

THE UNION VOLUNTEER

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



Vol. XXXVI
No. 6
June 2017



Relaxing at the Coldwater Civil War Days event, Saturday, May 27, 2017 – L to R: Julie Everett, Joy Henderson, and Lorrie Roland, with grandson, Brock. Photo by Ellyn Painter

Upcoming Key Events:

- 🔑 Turkeyville (Marshall, MI) – June 16, 17, & 18th
Don Everett, Coordinator
- 🔑 Meridian Village – July 1st
Sue Colegrove and Doug McComas, Coordinators
- 🔑 Charlton Park (Hastings, MI) – July 15 & 16th
Don Everett, Coordinator

Greenfield Village, May 27-29, 2017

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

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.

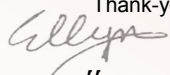
If accompanying maps or images are
needed, **please** include them (in jpg
format), if possible. Be sure to ascertain
that any items coming from another source
are properly credited, or have obtained
reprint permission.

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



This amazing Greenfield Village battle scene photo was taken by Candace Duda, May 28, 2017. Submitted by Gordon Duda. The two photos below are also by Candace Duda, also taken at GFV.





“Michigan Day” at the Michigan History Center in Lansing was May 6

At left, Jim MacKinnon describes a Civil War soldier's living arrangements to visitors. (Sorry, I don't recall who submitted the photo).

Do we have any info on how many from the club participated, and what went on there? Anybody? Dave???

---The Editor

Michigan, My Michigan



Home of my heart, I sing of thee!

Mich-i-gan, my Mich i-gan. Thy lake-

Winifred Lee Brent Lyster of Detroit (Birth: Mar. 15, 1842 Death: May 7, 1930) wrote the original 1862 lyrics of "Michigan, My Michigan" to the tune of "Oh, Tannenbaum," (also the melody for "Maryland, My Maryland.") Her husband, Henry, a physician, became Medical Inspector and Acting Medical Director of III Corps in the Union Army.



He served throughout the entire war. Mrs. Lyster was inspired to write the song after the Battle of Fredericksburg.

Editor's Note: A wikipedia source also says the original by Mrs. Lyster was written in 1867, but I can't find corroboration for that. It seems most sources say 1862, following the Battle of Fredericksburg, as stated above. In the past 100 years or so, the song has undergone several revisions, with word changes reflecting the changing times, but it is the original Civil War version by Mrs. Lyster, which most evokes the spirit of the time in which the song was born.

Sources: wikipedia; Michigan History Center site

I had some extra space to fill in this issue

so decided to highlight this beloved song that speaks of the beauties of our state, and the sacrifices made in the Civil War by our Michigan men. My favorite vocal rendition of the song is by actor and fellow Michigander (or is it Michigander?) Jeff Daniels.

"Michigan, My Michigan," erroneously believed by many to be Michigan's state song (the real state song "My Michigan" is less known than Michigan, My Michigan), holds special meaning for members of the 7th MI, since our regiment is featured in one particular verse in the original 1862 version (with about 10 verses total!), and those words are now inscribed on the bronze plaque members of the club dedicated in Fredericksburg, VA, in 2007 and which stands on the banks of the Rappahannock at the spot where the famous pontoon crossing took place.

---The Editor

*Dark rolled the Rappahannock's flood,
Michigan, my Michigan,*

*The tide was crimsoned with thy blood,, Michigan, my Michigan.
Although for us the clay was lost, Still it shall be our broadest boast:*

3 At Fredericksburg our Seventh crossed! Michigan, my Michigan.

Military Report

Greenfield Village After Action

Security was tight! It seemed there was someone in uniform every 20 yards all weekend but despite their concerns the weekend went off without a hitch.

On Saturday, our ten plus 116th PA's five were second company and despite the captain's rusty drill mistakes earlier in the day the boys performed flawlessly in the field. The weather which threatened to turn ugly remained gorgeous all day and the lads entered the fray with a full stomach with the return of the company breakfast mess.

Sunday we combined for drill with the 17th/21st and turned command over to a fresh faced Lt. Giorlando who put the men through the paces, but were our own company for the tactical. Initial volleys were, shall we say, "less than stellar," but the boys rallied and all ended well.

Monday had a reduction in numbers and the 7th, 102nd, 116th Pa, US Marine Guard, and Sharpshooters were combined into 3rd company. Yours truly was too slow to dissent and command of the drill company fell on my shoulders. I can say with pride the boys did a fine job and it also gave me the honor of commanding the company for the Memorial Service. As always, this was and is a moving thing for me and most of the men, but had even greater meaning for me as I had watched my Marine DI cousin's memorial earlier in the weekend (died in Feb of a heart attack). I am grateful to Chris Sodman for carrying Serge's photo out to the green with him and for the company to allow me to share the photo and his story with them before we dismissed.

"Al" Tingley took command of the demonstration and the boys were "surprised" to be put on the skirmish line. With no rehearsal and in some cases no experience they performed admirably well.

I would like to cite two men for special notice. First, David Graham; on his first event ever David fit right in, learned quickly, and his good humor and stories were appreciated by all. Secondly, Brevet 1st Sgt. Andrew McComas, who despite responding initially with a polite "no thank you" when informed Thursday evening he would be in the role, performed amazingly well and at times even saved the Captain from greater embarrassment on the field with his whispered suggestion.

The highlight for me was the Eagle Tavern dinner with several of the men and the 3 NCO's who celebrated birthdays that weekend.

June brings us Turkeyville. This is a GLB Max Effort; please make every effort to attend. I will arrive Friday evening and will bring a fly as there is 0 shade, as those of you who have attended previously know. The season is off to a great start. Let's have good numbers, and good times.

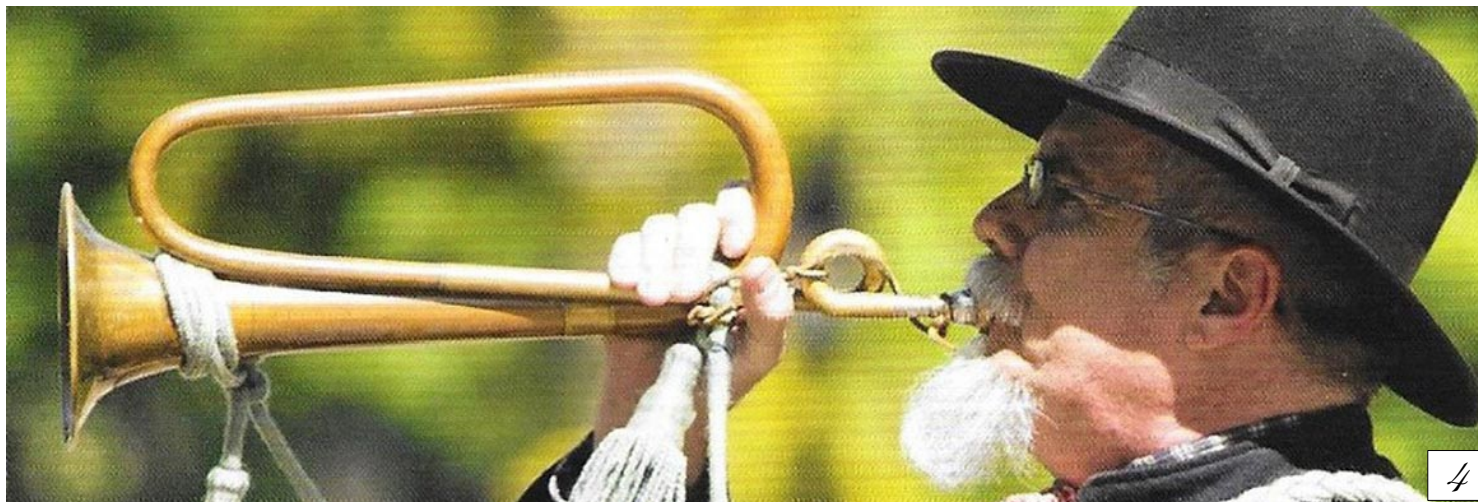
I remain your most obedient servant,

Captain McComas

Military Report



Mark D. Heath at Greenfield Village, May 20, 2016. Photo by Timeline Photos, shared by Mark on Facebook.





Civilian Report

Joy Henderson,
Co-coordinator



Hi Everyone

I hope everyone had a great Memorial holiday .

I believe everyone had a good time at both events.
(Greenfield Village, and Coldwater)

This past week a few of the ladies got together and worked on the quilt. I learned a few things, so it was made a good day.

Thank you, Vonda, for opening your house for us.

Now, it is on to Turkeyville, on June 17-18. That is a two day event.

On July 1st, we have the one-day event at Meridian Village. We will have use of the cabin. The event is from 11-4. There will be a military skirmish at 4:00pm.

Cordially,

Sue Colegrove, Civilian Coordinator

Coldwater Civil War Days – May 26, 27, 28, 2017



Notice
Don's new
straw top
hat (and
new coat)!



Coldwater was a charming event—what little I had a chance to see of it. Like GFV, the same weekend, it is a three-day event, but unlike GFV, begins on Friday (so as to provide a school program, at which Anson and Lorrie Roland always help out). I may not have the figure exactly right, but I believe Anson told me they had nearly 1,000 kids in attendance this year. (If you want to submit a correction, Anson, please feel free!). In any case, a lot of kids show up for the Friday doings.

I was only able to come for a few hours on Saturday, and saw little more than the civilian camp, which is situated in an idyllic woodsy setting—plenty of shade, green grass, and meandering walking paths, overlooking a pretty lake. There was a small suttler area, and a good vantage for artillery on a hill overlooking the battlefield, small, but impressively laid out with wooden fencing and chevaux-de-frise. I'm sure our soldiers who attended can say more on the subject of the battle.

Lastly, I have to say they had a great looking program book—in color, and very professionally done. (As a graphics person, I notice such things!)

---The Editor

Photos by Ellyn Painter



Quartermaster Report

The remaining supply of powder at \$15 per pound was sold or used for Club cartridges at the January meeting. We have a supply of caps at \$7 per 100. I will have them at the rest of the meetings. Powder now is \$18 per pound. We will have powder, caps and paper at the Coldwater, Turkeyville, and Charlton Park/ (Hastings) events.

Education Director's Report

We provided school programs at Ovid Middle School and Birney Middle School in Southfield. I need to thank everyone that participated in both programs as I had to miss both programs due to my being in the hospital and Julie had surgery to remove a broken screw from her leg. Both programs were successful and we look forward to returning next year.

As a side note, for those of you that like Marsh Wheeling cigars (they have gone out of business), a suitable replacement is the GARCIA y VEGA Gallantes. They are 6.62 inch x 33 ring gauge, the Marsh Wheeling's were 7 inch x 34 ring gauge. They are available in packs of 6 or boxes of 50. If you cannot find them locally they are available on line at JRCIGAR.com

Don Everett,

Quartermaster/ Education Director/ Treasurer

Battle for Turkeyville Event...June 16, 17 and 18

The Turkeyville Event has become a June favorite with the club. It's a laid back event that has all the usual amenities, this year including a Saturday night "Grand Ball". New this year is a "Medicine Show" and back again is the "Washing and Bathing Demonstration" which is done in a humorous fashion and may get you a bit wet if you get too close. At this point they aren't listing a reenactor meal of any kind. In the past they have been quite generous with the food, so this may just have been omitted since the public reads the same schedule. The battles they've chosen to portray are...Saturday: The Battle of Island Mound and Sunday: The Battle of Corydon, Indiana.

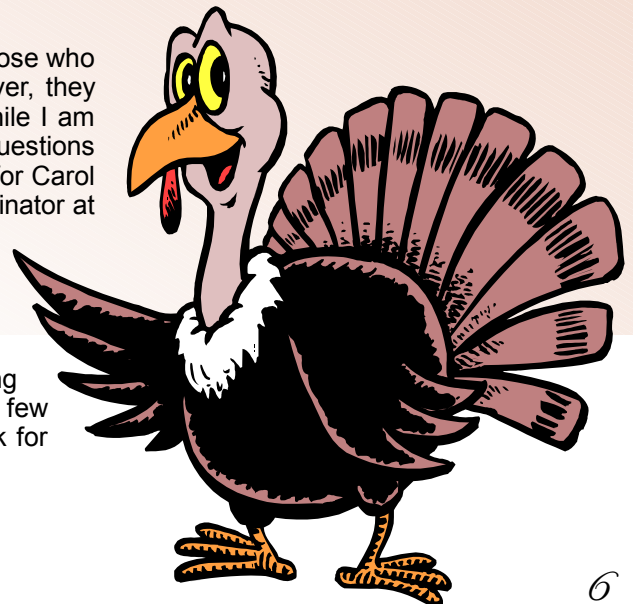
I've registered the club as a unit and sent a roster with the names of those who I know have attended in the past shown as "likely to attend." However, they have the full roster so if I didn't highlight your name...no problem. While I am the Coordinator for this event and will be available to answer questions beforehand, a family activity has come up that will make it impossible for Carol and I to be at the event. Don Everett has kindly consented to be Coordinator at the event.

Regarding a recruiting presence, Don will have recruiting materials at his "Barber Shop" and is setting up back to back with the ladies' fly again this year. If the ladies will do their usual good job of recruiting families and civilians from their side of the set up, I will scare up a few military guys to drop by Don's shop for an hour here and there to look for more soldiers to fill our ranks.

So, come out in force, eat lots of turkey and have a good time.

Bob Smith

Event Coordinator 989 288-7112



Attention -

7th Michigan Members:



"Please keep Dick and Linda Williams in your thoughts and prayers. Tonight I received a call from Linda, saying that she and Dick are experiencing serious health issues. Dick is having difficulties with his back, and she has been having mini-strokes, and parathyroid issues. She is looking at more surgery soon. So, tonight I am sending love and prayers to the Williams'."

From Sue Colgrove, shared on Facebook, on May 23.

An update from Kimberly Strong stated that doctors have delivered a diagnosis: both Linda and Dick now have Parkinson's disease.

Info on the "Delta Play in The Park Day" Event-- August 26 Sharp Park, Lansing, MI

The event will take place from 1 to 4PM. It is a school type program, with quite a number of activities available for visitors, including yoga, Operation Life Saver, storytelling, a scavenger hunt, and more.

The 7th will be doing a living history, similar to what we have done at Williamston in the past. We can set up in the morning by the pond at the location I marked on the map of the park. This is a nice spot and very visible. Spectator/visitors will be walking through all afternoon. The event is scheduled from 1 to 4 and we'll have the morning to get things organized. We are allowed to have cooking fires. Anson plans to do cooking demonstrations and kids' games. Maybe the ladies can work on the quilt there, too, or other sewing projects. Military can drill the spectators and we have permission to fire the muskets. This is also a good opportunity for recruiting. Please contact me if you are going to attend so we'll know who's going to be there.

Jim Kirschensteiner

Email - kirschen.a@sbcglobal.net
and phone 517-281-1274



Lexington, MI Civil War Days

June 24-25, 2017

(from Tommy Spanski's Facebook post)

June 24 at 8 AM to June 25 at 5 PM

Join the 15th Michigan, 5th Texas and other grand Civil War Units as we provide living history and battle reenactments in the historic streets of Lexington Michigan! History lectures and period campsites will provide grand entertainment for our visitors as well as Cannon firing demonstrations! A special appearance of the famous Emerald Peacock Saloon will be on hand to provide refreshments to all! Setup is on Friday June 23rd anytime you get there!

Firewood and straw will be in abundance, all units Military and Civilian are welcome and encouraged to attend.

