

THE UNION VOLUNTEER



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

Volume XXXIII No. 10 October 2014



Photo submitted by Bjorn Angman

From Bjorn Angman:

Hi all,

First of all I want to thank you for the regular newsletters. It is very interesting to get news from our parent-unit in the U.S.

With this enclosed pic from our latest event-- "Hoover's Gap"--played out in beautiful county Blekinge, in the very south of Sweden, during the first weekend of September, we want to show that we are holding the Red, White and Blue high. In the company are Swedes and Danes under command of Captains Osterman and Christiansen.

Best greetings to each and everyone
from 7th Michigan (Sweden)

Final Notice

of Annual Meeting:

The annual meeting for the
7th Michigan Vol. Inf., Co. B

Will be held on

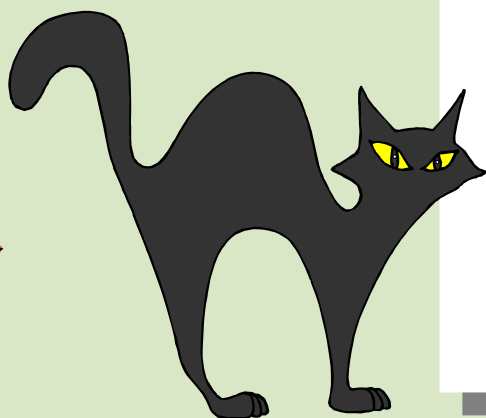
Sunday, October 19, 2014

1:00 pm at Robbins UMC

Eaton Rapids, MI

All members are **strongly** encouraged to attend, since we will, as always, be voting on the new club leadership positions for the coming year.

Have a
Happy,
Delightfully
Spooky,
and Safe
Halloween!





President's Report

Well, it's my last newsletter report to you as president. I hope you don't mind me being a little wordy this month. First, I have greatly appreciated the honor you have provided me by electing me president these past 4 years. I am humbled to have led us through the "150's". I thank you all for your kind support, guidance and advice.

We had a few accomplishments over that time. The policies and procedures have been revised and "cleaned up". We have continued to run one of the most successful events around. We survived and grew closer over the "Cumberland Guard" flap. My wife tells me that I "always need to be in charge". Maybe she's right; a large part of me wants to continue as president. But the truth is, its time: time for fresh thoughts, and a fresh perspective. This is what has kept us strong all this time; everyone adds a piece to the quilt and can point to their unique contribution, but it takes every piece to make the whole cloth.

Many challenges remain. We need to find better ways to recruit and retain new members. We need to find our place in a changing reenacting world where events are fewer, numbers are lower and competition grows from other time periods such as WWII. I read Bob Smith's article in last month's newsletter. What a classy guy. I remember those days well when we discussed/argued about Jackson. Some felt we should end it. Some, like me, wanted to continue. I must confess I remember it as a bit more contentious than Bob does. I really thought I was going to be drummed out of the club at one point. But when the discussion ended, we agreed to try, and we put our differences aside-permanently. I was fortunate that I had such great support and help from all and that's why we still "do Jackson".

It's time to do the same with the Michigan and Midwest reenacting community. The battle we took on was worthy and worthwhile, but it's over. It's time to put our differences aside and find a way to work as cohesively and collaboratively as possible with our brothers and sisters in other groups, in Michigan, Indiana, and Ohio. Many of the people whose egos and personalities came before the greater good are now gone from the hobby or are no longer able to run roughshod over the hobby. Let's find a way to support East and West, North and South, take our turns as both leaders and followers and once again make the hobby prosper and grow in the Midwest. The lesson to me is quite clear. When people in this hobby put their own needs before the best interest of the whole we all suffer. When we work for the greater good it grows and everyone benefits.

I hope, health willing, to have 10-15 more years of active participation in the hobby. You are my dearest friends, second only to my family, and I have treasured all 12 years of my membership with the 7th. I hope and believe that the next 30 years from now, there will be a 7th Michigan, that it continues to be welcoming and healthy as a club and that it sets the example as it does today for how to come together to make this hobby work.

I'm still going to be very active with the club and military. I hope to continue as First Sergeant, a role I have grown to love. I want to grow old with my good friends in the hobby and make many more.

As always, I remain,

Your most obedient servant,

Doug

2014 Leadership

New Member co-Chairs:

Jeff Verstraete (military)
jbvisme@gmail.com
Heather Jarrett (civilian)
princessh15@live.com

President: Doug McComas
Vice President: Anson Roland
Secretary: Bill Jarrett
Treasurer: Don Everett
Military: Dave Slayton, Captain
Civilian Coordinator: Katie Everett
Board Members-at-Large:
Marie Searles, Pat Downing,
Jeff Verstraete

Annual Membership Dues:

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

Website: www.7thmichigan.us

Newsletter Submission Guidelines:

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

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

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

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

Thank-you.
Ellyn
Ellyn Painter, Editor

Military Minutes – September 2014

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

Holland-Van Raalte Civil War Muster - Capt. Slayton

Another well run event is in the books, and the weather got interesting. The organization of the event was great as we arrived on a windy & cloudy evening. Over the course of the weekend we had seven stalwart soldiers able to attend. A camp site in the woods was found after a little search, that wasn't already occupied. The criteria was no poison ivy, or at least minimal amounts, and ground without many low spots. It was quite convenient to water and the reenactor dinner. Friday night brought wind, rain, wind, thunder and then some real intense wind and rain. Rob Stone thought of the trench you dig around your tent to divert water, so I did likewise. Turned out to be a good idea. Saturday dawned cloudy (and windy) with a few sprinkles, but we got company drill accomplished (we fell in with the 3rd Michigan) and the battle in the afternoon with a good crowd on hand. Cavalry, artillery and the infantry enjoyed a two part battle with the Confederates, with only a few windy sprinkles.

Later when serving the reenactor dinner was just finishing up, it rained with the wind still going strong. No surprise there. Time was spent in wholesome activities in the twilight hours at the Emerald Peacock, and no-one needed to be introduced to the Provost Guard. A certain private did have some unfortunate luck in three games of skill, and fortunately for him no monthly pay was put to chance.

More water diversion structures had been constructed due to the foresight of Craig Searles, and were needed Saturday night. It rained, was windy, and a thunder storm rolled through, followed by high winds. Again. Most of the water was diverted, so only minor flooding of tents ensued. Sunday dawned, slowly, with wind and drizzle and sprinkles. It was getting quite muddy and slippery on the access roads, so the organizers had to cancel the afternoon battle. No one wanted injuries to reenactors or guests on the hilly field of battle. So an early end, but it was needed to get everyone safely out and on the way home. Thank you to Rob Stone, Doug McComas, Jim MacKinnon, Al Baerren, Ian Serles and Craig Serles for making the trek to Holland. I enjoyed the event and the comradery around the camp fire. Hopefully I can will many more at the October meeting where we will elect officers and NCO's.

Upcoming Events

Two important things happen in October. The Harvest Ball on October 11th is first, and help is needed for a variety of low stress and simple things. PLEASE see the last Newsletter for a list of ways to help. Second is our first meeting of the fall on October 19th, 1:00 pm at Robbins Church, 6410 Bunker Road, Eaton Rapids, Michigan. For the military that will include the election of Captain, Lieutenant, 1st Sergeant, two other Sergeants and four Corporals. If you are interested in running for a position, please contact me to get our candidate list going.

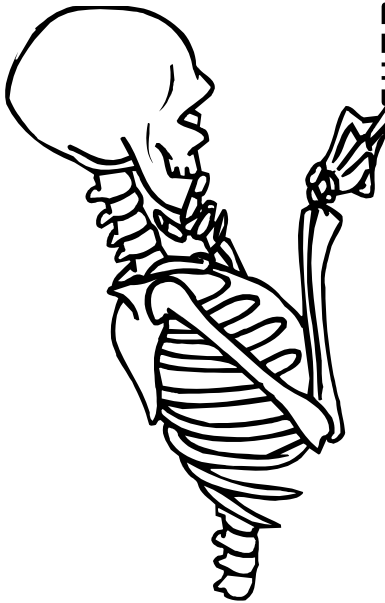
- October 11th : Harvest Ball, Lansing
- October 19th 1:00pm: Military Officer elections & club meeting

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact me. In your service,
Dave Slayton, Captain
slaytondave@juno.com
(517) 663-4161



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

 William Jarrett, Club Secretary
btjarrett@aol.com



Dues are due...



Dues are due...



Dues are due...



Annual membership dues will be due as of the date of our annual meeting, Oct. 19.
Checks to: **7th Michigan Vol. Inf., Co. B** Mail to: **P.O. Box 16206, Lansing, MI 48901-6206**
\$16 – individual; \$19.20 – family; \$6.00 – receive newsletter as non-participating,
non-voting member

Club News

Welcome our new members:

Violet Szenas - *from Brooklyn, MI*

The Loomis Family - Kendall ("Casey") Loomis
and Teresa Reed-Loomis, and children –
from Gobles, MI



Money Gift to Britta & Alvin:

The matching fund collection for Britta and Alvin, the widow and son of Matts Geschwind, came to \$850.00. Thanks to all who contributed.



Quartermaster:

We have lots of military equipment and clothing available for purchase, including several guns. If anyone needs anything to complete your gear, please contact Don Everett. 517-393-3475 djkeverett@comcast.net



Upcoming Sewing Party:

The first sewing party of the winter season will be at Vonda Warren's on **Sat. Oct. 18.** (See map on page 6) .Those ladies who wish to do so will meet for breakfast at 9:00am at Eaton Place. We will then meet back at Vonda's house at 10:00am for a day of sewing, eating, and visiting with friends. Bring a passing dish for potluck lunch, and whatever sewing or craft project you wish to work on. The next party will be on Nov. 18. Location to be announced later.



Credit Due:

In last month's issue, the Editor intended, but forgot, to give credit to the talented author of the "Jacksonburg Bugle," who was none other than Doug McComas. Thank-you, Doug, for your informative, hilarious, and colorful (*yellow*, that is) journalism.



Christmas Photo Needed:

If anyone has a good quality Christmas (or winter will do) photo showing 7th Michigan members, taken at a past or recent event, please send it to me. I will select the best offering for the December newsletter issue cover. The Editor



Tentative Event Dates:

Nov. 2 - Jackson Muster Appreciation Dinner; Dec. 6 - Club Christmas Party. Watch for more information and confirmation or changes of event dates.



In the Newspaper

Several of our members appeared in the Jackson Citizen Patriot's coverage of the Concord Cemetery Walk on Sept. 19. Mark Heath, Steve Hainstock, and Doug McComas portrayed historical figures from Concord, MI at Maple Grove Cemetery. See website link with photos of our friends at:

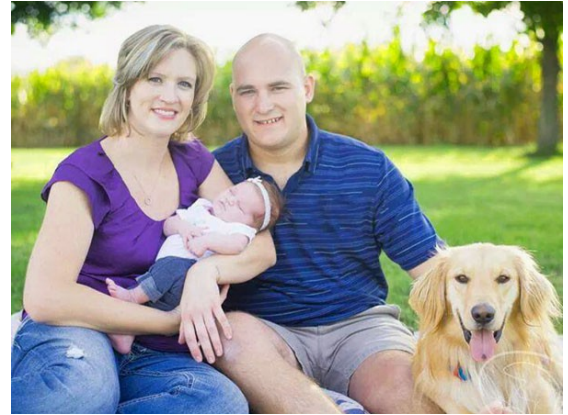
http://www.mlive.com/news/jackson/index.ssf/2014/09/speaking_with_spirits_cemetery.html



Welcome to the World, Natalie Marie Woodman

*Our youngest, Laura,
and her husband, Zack,
presented us with our
newest grandchild
on September 8th.
Natalie Marie Woodman
Is here!*

*From Jim & Gloria
Kirschensteiner*



“TEAR DOWN THAT WALL!”

JACKSON GEARS UP FOR MORE CASCADES RENOVATIONS

The unsightly concrete wall that has fronted (and affronted!) the Jackson Cascades Falls for decades is coming down. In an article in the Jackson Citizen Patriot on Thursday, September 25th, Jackson County officials said the Falls “will likely be uncovered before spring 2015.” The demolition might even be done as early as December of this year.

Local construction companies are donating some of their help to remove the 150-ft. wall and amphitheater behind it, thus reopening view of the Falls from Brown St. and beyond, as it was from the early days of the park. Removing the wall is the first step toward a \$9 million renovation and redesign project. The county's ultimate goal is to return the site to its original state, open and fully accessible to the public far and wide.

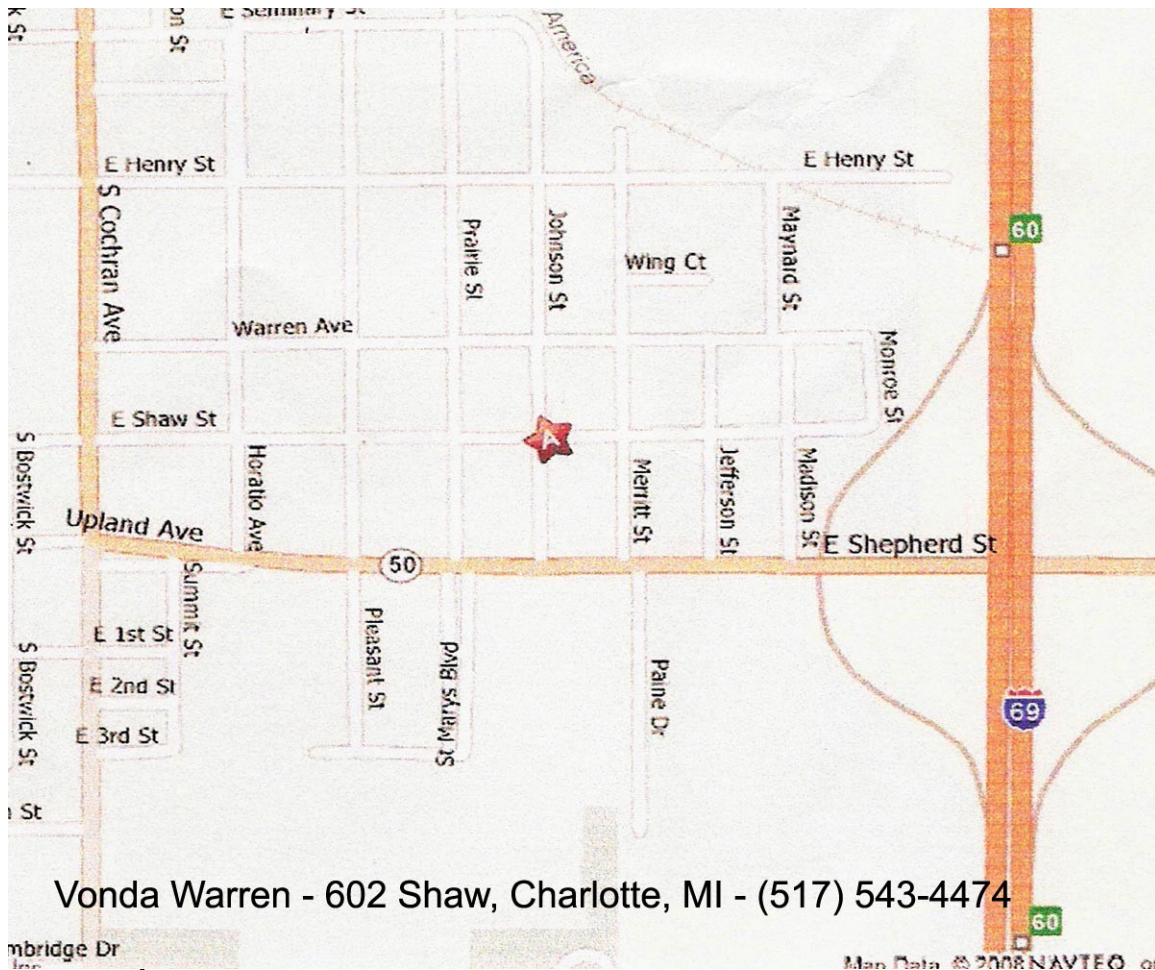
The Cascades at Sparks Foundation Park (the true name of the park usually known locally as Cascades Park) originally opened to the public on May 9, 1932, and in its heyday attracted large crowds from all over the country, and even from other countries. By 1969, when the wall was constructed, the Falls was already showing its age. The wall and chain link fence surrounding the entire Falls were constructed to keep out vandals and generate revenue (by charging admission) for maintaining the Cascades for future generations.

Several renovations have been required, besides the one in 1969, and now, once again, the entire Cascades is “falling apart at the seams,” its electrical, mechanical, and water filtration systems being just a few of the issues needing attention besides the aesthetics of the site. It is probable that a wall of some sort will still be present on the front of the Cascades, but it will be see-through, and include a plaza where the raised seating was. More long-term renovations could include demolishing and rebuilding the fountain, creating a spray park and two new buildings.

It is not known at the present to what degree these changes could affect the future of the Jackson Civil War Muster, but it is the speculation of this author that if the opening of the Falls to more free access by the general public attracts a new influx of visitors, it might possibly help our event by increasing our numbers, as well. As always, however, we reenactors will embrace the future, whatever it may be, as we have the past.

The Editor

Source: Mlive, Jackson Citizen Patriot, September 25, 2014. Article by Will Forgrave, wforgrav@mlive.com or 517-262-7554. Follow him on Twitter at @WillForgrave.



J & J Eaton Place is located at 218 S. Cochran Ave. Charlotte, MI 517-543-6630



To close out this issue of the newsletter, here we have another delightful scene featuring our beloved "Old Farts Mess" - the Old Farts hard at work at Antietam, Sept. 2007. Photo courtesy of Jim Kirschensteiner