

# THE UNION VOLUNTEER<sup>TH</sup>

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

Volume XXXV No. 11 November 2016



*At Meridian Village, Okemos, MI – shared by Jane Rose on Facebook*

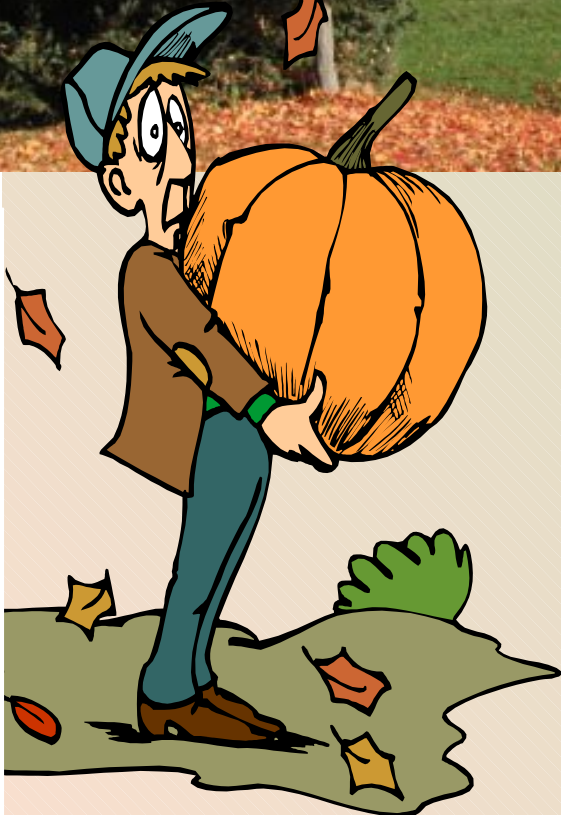
Our Annual Meeting is  
over, BUT  
**Dues are Now Due!**

Club Election Results: See page 2

Next Club Meeting:  
Sunday, November 20  
1:00PM at Robbins UMC

Annual Christmas Party –  
Saturday, Dec. 3  
(see flyer on page 11 )

Thanksgiving is  
right around  
the corner. Try  
to enjoy it!



## Annual Meeting Highlights & Club News:

Election news from the October 16 Annual Meeting - President Rob Stone thanked the membership for a good year, but informed the club that he is stepping down as President, due to some additional family responsibilities. A former club president, Dave Downing, has stepped up to the plate again.

Military: Doug McComas was re-elected as Captain. It was decided not to fill the post of lieutenant. 1st Sergeant is Pete Conklin; Sergeants are: Andrew McComas, Bill Jarrett; Corporals: Rob Stone, Dennis Zank, Dan Malik, Ian Searles, and Principal Musician, none other than bugler Mark Heath.

Civilian: Katie Everett has resigned as Civilian Coordinator due to holding down two jobs and other demands on her time. Thanks, Katie, for your hard work and leadership over the past year. Sue Colegrove and Joy Henderson will take over as co-coordinators of Civilian activities.

New club leadership for 2016-2017 is as follows:

President: Dave Downing

Vice President: Steve Church

Secretary: Doug McComas

Treasurer: Don Everett

Members-at-Large: Dan Conklin, Joy Henderson, Bill Jarrett

**Club meeting dates remaining for 2016: Nov. 20; Dec. 3 - club meeting and annual Christmas Party.**

**Club meetings for 2017: Jan 15, Feb 19, Mar 19, Apr 16? (at the live shoot), May ?, June (Turkeyville), Sept (Van Raalte), Oct, Nov, Club Meeting & Christmas Party Dec.**



Doug McComas is looking forward to welcoming a new grandchild, due in March.

Don Everett sent this news on Oct. 7: "Julie fell Saturday and broke her femur. She had surgery Sunday to implant a rod into the bone. She is home and doing well." On Oct. 16, she was present at the club meeting, in a wheelchair, but looking good! At that time, Julie reported that she had about two more weeks of wheelchair use to go.

Please keep Sandra McCarrick and Lorrie Roland in your thoughts and prayers, as both have ongoing health concerns, although Lorrie recently had some good news. Her recent tests have determined her heart is not at risk. She reported on Facebook that her "blood oxygen level was low, which gives symptoms of a heart attack."

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

Doug McComas, Club Secretary

 [dougmccomas@comcast.net](mailto:dougmccomas@comcast.net)



### Club Leadership

#### New Member Chairs:

Daniel Malick (military)

[dmalick12@gmail.com](mailto:dmalick12@gmail.com)

Julie Everett (civilian)

[djkeverett@comcast.net](mailto:djkeverett@comcast.net)

President: Dave Downing

Vice President: Steve Church

Secretary: Doug McComas

Treasurer: Don Everett

Military: Doug McComas, Captain

Civilian Coordinator: Sue Colegrove

Board Members-at-Large:

Dan Conklin, Joy Henderson,  
Bill Jarrett

Quartermaster: Don Everett

Club Historian: Doug McComas

Webmaster: Dennis Zank

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

#### Annual Membership Dues:

\$16.00 – single

\$19.20 – family

\$6.00 – to receive newsletter as  
non-participating/non-voting member

Mail payments or inquiries to:

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

**P.O. Box 16206, Lansing, MI 48901-6206**

#### Newsletter Submission Guidelines:

Thanks to all who submitted  
information for this month's issue.

Deadline date for submissions is the **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 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](mailto:7thminewsletter@gmail.com)

Or mail to:

736 Gettysburg Ave.

Jackson, MI 49203

Thank-you.

Ellyn Painter, Editor

# From Our New President, Dave Downing



Thank you to all who supported the events this past year. As you've probably noticed by looking around or talking to others, many groups are getting smaller. Many people are leaving the hobby now that the 150th events are done. Not many are doing what the 7th is doing...looking not just at the next year, or two years....but five, ten and even more years down the road. How to sustain the mission of the club over time has been the topic of discussion for some time now.

This can't happen without the dedication of those within the organization. Some of the most rewarding experiences of my life have been associated with being involved with our group. Lifelong friends have been made over time. It's through participating that you can truly experience reenacting.

I'd like to thank you for putting me back in the saddle, even if only metaphorically. The one thing I'd like to accomplish is to have us continue going down this path that we are on as an organization – recruit and prepare people to get involved more.

Thank you for all you have done over time... and for all you continue to do. This is not about me or the office you elected me to – it's about our mission, our organization, and everyone who is a member pitching in and doing. And getting involved.

## 2017 Club Dues are Due!

Family \$19.20, Individual \$16. You can pay at a meeting or send them to the PO box:

7th Michigan Infantry

PO Box 16206

Lansing MI 48901-6206

REMEMBER: if your dues ARE NOT PAID BEFORE MARCH 1st 2017 you WILL NOT be on the roster for Greenfield Village.

Don Everett, Treasurer

## Quartermaster Report

We have ordered a new supply of powder for the upcoming season.

Unfortunately, after the November meeting, powder will not be available at the current price of \$15 per pound. The new price will be \$18 per pound. Caps remain \$7 per tin.

## Education Director's Report

We have booked the first school program for 2017. It is at Birney Middle School in Southfield. The date is June 9<sup>th</sup>. Plan on arriving around noon so you can unload and sign in. Program begins about 1:15.

Thanks. Don



Roger Carpenter -2003

RXC  
12/2003

# MILITARY REPORT

First and foremost, I thank the men for their support for me to maintain the caretaking role of Captain for another year. I am grateful for the assistance, goodwill and support of the fine men in the ranks of the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan and I commit myself to grow and learn over the course of the upcoming campaign.

We have a strong cadre of NCO's who will continue to mature in their roles and a wealth of experience and knowledge in the 7<sup>th</sup> that is beyond compare to support and guide us.

October brought a flurry of activity once again as the season drew to a close. One of my personal highlights was Perryville and the experience of participating in a truly integrated Michigan company. This is our future; cooperation, respect, and friendship.

The reinvigorated Harvest Ball was a great success. I was honored with Gordon Duda, Steve Church, Bill Jarrett, and Daniel Malik, to be allowed to lead a brief memorial service during the intermission. We brought our flags through a tunnel of ball participants and placed upon our flags a wreath and flowers honoring the men and women we represent. The dedications were moving and heartfelt and reminded all of the purpose of what we do. We don't "play dress up", we research, interpret and honor the sacrifices and valor of those we strive to represent to a public that needs this knowledge more than it ever has.

In the upcoming year I see our goals as:

- Continue to work to strengthen ties in Michigan and the Midwest.
- Continue to educate and interpret history to the public in an approachable understandable manner.
- Recruit members in new and imaginative ways. Reach out to non-traditional groups and places to seek to grow the hobby.
- Continue to transition the hobby into the future.

I chose my words carefully. We don't "own" this hobby.

I collect a variety of artifacts and documents about the war. True collectors don't "own" their collections they see themselves as part of a chain of caretakers who protect these items for the next generation. This is our role in the hobby. Not to meet our own needs and quit, but to maintain a trust, a structure, and a means for the next generation to continue the hobby.

I look forward with great anticipation to the upcoming season.

I remain,

Your most obedient servant,

Doug



Dawn, at 154<sup>th</sup> Perryville, Oct. 7-9. Shared by Will Eichler on Facebook.  
Original photo credit: *Rae Evans Photography*.

# The Blue Bottle Respite Tent Project Update

We were able to offer apples to soldiers from the 7th at Perryville. We're taking some time to set goals for next season.

## FROZEN TEARS: Part 3: The Hidden Healers

By Julie Sarge

Question: Who overheard whom say that about whom?

"....the war changed him....he's wild after the war...."

A. Laura heard Pa telling Ma about Uncle George (Little House)

B. Travis heard Papa telling Mama about Bud Searcy (Old Yeller)

C. Jo heard Father telling Marmee about Mr. Bhaer (Little Women)

(Answer appears at end of article)

Strangely enough, there was one small group of soldiers who had access to effective treatment of PTSS during the Civil War era. They'd had such treatment available for hundreds of years, and all but a handful would lose access to such treatment as the Civil War ended and the Indian Wars flared into their final battles.

If a soldier was Native, and he belonged to a Nation that

1. Believed that warriors in battle acted in ways that were unacceptable by usual norms
2. Believed that in battle one might and probably would sustain physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual wounds
3. Believed that all such wounds must be treated for warriors to heal and return as functional members of society
4. Addressed PTSS as soul loss
5. Performed a soul retrieval for those with soul loss

then that soldier, if he survived to return home, had a very good to excellent chance of healing PTSS.

Soul retrievals varied slightly from healer to healer, but all involved the healer seeking and finding the lost soul parts or "essence" of the wounded one, the part that "dissociated" during the original trauma. The wounded person was encouraged to redefine perspectives about the trauma until the healer and patient agreed that all was ready for the return of the lost soul parts. Once this was done, the patient might still have some adjustment work to do, such as grieving, or asking forgiveness, but he was much more able to do so, for he had access to a "restored self."

Next month:

Conclusion and Resources

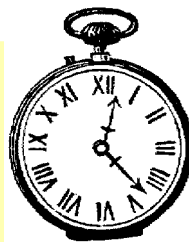
Answer : Laura heard Pa telling Ma about Uncle George (Little House in the Big Woods)

From Joan Emerick:

*"The Mason home tour is now over. We met many wonderful people and also learned a great deal about our home from the visitors. We enjoyed talking to everyone so much that we lost count after 160."*



**The Emericks' 1880 Italianate was featured in the Mason Historic Homes Tour Oct. 8**



## A Look Back in Time....



*Shameless!*

Stormi Stuler, Ellyn Painter, and Vonda Warren at the *Ladies' of the 1860's* Seminar in Toledo, OH, March 1997. I believe the photo was taken by Celeste Hude. We were all bored in our hotel room that evening., so made our own fun....

# "Road to Andersonville" film Details Civil War Service of Michigan Native Americans

By Ellyn Painter

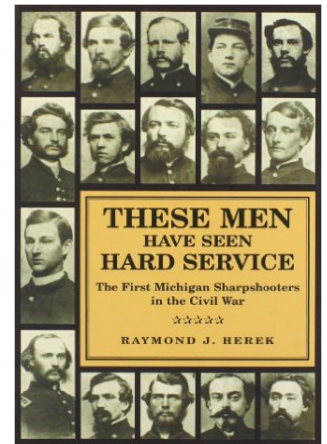
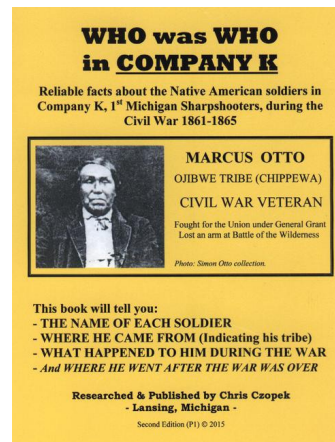
Literally on the eve of my plans to send out the current issue of the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan's newsletter (on the night of Nov. 1, to be exact), I chanced to attend, in the small auditorium of my local public library, the showing of a documentary film called "Road to Andersonville," hosted by a historian named Chris Czopek, who wrote the book *Who Was Who in Company K* (cover shown at right), and is featured in the film. The nearly two hour film is about a forgotten, and largely unknown group of Civil War soldiers from Michigan – the men of Company K,

1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Sharpshooters. All 140 men in the company were Native Americans, representing several Michigan tribes, among them Ojibwe (Chippewa), Potawatomie, Odawa, Ottawa and others. I perused a copy of the "Who's Who" book at the film showing, but decided not to purchase, as it is listed at \$80 a copy. But as the book represents 20 years of research and painstakingly accessed detailed information on every man who served in Co. K, the volume is probably well worth the price.

Czopek, a former Civil War reenactor, and current member of a Sons of Union Veterans camp from the Lansing, MI area, first became interested in the soldiers of Co. K when he ran across a grave in a cemetery at Pine Creek Indian Reservation near the village of Athens, MI (in the southwest corner of Calhoun Co.) of a veteran of Co. K. He wanted to know more, but didn't know any Indians. Then he saw a news article about a man named Don Otto, living on a farm near Albion, MI, who is a descendant of Co. K soldier Marcus Otto, (shown on the cover). Otto introduced Czopek to a Native American veterans group called the Anishinabe Ogitchedaw. He also contacted historian Ray Herek, whose book *These Men Have Seen Hard Service*, about the 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Sharpshooters is foundational to Czopek's own later work, and the rest, as they say, is history. During the course of the Civil War, Company K and the 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Sharpshooters saw action at several major engagements including the Wilderness Campaign, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, and others. A number of fascinating exploits were related during the movie. At the Siege of Petersburg, fifteen men of Company K were captured and sent to Andersonville Prison (hence the name of the movie). Half died and are buried there. In 2010, seven members of the Anishinabe Ogitchedaw, all descendants of the those interred at Andersonville, traveled there to honor these dead with a special ceremony, which is shown in the movie.

A number of fascinating exploits of Co. K were also related in the movie, as well as personal information about some of the men, related by Czopek and Herek, and various Indian descendants of Co. K. The question of why any Native Americans would have been eager to enlist in the Federal cause during the War Between the States was also discussed. At the time of the Civil War, Indians were not U.S. citizens, and during the early decades of the 1800's Michigan Native Americans, along with all other eastern tribes, had been subject to the cruel removals that forced them from their lands to exile on reservations in the West. By the 1840's, though, many were returning to Michigan and purchasing land in their native homelands. It is surmised by those in the film that Michigan Indians feared being treated as slaves by the Confederacy, or at the very least, having their lands again taken from them, if the South won the war. Interestingly, one of the soldiers in Co. K was an infant at the time of the "Trail of Tears," whose mother was forced to abandon him when the soldiers driving the Indians from their homes refused to allow her to go back for him. Fortunately, some of the villagers escaped, returned, and found the child. Twenty years later, he chose to enlist in Co. K. At the beginning of the war, Native American men who sought to join the Federal army were denied enlistment, but later in the conflict, they were gratefully accepted, as the government began to realize the value these men might be to the fighting strength of the Union war effort.

"Road to Andersonville" is an immensely rewarding viewing experience, on a topic of rare consideration in Civil War scholarship. I didn't think to ask where it might be showing next, or how one may arrange a showing, but these websites have information on the movie, as well as Czopek's book. Mr. Herek's book is available on Amazon.com



## NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

**November is National  
American Indian Heritage Month**

<http://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/>

The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the rich ancestry and traditions of Native Americans.

## Future Events - 2017

### Ella Sharp Museum-May 2017:

Doug McComas reported at the October meeting that he contacted Traie Shelhart regarding next year's Ella Sharp Museum event, and discovered that Traie is no longer with the Museum. He has taken employment elsewhere. Also a new executive director has been appointed for the Museum. These developments will undoubtedly impact next year's event, but we don't know yet in what way. Also, we don't yet know the date of the 2017 event. More to follow in a later issue.

**Meridian Village:** It is possible we might participate in their Christmas event next month; the Village would like us to come. Sue Colegrove has a meeting with them on Oct. 29, and will get more info then. The 175th Anniversary of Meridian Township is this coming year. They will be having an event July 1 and wish us to be there. Again, more later....



Hector Painter says:  
"I'll see all you girls at our house on the 19<sup>th</sup>. For the potluck I'd like "Whisker Lickin's" treats, OK? They're my favorite. (Just hinting...)"

## Civilian News:

The next ladies' Sewing Party is **Saturday, Nov. 19.**

Time: 10 AM

Place: Ellyn Painter's house, 736 Gettysburg Ave. Jackson, MI 517-782-4387

Please bring a passing dish for potluck lunch. As usual at the November party, we will be making table decorations for the Christmas party. Ladies may choose to help with that project, or work on anything else of your choice. Or just come to visit!

Breakfast at Bob Evans at 9:00 AM for those up for the early hour! Please note: The Bob Evans is the one on N. West Ave., just a block south of I-94 (not the one on east side of town!)

2017 Sewing Parties are as follows:

January 14th - at Sue Colegrove's home

February 17-19 - Ladies' Retreat at Vonda Warren's. There will be a sewing party there on Saturday. Retreat to finish up by noon or so on Sunday, so as to be able to get to the club meeting (on the 19th).

March - TBA - possibly a road trip to the Kalamazoo Living History Show and shopping, like last year.

April - we'll meet at the annual Live Shoot, including sewing party and potluck, and club meeting.

---submitted by Sue Colegrove & Joy Henderson,  
Civilian co-coordinators

Tuesday, Nov. 8



Don't Forget  
to VOTE!

## Key Effort Events for 2017

**February:** None.

**March:**

**April:** Charlie Colgrove Memorial Shoot.

**May :** Greenfield Village – Coordinator:

**June :** Turkeyville MI– Coordinator:

**July:** Charlton Park MI– Coordinator:

**August:**

**September:** Van Raalte MI –Coordinator:

**October :** 7th MI Harvest Ball –Coordinator:

**November:** None

**December :** Christmas Party

Upcoming Events for November...next page....

## Saturday November 5, 2016

### Michigan's Annual Civil War Reenactors' Conference

Michigan Historical Center, 702 West Kalamazoo, Lansing, Michigan,  
10:30 AM - 2:00 PM.

Note beginning time change. We will start at 10:30 rather than 10:00 because the museum opens at 10:00 and it takes us time to get set up. If you wish, you can still get there before 10AM, but you will be standing outside waiting for the doors to be unlocked.

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 2017 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 in additional notice, participants, and public to your events. The event is again being sponsored and hosted by the Michigan Civil War History Partners, 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.

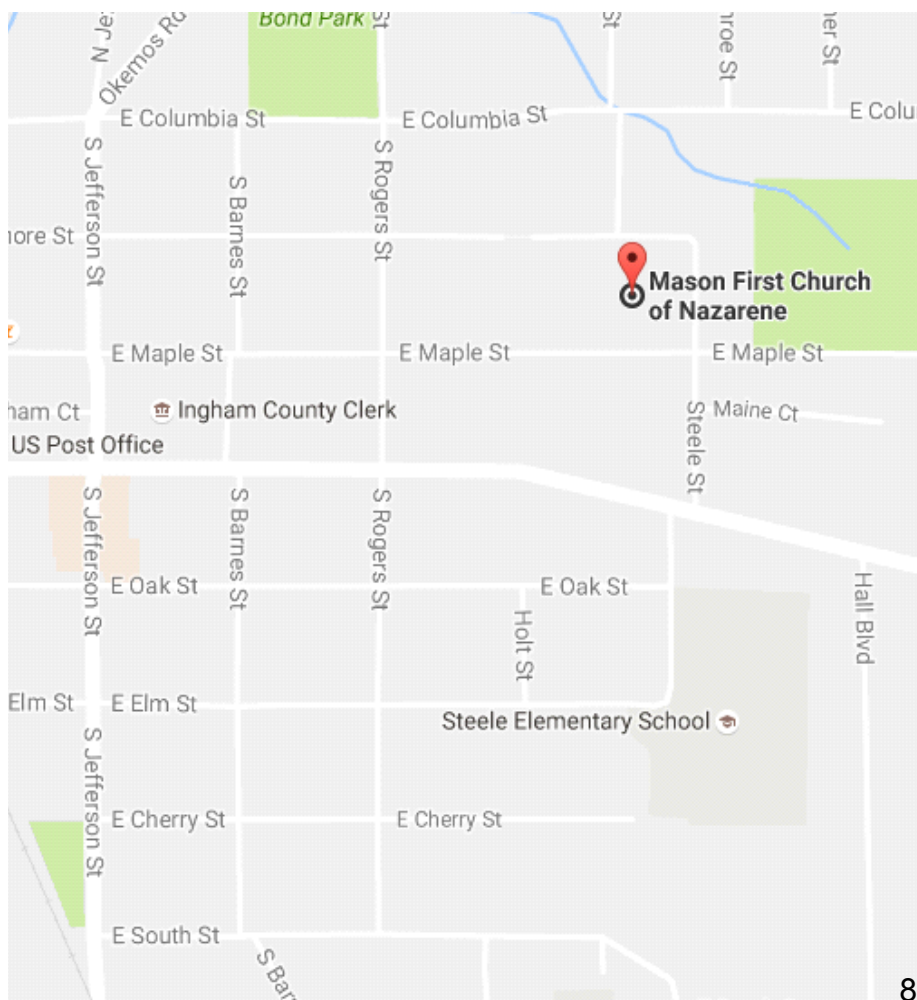
-----submitted by Keith Harrison

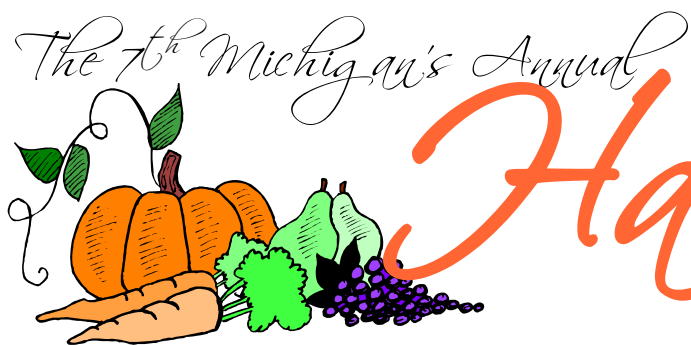
## November 11, 2016 (Friday)

### Ingham County Veterans Day Parade - Mason, Michigan

The 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. B Military and Civilians have been invited by Scott Shattuck to participate in this eighth annual parade to honor our military veterans. We will be mustering beginning at 1:30 p.m. At the Mason First Church of the Nazarene parking lot located at 415 E. Maple Street. The parade will step off at 3:00 p.m. sharp, proceeding from the church parking lot east on Maple to Steele, south to Ash, west to Jefferson (past the courthouse), and east on Maple to return to the church parking lot. The hosts are providing rides for those not wishing to walk. An open house will be held immediately following the parade at the VFW Post 7309 located at 1243 Hull Road in Mason. (See maps below).

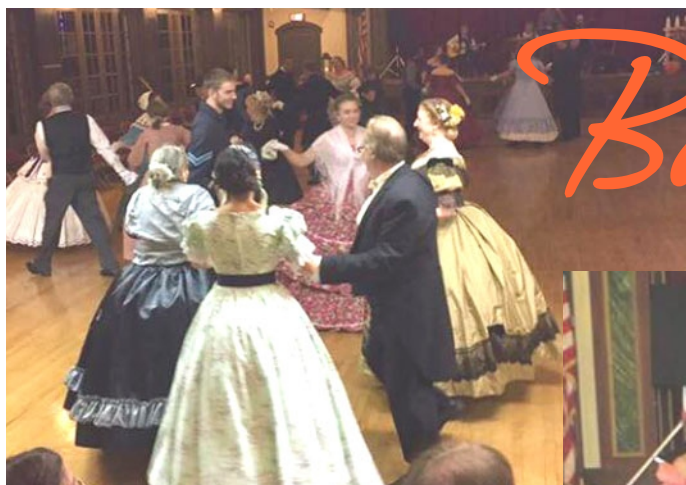
Tom Emerick is the coordinator for the event and can be contacted at: [tomjoanemerick@hotmail.com](mailto:tomjoanemerick@hotmail.com) or (517) 604-6116. Please notify Tom if you plan to participate.





# Harvest Ball

was October 22



"I don't know if I have the right words that could convey just how much I appreciated all the time and hard work that the members of the 7th Michigan devoted to making the Harvest Ball a success. Gilbert and I certainly did not deserve the credit as it was those who worked behind the scenes to make it such an enchanted evening."

----Cyndi Carlson

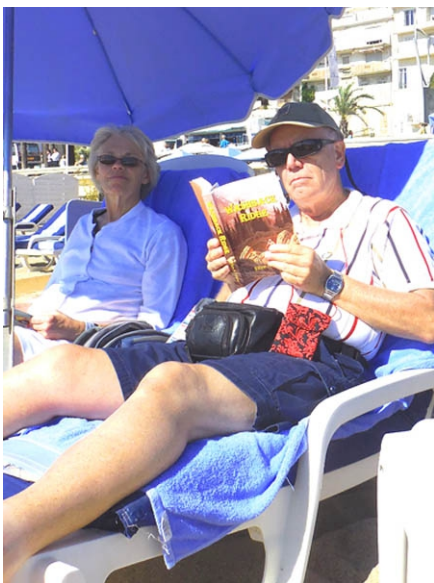


Photos by Cyndi Carlson and Heather Kinsey, shared on Facebook;





Another view from the 154<sup>th</sup> Perryville event. Photo credit: Tom George Davison. Shared by Doug McComas on Facebook. See more of Davison's Perryville photos on his website: <https://tgdavison-photography.smugmug.com/Re-enactments/Civil-War/Perryville-2016>



"The most popular book in France..." So declared Bob Smith, shown here (with Carol) while reading Ellyn Painter's new novel Washback Ridge on a beach in France during the recent Smith family trip to the Mediterranean.

## Miscellaneous Fun Stuff.....

At least this issue I remembered page numbers!



Gilbert & Cyndi Carlson pose with Butch McDermott at Wolcott Mill – which took place the weekend of Oct.15-16. Photo shared by Cyndi Carlson on Facebook.





7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Christmas Party  
 Saturday December 3, 2016  
 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 3<sup>th</sup>  
 Your Christmas Party Committee  
 Questions to Pat Downing – 517-676-5998

# SHILOH 155TH COMMEMORATION

APRIL 6TH THRU 9TH, 2017



Come watch the Commemoration of the Battle of Shiloh. To be held in Historic Hardin and McNairy Counties on the land along Joe Dillon Road. Including the area known as Fallen Timbers, this is part of the original battle area recently preserved by the Civil War Preservation Trust. Daily battle(s), civil war encampments, sutler area, 1860's food, an evening ball Saturday night, civil war music and crafts and lots more to see.

Engagements to be reenacted:

**Battle of Fallen Timbers**

**The Hornets Nest**

**Grant's Counter Attack**

Military commands to be coordinated by:  
The Army of the West for Confederates  
Grand Armies of the Republic for Federals

The Atlanta Campaign would like to thank the following partners:  
Hardin and McNairy Counties  
The Friends of Shiloh NMP  
The cities of Selmer and Savannah, TN  
The Civil War Preservation Trust

To purchase tickets and other info please visit our website or call the numbers below.

**ATLANTA CAMPAIGN INC.**  
**A 501 © 3 CORPORATION**  
**FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO**  
<http://WWW.ATLANTACAMPAIGN.COM/>