

# THE UNION VOLUNTEER



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

Volume XXXII No. 10 October 2013



## 2013 Leadership

### New Member co-Chairs:

Jeff Verstraete (military)  
[jbvisme@gmail.com](mailto:jbvisme@gmail.com)  
Heather Jarrett (civilian)  
[btjarrett@aol.com](mailto:btjarrett@aol.com)

President: Doug McComas  
Vice President: Steve Hainstock  
Secretary: Bill Jarrett  
Treasurer: Dick Williams  
Military: Tom Emerick, &  
Dave Slayton, Co-Captains  
Civilian Coordinator: Katie Everett  
Board Members-at-Large:  
Don Everett, Pat Downing,  
Jeff Verstraete

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

### Website:

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

### Newsletter Submission Guidelines:

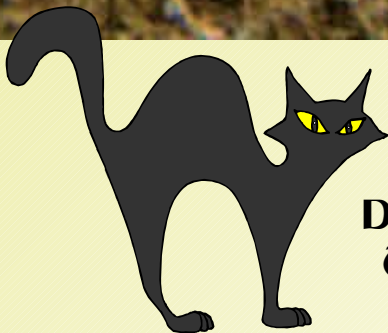
Thanks to all who submitted info for this month's issue. Deadline date for submissions is the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please have all reports, articles, notices, etc. in print-ready form. I am able to accept documents in most of the usual word processing programs or formats. If accompanying maps or images are needed, **please** include (in jpg format), if possible. Be sure to ascertain that any items coming from another source are properly credited, or have obtained reprint permission. Personal news items are welcomed and encouraged, or photos of special events. Original articles (800-1000 word limit) pertaining to Civil War or reenacting are also desired.

Email submissions to me at:  
[7thminewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:7thminewsletter@gmail.com)

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

Thank-you.

Ellyn Painter, Editor



## Don't Forget These Upcoming Events:

Ladies' Retreat Oct. 4-6

Harvest Ball Sat. Oct. 12

**Annual Membership Meeting Sun. Oct. 20  
1:00pm Robbins UMC, Eaton Rapids**


# HELP FOR THE "CRUMBLING CASCADES?"

A September 9 article in the Jackson Citizen Patriot reported on a recent study session of the Jackson County Commissioners to discuss more renovations at the Sparks Foundation Park, colloquially known as The Cascades. A request to form a committee to "find ways to creatively finance a \$9.5 million Cascades renovation" was made by Mike Way, chairman of the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Commission, and parks director Brandon Ransom. (Ransom has since resigned as director to accept a job in Denver, Colorado.)

Jackson county last year spent \$50,000 on concept design for such renovations, which Way hopes will "bring the Cascades back to a world-class attraction," but not much has happened since. The concept design created includes tearing down the approximately 150-foot wall behind the amphitheater; demolishing and rebuilding the fountain; removing the raised amphitheater seating; creating a "flex" space to attract more visitors; the addition of a spray park; and construction of two buildings and a new entrance off Brown St.

The Cascades has been an important community landmark for the past 80 years, and has hosted the Cascades Civil War Muster for nearly 30. Having grown up in Jackson, I have fond memories, as a kid, of summer evenings spent running up and down the ancient stone steps bordering the waterfalls with my sisters, cousins, and friends, shrieking and giggling as we were drenched while attempting to dodge the chilly spray from the fountains, and enjoying the great popcorn. (And in those days, though the popcorn and other concessions cost money, entrance to the Falls didn't). When it opened to the public in 1932, the Cascades was a thrilling attraction which drew large crowds from all over the country, and even the world. But nearly a century of wear and tear have taken their toll, and electrical, mechanical, lighting and water filtration issues now confront the Commission. The unsightly wall that faces Brown St. and blocks view of the Falls for those passing by, is a fairly recent addition—not to mention the chain link fence that made possible charging an entrance fee. Decades ago, the Falls could easily be seen all the way from Kibby Rd. The gravel nature walk that runs straight through the lagoon wetland area from Kibby Rd. to Brown St. was, when my mother was a girl, a lovers' lane, where those strolling along it of a pleasant summer's eve, between the double row of towering pine trees that once bordered the pathway, could enjoy the bright, changing colors of the tiered waterfalls as they walked. It would be good to have that view restored.

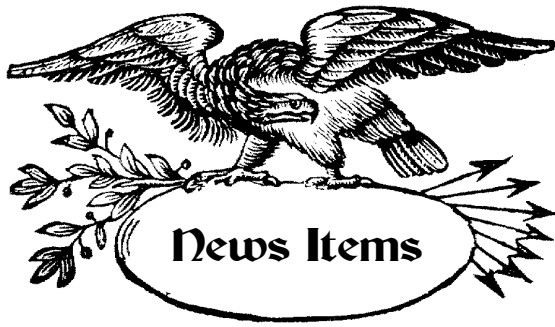
It is difficult to say what effect the possible changes and restorations will have on the future of the annual Cascades (now Jackson) Civil War Muster. We've already seen some physical alterations to our event site, within the past two years, and as we have been hearing this summer, recent developments in the Parks leadership may impact our event in other ways. Time will tell. Keep your eyes and ears open.

The Editor. 

IT'S BEEN A LONG  
TIME SINCE OUR  
LAST HALLOWEEN  
PARTY...  
WHAT DO YOU  
THINK? TIME FOR  
ANOTHER ONE???  
(WELL, MAYBE NEXT  
YEAR...)

*Former members Bob & Carol Smith, aka  
Sonny & Cher; 7<sup>th</sup> MI Halloween Party at  
home of Barry & Stormi Stuler; Oct. 2005  
Photo by Ellyn Painter*





We regretfully report the passing of Ron Pohlonski's wife Jill on Sept. 2, 2013. As one of the first four founding members Ron was instrumental in making the 7th MI what it is today. Jill's memorial service took place at Mt Hope Church on Creyts Rd in Lansing on Friday, Sept 13<sup>th</sup>. In lieu of flowers the family asked that donations be made in Jill's name to Sparrow Hospice. The 7<sup>th</sup> MI Executive Board approved a donation of \$200 to Sparrow Hospice in memory of Jill.

Information provided by Don Everett and the 7<sup>th</sup> MI board.

**Final Harvest Ball Report:**  
from Linda Williams, Ball Coordinator

Dear friends,

Thank you to club members who responded to my letter with offers to help at the ball. I also appreciate those who wrote to let me know they are unable to attend the ball this year.

I don't know why numbers are low for this year's attendance, but at this point, we have:

45 guests  
+12 club members  
57 total

I also am holding two tickets, sent by someone I don't know. In cases such as this, I send a letter explaining that I need to ask if they are Civil War reenactors, or are they able to get 1860's clothing. By doing this, it eliminates the possibility of someone misunderstanding and showing up in modern clothing.

Every year I have sold tickets to people after the deadline, and they pay the double price - and don't seem to mind! So we may sell a few more tickets before the ball. I am always amazed at Harvest Ball to see all of us coming together to create something so incredibly beautiful.

Love, Linda

We have received some information from Cyndi Carlson regarding a Civil War grand ball, and some related events, which will take place onboard several old-time paddle-wheeler riverboats, at least one of which, *The Belle of Louisville*, is a regular participant in the annual Tall Stacks festival held in Cincinnati. The Civil War ball is not until next year (2014) but from what Cyndi says, and also the website, nearly half the allotted tickets are already sold! Event weekend is Oct. 17-19, 2014, and location is Louisville, KY. See full details at the website:

<http://www.civilwargrandballs.info>

**Final Ladies' Fall Retreat Report:**  
from Katie Everett, Civilian Coordinator

The retreat at the Wacousta Girl Scout camp is Oct. 4-6. Please bring a passing dish for Saturday's lunch. (See Sept. Issue for complete details).

The other meals for the weekend are as follows:

Saturday dinner – Stuffed shells – one with Meat, cheese and tomato sauce, one with Broccoli, carrots, spinach and tomato sauce

Garlic bread, salad – Ice Cream and brownies one non-alcohol and one with alcohol.

Breakfasts – one day Sausage, egg & biscuit baked and the other day - Bacon, egg & cheesy hash brown in a crock pot.

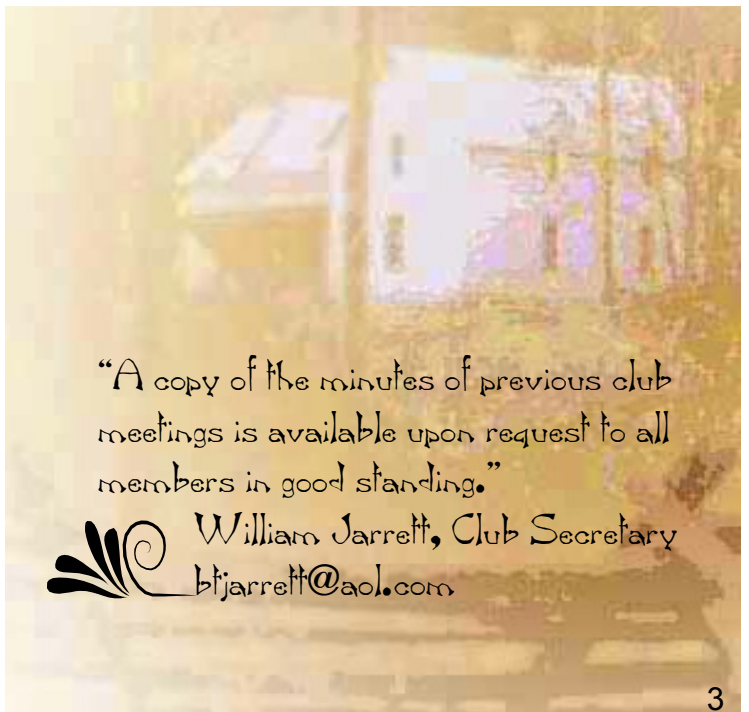
Please note that the 150<sup>th</sup> Gettysburg photo on page 9 of the September issue, while submitted by Tom Emerick, was taken by Phil Azzolino. This credit was inadvertently omitted.

The Editor

Dear 7th Michigan members,

Lyle and Walter Malaski were in a very serious car accident on September 3rd. Lyle sustained a sprained ankle, injured both knees, jammed his hip and lower back, and suffered a hole in his lip. Walter sustained a broken back and left wrist. Gratefully, they are recovering from their acute injuries. Cards can be sent to both of them at:  
7576 Marian  
Warren, MI 48092

--- submitted by Dick & Linda Williams



# 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Military Minutes - October, 2013



Captain Emerick

## 2013 Military Structure

Co-Captains: Dave Slayton ,Tom Emerick  
Lieutenant: Jim MacKinnon  
1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant: Doug McComas  
Sergeant: Dan Conklin, Jeff Verstraete  
Corporal: Tom Edwards, Andrew McComas,  
Rob Stone, Dennis Zank  
Chief Bugler: Mark Heath



Captain Slayton

## 2013 Military Activities

### September 7-8, 2013 – Van Raalte Farm Civil War Muster – Holland, Michigan

Report by Pvt. Tom Emerick

We had a great time with our good friends in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Michigan, Co. F. I fell in as a “low” private all weekend long with no responsibilities nor a care in the world. Lt. MacKinnon commanded the 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan company for the weekend and Col. Dave Baumann (3<sup>rd</sup> Michigan) was overall commander. Dave requested I bring my rifle and drum with me. I tried to put them both to good use. The highlight of my weekend was working with a promising new musician. A fresh-faced private, young master Clayton, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Michigan had recently enlisted and was sorely interested in becoming an accomplished drummer. We worked on some simple cadences, hand positions, rudiments, etc., and I turned him loose with my drum all Saturday afternoon to practice in the Company street. Private Clayton took the practice to heart and rehearsed the few drum cadences and rudiments for several hours. He became extremely competent (my humble opinion) in only a brief period without having had any prior musical instruction. Hopefully he will continue to pursue his musical duties and we may play again together in the near future.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Michigan takes every opportunity to entertain and educate the public with living history scenarios whenever the opportunity presents itself. I “volunteered” to be a corpse at their hospital scenario. For over an hour they recreated the mayhem (with a little fun thrown in) of a Civil War hospital. A so called “gentlemen” named Irish was constantly attempting to steal my brogans during my shift at the hospital. It took a lot of will power to keep from laughing (remember I was a bloated body) whilst the nurses and other patients defended my honor.

We re-enacted the Battles of Chancellorsville on Saturday and Gettysburg on Sunday. The rail fencing donated by the hosts added a nice touch to the battlefield features. We again employed the same technique for splitting each day's battle into two parts as we have used at Jackson the past few years. The crowds were larger (seemed so) than last year and were pretty enthusiastic about the scenarios we portrayed. The amenities provided by the hosts were top-notch. The Saturday evening meal was excellent and filling as we went back for seconds and thirds. The Sunday morning church service was well attended and included background music played by the 5<sup>th</sup> Michigan Regimental Band. This was an excellent event (as usual) to close the year with.

### October 20, 2013 – 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan Military Elections – Eaton Rapids, Michigan

In conjunction with the Club's annual meeting, the Military will be voting for Officers and NCOs for the 2014 season. Please notify Dave Slayton or Tom Emerick if you wish to serve (and in what capacity) or would like to honor another member with a nomination to serve in the Officer or NCO ranks. The more “volunteers” we have to pick from the better served will be the Company. Please do not shy from offering up your name or submitting someone else's you may consider deserving of a position.

Miscellaneous topics of discussion at Military meeting:

- 2013 Jackson Cascades Muster Review
- 2013 Event Review
- 2014 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Battles
- 2014 Company Drill Sessions
- Mid-western Umbrella Organizations
- Great Lakes Battalion - invitation to join

Most Respectfully, Your Obedient Servants

Dave Slayton, Captain  
<mailto:slaytondave@juno.com>

Tom Emerick, Captain  
<mailto:tomjoanemerick@hotmail.com>

# October 2013 Civil War Sesquicentennial Report

Of the 170 Sesquicentennial events already listed on the Reenactors' Civil War Sesquicentennial Calendar for 2013 on the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners' website ([www.micw150.us](http://www.micw150.us)), there are 17 events listed for October. Additional information on each of these events may be obtained by going to [www.micw150.us/2013events.htm](http://www.micw150.us/2013events.htm) and clicking on the month in question. Events for 2013 and 2014 can be added anytime by contacting [pcinc@prodigy.net](mailto:pcinc@prodigy.net).

**5 - 6. 21st Annual Wolcott Mill Civil War Days** (63841 Wolcott Road, Ray, Michigan). Contact: Steve Domke at [demrebel@netzero.com](mailto:demrebel@netzero.com) or John Fross at [ssorfj@aol.com](mailto:ssorfj@aol.com).

**6. Presentation: *An Afternoon of Spirited Conversation with the Generals of the North and South*** (Monroe VFW Post 1138, 400 Jones Avenue, Monroe, Michigan). 3:00 PM. Contact: Charmaine Wawrzyniec at [Charmaine.Wawrzyniec@monroe.lib.mi.us](mailto:Charmaine.Wawrzyniec@monroe.lib.mi.us).

**7. Presentation: *The Man in the Red Battle Shirt: The Life of General A.P. Hill*** (Ellis Library and Reference Center, 3700 South Custer, Monroe, Michigan). 7:00 PM. Contact: Charmaine Wawrzyniec at [Charmaine.Wawrzyniec@monroe.lib.mi.us](mailto:Charmaine.Wawrzyniec@monroe.lib.mi.us).

**6 - 31. Museum Program: *The Brave and the Faithful: Michigan in the Civil War*** (Sloan Museum, 1221 E. Kearsley St., Flint, Michigan) 8:00 AM- 5:00 PM. Website at: <http://sloan@sloanlongway.org>.

**10 - 13. The Battle of Fort Sanders (150th Anniversary Battle Reenactment)** (10008 Washington Pike, Corryton, Tennessee. Website: <http://www.battleoffortsanders.com/Site/Welcome.html>. Reenactors registration contact at: [scclapp44@yahoo.com](mailto:scclapp44@yahoo.com). Michigan Contact: Jeremy Bevard at [jbj696@yahoo.com](mailto:jbj696@yahoo.com).

**11 - 13. Hartford City Civil War Days** (Hartford City, Indiana). Contact Rob Van at [robert\\_r\\_van@yahoo.com](mailto:robert_r_van@yahoo.com):

**11 - 13. 2nd Annual Carpenter Farm Civil War Muster** (Peacock Road Tree Farm, Laingsburg, Michigan). Contact: Email at [tenthmich@yahoo.com](mailto:tenthmich@yahoo.com).

**12. Annual Harvest Ball** (Central United Methodist Church, 215 N. Capitol Avenue, Lansing, Michigan). Contact Linda Williams at [lansinglinda@comcast.net](mailto:lansinglinda@comcast.net) or by telephone at 517-484-2496.

**12. Woodland Cemetery Tour (East Fourth and Jerome Streets, Monroe, Michigan).** 10:00 AM. Contact Christine Kull at [chris\\_kull@monroemi.org](mailto:chris_kull@monroemi.org) or by telephone at 734-240-7787.

**12. Seminar: *Focus on the Civil War*** (Orchard Lake St. Mary s, 3535 Indian Trail C, Dining Hall - Bldg. 15 (off Commerce Road entrance), Orchard Lake, Michigan). 9:00. Contact: Judy at 248-808-0893.

**12 - 13. 2013 Antietam National Battlefield Living History Weekend (5831 Dunker Church Road, Sharpsburg, Maryland).** Contact: Craig DeCrane at [decrane@buckeye-express.com](mailto:decrane@buckeye-express.com).

**13. Waterloo Farm Museum Pioneer Day** (13493 Waterloo-Munith Road, Waterloo, Michigan). Noon to 5:00 PM. Contact Telephone: 517-596-2254.

**16. Presentation: *A Portrayal of Edmund Ruffin*** (Lily Theater, Conner Prairie Interactive History Park, 13400 Allisonville Road, Fishers, Indiana). 7:30 PM. Contact Paul Watson at [pwatson001@indy.rr.com](mailto:pwatson001@indy.rr.com).

**19 - 20. Civil War Living History Event** (Greenmead Historic Village, 20201 Newburgh Road, Livonia, Michigan) Saturday 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Contact Darlene Lum at [lumdarlene@yahoo.com](mailto:lumdarlene@yahoo.com).

**24 - 27. Historic Bowens Mills Civil War Commemorative Weekend** (55 Briggs Road, Middleville, Michigan). Contact: Telephone 269-795-7530

**26. Plymouth Historical Museum's Civil War Cemetery Walk** (Riverside Cemetery, Plymouth Road, Plymouth, Michigan). Tours start at 4:00 PM, last tour starts at 7:30 PM. Contact Elizabeth Kerstens at [director@plymouthhistory.org](mailto:director@plymouthhistory.org).

**29. FREE Sesquicentennial Civil War Seminar - *Topic to be announced*** (Sunfield United Brethren Church, 8436 West Grand Ledge Hwy (M-43) in Sunfield, Michigan). 7:00 PM. Contact: Paul David Arnold at: [arnoldsuvcwmi@sbcglobal.net](mailto:arnoldsuvcwmi@sbcglobal.net)

Keith G. Harrison, Chair  
7th Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee

The Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners is composed of over 1,000 Civil War reenactors and living history historians; patriotic and hereditary organizations; scholars and educators, roundtables; local and statewide libraries, historical societies, genealogical societies; local and statewide museums; and numerous local Michigan communities that sponsor special and annual historical programs related to the Civil War Each year the History Partners hosts the annual Reenactors' Conference and creates a Statewide Reenactors' Events Calendar to commemorate the Michigan's role in Civil War.

