as the self-styled Lieutenant Buford, she fought in several major battles of the war, and was wounded at Shiloh. When her sex was discovered, she became a spy for the Confederacy, but mid-war, changed sides and went to work for the Union, having become disillusioned with the values and false glory of "the Cause." Her criticism of Southern men, as well as her turncoat behavior may have constituted the reasons she was vilified and silenced later. The movie claims that modern scholars, however, have found much of what she wrote accurate, and her book is still in print today. It can be found in various formats on Amazon.com, though most copies seem rather expensive. Perhaps this speaks as to its historic value. In any case, I strongly suspect it would be a good read.

---The Editor



"Even while camping, we worked on the raffle quilt."  
--Gloria Kirschensteiner



The DVD cover

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

Doug McComas, Club Secretary

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