

# THE UNION VOLUNTEER

NEWSLETTER OF THE 7<sup>TH</sup> MICHIGAN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY, CO. B, INC.

Volume XXXIV No. 3 March 2015



7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Group: Stafford Co., Falmouth, Virginia - September 19, 2009 – courtesy of Jim Kirschensteiner

## March

### Upcoming Events

**Mon. March 9 - Mason 150<sup>th</sup> – Opening Ceremony**  
(see details on pg. 2)

**Sat. March 14 – Ladies' Sewing Party (pg. 3)**

**Sun. March 15 – Regular Club Meeting at Robbins UMC 1:30pm**

**Be sure to check the Sesquicentennial Report on page 7 for more March events**

#### APRIL PREVIEW:

**Sat. April 18 – combined Annual Live Gun Shoot & Ladies' Sewing Party plus POTLUCK Lunch & April Club Meeting**  
(see Quartermaster's report pg. 5 and Civilian pg. 3)



## Club Dues...

The following list is of members that have not paid their dues as of Feb 25, 2015. You will not be receiving newsletters if your dues are not paid by March 1, 2015.

Allison Bailey	Jim Haynor
Armin Berg	Ron Lobbezoo
Bernadette Butgereit	Loraine Reynolds/Sheryl Diamond
Bruce/Marcia Butgereit	Jeff/Lin Sanborn
John Chamberlain	Craig/Ian Searles
Mark Chamberlain	Sudan Swanson
Craig/ Gretchen Chrispin	
Ian Halbeisen	

...are Due

Checks payable to: 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Vol. Inf., Co. B, Inc.  
Mail to: P.O. Box 16206, Lansing, MI 48901-6206



## Club Leadership

**New Member Chairman:**  
Jeff Verstraete (military & civilian)  
jbvisme@gmail.com

President: Anson Roland  
Vice President: Doug McComas  
Secretary: Bill Jarrett  
Treasurer: Don Everett  
Military: Dave Slayton, Captain  
Civilian Coordinator: Katie Everett  
Board Members-at-Large:  
Jeff Verstraete, Rob Stone, Melissa Bateman  
Quartermaster: Don Everett  
Webmaster: Casey Wallick

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

Make payments or inquiries to:

**7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. B**  
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 (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*

Ellyn Painter, Editor



Logo and poster source:  
[www.masonchamber.org](http://www.masonchamber.org)  
Mason Area Chamber of Commerce

Gentlemen and Gentlewomen of the  
Gallant Seventh,

The city of Mason is beginning a yearlong  
celebration of its sesquicentennial  
founding as a village in 1865. There are to  
be activities throughout the year  
commemorating this historical event. To  
officially kick off the celebration an opening  
ceremony is being held at the Mason City  
Hall on March 9<sup>th</sup>. The Mason  
Sesquicentennial Committee has  
graciously extended an invitation for the 7<sup>th</sup>  
Michigan to participate as part of the  
Honor Guard. We are seeking volunteers  
to proudly carry our banners in the city  
where the original 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan, Company  
B was recruited and mustered into service.  
Civilians are welcome to participate as  
well. **All those planning to attend please  
notify me in advance so I can provide a  
head count to the event hosts.** There  
will be light refreshments served following  
the ceremony.

The ceremony will be held at 6:00 P.M. at

Mason City Hall  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Training Room  
201 West Ash Street  
Mason, Michigan 48854

(517) 676-9155

<http://www.mason.mi.us/>



➔ Contact Tom Emerick:  
[tomjoanemerick@hotmail.com](mailto:tomjoanemerick@hotmail.com)  
Tom's cell: (517) 230-8242

*See next page  
For a partial  
Calendar of events*



# Civilian Report

Hello, all:

I would first like to thank Sue for hosting the February sewing party. We all had a great time! Our March sewing party will be Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup> in Portland at Sandy McCarrick's house. For those who wish to join us we will be having breakfast at the Looking Grand Café at 9am. Just like last year after breakfast we can visit the quilt shop across the street. Please bring a dish to pass for lunch. If anyone would like to carpool we will meet at the Flying J in Grand Ledge at 8:15. Depending on how many people we have we may need more than one driver. If you are planning to carpool please let me know so we know who to expect.

For our April sewing party we will be joining the guys for their live shoot. We will be providing lunch for all in attendance and after lunch we will be having a short club meeting. I will have more information at the club March meeting and in the April newsletter.

Hope to see you soon!

Katie Everett  
Civilian Chair  
cinderellie\_2003@yahoo.com  
(517)420-6837

Directions to the restaurant in Portland:

From Lansing take I-96 toward Grand Rapids and exit at the first Portland exit. (Grand River) Turn right at the bottom of the ramp. Go through TWO traffic lights and the restaurant is just past the second one on the right.

From Charlotte take M-50 to Mulliken Rd/Charlotte Hwy all the way to the end and turn left on Grand River. Go through ONE traffic light to the restaurant on the right.

Looking Grand Café 117 E Grand River Ave,  
Portland MI

Sandy's address:  
332 Carolyn Dr Portland 48875

## Mason 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events:

Below are some of the events planned and in the works that will be applicable to 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan members. There may be others. More information will follow in the coming months as events and details are finalized.

March 9, 2015 - Mason Sesquicentennial Anniversary Opening Ceremony. Color Guard and military and civilian participation requested. Mason City Hall, 6 pm.

July 4, 2015 - An all day event, including an evening parade. We are considering a 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan float in the parade, and a small encampment on the Mason Historical Museum lawn to continue all day and throughout the parade (awaiting confirmation on encampment) Parade begins at 7:30pm; line-up for parade would be earlier.

August 14,15,16 - possible overnight event at Raynor Park, military and civilian encampment (waiting for confirmation).

September 19, 2015 - Mason Down Home Days, 10 to 4 pm, The 24<sup>th</sup> Michigan will have a civilian and military tent set up at the Mason Historical Museum on Barnes St. The museum has asked if members of our unit could come, talk to the public while walking around the courthouse and at the museum.

October 3, 2015 - Civil War Ball, Mason Community Building at the Fair grounds on Ash St.

A brief history  
lesson:

## Mason, MI and the Seventh MI Co. B

The 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Volunteer Infantry was organized in September, 1861, in Monroe, MI, and left that city, bound for the fields of war, on September 5, 1861 with 884 officers and enlisted men. It was composed of 10 companies from various parts of Michigan. Company B was organized in Mason, MI, and was known as the "Curtenious Guard." Company B was initially commanded by Captain Philip McKernon of Mason until Sept. 26, 1861. It then came under the command of Captain (later Lt. Colonel) Amos C. Steele, also of Mason. Lt. Colonel Steele was killed in action at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. (source: 7<sup>th</sup> MI Policies)

Mason, MI is named after the state's first governor, Stevens T. Mason. As of the 2010 census, the city population was 8,252. It is the county seat of Ingham County.

In 1836 Charles Noble knew that Michigan would be seeking a central location for a new capital when it became a state. He purchased an area of forest, cleared 20 acres, and founded Mason Center. The "Center" was soon dropped. In 1847, however, the state chose Lansing Township 12 miles northward to be its capital due to its potential for water power. Noble managed to make Mason the county seat instead. As a result, **Michigan is the only state in the country with a capital city that is not also a county seat.** (source: [Wikipedia](#))

In 1865, Mason was incorporated as a village; in 1875 the town became a city. In the 1800s, Mason was the center of Ingham County activity, even more than was Lansing, the state capital.

# Military News: 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Lincoln's Funeral Train

## TWO MONTHS TO GO!

The 150th anniversary of Lincoln's Funeral is scheduled for May 1 & 2, 2015 in Springfield, IL. At this point, The 24th MVI with the help of many friends will field a company of 50+ men for the event under the command of Captain Eric Martens and Lt. Matt Nikkari.

For information about the event and registration, see the event website at <http://lincolnfunealtrain.org/> Register under the 24th MVI with Capt. Martens as commander. If you have already registered, check the list of participants on the website.

The event organizers recommend those using motels for the weekend, to park at the event site (the fairgrounds next to the camps). You may then join the army at the camps or meet them at the downtown site. There will be a shuttle to the downtown site. Again, consult the website for times and more information.

Lincoln's Funeral Potential Participants, May 2015 (as of Feb. 28, 2015)

1. Craig DeCrane
2. Ken Behmer
3. Tod Willis-Redfern
4. George Till
5. Greg Scygiel
6. Mark Scygiel
7. Guy Purdue
8. Wayne Hales
9. Eric Martens (capt.)
10. Dan Miller
11. Matt Nikarri (lt.)
12. Dwayne Beggs

### 17th MI

1. Doug Nosbich
2. 1 or 2 more

### 7th MI

1. Rob Stone
2. Jim Kirschensteine
3. Mark Heath
4. Doug McComas
5. Dan Conklin
6. George Conklin

### 14th MI

1. Howard Lloyd
2. 2 others

### 3rd MI (Marty

Walker/John  
Braden/Dave Baumann)  
16 members of the unit

### 2nd WI Assoc. (Pete

Seielstad)  
15 to 20 members of the unit

### Civilians

1. Lee Ann DeCrane
2. Marie Coughlin
3. Susan Beggs
4. Bridgette Beggs

Men of 24th Michigan,

I hope this letter finds you all well. In preparing for our upcoming 150 Lincoln Funeral I am sending out some preliminary information. I will be sending out further emails as I get more information to pass along

Our uniform guidelines are as follows:

Frock coat (preferred but sacks are acceptable)

Hardee hat (preferred)

All leathers - shined and blackened

Brass to be shined

Uniforms are to be cleaned

White gloves

I understand that not everyone has a Frock or a Hardee and I do not expect anyone to buy one for this event. If you do not have a Hardee a forage cap is acceptable. NO KEPIS!! As you can see from the excerpts included in this email the 24th was issued new uniforms including full dressed Hardee hats. If you have the

inclination to dress your hat feel free. In order to keep some kind of uniformity please designate "C" as your company letter. The 24th, along with the rest of the Iron Brigade, were very proud of their old First Corps badges and many of them still wore them until the end of the war so that is also acceptable. For the Funeral procession we will be wearing only leathers and canteens, No haversacks.

This will be pretty much the same as dress parade in that trousers should be unbloused, coat sleeves unrolled, and any extraparaphernalia should be removed from uniforms. I cannot find any photographic or written evidence of mourning cockades being worn or not worn by the 24th so they will be allowed. Although not the rule, most cockades were worn on the left arm above the elbow.

The procession was conducted at half time and with arms reversed. At this time I do not know if this will be the case for the 150th event. Please be prepared to carry arms reversed for a prolonged period if this is the case. [24<sup>th</sup> MI Editor: the event organizers at this point have not found official documentation to support the use of reverse arms.]

The 1861 Regulations for funerals also calls for "Rest on Arms" as an honor to the fallen. We will review this on site during an inspection/formation so should the need arise we will be prepared.

Gentlemen, we are on track to have a 50-60 man company. I will be appointing NCOs in the near future as we get closer to the event and shore up our numbers a bit. Unit commanders/points of contact please email me with names of men who would be interested in filling an NCO position. We have a good bunch of men signed up for this and I am sure we will all have a great time. Let us work hard to honor those men of the 24th who held this special place in history.

Your Obedient Servant

Eric Martens

Captain

24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry

*Following are some eye witness accounts of President Lincoln's funeral train escort on May 6, 1865. The information comes courtesy of the 24<sup>th</sup> Michigan, as is the rest of the info & instructions reprinted here on the upcoming reenactment of the event. The Editor (7<sup>th</sup> MI)*

"Upon receipt of the orders, the unit began its preparations. The men were drilled with special care for the treasured duty by Major Hutchinson assisted by the line officers and noncoms until they appeared at their best. New uniforms were issued; muskets, brass, and shoes polished until they shone, and the whole topped off with a new issue of black hats, feathers, and white gloves." (Smith p. 252:253)

Inside the building, an honor guard composed of union officers was placed in close proximity to the body. Lieutenant Colonel Edwards, Major Hutchinson, and Captain Dodsley each served a turn. Approximately 75,000 slowly filed past the coffin. The viewing lasted until 11 p.m

At 8 o'clock on the morning of May 4, a special train arrived at Camp Butler to convey the soldiers to Springfield. Along with the 24th Michigan, soldiers from the 14th Iowa were also loaded on the train. After arriving at Springfield, was allowed to view the body of the late president. By 11a.m., the funeral procession had been formed. The 24th Michigan was given the place of honor at the head of the military escort, directly behind the hearse, despite the fact that the 14th Iowa Veteran Volunteers was the senior unit (the 14th Iowa was originally formed in November 1861). The men stood waiting in the hot, humid morning, sweating in their newly issued dress uniforms.

#### **From the Diary of Sgt. Alfred Noble, Company C Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan 1865 - May 6th**

His will to attend President Lincoln's Funeral. We had a very rigid inspection Wednesday afternoon and after that a long afternoon drill. The camp had been lost to sight in the mud until the day before when a few minutes of sunshine made it dry again.

Thursday morning (4th) we were called up at 5 o'clock and at 6:30 fell in and drilled about an {hour?} marching at slow step and arms reversed. At 7:30 a special train came down for the regiment. On arriving in the city we stacked arms on the north side of capitol square. Soon after we marched through the

---concluded next page

## **Quartermaster Report**

We are planning on renting the Eaton Rapids Sportsman's Club for our annual Charlie Colegrove Memorial Military Shoot April 18, 2015. The ladies are planning a sewing party at the same time. Come join us for breakfast at 9am cooked by Jeff Verstraete. After the shoot the Ladies will be serving a potluck lunch. After lunch we will hold our April meeting before cleaning up. Also it is rumored that there will be a special surprise by yours truly. Bring something to shoot and a dish to pass. Please note that this is a change of meeting date from April 19<sup>th</sup> to April 18<sup>th</sup>. Direction to the range will follow in the March and April newsletter.

-----Don Everett, Quartermaster

(See map on next page)

## **Education Report: School Programs**

At this time we have 2 School programs planned. First is May 8, 2015 Birney Middle School in Southfield, 1 to 3. We will make carpool arraignments. Second Ovid Middle School, Ovid 1 to 3 again we will try to carpool. We need both military and civilian presenters for both programs.



Photo of the 24th Michigan at Camp Butler awaiting discharge.



Alfred Noble, concluded:

building and saw the body of the late President. At 11:30 the funeral procession moved to the Oak Ridge Cemetery 2 1/2 miles north of the City. The marching being at slow time, company front, reversed arms. The day was very warm and it was rather hard work. At the cemetery, we stacked arms and such as wished went over beyond the vault to hear the oration of the Bishop Simpson. About 3 o'clock p.m. we started on the return to the City. Waited here an hour and left for Camp Butler by another special train arriving in camp about 5 o'clock. Sometime during the night we had a heavy shower rain and hail. Yesterday (5th) there was no drill and last night there was still more rain. Today is cloudy but not so far rainy. (Alfred Noble MS)



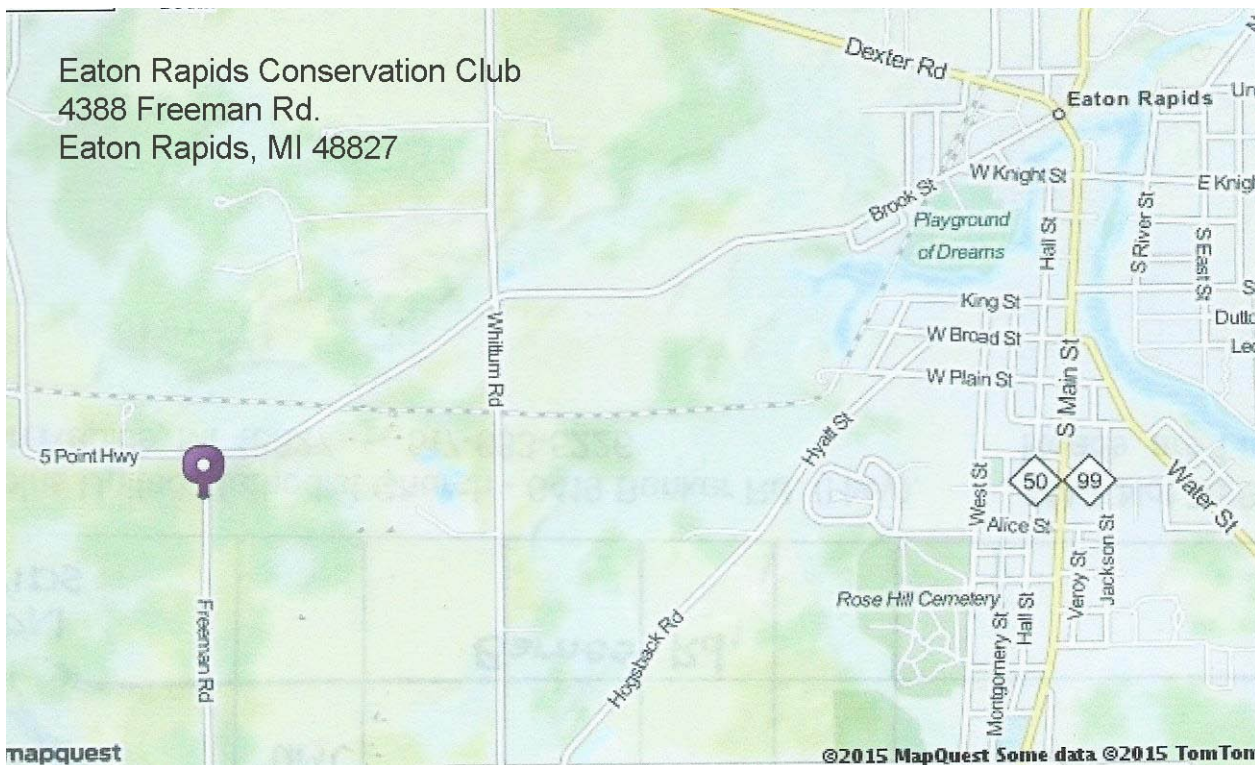
"A copy of the minutes of previous club meetings is available upon request to all members in good standing."

William Jarrett, Club Secretary

 [bjjarrett@aol.com](mailto:bjjarrett@aol.com)

Greetings, all:  
I hope everyone is surviving well this TOO long winter.  
The new updated club roster is completed. Watch for its appearance soon.

Also please take note that I've added the mailing address for our club in the publication details column (under "Leadership"). I forgot to list it last month in the "Don's Dues" report for those still needing to pay. Thus, the P.O. Box number will now always be found in the Leadership column, along with the club Website address. It's a lot of tiny print there, I realize, but some helpful info, especially for those who've recently joined our ranks. If you wish to submit something to the newsletter, the instructions are there. Okay, that's all from me. Happy St. Pat's Day.



# March 2015 Civil War Sesquicentennial Report

Of the 112 Sesquicentennial events already listed on the Reenactors' Civil War Sesquicentennial Calendar for 2015 on the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners' website ([www.micw150.us](http://www.micw150.us)), eight have been reported for March. Additional information on each of these events may be obtained by going to [www.micw150.us/2015events.htm](http://www.micw150.us/2015events.htm) and clicking on the month in question.

**4 & 11. Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum** (224 S. Main Street, Eaton Rapids, Michigan). 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. The Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum was opened in September 2013. The 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. Website: <http://garmuseum.com/>. Face Book: GARBrainerdPost111MemorialHallAndMuseum. Contact: Deb Malewski, Board Secretary, at [GARmichigan@gmail.com/](mailto:GARmichigan@gmail.com).

**10. Presentation: The Youngest Nurse At Annapolis** (Meijer Branch of Jackson District Library, 2699 Airport Rd. Jackson, Michigan). 6:30 PM. The presenter will be Ellen Smith . Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/710679885680603/> . Contact: Jim Grose at [jegrose@comcast.net](mailto:jegrose@comcast.net) .

**14. Victorian Spring Ball** (221 West Baker Street Fort Wayne, Indiana). *Dance workshop*: 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, *Dance*: 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM. Doors open for evening dance 5:00 PM, Grand March to begin at 7:00 PM. Appetizers and Desserts will be served throughout the evening. Tickets can be purchased for \$40 a person. Send payment to: 30th Indiana, 3223 Marias Drive, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46815. Contact for tickets and information: Sue Pfeiffer at [spfeiffer@acpl.lib.in.us](mailto:spfeiffer@acpl.lib.in.us) or by telephone at 260-422-3604.

**21 - 22. Black Powder Gun Show: 40th Annual Kalamazoo Living History Black powder Gun Show** (Kalamazoo Fair Grounds, 2900 Lake Street [off I-94, Exit 80 North], Kalamazoo, Michigan). 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM – Saturday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM - Sunday. Admission is \$7.00 for a single day, \$10.00 for a weekend pass. Children 12 years of age and under admitted free when accompanied by a parent. No strollers allowed. Anyone attending the show in pre-1890 style clothing will be eligible for a drawing on a door prize. The show is sponsored by Yankee Doodle Muzzle Loader, Inc. Website: <http://www.kalama-zooshow.com/index.html>. Contact: Email at [kalamazoolivinghistoryshow@gmail.com](mailto:kalamazoolivinghistoryshow@gmail.com).

**21 - 22. 150th Anniversary Battle of Bentonville** (5466 Harper House Rd. Four Oaks, North Carolina). Registration Costs: \$35.00 per Individual after March 1. Children under 12, there is no registration fee. Registration Website: <http://fobb.net/150thBentonville/Registration.aspx>.

**28. Lincoln at Cleveland 2015 Civil War Living History Program** (Cleveland Public Library, 325 Superior Ave., N.E., Cleveland, Ohio). 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Program to include stations regarding soldier's life, women's roles, and a scavenger hunt.. Held in conjunction with the 20th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Company G, Living History Association, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States. Contact: [ohiomollus@aol.com](mailto:ohiomollus@aol.com) or by telephone at 330-855-4251.

**28. Civil War Trust- National Park Day** (Historical Fort Wayne, 6325 Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan). Start time: 9 AM. Since 1996, the Civil War Trust has sponsored Park Day, an annual hands-on preservation event to help Civil War battlefields and historic sites take on maintenance projects large and small. For the last two years, Historic Fort Wayne has been the only site in the state of Michigan to host this event. One hundred-fifty T shirts and 100 patches will be given out to all who participate. Websites: Historic Fort Wayne - <http://historicfortwaynecoalition.com/>. Contact: Tom Berlucchi at [TBERLUCCHI@YAHOO.COM](mailto:TBERLUCCHI@YAHOO.COM), Telephone: 248-840-5234.

**28 - 29. 150th Anniversary Sailor's Creek** (Sailor's Creek Battlefield State Park, Rice, Virginia). The original 121st at Sailor's Creek numbered nearly 300 men. Research indicates that 8 companies were present at the battle. We will look to portray the present for duty numbers of the regiment as closely as possible. The commander of this effort will be William Eichler. Hosts: A collaboration between the Sally Port Mess, SCLI and Western Rifles. Contact Will Eichler at [steadwill@earthlink.net](mailto:steadwill@earthlink.net). Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/272966972886212/>.

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.