

THE UNION VOLUNTEER

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



Volume XXXII No. 6 June 2013

Jackson Rose Parade
June 2012



2013 Leadership

New Member co-Chairs:

Jeff Verstraete (military)
jbvisme@gmail.com
Heather Jarrett (civilian)
btjarrett@aol.com

President: Doug McComas
Vice President: Steve Hainstock
Secretary: Bill Jarrett
Treasurer: Dick Williams
Military: Tom Emerick, &
Dave Slayton, Co-Captains
Civilian Coordinator: Katie Everett
Board Members-at-Large:
Don Everett, Pat Downing,
Jeff Verstraete
Webmaster: Dennis Zank

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



Rose Parade 2011



Don't forget:



Sun., June 2

Announcements



And Letters

Our webmaster, Dennis Zank, is requesting information about or photos of original founding members of the 7th MI, Co. B, for use on the website. If you have such items, please contact Dennis by finding this image at bottom of the 7th MI home page, and clicking on "7th MI Webmaster."



From Dick Williams:

During our April meeting we discussed an invitation we received to attend a dinner in Civil War dress and demonstrate the dance of the period. Participants would need to purchase tickets for the event. Proceeds of the event would help support the ministry to
(continued on next page.....)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The season is on! I just saw the list for Greenfield Village; by the time you read this it will be history. What a great turnout is anticipated. Then we have the Rose Parade, also "in the book" by your reading.

I am incredibly proud to belong to such a diverse and capable group, proud to take my time at the helm and proudest of all to be able to have such good friends as I have in the unit. I have learned much, laughed often, shared much and look forward to the future with you fine men and women. Let us mentor our new members, support our friends and enjoy this tremendous opportunity we call reenacting. Treasure your time reenacting; there are few places in our world so fun, so important and so valuable. Until we meet in the field--

I remain,
 Your most obedient servant,

Doug



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

**William Jarrett, Club Secretary -
 btjarrett@aol.com**



the hopeless and broken hearted people in the Lansing area. We chose to make a donation to the group instead of attending the event.

We received this letter in response:

April 24, 2013

Dear 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Company B,

We have just experienced what seems to be the coldest winter in history. Thank God that we are Easter people and believe that there is a new life waiting for all of us. The signs of spring are now bursting out all around us. When we live in the Light, darkness will never have the victory.

We are experiencing a greater number of people in greater need and especially thank you for your faithfulness and generosity in such lean times. Your gift of \$200.00 will assist us in continuing to bring hope to the hopeless and healing to the broken hearted.

God's blessings,

Bobbi Morris
Executive Director, Open Door Ministry

From Linda Williams:

Below is the final report for the fundraiser of which the 7th Michigan was invited to be a part.

Good Morning, Deborah, Tina, Julie, Abby, Linda and Jean,

I finally have a chance to breathe a little and take time to say a very big thank-you to all of you for the various ways you continually encouraged me from the beginning of my dance-demo concept and my inquiries with the list of people who dance at Central UMC. Honestly, I felt like I was really going way out on a limb with this whole idea, including the basic dinner-dance concept, worrying about the kind of response we would have both from dancers and from the folks who we hoped to intrigue enough to pay money to attend. Your continued help all along the way kept my spirits up and my hope supported in the whole project. Even though some of you were not able to actually participate, I want you to know that all your help was so very much appreciated.

Both Bobbi Morris, our ODM Director, and I were actually thrilled with the entire evening and the realization that people were really having a good time! I think at least half of the people attending had never known anything about the Open Door Ministry, so we accomplished our goal of making ODM more known in the community. We got great comments from so many. We were simply amazed at how well everything turned out. We said that if we hadn't made a dime, it still would have been a success! Bobbi and I had been stressed to the max about it all, feeling so much responsibility for the end result. But the dining room was packed, the food was delicious, the atmosphere was very friendly and festive, the DJ was the best, and the dance demos created the message I was so much hoping to convey: dancing is fun, (not just for teens), a great way to interact, and we can all get out there and have a happy time together. People stayed around and ate and joined in the DJ dancing. AND we made a profit of about \$2000! Thank you to all of you who bought tickets!!! That was really significant and so very kind and generous.

Yes, we are seriously considering doing this again next year. I would be very interested in getting your feed-back. If you think you might like to participate again, I would like to know that, too.

Again, thank you so very much for all you did along the way, and please tell your dancers how great it was to have them there teaching and dancing and making the evening a success!

With much appreciation,
Joi Tennant

From Ed Conklin:

Well, the Jonesville Grosvenor house Civil war days was a success. Great weather with great friends. We had drills, soldier items on display, infantry, Cavalry, and cooking demos.

Jim MacKinnon had his great WW1 items on display. Would like to thank all who came from 7th Mich. Co.B: Don Everett, Jim Kirschensteiner, Jim MacKinnon, Mark Heath, and Dan {Pete} Conklin. From Austin Blair Camp#7: Henry Hawker, Bob Griggs, Ron Lewis, Daniel & Elizabeth Pardee. Without you guys and gals we could not put on this event.

Please put this event on next year's calendar.

Thanks again.

George{Shoddy Ed} Conklin



**Father's Day is
June 16**





Capt. Tom Emerick

Military Minutes

May 2013



Capt. Dave Slayton

Walker Tavern After-Action Report By Captain Dave Slayton

The reenacting season got underway May 4th and 5th at Walker Tavern, just south of Brooklyn, Michigan. Over the weekend we had 13 military attend during a cool, windy and yet pleasant weather event. As usual, the men of the 7th performed extremely well, so thank you to all who came out. The 7th was also represented by civilians such as Lorrie and Anson Roland, and part of the Jarrett clan. There were several others as well, but I don't remember the names and I apologize for that. Lorrie and Anson cooked Saturday night supper for us (we love you guys!) with help from others. It is such a blessing to have a hot meal prepared, including dessert (peach cobbler, no less). It is appreciated very much.

We started Saturday morning with a tactical exercise, that being to find various objects in the woods while skirmishing with the Confederates. Unfortunately, they outnumbered us and Captain Dave made some errors in how to proceed. Casualties were taken as determined by a judge, which thinned our ranks some, but we managed to come up with two out of about ten objects. The Confederates won this one by a landslide. There was also to be a pay scenario for the soldiers, but first there was a Confederate court martial. Unfortunately, honor was satisfied and no one was executed. The pay arrived and was being doled out when a band a Federals arrived and tried to make off with the money (not scripted, just a Great idea by some of the 4th Michigan boys). They had "borrowed" some of their officer's uniforms to boot. A Keystone Cops chase ensued with Rebels running down the 4th Michigan contingent whilst the 7th Michigan smiled and waited around for pay. It never came. Unfortunately, honor was satisfied and one poor Federal was executed. We weren't too upset, because they didn't recover the money and figured he got his just desserts. Speaking of which, there was another pie auction, and some pitched in and we got two pies, which we used during our Saturday night supper.

Next came a fire making contest like last year, and instead of making coffee, the challenge was to build a fire that would burn through a rope about 2-3 feet off the ground. Andrew McComas, Adam Jarrett and another private that fell in with us (sorry about the name thing again) were able to build a fire, stack it up, and burn through the rope first. So the 7th Michigan did win that skills contest for the second year in a row. Again, thanks to all who attended, military or civilian. Spending time with quality people like you makes it enjoyable and worthwhile. God Bless!

In your service,
Captain Dave Slayton

June 14-16 is the **Turkeyville** Event, north of Marshall, which we voted to be a "Max Event".

The general website is:
<http://turkeyvillereenactment.tripod.com/>

The webpage for reenactors is:
<http://turkeyvillereenactment.tripod.com/id2.html>

Please note there is a form on the reenactors webpage if you want to fill one out and mail it in to the organizers. If you register, I would still like to be advised you plan to attend. PLEASE NOTE that the mailing address on the form is the correct one (Pattie Cornwell), while the one on the webpage is wrong. Registrations are requested by June 1st, but walk-ons and registration as you arrive is allowed. If you fill out the form, I will be the contact person they requested.

I will be happy to register anyone, so let me know next week if you plan to attend and want me to register you. This was a fun event last year, and it is growing. So please consider attending this event in June. I hope to see many of you there. God Bless.

David Slayton
703 Cumberland Dr
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827
517-663-4161
slaytondave@juno.com



If you have photos of Walker Tavern, Greenfield Village, or the Rose Parade, please send to me for next issue! Thanks
The Editor



At Gettysburg with the 24th Michigan Infantry, May 11–13, 2013

By Nathan Kalmoe

We arrived at Gettysburg and set up camp midday on Friday, just across from the imposing white granite of the Pennsylvania monument. We were a small squad of about a dozen men, including two privates from other units: a well-read college student from New York and me, driving up from the Capital. The rest were Michigan men from the 24th Volunteer Infantry, who travel to this living history event each year.

I arrived as the others were out touring the Wheat Field, so I set up my tent and then set out to explore. The 1st Minnesota monument stood a few paces beyond our camp, so I walked the ground of their famous charge on July 2 that bought a desperately needed 15 minutes to bring up reinforcements at the cost of 85% dead and wounded. That evening, I visited the graves of those same Minnesota men at the national cemetery, along with those of the 24th Michigan we represented that weekend, the Iron Brigade units of the 2nd, 6th, and 7th Wisconsin, and the dead of our own 7th Michigan. A guide nearby pointed out the likely site of Lincoln's address. Earlier, I drove the auto tour loop to get a better sense of the whole battlefield, since it was my first substantial visit.

Nights were chilly and damp with dew, but the stars were bright and beautiful. In the early hours, a thick fog settled in, covering the low grounds of the battlefield around our camp. It burned off quickly as the sun rose, disappearing by breakfast.

Saturday morning, a few of us more sprightly men marched from our camp to the Angle (past the 7th Michigan monument), then across the vast field of Pickett's Charge, along the Confederate lines to the Seminary and the cupola, and finally to McPherson Ridge—the scene of the Iron Brigade's intense fighting on the battle's first day—where we met the rest of the group traveling by horseless carriage.

There, we unfurled a reproduction of the 24th Michigan's tattered national colors a few paces from the monument marking the site of General Reynolds' mortal wounding. We spoke to dozens of passersby—including several busloads of young students—about the 24th Michigan, the Iron Brigade, and the battle of Gettysburg, and we answered many common questions about equipment, uniforms, and the soldier's life.

The weather was pleasant all weekend: relatively cool and breezy, but with lots of sun to keep us plenty warm in our wool, and not too much breeze to blow away our Hardee hats.

While stationed on the ridge Saturday and Sunday, some of us made brief sojourns to follow the route of the 2nd Wisconsin into Herbst Woods (now Reynolds), to trace the steps of the 24th Michigan as they pushed the 28th North Carolinians across Willoughby's Run at a loss of 80% (an area reclaimed in 2011 by the Civil War Trust), and up the hill to the Eternal Light Peace Memorial to speak with visitors there.

Altogether, it was a great and unforgettable experience. We provided the public with good information and context about the unit, the battle, and the war; we taught each other a few things with the help of several experts in the group; and we thoroughly appreciated the opportunity to reflect and remember the terrible and momentous events that occurred there just shy of 150 years ago.



Registration line at 135th Gettysburg, July 1998. The red barn is the same one featured in the TNT motion picture, "Gettysburg," in 1992.

Jackson District Library

presents

**Program Location:
Carnegie Library
244 W. Michigan Ave.
Jackson, MI**



Jackson and the Civil War: 1862-1863

A presentation with maps and illustrations, on the military engagements in the Civil War of Jackson, Michigan, militia units. Also included will be the impact of the war on the city of Jackson.

**Saturday, June 22
2:00-4:00 pm**

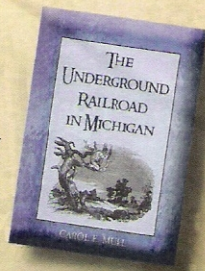
Bill Lowe, Jackson's Civil War Historian, will give the presentation.

Underground Railroad in Michigan

Presentation by Carol Mull with book sale and signing.

**Monday, July 29
6:30-8:30 pm**

This is the first comprehensive look at the abolitionist movement in Michigan. Author Carol Mull provides a comprehensive overview of Underground Railroad history in Michigan, including first person accounts of abolitionist activity.

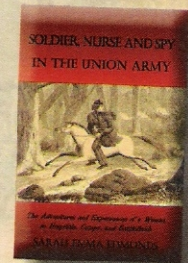


Carol Mull is a founding member of the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission and Underground Railroad scholar.

Sarah Edmonds – Alias Frank Thompson: Union Soldier and Spy

with Judy Gail Krasnow

Sarah Emma Edmonds heard the beat of the drums calling soldiers to join the Union Army. Strongly anti-slavery and disguised as a young boy named Frank Thompson, she joined the Second Michigan Infantry. Judy Gail Krasnow portrays this courageous woman and tells Edmonds stories of fighting as a Union soldier and her adventures as a Union spy.



**Monday, August 5
6:30-8:30 pm**

Judy Gail Krasnow, a nationally known storyteller and published author, has made it her passion to present historical portrayals of women who have made a difference, including Carrie Nation, Rachel Carson and Sarah Emma Edmonds. Judy has toured as a Scholar on the Chautauqua circuit. She has had great success in developing guided tours of Michigan's first State Prison (1837-1935) in Jackson, MI, telling tales of the prison's past.

All programs are free and open to the public. Please call 517-788-4087 for more information. Visit us at www.myjdl.com for Civil War resources.

June 2013 Civil War Sesquicentennial Report

Of the 135 Civil War Sesquicentennial events already listed on the statewide Reenactors' Calendar for 2013 on the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners' website (www.micw150.us), there are 14 events listed for June. Additional information on each of these events may be obtained by going to www.micw150.us/2012events.htm and clicking on the month in question. Events for 2013 can be added anytime by contacting pcinc@prodigy.net.

1. Sesquicentennial Civil War Concert: (Michigan State Capital Lawn, Lansing, Michigan). 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM. FREE Concert will be held on the Michigan Capital Lawn. The concert performers will be 5th Michigan Regimental Band. Sponsor: Friends of Michigan History, Inc. Contact: Keith Harrison at pcinc@prodigy.net or Tom Truscott at tom.0506@hotmail.com.

2. Annual Jackson Rose Parade (Jackson, Michigan). The parade steps off at 1:00 P.M. sharp. The parade route is from the corner of S. Jackson/Greenwood to Fourth Street ending at the Middle School at Parkside. Staging is on W. Wesley/W. Franklin/Mason (starting at 11:00 a.m.). Website: <http://www.jacksonrosefestival.org/parade.html>.

8. Program: *Reenactment the 1863 burial of Colonel Harrison H. Jeffords* (Forest Lawn Cemetery, 8000 Grand Street, Dexter, Michigan). 10:00 AM. Contact: Bill Mc Afee, SUVCW Camp #180 Chaplain, at thistleis@sprynet.com.

8 - 9. Days of the Civil War at Gordon Hall (8341 Island Lake Road, Dexter, Michigan). Host: Dexter Area Historical Society and Museum. Website: <http://www.dextermuseum.org>. Reenactor Contact: 4th Michigan Volunteer Infantry at PukNut33@aol.com.

8 - 9. Civil War Encampment (Lexington, Michigan). Website: <http://lexingtonmichigan.org/civilwar.htm>. Contact: Anita L. Ruffini at merleriobravo-mail@yahoo.com.

13. Presentation: *Michigan & the Civil War - A Great and Bloody Sacrifice* (Mills Community House, 891 Michigan Ave., US-31N, Benzonia, Michigan). 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM. The Guest Lecturer will be Jack Dempsey. Website: <http://www.millscommunityhouse.com/>. Contact: 231-882-0591.

15 - 16. 2nd Annual Turkeyville Civil War Reenactment (Turkeyville U.S.A, 18935 15 1/2 Mile Road, Marshall, Michigan). Website: <http://www.turkeyville.com>. Contact: Email psabo72@yahoo.com or by Telephone at 517-626-4336.

17 - July 8, 2013. Exhibit: *Civil War 150* (Wayne Public Library, 3737 South Wayne Road, Wayne, Michigan) 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM. The Exhibit is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Website: at <http://www.wayne.lib.mi.us>. Contact: 7340-721-7832.

21 - 23. Frankenmuth 3rd Annual Time-Line Event: American Heritage & Heroics Festival 2013 (River Place Shops, Frankenmuth, Michigan) Setup on Friday and tear down on Sunday around 4:00. Website: <http://www.nationalsocietyoflivinghistorians.com/>.

22 - 23. Waterloo Farm Museum Blacksmith, Soldiers, and Log Cabin Weekend (13493 Waterloo-Munith Road, Waterloo, Michigan). Saturday 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM & Sunday Noon to 4:00 PM. Website <http://www.waterloofarmmuseum.org>. Telephone: 517-596-2254.

25. FREE Sesquicentennial Civil War Seminar -Topic 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://suvcw.org/mi/017/announcements.htm> Contact: Paul David Arnold at arnoldsuvcwmi@sbcglobal.net.

27. Presentation: *Michigan & the Civil War - A Great and Bloody Sacrifice* (Lower Level, Program Room A, Loutit District Library, 407 Columbus Ave, Grand Haven, Michigan). 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM. The Guest Lecturer will be Jack Dempsey. Contact: Judy Cook at 301-776-4314 or Larry Halverson, Community Relations Coordinator at lhalverson@loutitlibrary.org.

27 -30. 1st Progressive Regiment - Blue Gray Alliance 150th Gettysburg Reenactment. (Gettysburg, Pennsylvania). Contact Will Eichler at steadwill@earthlink.net.

30. Living History: *Richmond Log Cabin Days* (Historic Village, Bailey Memorial Park, 36045 Park Street, Richmond, Michigan). 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Website: http://richmondhistoricalsociety.org/projects_events.html. Contact: Tommy Spanski at streamster48@yahoo.com.

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 and creates a Statewide Reenactors' Events Calendar to commemorate Michigan's role in Civil War.

