

# THE UNION VOLUNTEER

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



Volume XXXVI No. 11 November 2017



L to R: David Graham, Chris Sodman, and new recruit Chris Cook, Sept. 17, at the Van Raalte Farm event, Holland, MI. Photo shared by Chris Sodman on Facebook.



Club dues are Due!!!

(see instructions on sidebar, page 2)

Our annual club  
**Christmas Party**  
will be held this year on  
Saturday, December 2.  
(see flyer on last page)

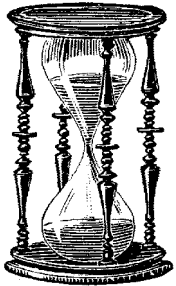




*From Karen Dunnam on Facebook:*

"Last week I heard the sad news about one of my regular dance partners. Took a while to find this one photo on my storage drive. I hope that it helps bring comfort to his family and friends. (This was at a Lansing hotel, and the girl scout pajama party invaded the Fan Dance. 2004)"

Editor's Note: Karen Dunnam is a traditional American dance caller who has worked frequently with the Golden Griffon Stringtet and other venues. Her photo above was taken at the dance held during the first (of two) "Great Lakes Military & Civilian Civil War Conference" presented by the 7<sup>th</sup> MI at the Comfort Inn in Okemos, March 26-28, 2004. Her comments refer to David Chain, shown selecting a partner during the Fan Dance.



## *A Look Back in Time....*

Remember this pretty little girl?  
(Audrey Searles at Jackson Civil War Muster, Aug. 2001)



**A Horrible Event:**  
**Anson Roland Attacked by Grizzly Bear**  
**while on vacation!!!!**

(shared by Lorrie Roland on Facebook.  
P.S. Presumably he survived.)



## **Club Leadership**

**New Member Chairs:**  
Daniel Malick (military)  
dmalick12@gmail.com  
Julie Everett (civilian)  
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*  
Ellyn Painter, Editor







## Civilian Report

Hi everyone

In the month of November we have two civilian activities:

Fri pm Nov. 17 – Our ladies plan to attend the Silver Bells parade in Lansing again this year; may go to Dave Downing's Radio play performance after the fireworks (the play would start about 8 pm - goes about an hour) It will be "Little Shop of Horrors."

Sat. Nov. 18 - the ladies will be meeting at Ellyn Painter's house for our sewing party. (Ellyn Painter 736 Gettysburg Ave. Jackson 517-782-4387) We will not be going to a restaurant for the usual 9:00am breakfast, but rather will meet at Ellyn's house at 10AM and have a BRUNCH, served upon arrival. The food will remain available through the lunch hour for any who get hungry again later, or just want to snack all day! So bring either a breakfast-type, or lunch type passing dish to share. Please let me know what you are bringing so we don't all bring the same thing. We will be making the decorations for the Christmas party; you may help with those, or bring whatever other project you wish to work on.

We will begin helping our new lady members to outfit themselves. If you have any patterns or clothing articles you wish to show or share with our new members, please bring them along.

Dec. No sewing - Christmas party is Dec. 2

Dec.10 is the Christmas event at Meridian Village in Okemos. We've been asked if we would like to be a part of Christmas in the village. I will have more details that I'll share at the November sewing meeting.

Sue Colegrove

### Locations of 2018 Sewing Parties:

Jan. 20, 2018 - Joan Emerick Mason, MI

Feb. 17 - Sue Colegrove

March 17 - Carol Smith, Durand

April or May - a retreat at Vonda Warren's. The

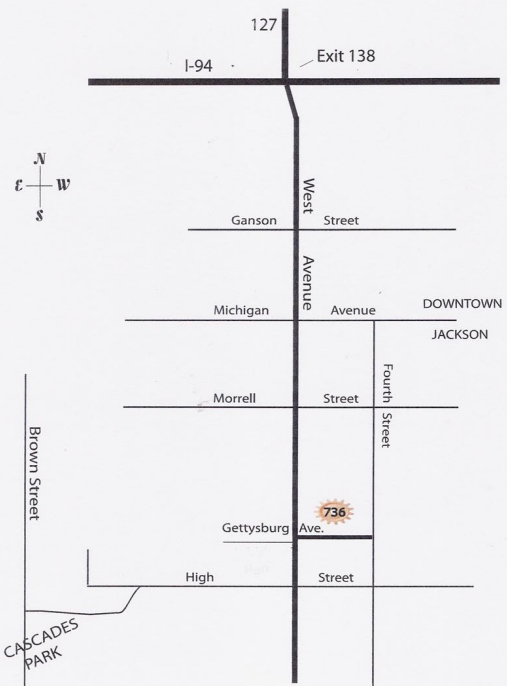
Gunshoot is in April - date yet to be decided.

**THANKSGIVING day**  
**is Nov. 23 - Share**  
**it With a Friend.**



#### 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 Avenue. Ellyn's house is at the top of the hill, on the left side, tan with dark blue shutters and round-topped front door.



### How to Clean Your M1861 Rifled Musket

There was an excellent article in the most recent publication of *The Fugelman* documenting how to clean an M1861 Rifled Musket. The author walks you step by step through both the disassembling and assembling process accompanied by illustrations. The author, Chris Ackerman - Manager of the Regimental Quartermaster store, graciously granted us permission to reprint the article as well as any of their other "how to" articles on the Regimental Quartermaster website:

[www.regmqm.com/Articles.asp?ID=243](http://www.regmqm.com/Articles.asp?ID=243)

Most Respectfully, Your Obedient Servant, Tom Emerick

EDITOR'S NOTE: I planned to attach a PDF of this article, but it is a very large file size, (an article of some length with a lot of photos) and thus may cause difficulty for some in opening the document. Consequently, those of you who can will need to access the article online via the link above. My apologies.

## March 10, 2018 - Military School of Instruction – Mason, Michigan

We will once again be holding our winter training session for all ranks; enlisted, NCOs, Company and Field Officers. Lessons will concentrate on the duties and positions of NCOs and officers throughout formations most commonly employed at re-enactments. Other topics covered will include Dress Parade, Manual of Arms, firing positions/commands, military etiquette, Skirmish Drill, Color Guard, Roll Call, bugle signals, etc. Instruction will be taken from *Casey's Infantry Tactics*, *U.S. Regulations (1861)*, and *Dom Dal Bello's Parade, Inspection and basic Evolutions of the Infantry Battalion (4th edition)* or *PIE*. Instruction will be composed of equal parts indoor, classroom review and drilling outside (weather permitting) so dress accordingly. Military uniforms are to be worn. Modern footwear is optional. Enlisted need to bring rifles, bayonets, and accoutrements (no ammunition) and officers their kits to include swords. All US and CSA comrades from fellow mid-western units are invited to attend. School commences at 9:00 AM sharp and will conclude by 4:00 PM. Early birds are welcome to arrive after 8:00 AM. Coffee and donuts (breakfast) and lunch will be provided free of charge. All attendees need to RSVP so we have adequate food and drinks for all. Please bring a camp stool or small chair to ensure we have enough seating. More news to follow. Contact is Tom Emerick at [tomjoanemerick@hotmail.com](mailto:tomjoanemerick@hotmail.com) or (517) 604-6116. Drill location is at 106 E. South Street, Mason, Michigan 48854.

Most Respectfully, Your Obedient Servant  
Tom

## Military Report

### Military Election Results

Captain: Douglas McComas  
Lt: Andrew McComas  
Principle Musician: Mark D. Heath  
1st Sgt: Bill Jarrett  
Sgts: Daniel Malick, Rob Stone  
Corporals: Dennis Zank, Chris Sodman



Thank you all for a very successful 2017!

We wrapped up with the ceremony at the ball and hearing of the bomb threat at Cedar Creek that evening (more in a bit).

I am grateful to have been reelected for the 2018 campaign as Captain. Elections were held with the following results:

Captain: Doug McComas, Lieutenant: Andrew McComas, 1st Sgt: Bill Jarrett, Sgts: Rob Stone, Dan Malick, Corporals: Chris Sodman, Dennis Zank.

With all that has taken place the past year the need is very great to continue to educate the public on the war and its surrounding history and reality. To “scrub out”, history isn’t a viable strategy, nor is to fiercely stand by a single interpretation.

Take the Confederate battle flag; its meaning is, and has been, dependent on who is giving it the meaning: Army of the Potomac: battle flag during the war. KKK symbol during reconstruction. Education and realistic interpretation during a reenactment. A symbol of social control during the 1950’s and 1960’s, among others.

If we oversimplify history we do it a disservice. All of those “meanings” are true and valid but don’t apply in every situation the flag is used.

The time of the Civil War helped define a nation by changing the understanding of many things; States’ rights vs Federal rights, citizenship, and the role of women in society. Before the war people

commonly used the term “These United States” and after the war it became “The United States”. The 14<sup>th</sup> amendment changed our definition of citizenship, and the role on the home front and in roles such as nurses began to redefine the role of women in our society.

We must teach all this and more in a world of soundbites and “he who yells the loudest wins”.

Ok. Sermon’s over.

Upcoming events for winter: December is the Christmas Party, January meeting will be NCO training, March will be Officer and NCO training led by our own Tom Emerick. Our national commitment is Gettysburg 155 and we will discuss some “new” events over the upcoming season.

This season will be exciting as we meet the challenges posed for us in our world through calmness, confidence and knowledge.

As always, I remain your most obedient servant,

Captain Doug McComas





# The Harvest 2017 Grand Ball Was Oct. 14

We had a very successful ball this time around. We made nearly \$600 profit this year, with a much larger crowd (112 participants) than last year. Doug McComas also did a beautiful job on the ceremony honoring fallen Civil War soldiers, and reenactors who have passed away. Fred and Bonnie Priebe ("our" Lincolns) were also there. All photos this page are by Karen Hansen, and shared by Cyndi Carlson on Facebook.

"Compliments to you Cyndi and all who helped with the ball. From what I understand it was the largest attendance in a long time or maybe ever. And many thanks to all the work Lorrie and Anson did in baking cookies and to others who contributed. Nice job on making Christina's apron, Lorrie. A great job done by all as always."

---Sandy McCarrick



"A big THANK YOU to all who attended the Harvest Ball last night. It was fun seeing old friends and forming new friendships! A special thank you to our lovely maid Christina Carlson."

---Cyndi Carlson





**Mooresville Civil War Days, Oct. 7-8.** This is an annual event in South Haven, MI. It is the fourth year for the event, held on private land. The marvelous photos are courtesy of the 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Infantry and were shared on Facebook by Chris Sodman.



“While at the Holland event in September, we were invited by members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan to participate in this event. Dave Graham, myself, and new recruit Chris Cook attended.

Mooresville was a great event with the 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan. Had lots of fun with a tactical each morning in the woods and a battle for the covered bridge. Both battles were alot of fun, as well. Had great weather during the day. for the even. The Rebs were wonderful hosts, and it was a good event with which to end the year.

There were 3 members from the 7<sup>th</sup> participating, 4 from the 1st, a guy from Indiana, and artillery. The rebs gave us a few men, so we had 12 and the rebs had about 14, plus artillery. It's a young event, of 4 years, privately run on private land.

-----Chris Sodman

# Cedar Creek Civil War Reenactment Canceled After Suspicious Device Found

The FBI are investigating an incident which occurred at the Cedar Creek Civil War reenactment in Frederick Co., Virginia, the weekend of Oct. 14-15, in which a "suspicious device" was discovered and rendered safe by the Virginia State Police Bomb Squad. The event celebrated the 153<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Cedar Creek, which took place on Oct. 19, 1864.

The reenactment was cut short following the Saturday evening discovery. Earlier in the week, the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation reported receiving a letter which threatened bodily harm to anyone who attended the event, prompting increased security measures at the reenactment. Then the "suspicious package" was found, and the Sunday part of the event was canceled. "Due to this unfortunate situation, our event staff is unable to fulfill the required logistical needs to continue the event on Sunday," said Joe D'Arezzo, President of the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation. "It is regrettable that a nice family event would be disrupted in this way."

Reenactment attendees were evacuated to a nearby school while the event site was scanned for other safety threats. This occurred right as reenactors were getting ready to eat their supper. Evening events that were supposed to take place on the site, including a reenactors' ball were canceled. A portion of Valley Pike [U.S. 11] near the battlefield was also blocked off. As of early Sunday morning, authorities still had not confirmed the content of the package found.

This is a developing story. For updated information as it becomes available visit the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation website.

Speculation on why such threats would be made against reenactors and their hobby, as in Jim Geraghty's editorial in the National Review, ("Is Someone Trying to Blow Up Civil War Reenactors?") center around the current movement to remove Confederate monuments, and more violent expressions of anger against what some perceive as a celebration of "white supremacy" by reenactment supporters, but which Geraghty styles an "attack on America's history". Geraghty goes on to say that "We live in an era where far too many Americans remain profoundly ignorant of even basic facts about their own country's history....I can't help but wonder if those who did worst in history class are determined to destroy it, because it reminds them of their inadequacies."

And this new conflict, too, is an ongoing and developing story.

## Sources:

<http://www.whsv.com/content/news/BREAKING-Civil-war-reenactment-evacuated-after-suspicious-device-found-450931943.html>

[http://www.winchesterstar.com/new-cedar-creek-battlefield-evacuated-because-of-suspicious-device-sunday/article\\_caa2167c-b15b-11e7-](http://www.winchesterstar.com/new-cedar-creek-battlefield-evacuated-because-of-suspicious-device-sunday/article_caa2167c-b15b-11e7-)

<http://www.nationalreview.com/corner/452696/someone-trying-blow-civil-war-reenactors>

## Response from a Reenactor Who Was at Cedar Creek:

"The headlines say that Cedar Creek events were cancelled today, but that's not quite true. Actually, in a show of defiance, the reenactors decided to battle anyway, even though spectators were not allowed in. It was an amazing battle, not because of the musketry or cannon fire, but because of what happened afterwards. In a spontaneous outburst, the reenactors came together and cheered. We cheered for each other, and for the hobby that we love. Yelling, and waving our hats as our ancestors did so many years ago, we congratulated each other on successfully defeating those who would like to intimidate us into quitting. We yelled out in patriotic fervor, screaming USA! USA! USA! over and over again. And, the band played the Star Spangled Banner. No one took a knee. Instead, hats were removed, hands placed over hearts, and, at the end, we cheered again. In a show of unanimity, the band in blue, which had just played our national anthem, then burst into a rousing version of "Dixie". The bluecoats clapped in rhythm, while the Confederates sang the words. It was an event that I have never witnessed before in reenacting. We showed that we were brothers again, blue and gray, united against the evil that tried to stop us. Powerful emotions were released and, if the evil had been able to see us, at that moment, they would have known immediately that their efforts had failed, that they were defeated, that instead of dividing us, and scaring us, they had been the catalyst to unite us and bring us together. The night before, we were evacuated from the Confederate camp for several hours while the area was searched and cleared. Of course, we used the opportunity to have a party; numerous campfires were started and we enjoyed the night with singing and rum cake. The camaraderie was incredible. They don't know who they are messing with. The same indomitable spirit that drove our ancestors so many years ago lives in us today. We will not go quietly."

---shared by Cyndi Carlson on Facebook, who said: "Stolen from a friend . It explains a lot about why I do what I do . . ."



# Club News

## Annual Meeting Election Results for 2018:

President: Dave Downing, re-elected;  
Vice President: Steve Church, re-elected;  
Treasurer: Don Everett, re-elected;  
Secretary - nomination pending acceptance  
Members at large: Bill Jarrett, Joy Henderson, and Chris Sodman  
Civilian Chair: Sue Colegrove, re-elected  
(see Military Report for military election results)

## Michigan Reenactors Conference

Saturday, November 4, 2017 (10:30 AM to 2 PM)  
Michigan Historical Center  
702 West Kalamazoo, Lansing, Michigan

The purpose of the annual Michigan Reenactors Conference is provide a forum for Civil War events to be listed in a calendar in one place. The conference and subsequent statewide 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.

## Items for Sale:

"I previously sent you notification that I had items for sale. I have sold the tent but still have many garments for sale as well as an antique commode and chamber pot. If anyone is interested they can call me at 517-994-6013. I would like to sell these items to anyone from the club first and will post on E-bay anything I have left. I will miss not being able to participate with such a wonderful group of people but assure you I will try to attend some of the events as a spectator. As you all may have noticed I didn't attend many of the events for the last couple of years due to health issues. The problem is still getting the blood pressure under control and also having lost my strength and stamina since my two hospital stays last year. I do think of all often and do want to stay in contact from time to time. So nice to have been able to meet and become friends with all of you."

Sandy McCarrick  
smcarrick1936@aol.com

517-994-6013

## Condolences:

To the family of Daniel, Hannah, and Rebekah Malick-

"Please pray for my family; my sister's husband passed away this morning (Sept. 12) in a car accident. They just got married 10 days ago."

---Dan Malick

To the family of Sue Colegrove -

October 19--"This afternoon my mother, Billie Wreggels-worth, slipped away into eternity. Her bright smile and laughter will be missed."

---Sue Colegrove



## Fundraising

### Retrieve The Colors

102<sup>nd</sup> USCT regiment flag fundraiser  
October 24th



Above: L to R: Calvin, Israel, and Maurice of the 102<sup>nd</sup> USCT at the Texas Roadhouse in Jackson, on Tuesday, Oct. 24. The unit is raising money for a regimental flag.

(Photo by Ellyn Painter)

The 102<sup>nd</sup> USCT/ Black History Group is a non-profit organization representing the original 102<sup>nd</sup> United States Colored Troop, which was created in July 1863. It was originally called the 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Colored Regiment. The 102<sup>nd</sup> trained at Camp Ward, in Detroit, and saw action throughout South Carolina, eastern Georgia, and Florida. At Baldwin, Florida, it turned back a Confederate cavalry charge with a bayonet charge of its own. The 102<sup>nd</sup> was mustered out of federal service on Sept. 30, 1865.

(source: the club's brochure.)

For more info on the 102<sup>nd</sup>, or to donate to the flag cause, contact:

Website: <http://www.102ndusct.webs.com>

Email: [guylerl@icloud.com](mailto:guylerl@icloud.com)

Phone: (313) 657-0266

Or find them on Facebook

"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)



# 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Christmas Party

Saturday Dec. 2, 2017

12:30 – social time / 1pm Lunch

Robbins United Methodist Church

6419 Bunker Rd.

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 wanting to give out an award or perform please contact

Pat Downing a week in advance

517-676-5998