

THE UNION VOLUNTEER 7TH

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

Volume XXXII No. 11 November 2013



Photo by Elyn Painter

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The 2013 season is "in the books". From Walker Tavern to the Harvest Ball we had good events, good weather and good friends. So how about a personal top ten list:

- Sergeant Conklin-watching Dan work so hard and learn his new position so quickly
- Swede finds Swede: Our Swedish friends find Swedish Confederates at Gettysburg and our camp goes Scandinavian for the evening
- Dave Slayton finds his voice: Dave did a great job in his new role all year.
- Having my son Andrew at my side during Pickett's Charge
- Being photographed by Brad Crews in my new civilian duds at the Harvest Ball
- Period baseball at Jackson and "getting a hold of one" with my cousin watching just like when we were kids
- The look on Mark Heath's face discovering his new pig farm.
- Jackson (100 percent casualties) and the fantastic cooperation between the union and confederate troops and commands
- It's Glurg! Swedish campfire partaking of blackberry moonshine leads to "Norwegian lover" accusations
- The 7th survives and thrives. After the issues in the past we reemerged strong connected and proud.

I am grateful for your continued support as president. I look forward already to 2014. I remain,

Your most obedient servant, **DOUG**



Military: Dave Slayton, Captain
Civilian Coordinators: Katie Everett,
Melissa Bateman
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

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

Thank-you.
Elyn Painter
Elyn Painter, Editor




Upcoming Events:

Annual Club Christmas Party – Sat. Dec. 7. See page 9 for details.

Next Club Meeting – Sun. Nov. 17
1:00pm, Robbins UMC
2014 meetings (more to follow):
Jan. 19; Feb. 16; Mar. 16

Correspondence Received:

 Our Harvest Ball coordinator, Linda Williams, received this letter from a happy guest at this year's ball:

Dear Linda,

I'm writing to thank you and the other members of the 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. B for the absolutely lovely Harvest Ball. My friend and I had a wonderful time, as we always do. I deeply appreciate the elegance, gentility and social etiquette of the Harvest Ball, so different from our every day lives in 2013. It's restorative and magical to step back in time for the evening and enjoy such graciousness. Thank you for your tireless efforts to create such a beautiful experience.

-- Sandra Schulte

 Regarding the death of Steven W. Bouldin – 1956-2013, we received this from his wife, Sherrie, dated 9/17/13:

Dear 7th Michigan:

Thank you so much for thinking about me during this horrible time. The money you sent was such a blessing and I can't begin to tell you how much it is appreciated. I'm getting better each day, and I'm learning how to find my way in this new phase of my life. Take care and stay in touch.

--Sherrie Bouldin


 Submitted by Don Everett - from Ron Pohlonski, whose wife passed away on Sept. 2:

Don and members of the 7th Michigan:


Thanks so much for your donation to the Sparrow Hospice Services. We raised over \$1,000 in Jill's name. Her name will be engraved on a gold leaf for the Living Tree on the Hospice roof top garden.

Many thanks – Ron Pohlonski

Recognition:

 Many thanks to Coletta Crews and Audrey Searles who stepped in at the last minute to lead the civilian church service at the Cascades Muster in Jackson this past August. Coletta "preached" a heartwarming message, and Audrey led the congregational singing.

Lost & Found:

 A black hat, styled "Rhett Butler's Gambling Hat" was left at the Harvest Ball. If you are the owner, or know to whom this item belongs, please contact Linda Williams. 517-484-2496 lansinglinda@comcast.net

CLUB NEWS ... continued



Please note that in the last newsletter, Heather Jarrett's E-Mail address was listed incorrectly (in the Leadership list on page one – Civilian New Member Chair). It should be: princessh15@live.com. My sincere apologies.

---The Editor

Annual Dues are due!

Make out checks to: 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. B, Inc.

Mail to the same at: P.O. Box 16206, Lansing, MI 48901-6206

\$16 – individual; \$19.20 – family;

\$6.00 - receive newsletter as non-participating,
non-voting member



Annual Meeting Election Results:

Dennis Zank is stepping down as webmaster; if you are interested in serving the club in this capacity, please contact Dennis, or Doug McComas.

Steve Hainstock, Dick Williams, and Tom Emerick have also tendered their resignations as Vice President, Treasurer, and Co-Captain of the club, respectively. Our sincere thanks to these gentlemen for their faithful years of service. All three of these positions were filled during the voting process at the Annual Meeting on the 20th. Dave Slayton will now be the sole Captain, heading the Military branch of our unit. Several individuals were re-elected to their 2013 positions.

Executive Leadership Officers for 2014:

President: Doug McComas

Vice President: Anson Roland

Treasurer: Don Everett

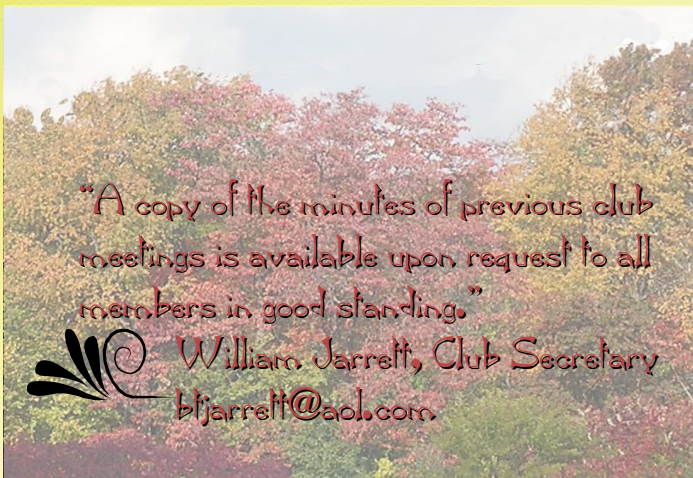
Secretary: Bill Jarrett

Members at Large: Pat Downing, Jeff Verstraete,
Marie Searles



Engagement Announcement

Congratulations! To Zack Vanden Heuvel of the 3rd Michigan Co. F. and his fiancée Heather Jarrett, 7th Michigan



Zack and Heather



Captain Dave Slayton

Military Minutes - October 2013

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

Our first meeting of the fall started with our normal social time at 1:00 pm, with the Military meeting starting at 1:30 pm. During the social time we all looked over the items available for sale from the 7th Michigan sutlery. Thanks to Don Everett for buying, pricing, storing, transporting items to our meetings, and transacting sales. We all appreciate that effort, and having the chance to get reasonably priced accouterments. The meeting itself covered the following topics:

- **2013 Jackson Cascades Muster Review**

The consensus was that the Muster went well, with a minimum of the normal challenges to deal with during such a large event. The weather cooperated again, for which we are all thankful. The battle scenarios were well received and enjoyed by the participants as far as we have heard. A couple of things we plan to work on is making sure the public has good viewing areas, and to have the infantry work with the artillery more closely to take casualties when a cannon fires directly at them, as worked out beforehand. We agreed that Tom Emerick did a great job as overall Union commander, as did the staff that served under him.

We also are very appreciative of other Units that support Jackson as co-hosts or participate in the event. With everyone doing what they can, it makes the event memorable and worthwhile.

- **2014 Jackson Cascades Muster**

Tom Emerick is looking for ideas on 150th anniversary battles to portray, and everyone is encouraged to send him ideas. It is also the 30th anniversary of the Jackson Muster, and we want to find creative ways to celebrate that. We reviewed what is going on with the organizations that we work with (Parks administration, Cascades Inc, etc) to make sure things go smoothly as possible again in 2014.

- **2014 150th Anniversary National Events**

As of the meeting, Tom Emerick reported on three possible events he was aware of. We will keep looking for events and decide early in 2014 which ones we may want to go to.

- May 1-4, Wilderness & Spottsylvania Courthouse (Virginia)
- September 19-21, Battle of Atlanta (Georgia)
- November 15-16, Battle of Franklin (Tennessee)

- **2014 Company Drill Sessions**

Discussion was had regarding whether the 7th should host a drill session again in the spring, but no decision was made. The 4th Michigan Infantry (Captain Russ Paul) has invited the 7th Michigan to attend their Winter Camp (Camp McGregor, Clarklake, MI) for training.

- **Mid-Western Umbrella Organizations**

The military members discussed the merits of joining other organizations. The 7th Michigan has been associated with the Black Hat Battalion for the past few years. We have fallen in with the Black Hats at many events and have thoroughly enjoyed doing so. The Army of the Wabash was formed last year composed mostly of Indiana units. We know and have worked with many of its units and commanders. Another option is

the Cumberland Guard now commanded by our good friend Colonel Rob Van of the 49th Indiana. At the 2013 Jackson Civil War Muster the Great Lakes Battalion extended a formal invitation for the 7th Michigan to join their organization. The GLB is composed of several Michigan units all of whom we have served alongside over the past few decades (4th Michigan, Co. A, 14th Michigan, 16th Michigan, Co. D, 102nd USCT, 114th Pennsylvania, 1st US (Berdan's) Sharpshooters, Co. B, and USS Michigan Marine Guard.). After discussion, it was decided the 7th Michigan Military would recommend at the Club general meeting that we join the Great Lakes Battalion.

- **Generic Impressions – Rifles**

The possibility of purchasing a Lorenze style 3-banded musket was reviewed. New ones are currently more affordable than Enfields or Springfields by a couple of hundred dollars. We discussed whether we should get a Lorenze to have on hand to sell if someone needs a rifle at a reasonable price. There are apparently no issues with stacking arms if there is a mix of all three types of muskets. Any decision to purchase was put on hold since there are none available right now anyway.

- **Military Officer and NCO elections**

The following gentlemen asked to be nominated or were nominated, and elected:

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

The next meeting will be held November 17th, 1:00 pm social time, 1:30 meeting, at Robbins United Methodist Church, 6419 Bunker Road, Eaton Rapids, MI, 48827.

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



The following information, along with the photo at right, was submitted by Steve Church:

“A co-worker of mine (and Tom Edward's) happened to mention that she had an ancestor in the 7th Michigan. Hopefully you can use the photo she provided in the newsletter. The following is some other information she wrote about him (info in parentheses is my addition):

Nathaniel Finch Clemence came to Michigan in 1859 after living in New York and Ohio and settled in the Galesburg area. He was a bookkeeper when he enlisted in 1861 at Galesburg. He served in Company I, was wounded at White Oak Swamp, Va. and discharged due to disability in December 1862. After discharge he traveled with a party west, possibly to the Dakota Territory, for an extended period of time. He kept journals during this time. He married Adelia in January 1865. In 1866 they were on a 40 acre farm on the "townline". In 1877 they moved to Dowling (Eaton County south of Hastings). He died January 29, 1896 and is buried in the Dowling Cemetery. The farm house still stands in Dowling.

His brother Edward also served in Company I, 7th Michigan Inf. His brother Frank was living in Assyria when he enlisted with the 4th Michigan Cav.”

Editor's Note: The Assyria mentioned is, of course, not in the Middle East, but rather in Barry County, MI.

Notice that on the lower left corner of the photo, the name of the photographer can be seen. It is "Heath ." The photographer's name was George Heath, his place of business, Hastings, MI. 7th MI club member Mark Heath is a descendant of this man, a distant cousin, two or three times removed.



Jackson Report: Special Impressions Area

This year's Special Impressions Area was a huge success in terms of numbers, with 32 people in "The Village," along with the Emerald Peacock and the Medical Tent bringing the participation level up to over 50. The usual group of trades people and interesting characters, as well as some new ones, took part in "Jacksonburg 1863." Our Mayor and barber, Don Everett, did his part of keeping order in the Village and not letting those beards grow too long.

Trades people included the following: tinsmith; gunsmith; 1860's beauty tips; two dressmakers; a candlemaker; woodwright; stage stop; and post office.

First person impressions of Generals Robert E. Lee, Ulysses S. Grant; George E. Pickett, Henry Heth, William Fitzhugh "Rooney" Lee, and others were very well received. President Abraham Lincoln, and Confederate President Jefferson Davis presented rousing speeches. Quaker abolitionist Laura Haviland of Lenewee County was in attendance.

A mourning impression and funeral was presented by our own 7th MI civilians, with a special guest appearance by "Sheldon Cooper and Lulu." The mourning tent and coffin seemed to be our most popular display. These portrayals along with the medical scenario and Emerald Peacock at the edge of the battlefield proved very popular with spectators.

Submitted by Steve Hainstock
Living History Co-Coordinator

Education Director's Report



We were able to fulfill our educational mission. The 7th provided programs to several schools and service clubs. Our usual school programs include Ovid-Elsie, Birney Middle School in Southfield, and White Pine Academy. To those we added Dexter Middle School, and Rob Stone provided a program for his son's class.

Dave Slayton and Jeff Verstraete did a presentation for the Eaton Rapids Kiwanis, and we also provided a program for a JC chapter in Lansing. I would like to thank Dick Williams, Jim Kirschensteiner, Steve Hainstock, Jim MacKinnon, Rob Stone, Steve Church, and Lyle and Walter Malaski for their help, as well as anyone else I may have missed.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Everett
Education Director



Civilian Report

Hello all!

First I want to thank everyone for making this a great re-enacting season. I especially want to thank Dave Downing for doing the funeral service at our mourning house at Jackson and Vonda Warren for all of the decorations she brought! I am looking forward to more great events next year.

Thank you Melissa Bateman for volunteering to help me chair the civilian committee this year!

I hope everyone that came to the annual ladies weekend had a great time and look forward to doing it again next fall. If you couldn't make it this year we hope to see you next time!

At our Sunday, November 17th club meeting we will be making cross stitch/embroidered name tags. We will have the supplies and examples. These will help to identify us to new and potential new members.

Our November sewing party on Saturday, the 16th will be at Ellyn Painter's house. We will be making ornaments for our Christmas party in December. We will have all the supplies and instructions. Anyone interested can meet for breakfast at 9am at Bob Evans, if you don't want to come to breakfast you can meet us at Ellyn's house at 10am. Please bring a dish to pass for lunch.

I hope to see you there!

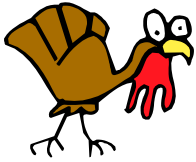
Bob Evans: 3321 E Michigan Ave, Jackson MI

Ellyn's house: 736 Gettysburg Ave, Jackson MI
phone: 517-782-4387

Katie Everett
Melissa Bateman

Civilian Chairs

Map & directions to Ellyn's house – next page.....



Have an eventful
and Happy
Thanksgiving

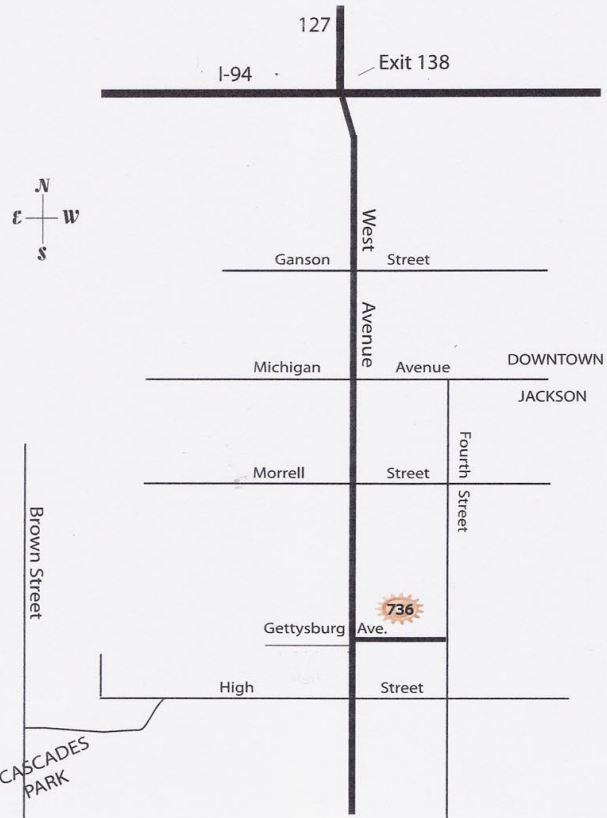
Appreciation Dinner

The annual Appreciation Dinner for Cascades Civil War Muster participants was held this past Sunday evening, Nov. 3, at The Cascades Manor House in Jackson. Several 7th MI members attended. The evening included a home-style buffet dinner, a display of the winning entries from the Muster photo contest this summer, an auction, awards ceremony, and live Civil War era music (one piece featured accompaniment by Cascades Inc., President Kim Conant, playing the "Jawbone!") President and Mrs. Lincoln (Fred & Bonnie Priebe) were special guests, and the President gave his famous Gettysburg Address. In the Awards portion of the evening, Tom Emerick was the recipient of the Reenactor of the Year award, presented to him by Jeff Verstraete.

Photos by Ellyn Painter

Map & Directions to Ellyn Painter's House - 736 Gettysburg Ave., Jackson, MI phone: 517-782-4387

US-127 becomes West Ave. after going under the I-94 overpass. South on West Ave. all the way through town, about 3 miles. Go through several traffic lights, including those at Michigan Ave., and Morrell St. Gettysburg is the 6th street after Morrell. Left onto Gettysburg (just before the PC Solutions sign.. Ellyn's house is at the top of the hill, on the left side, tan with dark blue shutters and round-topped front door.



November 2013 Civil War Sesquicentennial Report

Of the 170 Sesquicentennial events already listed on the Reenactors' Civil War Sesquicentennial Calendar for 2013 on the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners' website (www.micw150.us), there are 8 events listed for November. Additional information on each of these events may be obtained by going to www.micw150.us/2013events.htm and clicking on the month in question. Events for 2013 and 2014 can be added anytime by contacting pcinc@prodigy.net.

-November 2013--

9. Michigan's Annual Civil War Reenactors Conference (Michigan Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo, Lansing, Michigan). 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Contact Bruce Butgereit at civil-war@comcast.net.

9. 7th Annual Detroit Veterans' Day Parade (Detroit Michigan). Staging 8:00 AM, Parade 10:00 AM. Contact Rick Danes at mimessrd@aol.com.

10. Annual Veterans Day Massing of the Colors (Michigan Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo, Lansing, Michigan) 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM. Contact Keith Harrison at pcinc@prodigy.net.

11. Veterans Day Parade (700 E Ash St., Mason, Michigan) 3:00 PM (Muster at 1:30 PM). American Legion Browne/Cavender. Assemble in the east parking lot of the Ingham County Fair Grounds between Ash St and Kipp Rd in Mason starting at 1:30 PM. The parade will step off from the County Fair Grounds at 3:00 PM. Scott Shattuck and his Mason Middle School class of Civil War Field Musicians will be leading the troops. Contact Keith Harrison at pcinc@prodigy.net or by Telephone at 517-694-9394.

11. Jackson Veterans Day Ceremony (Defense of the Flag Monument -located between Michigan Ave and Wildwood at First Street, Jackson, Michigan). 11:00 AM. SUVCW Members of Austin Blair Camp #7 gather at monument at 10:30 AM. Program starts at 11:00 AM. Contact: Robert Greggs at misucw7@gmail.com.

20. Presentation: Confederate Finances (Lily Theater, Conner Prairie Interactive History Park, 13400 Allisonville Road, Fishers, Indiana). 7:30 PM (Doors open at 7:00 PM). Presenter is Harvey Warner. Website: <http://civilwar.connerprairie.org/share/calendar>. Contact Paul Watson at pwatson001@indy.rr.com.

23. Sesquicentennial Observance: Remembrance Day Commemoration and Parade (Gettysburg, Pennsylvania). 8:00 AM Placing of US and Michigan flags at each of the Michigan soldiers buried in the Michigan section of the Gettysburg cemetery. 11:00 AM Program, 1:00 PM Parade. Two thousand plus participant parade. Contact *Bruce Butgereit* at civil-war@comcast.net.

23. Special State of Michigan Sesquicentennial Commemoration: Michigan at Gettysburg (National Cemetery, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania). 4:00 PM rededication of Michigan Civil War Graves. *Michigan at Gettysburg* will commemorate the role Michigan soldiers played in the Gettysburg battle in July 1863, leading to the Gettysburg address by President Abraham Lincoln on November 19, 1863. The Michigan graves at the National Gettysburg Cemetery will be marked with an American and Michigan flag and rededicated. Soil from Michigan will be sprinkled on each of the Michigan graves. Contact *Bruce Butgereit* at civil-war@comcast.net

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 state-wide Reenactors' Events Calendar.





7th Michigan Christmas Party **Saturday, December 7, 2013**

12:30-1pm Social Hour
1pm Lunch

Robbins United Methodist Church
6419 Bunker Road
Eaton Rapids, MI, 48827

Lunch – Main Dish/rolls/ beverage and
dinner service all provided
Please bring a dish (or two) to pass
(depending on family size)
*No Alcohol

Program / Awards –
anyone wishing to give out an award or perform
Please contact Pat Downing 517-676-5998
at least a week in advance



See you on December 7th
Your Christmas Party Committee
Questions to Pat Downing – 517-676-5998