

THE UNION VOLUNTEER

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

Volume XXXIV No. 11 November 2015



Club Leadership

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

President: Rob Stone
Vice President: Katie Everett
Secretary: Bill Jarrett
Treasurer: Don Everett
Military: Doug McComas, Captain
Civilian Coordinator: Julie Everett
Board Members-at-Large:
Doug McComas, Joy Henderson,
Dave Downing
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

7th MI members at Williamston's annual history day, Sunday, Oct. 4, 2015. L to R: Andrew McComas, Jim Kirschensteiner, Steve Church, Gordon Duda, Doug McComas. Photo submitted by Gordon Duda.

DUES ARE DUE!

Please remember, if you haven't already, to "re-up" your club membership!

Family: \$19.20; Individual: \$16.00. Annual dues can be paid at a meeting or by mail to:

7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Co. B, Inc., PO Box 16206, Lansing MI 48901-6206.

If your dues are not paid by Feb 28th 2016 you will not receive the March newsletter or any others until your dues are paid. Also you will not be included in the roster for Greenfield Village. **So pay your dues now !**

Please be sure to include name, family member names, address, e-mail, and phone number with your dues so I can update the membership list.
Thank-you.

Don Everett, Treasurer
djkeverett@comcast.net

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.

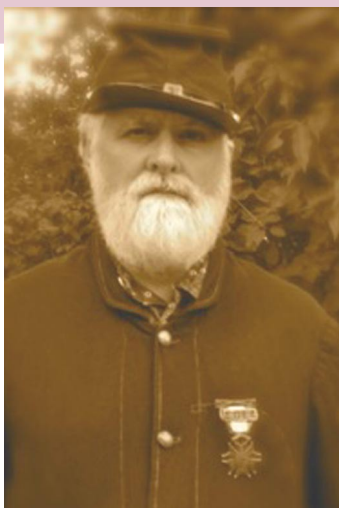
Email submissions to me at:
7thminewsletter@gmail.com

Or mail to:
736 Gettysburg Ave.
Jackson, MI 49203

Thank-you.


Ellyn Painter, Editor

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



Having been in the Seventh Michigan's ranks since 1992, I am glad for the opportunity to serve the club in a new dimension. I am also grateful for the willingness of Board members to further the Seventh's contribution to the great hobby of Civil War re-enacting. I thank them in advance for their help, patience, and counsel as I "learn the ropes."

I believe the Civil War Sesquicentennial's end is a turning point for our hobby. I've heard many longtime re-enactors state that the Sesquicentennial's conclusion marks the end of their involvement in it. The generation of people who led the way since the Quadricentennial (i.e., 125th; I couldn't resist using that word!) has come to the point in their lives that many of them choose to step back from active participation. Whether they wore Blue, Gray/Butternut or civilian garb, we owe these folks our sincere thanks for keeping alive the memory of '61-'65.

The Seventh occupies a place of importance in re-enacting within Michigan and in the Midwest. We've earned a reputation for impressions (civilian and military alike) that are authentic and faithful to history. Our club has always been open to individuals and families, something for which we can be proud.

What might the future hold for the Seventh Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. B? I believe the working group headed by Bob Smith will provide us with plenty of food for thought. Stay tuned for developments; be prepared to share your opinions on the subject!

ROB STONE

HARVEST BALL REPORT:

Despite an unusually small turnout—and a motion at the Oct. 18 Annual Meeting to cancel due to poor advance ticket sales (which obviously did not pass) our annual Harvest Ball went forward on the evening of Saturday, October 24, and was deemed a success. Amid the lovely autumnal decorations, approximately 30-40 individuals attended, more than were initially expected. Some participants commented that, far from detracting from the fun, the small number of dancers on the floor actually enhanced the experience, since there was no crowding to contend with! As this was the last year in which the Williams' will be able to serve as coordinators, an individual or individuals are still needed to take over this duty. Please contact Linda or Dick Williams if you can help. Phone: 517-484-2496

lansinglinda@comcast.net dwlansingmi@comcast.net

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

William Jarrett, Club Secretary

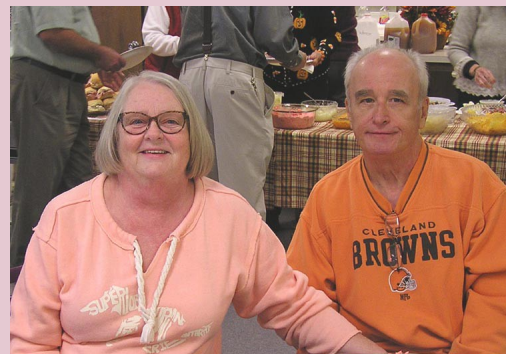


bjjarrett@aol.com

*Goodbye,
good friends!*



Following the annual club meeting on Oct. 18, a goodbye party was held for former long time 7th MI members, Barry and Stormi Stuler, who recently moved to Flagstaff, AZ., where they have a daughter and grandchild. We had some great parties and sewing-bees at their spacious home in Charlotte. As the cake says, "We will miss you!"



Stormi & Barry Stuler

ANNUAL MEETING ELECTION RESULTS

Our annual business and election meeting took place on Sunday, Oct. 18 at the Robbins United Methodist Church, Eaton Rapids. As per custom, the members present elected new military officers and club leadership for the coming year. The results are as follows:

President: Rob Stone
Vice President: Katie Everett
Secretary: Bill Jarrett (re-elected incumbent)
Treasurer: Don Everett (re-elected incumbent)
Board Members-at-Large: Doug McComas,
Joy Henderson, Dave Downing
Civilian Coordinator: Julie Everett
All other posts remain the same:
Webmaster: Dennis Zank
Newsletter Editor: Ellyn Painter
Club Historian: Doug McComas
Quartermaster: Don Everett
New Member Chairperson (military & civilian):
Jeff Verstraete

Military leadership election results:

Chief Bugler: Mark Heath
Captain: Doug McComas
Lieutenant: Dave Slayton
1st Sergeant: Dan Conklin
2nd & 3rd Sergeants: Andrew McComas, Bill Jarrett
Corporals: Dan Malick, Scott Timoszyk, Denny Zank,
Rob Stone

OTHER ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

EDUCATION REPORT:

We have 1 school program scheduled for 2016. It is Ovid on April 15th at 1pm. you need to arrive by noon. I have been contacting other schools that we have done programs for in the past to see if they might book a program. We will be going to Birney Middle School again next year date to be determined.

Don Everett, Education Director

QUARTERMASTER REPORT:

We have a fresh supply of powder and caps. Goex ffg is \$15 per pound, caps are \$7 for a tin of 100 RWS musket caps. We also have a limited supply of No. 3 Goex Skirmish powder at \$13 per pound. We have some new merchandise in the 7th Sutlery. We recently purchased gear from Barry Stuler and it is for sale. Contact me to see what we have or attend a meeting as it will be there. We have 3 rifles to sell; all come with bayonet and scabbard - '64 Springfield \$500 and 2 Enfields for \$600 choice.

Don Everett, Quartermaster

djkeverett@comcast.net

EVENTS STRATEGY COMMITTEE UPDATE:

Committee Chairman Bob Smith will be holding a meeting for all members of the committee just prior to the next regular club meeting on Sunday, Nov. 15. As was previously requested, anyone who wishes to submit ideas for how the club ought to proceed as we move forward "post-Jackson" should get your comments to Bob ASAP.

PHOTOS NEEDED!

Webmaster Dennis Zank is in need of more photos of past or recent events to post on our official club website.

Everyone loves to look at photos! Not only are they historically valuable to both old and new members, but they also give prospective recruits a visual "tour" of the kinds of things reenactors do, and demonstrate why it is such a great hobby. So, if you are one who takes pictures at events, please take the time to go through your collection and share your best shots. Email jpgs to Denny at the website e-address.

NEW MEMBER WELCOME:

We extend a warm welcome to new 7th MI member:
Julie Sarge

NEXT CLUB MEETING:

Sunday, Nov. 15 at Robbins UMC
(club meetings are the 3rd Sunday of each month Oct. - April, then will be announced)

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS:

Nov. 6-8 - Ladies' Retreat (see Civilian Report)
Nov. 11 - Veterans Day Parade, Mason, MI
Rally at fairgrounds, 1:00pm
Nov. 14 - Sewing Party at Ellyn Painter's house
Dec. 5 - Club Christmas Party (see details on pg.14)

Possible Max Events for 2016:

Feb.: None
Mar. 12: Officers and NCO Drill at Tom Emerick's home,
Mason, MI (or poss. at park across the street)
Apr.: Charlie Colegrove Memorial Shoot, with Civilian
Sewing Bee (as we did last year). Breakfast,
potluck lunch served, with club meeting to follow
lunch. There will be a \$5 charge per person.
May: Greenfield Village
June: Turkeyville
July: Charlton Park
Aug.: Mason
Sept.: None
Oct.: 7th MI Harvest Ball
Nov.: None
Dec.: Christmas Party



THE CAPTAIN'S REPORT



Captain Doug McComas

I've tried to find a way to put things into words. I am reminded of Col. Chamberlain at Gettysburg. In recounting the 20th Maine's stand at Round Top he said (paraphrasing), We couldn't retreat, we couldn't hold, so I ordered fix bayonets and we went forward. We can only do the same. What was is no more, staying the same is not an option. Let us fix bayonets and take the field. I am indebted to my many mentors in the 7th Michigan for this opportunity; I will miss many so; I will highlight but two. Tom Emerick, who taught me with great patience as his NCO, and Dave Slayton, who had confidence in my words and suggestions and assures me I am capable of the great task.

We will find our way forward. I am neither of those fine men and our path will look different again as we move forward. I request your support, your prayers and your patience as I struggle to learn this new role.

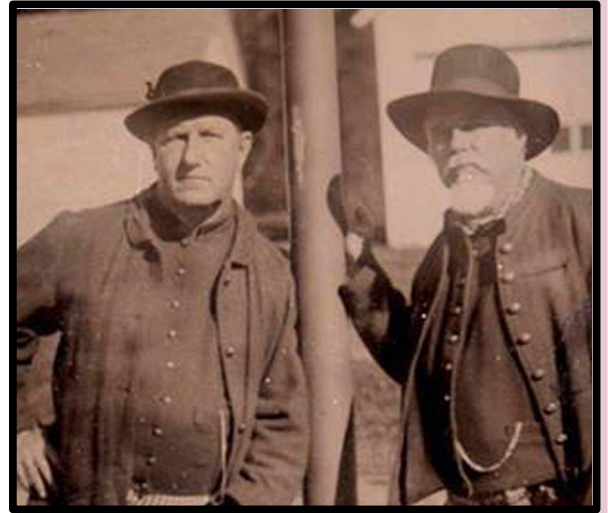
Your most obedient Servant

Doug

AFTER ACTION REPORT: WOLCOTT MILLS

By Doug McComas

The Buge (Mark Heath) and I made the trip to Wolcott Mills October 9-11. Mark was quickly assigned as Chief Bugler and I was welcomed into the ranks of the combined forces of the 4th, 21st, and 3rd Michigan as a private. Despite cold nights, the weather was beautiful and the camaraderie first rate. Union troops were capably led by Russ Paul and the event was highlighted by a running tactical through the woods Saturday morning. I was pleased to get my likeness struck with my pard and had the pleasure--or trauma--of seeing Sgt. Ron Clary from the 4th march off to the Emerald Peacock and Confederate camp in a dress. Despite that, a very good event that I would strongly recommend we consider adding to our schedule of events to support our pards from GLB.



Doug and Mark; Photo by Robert Beech

7th Michigan, Co. B
35th
Anniversary
1981 - 2016

Next year, 2016, marks the 35th anniversary of the formation of our unit, the 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. B. Discussion has begun—at least among the Ladies—as to what special activities we might wish to undertake as a club in order to celebrate the event. One possible idea has been voiced—that of creating a special cockade for members to wear at 2016 reenactments and other events we participate in. Be thinking. More on this later.



MILITARY NEWS – OCTOBER 2015



Lieutenant Slayton

As of October 18th, 2015, I have resigned my Captain's commission to take a back seat to another. Bowing to the will of one I respect, plus a small bribe, I will be available to fill in for the new Captain if needed, plus we have multiple others who can fill in. Otherwise, I will be in the ranks burning powder. Thanks also for the card and gift I received at the meeting. It means a great deal to me that everyone supported my time as Captain, and helped me learn and make it through.

First order of business was the election of officers and NCO's by secret ballot. Thank you to everyone that accepted nomination or ran for office. The election results are as follows:

CAPTAIN: Doug McComas. LIEUTENANT: Dave Slayton.

1st SERGEANT: Dan (Pete) Conklin. 2nd & 3rd SERGEANTS: Andrew McComas, Bill Jarrett.

CORPORALS: Dan Malick, Denny Zank, Scott Timoszyk, Rob Stone.

Captain McComas has also issued the first order for his command, and it makes great sense.

General Order Number 1

October 18, 2015: Given the current state of the hobby and numbers at events;

All officers and NCOs shall come to each event prepared to fall in as a private if needed. Gear shall include, if possible, a private's blouse, weapon and sufficient rounds for a weekend event.

Capt. McComas

Now for some event dates to consider.

November 11, 2015: Mason Veteran's Day Parade (3pm, form up starting at 1pm, Fairgrounds on Ash Street, or next door at Rayner Park. Not sure which one; find the guys in blue!)

March 12, 2016: Officer and NCO training (by Tom Emerick, Mason) see details below.

April 15, 2016: Ovid School program.

April sometime, 2016: Colegrove Memorial Target Shoot, details to follow.

April 16-17, 2016: Possible battalion drill, Historic Fort Wayne.

July 9th, 2016: Lansing, Capitol Bldg, Civil War Flag return ceremony, 1pm. Other activities 10am – 4pm.

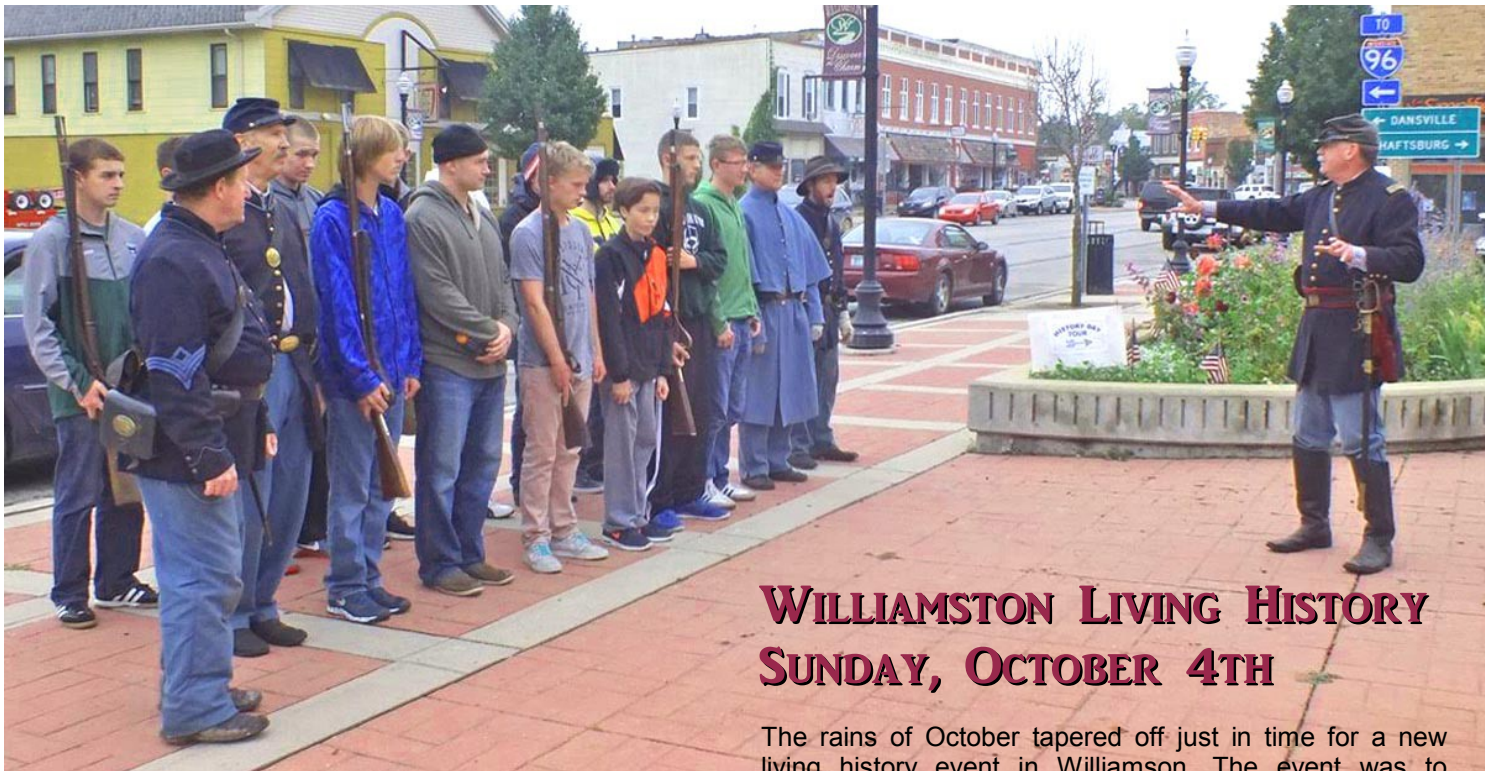
March 12, 2016: Officer & NCO School of Instruction at Mason, Michigan

Tom Emerick volunteered to host the 7th Michigan's annual school of military instruction in 2016. Classroom instruction will be indoors with outdoor drill in the yard and adjoining city park. Period uniform is strongly encouraged. Participants should wear the rank they will be serving in during the 2016 re-enacting season. Enlisted and NCOs need to bring rifles and accoutrements (no ammunition) and officers their swords and accoutrements. Members from other units are welcome to attend. Coffee and donuts (breakfast) and a party sub and side dishes (lunch) will be provided. You are welcome to contribute a side dish if you wish. More information to follow. Contact is Tom at tomjoanemerick@hotmail.com or (517) 604-6116 and his address is 106 E. South Street, Mason, Michigan 48854

We will be voting on maximum events in February, most likely, at our regular meeting.

In your service,

Lt. Dave Slayton, Invalid Corp.



WILLIAMSTON LIVING HISTORY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4TH

Photos submitted by Jim Kirschensteiner except where otherwise noted.

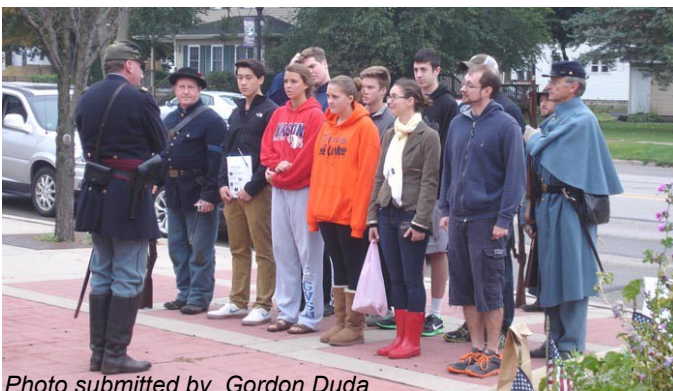


Photo submitted by Gordon Duda



The rains of October tapered off just in time for a new living history event in Williamston. The event was to celebrate Williamston's history and was geared toward high school students who received extra credit for visiting several locations around the City of Williamston. The 7th Michigan Co B, set up in front of the City Hall on East Grand River and had 16 people participating, both military and civilian. The event lasted from noon to 5:00 pm. The military demonstrated Civil War drills by incorporating students and spectators into the drill. The military also conducted firing demonstrations, camp life, and cooking over a fire, and did a lot of recruiting. Numerous business cards were passed out and we may get some new recruits from the event. The civilians were under a fly which incorporated many decorating features from Vonda. The civilians demonstrated games, discussions of what the women did when the soldiers went off to war, such as sewing and taking care of the farm, and, best of all, organized a picnic lunch for the club participants (thanks Vonda). All in all, it turned out very well and we all had a good time.

Jim Kirschensteiner



FROM THE CARLSONS: TWO EVENT REPORTS



Gilbert & Cyndi Carlson, Hartford City, IN



"Belle of Louisville" - Louisville, KY, Sept. 5-6

Over the Labor Day Weekend, Cyndi and I, and our daughter Christina took a trip to Louisville, Kentucky for an event that took place at both the Brown Hotel, the Henry Clay Ballroom, and on the paddle wheeler the Belle of Louisville.

Saturday morning started out with a workshop in the Brown Hotel regarding proper etiquette at a formal ball. On Saturday evening was the Grand Ball at the Henry Clay Ballroom. On Sunday we enjoyed a three hour leisurely voyage up the Ohio River and through the nearby locks.

As far as Cyndi and I are concerned, the best part of the trip was that our daughter Christina came with us. We first drove the Lexington, Kentucky to pick her up from college, and then drove to Louisville for the event, and then returned her to college in Lexington. Until her recent departure to college, she was always with us as we attended all of Civil War Era events, and especially dances and balls.

Hartford City, Indiana Reenactment, October 10 & 11.

Background: Originally we were torn between attending Wolcott Mill or the Hartford City events. We were attracted to both: Hartford City had a dance (which we love to do) and Wolcott Mill would have many of our friends in attendance. In the end, our decision was made based upon the availability of a motel room near Hartford City and no rooms near Wolcott Mill. So we journeyed to Hartford City since we do not camp.

The photo of the cannon being fired was taken on Sunday when the battle of Appomattox was being reenacted. The actual firing of this cannon occurred after General Lee had surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to General Grant. It was fired by a Confederate group in an apparent salute. From what I gathered, a 3# charge was used which I took to be unusual based upon the excitement of a younger soldier and they very loud noise it made.

The dance on Saturday night occurred on the grass under a large "big top" tent. It was enjoyable and, much to our delight, had many younger (aged 10-20 year old participants who appeared to have had a very good time.

Saturday night also had a night firing of cannons that lasted about 45 minutes.

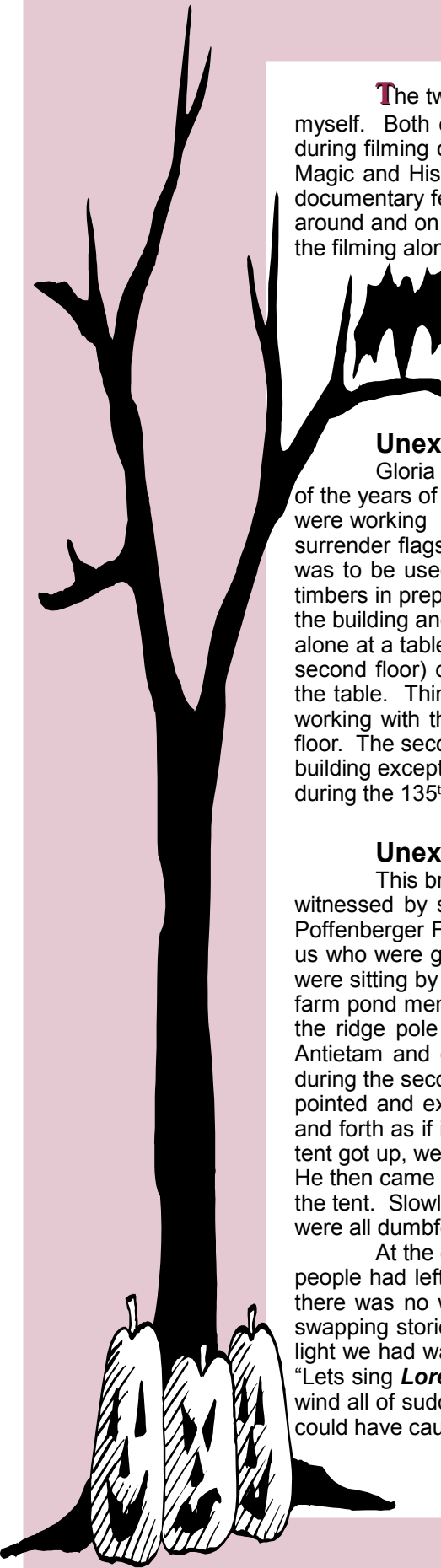
Gilbert Carlson

Aren't spooky stories fun? Since the "Haunted Month" is just now past, I've included a few more ghost stories., from some of our club members. Hope you enjoy them! They begin on the next page.



GHOST STORIES FROM ANTIETAM

By Jim Kirschensteiner



The two stories I am about to relate are true stories witnessed by several people, not just myself. Both encounters with the unknown, supernatural, or, if you like, ghost stories occurred during filming of a documentary on the battle of Antietam. A Lansing based film company, Media Magic and Historical Films, Inc., in cooperation with the U.S. Park Service at Antietam, filmed a documentary feature length film covering the battle at Antietam. It was filmed at various locations around and on the actual battlefield in Sharpsburg, MD. It took over three years to film. Much of the filming along with the campground and support facilities was at the Middlekauff-Poffenberger

Farm immediately north of where most of the battle took place. The farm complex and buildings date back to the 18th century and are well preserved. A Union hospital was set up on this farm. All the buildings became hospitals. Amputated arms and legs were disposed of in a farm pond which is still there today. It is very likely that deceased soldiers were also buried on this farm, some of whom have not been found.

Unexplained Occurrence Number 1: a drop of blood:

Gloria and Sarah Kirschensteiner were in charge of the wardrobe department during two of the years of filming on the Middlekauff-Poffenberger Farm. Gloria, Sarah and one other person were working on the first floor in the 18th century, two story stone house. Gloria was creating two surrender flags which were to be used in one of the scenes. A white shirt was ripped in two and was to be used for the flags. The interior of the building was stripped down to the 18th century timbers in preparation for historic restoration. A new floor had been installed in the second floor of the building and the owner had asked that no one be permitted to go upstairs. Gloria was working alone at a table, when a large drop of blood fell from the ceiling (the bottom side of the floor of the second floor) onto a cardboard box containing various sundry sewing supplies and splashed on the table. Thinking someone had snuck upstairs to play a joke, Gloria, Sarah and the third lady working with them went upstairs to investigate. There was only one stairway up to the second floor. The second floor was empty. There were no stains on the new floor. No one else was in the building except for these three ladies.....and, perhaps, a ghost or two. This occurrence took place during the 135th anniversary of the battle at Antietam.

Unexplained Occurrence Number 2: Lorena:

This brush with the supernatural actually occurred twice in two consecutive years and was witnessed by several people. After the first year of filming was completed at the Middlekauff-Poffenberger Farm, most of the reenactors, actors and crew had left the farm, except for a few of us who were going to leave the next day. I was in the military camp with some of the guys. We were sitting by a fire in front of one of the wall tents that was still up. The tent was adjacent to the farm pond mentioned above. The end flaps were open and a lit candle lantern was hanging from the ridge pole inside the tent. We were telling stories related to the filming and the battle at Antietam and decided to sing some Civil War songs. One of the songs was **Lorena**. It was during the second verse that it happened. One of our group happened to look at the wall tent. He pointed and exclaimed, "Would you look at that!" The lantern inside the tent was rocking back and forth as if in a strong wind, but the night was calm and there was no wind. The owner of the tent got up, went slowly into the tent, placed his hands on the lantern and stopped it from moving. He then came back to the campfire and sat down. We all had our eyes glued to the lantern inside the tent. Slowly at first, the lantern started to swing again until it swung as strongly as before. We were all dumbfounded. What could have moved that lantern.....perhaps a ghost.

At the end of the second summer of filming, a similar situation occurred in that most of the people had left for home. I, along with a few others remained in the military camp, but this time there was no wall tent or lantern. It was a still, warm night and we were sitting by a campfire swapping stories and I related the incident of the swinging lantern of the previous year. The only light we had was the light from the campfire and light from candles stuck in our bayonets. I said, "Lets sing **Lorena** again and see what happens". We got to the second verse and a strong, cold wind all of sudden came out of nowhere and blew out our candles and then ceased to blow. What could have caused this? Could it have been a ghost who was partial to the song **Lorena**?

THE SMITH FAMILY'S GETTYSBURG "GHOST" ENCOUNTER

By Bob Smith

When we attended the Gettysburg 130th Event, Katie, Maggie and Becky went to a "Life Regression" program conducted by the author of a number of "Ghosts of Gettysburg" books. The idea was to try and discover if you had been part of the Civil War in a "prior life" through a kind of self-hypnosis. They got a real kick out of this and proceeded to read most of this guy's books relating the various ghost sightings in and around Gettysburg. By the time we returned for the Gettysburg 135th Event they were primed to go looking for a ghostly encounter.

So, on an evening during the event we piled into the van and drove out to Devil's Den in search of a willing ghost. We positioned ourselves on top of the rocky jumble that is Devil's Den, overlooking the "Valley of Death" and Plum Run. The latter is often called "Bloody Run" due to the fact that the water was said to have run red due to all the carnage that occurred in the little creek that forms the run. This area was noted for its ghost sightings and seemed like a good spot due to the sheer number of both Union and Confederate soldiers who gave their "last full measure" near this spot. But, we wanted to leave nothing to chance. Accordingly, I had brought along my trusty tin whistle and as the sun sank in the west and darkness began to descend I proceeded to play every mournful tune I knew so as to conjure up a willing spirit. I played "Lorena", "The Vacant Chair" and "All Quiet Along the Potomac Tonight," all apparently to no avail as no spirit was forthcoming.

Then as it became steadily darker we saw it. A strange, golden glow in the trees across on the other side of "Bloody Run" at the foot of Little Round Top. That glow had definitely NOT been there a few minutes earlier. There wasn't another soul to be seen on this part of the battlefield. The fact is the park closes at sundown and we weren't even supposed to be there. The glow did not move. It just hovered there in the trees and even seemed to get a bit brighter as we watched it. If the apparition wasn't going to come to us, one of us would have to go to it! I bet you can guess who got that job! I was duly appointed to reconnoiter the apparition and report back my findings. I set off down through the rocks and across the little bridge that spans Plum Run for my own personal encounter with the spirit world.

When I returned to my intrepid "ghost hunters" a few minutes later I reported on my encounter. I had found a building containing public bathrooms in the woods beyond the creek and on a pole over the building a mercury vapor lamp that turns on automatically when it gets dark enough to warrant it.

Well, for a few moments there we thought we had a "live one"...or would that have been a "dead one". Feeling rather crestfallen, we piled back in the van, returned to the event site and retired from the ghost hunting business.



BALL GOWN FOR SALE: Dress is over 20 years old, but only worn once. Made by professional dressmaker Jackie Wakeling Jacobs. Approximate size: 8 -10. Possibly size 12. See photos below.

Owner's description: "Unfortunately, the photos do not do it justice; it is a beautiful copper color with brown velvet cummerbund and sleeve and neck piping." Accessories included are a flowered headpiece, sandalwood fan, and small clutch bag of same fabric as dress. Asking price: \$176. - 200.00.

Owner is a member of the N-SSA. She and her husband left Michigan on Nov. 1 to winter in Florida, and since the dress remains here, it would not be available to a buyer until spring, when the Bourlands return to Michigan. Interested parties may contact Mrs. Bourland at her Florida address.

Contact info: Jacqueline Bourland; Winter Home: 10100 Burnt Store Road, River Haven Park, #121, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950. Jackie's cell: 517-285-4288. MI Home: 2222 W. Lily Lake Road, Harrison, MI 48625 (H) 989-539-3793



FOR SALE: Model #12 Bernina sewing machine, used once.

Purchased to complete an emergency order while other machine was being repaired. Does 20 stitch patterns plus buttonhole pattern. Paid over \$200.00. Will sell for \$150.00

Call Sandy McCarrick: 517-994-6013 or e-mail at smcarrick1936@aol.com





Civilian News

Hello All! I would like to thank Vonda for hosting the October sewing party. We all had a great time and enjoyed the festive decorations! I am happy to see that for the past 2 sewing parties the ladies have been staying longer to visit with each other. I think this is a good sign for the year to come.

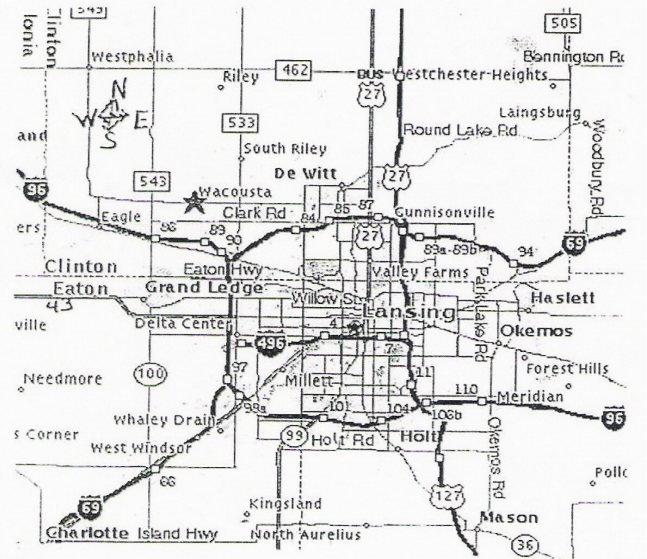
Our next sewing party will be at Ellyn Painter's home in Jackson on November 14th. This sewing party will be a little bit different because we will be making the tables favors for the Christmas party. This year we are making sock snowmen. I will have the supplies (socks, rice, and rubber bands) to make them. I will also have stuff to decorate them. If you would like you can bring stuff to decorate our snowmen (buttons, pompoms, material for scarfs, pins, etc.). Those who wish to meet for breakfast can join us at the Bob Evans just off 127 at 9am. If you do not wish to join us for breakfast you can meet us at Ellyn's house at 10am. As always please bring a dish to pass for lunch.

At our breakout meeting we talked a little about button strings. Anyone that want to trade buttons or start a string please bring your buttons to the November club meeting on the 15th. At the meeting I collected contact information from everyone so that we can have a civilian roster. If you were not at the meeting or did not get me your contact information and would like to be included I just need you name, phone number, and email address (if you have one) and what would be your preferred method of contact. I will be bringing a completed list for everyone to the November meeting. We also discussed some ideas of things we could do at event next year to boost enthusiasm. We came up with some really good ideas and I would like to continue to talk about this at our meeting in November.

Our ladies retreat is almost here. We will be able to get into the cabin at 4pm on Friday November 6th and will have the cabin until 4pm on Sunday the 8th. You will be on your own for dinner on Friday night. I will be cooking breakfast on Saturday and Sunday and dinner on Saturday night; if you wish to be included in meals please let me know. There will be a small charge for camp this year of \$10 for the weekend and \$5 for the day; also there will be a small charge for meals. The cabin has a full kitchen with stove, refrigerator, and microwave, bunk beds upstairs, bathrooms (no shower) and tables to work on. We will be bringing a TV to watch movies on for the weekend. You can bring any project (sewing, knitting, and scrapbook, etc.) to work on, a book to read or just come to relax. You will need to bring bedding (sheets, blankets, sleeping bag, and pillows). I look forward to seeing you there!



An example of a button string



Mill Run GS Camp

9155 Looking Glass Brook Road, Wacousta, MI

Driving Directions: Take I-96 west toward Flint/Grand Rapids. Take the Grand River Ave. Exit #90. Turn left onto Grand River Hwy (Bus. I-96). Continue to follow Grand River Hwy. Turn right onto Wacousta Rd. Follow Wacousta Rd. south until you cross a bridge (Looking Glass River). Turn left at the first street to the left. The entrance to the Girl Scout Camp is the first drive on the left.

Katie Everett

Civilian Chair

(517)420-6837 cinderellie_2003@yahoo.com

Bob Evans

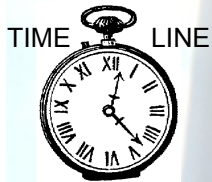
3321 E Michigan, Jackson

Ellyn's House

736 Gettysburg Ave, Jackson

517-782-4387

Directions to Ellyn's house: US-127 becomes West Ave. After going under the I-94 overpass. (If coming from I-94, get off at Exit 138 – to West Ave. South on West Ave. most of way through town (about 3 miles). Gettysburg is 6th street after Morrell St. traffic light. Turn left onto Gettysburg; Ellyn's house is at top of hill, on left. Tan w. Dark blue shutters and door.



THE HISTORY OF TWO GRAND FLAGS

By Doug McComas,

7th MI Club Historian



Gloria comparing the two flags. See the April newsletter for details.

*"A dramatic scene was enacted at the close when Col. G.W. LaPoint, Wilson Wis., who rescued the flag, presented the old banner to the City of Monroe. The flag was given to the regiment by the Ladies of Monroe in 1864. As Mayor Betz and Rev. Smith held the flag each comrade marched about and gave it a farewell kiss. The majority of the veterans as well as a number in the audience wept and all breathed messages of love and veneration to the old fighting emblem. About sixty of the 884 men and officers who left for the front survive." **

On July 9, 2016 the 7th Michigan Company B. reactivated will repeat this ceremony with our reproduction of that very same flag as we surrender our beloved silk banner for display and preservation at the Michigan state capitol.

This long overdue article will attempt to provide a brief history of both the original flag and our own reproduction silk banner.

The Original Flag

The flag to be given to this Regiment by the ladies of Monroe has been ordered. It is to be of blue silk, with the Coat of Arms of the State, State motto, name of the Regiment, by whom presented, with the names and dates of some of their most important battles, embroidered thereon. It will be a magnificent affair, costing upwards of \$200.00.

The flag was provided through funds raised by the "ladies of Monroe" and its completion was done in large part at the Catholic Convent and School in Monroe, Michigan (St. Mary's Academy) which remains today. The good sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary constructed the flag using the first sewing machine at the Academy, but with much work done by hand. Those sisters were:

Sister M. Xavier Eagan, Sister M. Frances, Sister M. Gertrude Gerretson, Sister M. Catherine Biry, Sister M. Agnes McGovern, Sister Ignatius Doyle, Sister M. Josephine White, and Sister M.A Paul

It was baptized early by fire after its completion and receipt by the regiment on the 26th May of 1864. On June 29 Chaplain Schoonmaker reported that:

"it has already passed through numerous baptisms of fire, having been hit not less than seven times-three shots in the flag-staff and four holes through the silk of the flag."

On October 28, 1864 the flag was saved by Col Lapoint, near Hatcher's Run.

"He fought the enemy for several miles on his retreat and got through. To prevent the capture of his colors, he tore his State Color from the staff, and his color-sergeant wrapped it round his body, under his clothing. Tearing his National color into pieces, that the enemy would have failed to capture them, except after the death of the whole command, and the search of their bodies."

The national flag was torn into pieces. The current state flag collection contains a "fragment of the national flag" for the 7th Michigan.

Long after the conflict, one of those old soldiers wrote to the Academy;

"I have just learned of the loss you have sustained in the death of dear Sister Catherine, the last of the 10 Sisters who worked on the banner so worthily borne by the comrades of the Seventh Michigan Infantry in the Civil War. Our fullest

continued next page.....

measure of praise and respect goes out to them in remembrance for their part in fashioning that wonderful work of art so proudly carried by those brave men. How they loved it! How it cheered, sustained and inspired them in the long marches and battles."

Before its being presented to the city the flag was kept and brought to the periodic reunions of the unit and was important in the remembrances as it once had been during the conflict. It now resides in the Monroe County Historical Museum.



Ah...the unfortunate days before digital! The poor photos above and at right, by Ellyn Painter, were taken at the Jackson Muster in 1995 and are the club's re-creation of the presentation of the original 1864 flag by the city of Monroe, MI. At right, Sarah and Gloria Kirschensteiner. Linda Williams, at left, portrayed one of the nuns from St. Mary's Academy.



Gloria, with her beautifully hand-embroidered reproduction – at Woldemar, April 1996



The Reproduction Flag

The desire for an authentic reproduction battle flag was first raised by then President Don Everett. A talented member of the 7th. Gloria Kirchenstiener, accepted the task of researching and recreating that banner. With her daughter Sarah, she painstakingly researched and photographed the original standard, at the Monroe Museum and created patterns, to exactly duplicate the banner. Materials were ordered and then began the great task of completing the flag. It has been proudly flown by the group since. The fact that the flag was such a wonderful reproduction led to a difficult problem. Just like the original, its silk was increasingly fragile and in recent years it was reserved for memorials and other special occasions. Gloria provided a replacement banner of sterner materials which we now use at reenactments.

The banner served us well for over 20 years as we marched and fought across Michigan and many national battles and will fittingly be preserved and displayed among the original regimental flags at the capitol building once it is formally transferred next summer.

Like the soldiers we represent, we too say,

"Our fullest measure of praise and respect goes out to them in remembrance for their part in fashioning that wonderful work of art so proudly carried by those brave men. How they loved it! How it cheered, sustained and inspired them in the long marches and battles."

Our deepest thanks and gratitude go out to Gloria, and all those who assisted in its creation, thus allowing us the great privilege of marching behind that banner for these many years.

*Historical references as found in The Seventh Michigan Volunteer Infantry, by David Townsend.



November 2015 Sesquicentennial Report

Of the 150 Sesquicentennial events listed thus far on the Reenactors' Civil War Sesquicentennial Calendar for 2015 on the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners' website (www.micw150.us), 7 have been reported for November. Additional information on each of these events may be obtained by going to www.micw150.us/2015events.htm and clicking on the month in question.

--November 2015--

5. Presentation: *The Better (and Worst) Angels of our Nature* (Muskegon Museum of Art, 296 Webster Avenue

Muskegon, Michigan). 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Artists who were there: Edwin Forbes, Alfred Waud, Conrad Wise Chapman, and Winslow Homer. Website: [Art of Gettysburg and the Civil War Lecture Series](#). Contact: George P. Maniates at George.Maniates@muskegoncc.edu or by Telephone at 231-720-2570.

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. Different levels of sponsorships (\$25 - \$200) are available for those individuals who wish to help support the GAR Museum. Website: <http://garmuseum.com/>. Contact: Gary Gibson, Board Secretary, at GARmichigan@gmail.com.

7. Michigan's Fifth Annual Civil War Sesquicentennial Reenactors Conference (Michigan Historical Center,

702 West Kalamazoo, Lansing, Michigan). 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. As with the previous annual conferences, the purpose of the reenactor conference is to help promote Michigan Civil War events and Civil War events of significance to Michigan. Individuals, organizations, and communities sponsoring and/or hosting reenactments, living histories, programs, presentations, and/or commemorations are encouraged to bring their fliers and other promotional items about their 2016 event to the conference. The conference and subsequent state-wide calendar have proven to be effective tools in helping to avoid event date conflicts and in bringing additional notice, participants, and public to your events. Finally, all events published on this calendar will become a permanent record in the United States Library of Congress documenting what Michigan did for the Civil War Sesquicentennial. The event is again being sponsored and hosted by the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners, Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, Michigan Department of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Friends of Michigan History, Inc., Michigan Historical Center, Historic Fort Wayne Coalition, and History Remembered, Inc. Refreshments will be served. Contacts are Keith Harrison at pcinc@prodigy.net, Bruce Butgereit at civil-war@comcast.net, or Tom Berlucchi at tberlucchi@yahoo.com

7. 9th Annual Detroit Veterans' Day Parade (Detroit Michigan). Staging 8:00 AM, Parade 10:00 AM. Contact

Rick Danes at mimessrd@aol.com.

8. Annual Veterans Day Massing of the Colors (Michigan Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo, Lansing, Michigan) 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM. Sponsor is the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. Contact Keith Harrison at pcinc@prodigy.net or by Telephone at 517-694-9394.

11. Exhibit: Veterans Day (Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum, 224 S. Main Street, Eaton Rapids, Michigan). 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. In commemoration of Veterans' Day, the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum will be open to share with the public the life and times of the Civil War veterans. Website: <http://garmuseum.com/>. Contact: Gary Gibson, Board Secretary, at GARmichigan@gmail.com.

11. Royal Oak Veterans Day Ceremony (Veteran's War Memorial Plaza next to the Library - S of 11 Mile and E of Main street). 11:00 AM - Noon. The Royal Oak Memorial Society invites everyone to attend the Veteran's Day Ceremony to honor our veterans who have given us our freedom. The ceremony will include guest speakers and the St Paul's School Children's Choir and Royal Oak High School Students performing taps. Website: <http://www.ci.royal-oak.mi.us/events/veterans-day-ceremony>

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.





7th Michigan Christmas Party **Saturday December 5, 2015**

12:30-1pm Social Hour

1pm Lunch

Robbins United Methodist Church

6419 Bunker Road

Eaton Rapids, MI, 48827

Lunch – Main Dish - 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 5th

Your Christmas Party Committee

Questions to Pat Downing – 517-676-5998