

# THE UNION VOLUNTEER

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

Volume XXXIII No. 5 May 2014



*Dave Slayton, Sue Colgrove, and Anson Roland, holding the trophy plaque and target for the First Annual Target Shoot Competition, held in honor of Charles Colgrove, on April 26. Photo by Joe Buckenberger.*



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It was 30 years ago today Sargent Pepper taught the band to play . . .

Imagine 30 years , over 7 times longer in duration than the American Civil War, over 1/3 of the average human lifespan, long enough to apply for retirement from many careers, longer than some of our members have been alive! and yet it has endured, the Cascades Civil War Muster. Why? Ken Giorlando, in his blog after last year's event summed up one important fact: "all are welcome east and west". For the most part politics are put aside and we meet again with old friends, fresh fish, and each other for nearly the last time of the season.

It survives because it evolves but is the same. It is owned by no one. It's not Doug's event, or Don's or Jeff's or Tom's or any one person's. Each of us take our turn and do our part adding a twist or a unique change here and there. It survives because it is loved by the Jackson community, and mostly it survives because of each of you. When you work a shift, put up a building, participate in any of the many scenarios you continue the tradition.

So why do we hear each year, "I heard this is the last Jackson"? I think it's because for almost any other reenacting group they find it impossible that we can continue to remain mostly united, supremely dedicated, and energetic for so long. And yet we do. Take your turn this August, but take your credit and due as well. You have been part of an amazing and unique thing. Our little volunteer muster continues to be important, relevant, and exciting. Be proud.

May starts our season. As I write several of our members are returning from the Wilderness campaign (where I had hoped to be L). Greenfield Village is just around the corner. Come, share, and be among friends. This is what we the 7<sup>th</sup> are truly about (remember this if I am barking at you later in my role as first Sgt.) Like the real people of 1861 we are from the same small towns, we serve with our family and friends and are dedicated to a cause. For them it was to preserve the union, for us to preserve the memory of their sacrifice.

I remain as always,

Your most obedient servant,

Doug



## 2014 Leadership

**New Member co-Chairs:**  
Jeff Verstraete (military)  
jbvisme@gmail.com  
Heather Jarrett (civilian)  
princessh15@live.com

President: Doug McComas  
Vice President: Anson Roland  
Secretary: Bill Jarrett  
Treasurer: Don Everett  
Military: Dave Slayton, Captain  
Civilian Coordinator: Katie Everett  
Board Members-at-Large:  
Marie Searles, Pat Downing,  
Jeff Verstraete

Annual Membership Dues:  
\$16.00 – single  
\$19.20 – family  
\$6.00 – to receive newsletter as  
non-participating/non-voting member

Website: [www.7thmichigan.us](http://www.7thmichigan.us)

### Newsletter Submission Guidelines:

Thanks to all who submitted info 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 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



# LIVE TARGET



# SHOOT

## SATURDAY APRIL 26



**PHOTOS BY  
JOE BUCKENBERGER**

# MILITARY MINUTES

## APRIL 2014

Captain: Dave Slayton  
Lieutenant: Jim MacKinnon  
1st Sergeant: Doug McComas  
Sergeants: Dan Conklin, Rob Stone  
Corporals: Tom Edwards, Andrew McComas, Dennis Zank, Bill Jarrett  
Chief Bugler: Mark Heath



We start the season soon, so please check your schedules and availability to attend the maximum events listed below as they are the "maximum effort events the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan decided to support.

- May 24-26: Greenfield Village, Dearborn

Given some possible family events, Captain Slayton may not be able to attend all or parts of this event. In that case, Lt. MacKinnon would lead on Sunday and Monday, and on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup> can fall in with another unit if Captain Slayton is unable to attend.

- June 1<sup>st</sup>: Rose Parade, 1:00pm in Jackson

Meet at 11:00 am at Ella Sharp Park (off of 4<sup>th</sup> St.) in the parking lot by the soccer / ball fields, and have transport available to the parade staging area, leaving at 11:30 am. Turn east at the entrance (Hickory Ave). Turn left on Elmdale, then right on Birchwood and follow that around to the back.

- June 14-15: Turkeyville (north of Marshall, website: <http://www.turkeyville.com/>)

Here's the specific website page about the event:

["http://www.turkeyville.com/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=99&Itemid=238"](http://www.turkeyville.com/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=99&Itemid=238)

Please let me know as soon as possible if you will attend, and I will send in the registration for the 7<sup>th</sup>, which is supposed to be mailed by June 1<sup>st</sup>.

They have built some great earthworks for us to use, so it will be fun to incorporate into the battle scenarios.

- July 19-20: Charlton Park, Hastings
- August 23-24: Jackson Muster
- September 20-21: Van Raalte Farm, Holland
- October: Harvest Ball, Lansing

### Living History Programs:

Help is always welcome at these school programs. If you can attend, please contact Don Everett (517-393-3475).

- May 9<sup>th</sup>, 8am – 3pm, Dexter Middle School
- May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1pm – 3pm, Southfield, Birney Middle School

### 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Annual Target Shoot Report:

We gathered on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> of April at Robbins Church, and enjoyed a pancake, bacon, cinnamon roll and fruit breakfast prepared by Jeff Verstaete and Anson Roland. Thank you both for doing that for about 12-16 gentlemen who came. I obviously did not make an accurate count! At the gun range, we enjoyed several hours of shooting, where some tried out new weapons, did target practice, used various rifles or pistols that others let them shoot, and enjoyed using up a lot of Don's .45 caliber ammunition. Thank you Don, for sharing and for arranging the event.

The special thing was that Anson Roland (I believe) thought up the idea to name the annual target shoot in honor of Charles Colegrove, one of our members who recently passed away. The day included the first annual target shoot competition. We all used the same rifle, each contestant was allowed one practice shot at a target, then got one shot at the competition target. There is a trophy plaque with 24 plates upon which to engrave the winner's name. I'm not sure how or why, but the Captain was closest to the bull's-eye, and won the inaugural competition. Thank you Anson, and also Sue Colegrove for being there and organizing the competition in memory of Charlie!

**PLEASE NOTE**, the next meeting will be after the parade in Jackson on June 1<sup>st</sup>, back at the parking lot where the 7<sup>th</sup> gathered before the parade at Ella Sharp Park. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Most respectfully,  
Your Obedient Servant:  
Dave Slayton, Captain  
slaytondave@juno.com  
(517) 663-4161

# CIVILIAN REPORT

Hello all! With events happening this month I think it's safe to say that reenacting season is finally upon us!

I would like to thank Vonda for hosting the April sewing party and letting us break in her new porch! We all had a great time and the porch is wonderful! We are going to have one more sewing party before the season get underway. It will be on Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup> at Sue Colegrove's home. This will be our last sewing party till the fall so it will be a great opportunity to finish up things for the summer. We will be meeting for breakfast at the Flap Jack on Waverly at 9am and then head over to Sue's after. Those who do not wish to join us for breakfast can meet at Sue's at 10am. As always please bring a dish to pass for lunch.

For Jackson we will be hosting activities at the ladies tent in special impressions. On both days in the morning we will have make it take it church babies, ribbon rosettes, cats cradle strings and possibly bean bags and knitting knobbies. In the afternoon we will have period toys and games for children and adults to play. There will also be Appearances from the pocket lady both days (thank you, Vonda!). I will have a sign up sheet for those who wish to help out. As before, any Suggestions or ideas you might have are more than welcome! Let's make this a great Jackson!

There will be more information on the ladies retreat weekend as the dates get closer.

Looking forward to a great season with great friends!

Katie Everett  
Civilian Chair  
517-420-6837  
[cinderellie\\_2003@yahoo.com](mailto:cinderellie_2003@yahoo.com)

Sue Colegrove's address:  
3415 S Catherine, Lansing, MI 48911  
626-0144

Flap Jack:  
1601 S Waverly Rd, Lansing, MI 48917



*7<sup>th</sup> Michigan participants at the Coldwater Ball, which took place on April 26. Photo courtesy of Joseph Buckenberger.*

## **For Good and Welfare:**

**For those of you who are attending the event at Greenfield Village,**

**I-96 is closed from I-275 to Telegraph Rd (M-24) until this fall.**

**Plan to seek an alternate route.**





*Union Line, Gaines Mill  
Photo courtesy of Jim Kirschensteiner*

**The Seven Days Battles** were a series of six major battles over the seven days from June 25 to July 1, 1862, near Richmond, Virginia. Third in the series was the battle for Gaines Mill, on June 27. By the night of the 27<sup>th</sup>, the Union Army had retreated to Harrison's Landing. Gaines's Mill and the Union retreat across the Chickahominy was a psychological victory for the Confederacy, signaling that Richmond was out of danger. [ The Seven Days Battles signaled the end of the Peninsula Campaign. The Army of the Potomac encamped around Berkeley Plantation, birthplace of William Henry Harrison.



*Gaines Mill, Watt Farm. Photo courtesy of Jim Kirschensteiner*



*Left: Berkley Plantation at Harrison's Landing. Right: Confederate cannon ball in wall of Berkley Plantation. Photos courtesy of Jim Kirschensteiner*

## EDUCATION REPORT

We have school programs at Dexter May 9th. Arrive be 8:30am program runs from 9am until 2pm with a lunch break. We need to have people to help with this presentation. Address is Mill Creek Middle School, 7305 Dexter-Ann Arbor Rd, Dexter MI 48130.

The last program is at Birney Middle School in Southfield. For those in the Lansing area we will meet at my house at 10:30 am and leave by 11am. Program is from 1to 3pm.. I will be driving. If you can attend either program please contact me at [djkeverett@comcast.net](mailto:djkeverett@comcast.net) or 517-393-3475 and leave a message.

**We really need your help for these programs.**

-----Don Everett, Education Director

## QUARTERMASTER REPORT

The Charlie Colegrove Memorial Military Shoot was held on Sat April 26th. We established the name to honor Charlie this year. It was attended by 16 members and guests. We met for breakfast at Robins Methodist church where Anson and Jeff cooked breakfast for us. As usual everyone was well fed. We then moved to the range at Eaton Rapids Conservation Club where we proceeded to expend a large quantity of ammo. There were weapons from 7 American Wars represented this year. That was less than last years 11, which may have been a record. For the Charlie Colgrove traveling trophy shoot I provided a Viet Nam era SKS carbine. Each shooter was allowed 1 practice shot and 1 shot for score at 25 yards offhand. After the dust settled the winner of this years event was Our Captain "dead eye" Dave Slayton. His shot was in the 9ring almost to the bull's eye. All in all we had some impressive shooting and I am sure that we are looking forward to whatever course of fire we come up with for next years competition. Dave name will be engraved on the trophy and he will have it to display for a year. See you all at next years shoot and good luck.

-----Don Everett, Quartermaster



To the men and women who died for our freedom:

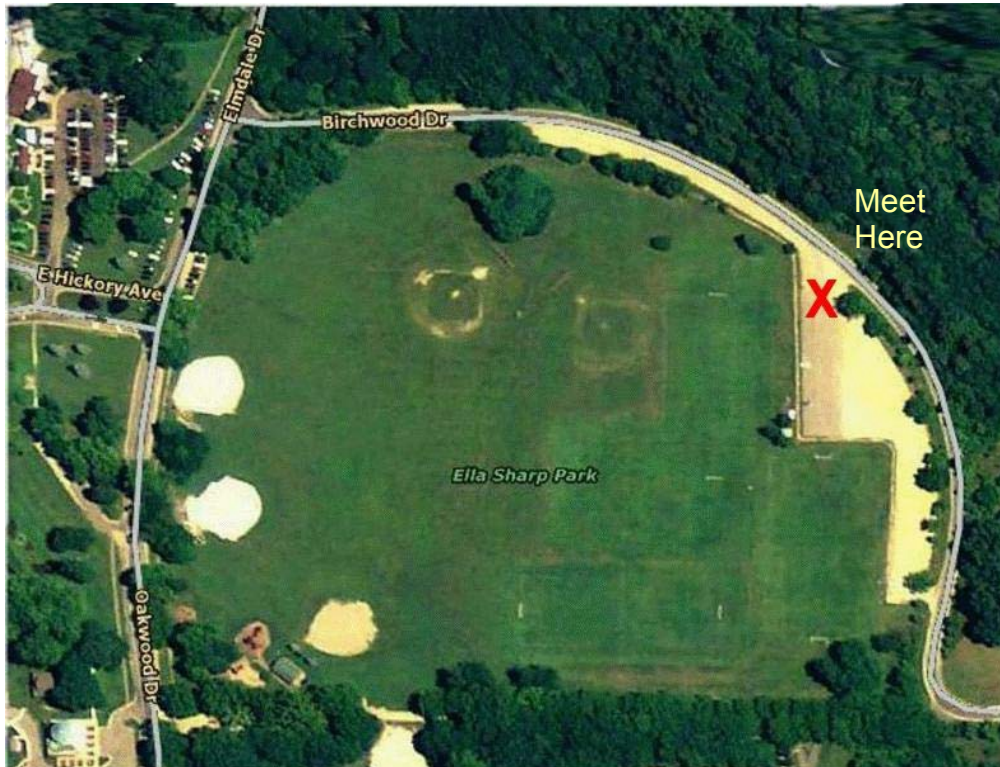
*We Thank You*

The two photos below, artistic depictions of the Jackson Civil War Muster, (showing some recognizable personages) were made available to the Editor by Tom Emerick, who received them in an email from Nathan (Al) Tingley (shown at right in the first photo). He and his wife took the pics on a recent visit to Applebee's restaurant in Jackson, on whose wall the artwork is displayed. Wrote Nathan: "I even got to sign my name to mine. They just remodeled the restaurant maybe a month ago. So next time you guys are in town you'll have to check it out."



The series of followup messages sent by various others who received Tom's email and the photos contained some humorous and entirely superfluous (but as I say, highly entertaining!) discussion on whether Tom should pay when next he and fellow 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan members dine in said Applebee's or whether he should only be responsible for the beer, and if so, would he be able to afford it on \$13 a month....and so on. Should we put it to a company vote at the next meeting? Oh, OK, maybe not.

-----The Editor



### Sunday, June 1 Parade

It is that time again. We will meet at Ella Sharp Park near the soccer fields 11am (same location as the last several years) to decorate the trailer and ride up to the starting point. The Jarretts are once again providing the loan of their trailer for civilians/or others who don't chose to walk (bring a chair or stool to sit on in the trailer). We will leave Ella Sharp no later than 12 to arrive at our start point for the parade which will step off at 1pm. Military please bring at least 20 rounds. We will hold a brief club meeting in Ella Sharp Park after the parade. The parade route is from the corner of S. Jackson Street/ Greenwood to Fourth Street ending at the Middle School at Parkside. More info soon as to our exact staging point and position in line downtown. Staging starts at 11am.

# GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC MEMORIAL HALL AND MUSEUM

**Eaton Rapids, Michigan – May 1, 2014** - The real meaning of Memorial Day is the overall theme of a new exhibit featured at the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Memorial Hall and Museum in Eaton Rapids. The exhibit will run from May 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014. The GAR Museum is the only museum in the country dedicated to preserving the memory and the history of both the GAR and the United Confederate Veterans.



*"Lest We Forget"* reminds us that there is a cost "to a free and undivided republic." Included in the exhibit is the story of Memorial Day, background on the man and the organization he headed that was responsible for establishing the holiday we know today, and how it was accomplished. The real Memorial Day is actually May 30, but was changed in the 1970's to provide federal employees the convenience of a three-day weekend. Since then, it has become the unofficial start of the summer season, thus losing its true meaning. The exhibit is designed to convey the emotion that should be prevalent on Memorial Day, instead of deciding what we are in the mood to throw on the grill or what party we want to attend.

The Memorial Day display is typical of such displays of the late 1890s early 1900s that the GAR would have set up in their various posts. We are appreciative of Ms. Vonda Warren of Charlotte and Mr. Gary Gibson of Kalamazoo for providing most of the material used in the display.

## **About the GAR**

The GAR was founded in Decatur, Illinois in 1866. It was the premier Union veteran's organization in the United States. In the 1890's, the GAR had almost 500,000 veterans on its rolls, and five of its members were elected President of the United States. (Grant, Hayes, Garfield, McKinley, and Harrison). The GAR was also the first racially inclusive organization in the nation, accepting African-Americans as members.

## **About the GAR Museum**

The GAR Memorial Hall and Museum opened in September of 2013. Located in the historic 1886 James B. Brainard Post No. 111 GAR building at 224 South Main in Eaton Rapids, the museum is free to the public. The Museum is open on the first and second Wednesdays (10 AM -5 PM) of each month throughout the summer, patriotic holidays and by appointment.

## **Keith G. Harrison, President, GAR Memorial Hall & Museum**

Email: <mailto:GARmichigan@gmail.com> \t "\_top,

*EDITOR'S NOTE: For those of you who visited the "Mourning House" presentation done by the Ladies of the 7<sup>th</sup> MI at Jackson last August, the Victorian era coffin, complete with 'viewing window,' is the same artifact pictured in the photo above, and belongs to 7<sup>th</sup> MI member Vonda Warren. Keith also tells me that they have put recruitment information for the 7<sup>th</sup> MI in the Memorial Hall lobby.*

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

*---William Jarrett, Club Secretary*

* [bljarrett@aol.com](mailto:bljarrett@aol.com)*



# May 2014 Civil War Sesquicentennial Report

Of the 118 Sesquicentennial events already listed on the Reenactors' Civil War Sesquicentennial Calendar for 2014 on the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners' website ([www.micw150.us](http://www.micw150.us)), there are 22 events listed for April. Additional information on each of these events may be obtained by going to [www.micw150.us/2013events.htm](http://www.micw150.us/2013events.htm) and clicking on the month in question. Michigan events and events of interest to Michigan for 2014 can be added anytime by contacting [pcinc@prodigy.net](mailto:pcinc@prodigy.net). Last year a total of 174 events were listed, which was a little less than the 180 in 2012, but a little more than the 163 in 2011.

--May 2014--

- 1 - 4. Reenactment: 150th Anniversary of the Battles of the Wilderness and Spotsylvania Courthouse.** (9019 Old Battlefield Blvd, Spotsylvania, Virginia). Reenactor Registration: <http://150spotsylvania.com/reenactors/registration/>.
- 2. Grand Victorian Ball** (Grand Ledge Opera House, Grand Ledge, Michigan). 7:00 PM. Admission is \$35.00. For more information call 517-316-6694.
- 3. Civil War Encampment at Grand Ledge Island Park** (Grand Ledge Island Park, Grand Ledge, Michigan). Contact [sylvania@victoriandays.org](mailto:sylvania@victoriandays.org)
- 3 - 4. Civil War Show: 37th Ohio Civil War Show and 22nd Annual Artillery Show** (Richland County Fairgrounds - U.S. 30 & Trimble Road Exit located 7 miles West of Exit 176 on I-71), Mansfield, Ohio). Website: <http://www.ohiocivilwarshow.com>. Telephone: 419-884-2194.
- 7 & 14. Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum** (224 S. Main Street, Eaton Rapids, Michigan). 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Website: <http://garmuseum.com/>.
- 8. Presentation: Michigan's Forgotten Civil War Soldiers – Company K of the Michigan Sharpshooters – The Story Continues** (Monroe County Civil War Round Table, Ellis Library and Reference Ctr, 3700 South Custer, Monroe, Michigan). 7:00 PM. Contact 734-241-5277.
- 12. Presentation: Company K of the Michigan Sharp Shooters** (American Legion Post 29, 3200 Lansing Ave, Jackson, Michigan). 7:00 PM. Contact: [bigrock9917@aol.com](mailto:bigrock9917@aol.com).
- 12. Presentation: Michigan & the Civil War - A Great and Bloody Sacrifice** (West Bloomfield Township Public Library, 4600 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, Michigan). 7:00 PM. Contact: 248-682-2120.
- 17. School Program** Endeavor Middle School (Historic Fort Wayne, Detroit, Michigan). 9:00 AM Students will around 9 AM. The event is only one day but the students will be spending the night. Contact: Thomas Berlucchi [tberlucchi@yahoo.com](mailto:tberlucchi@yahoo.com)
- 17. Headstone Dedication for Civil War Veterans Edson and Clark Augustus Norton** (Oaklawn Cemetery, Stockbridge, Michigan). 1:00 PM. [Rain Date May 18, 2014]. Contact Robert Griggs at [misucw7@gmail.com](mailto:misucw7@gmail.com).
- 18. Presentation: Michigan & the Civil War - A Great and Bloody Sacrifice** (Oakland County Pioneer & Historical Society, 405 Cesar E. Chavez Ave, West Pontiac, Michigan). 2:00 PM. Contact: 248-338-6732.
- 21. Presentation: Indiana Volunteers** (Lily Theater, Conner Prairie Interactive History Park, 13400 Allisonville Road, Fishers, Indiana). 7:30 PM (Doors open at 7:00 PM). Contact Paul Watson at [pwatson001@indy.rr.com](mailto:pwatson001@indy.rr.com).
- 23 - 25. Branch County (Coldwater) Civil War Days - Battles at Gettysburg** (Heritage Park, Coldwater, Michigan) Website: <http://www.cwcwmi.com> or by Telephone at 517-278-8161.
- 23 - 26. Greenfield Village Civil War Remembrance** (20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn, Michigan). Website: [www.thehenryford.org/events/civilwarremembrance.aspx](http://www.thehenryford.org/events/civilwarremembrance.aspx).
- 24. Memorial Day Program: Annual Mount Hope Cemetery Memorial Day Program** (Soldiers Lot, Mount Hope Cemetery, corner of Mt. Hope and Aurelius Roads, Lansing, Michigan) 11:00 AM. Contact [hockeyboy121@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hockeyboy121@sbcglobal.net).
- 25. Memorial Day Program:** (Brethren Church, 8436 W. Grand Ledge Hwy, Sunfield, Michigan) 9:30 AM. Contact Paul David Arnold at [hockeyboy121@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hockeyboy121@sbcglobal.net).
- 25. GAR Historic Walking Tour.** Red Ribbon Hall, the Governor Blair House site, the GAR Hall, and Island Park (Eaton Rapids, Michigan). For more information contact: Deb Malewski at [GARmichigan@gmail.com/](mailto:GARmichigan@gmail.com)
- 26. Civil War Sesquicentennial Memorial Service** (Otter Lake Cemetery, Marathon Township, Otter Lake, Michigan) 10:30 AM. Contact Fred Moorehouse, 810-793-2002.
- 26. Memorial Day Program: Woodland Township Annual Memorial Day Program** (Woodland Township Cemetery, M-43, Woodland, Michigan) 10:00 AM. Contact Paul David Arnold at [hockeyboy121@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hockeyboy121@sbcglobal.net).
- 26. Memorial Day Display: Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum** (224 S. Main Street, Eaton Rapids, Michigan). 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Website: <http://garmuseum.com/>.
- 30. Memorial Day Program: Annual Memorial Day Program at the Sunfield Grand Army of the Republic Hall** (Grand Army of the Republic Hal #283, Sunfield, Michigan). 6:30 PM. Contact Paul David Arnold at [hockeyboy121@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hockeyboy121@sbcglobal.net).
- 31. Sesquicentennial Civil War Concert:** (Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, Michigan). 2:00 PM to 3:30 PM. FREE Concert. The concert performers will be 5th MI Reg Band. Sponsored by the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. Contact: Tom Truscott at [tom.0506@hotmail.com](mailto:tom.0506@hotmail.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 in November and creates the statewide Reenactors' Events Calendar.

