

THE UNION VOLUNTEER

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



Volume XXXV No. 10 October 2016



The October 2015 7th Michigan's Harvest Ball, Lansing, MI. Photo by Vonda Warren.

Final Notice of Annual Meeting:

Sunday, October 16, 2016, 1:00PM
Robbins United Methodist Church
6419 Bunker Rd., Eaton Rapids
Please make every effort to attend!

Map on
pg. 12

Upcoming Key Effort Events:

Perryville, KY – October 7-9
Harvest Ball – October 22



Williamston History Day Event -

Sunday, October 9th.

This is our next scheduled activity (though not a "Key Effort" event).

NOTE CHANGES!!

I just heard back from our event contact at Williamston and my previous article from last month's newsletter contains some wrong information. So please read and note the following.

The living history in Williamston will be from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. We can set up starting at noon. The location has been changed for the better, I believe. We will not be in front of the City Hall. We will be setting up in McCormick Park which is 2 blocks north of the traffic light (only one in town) at Grand River and Putnam. The park sits along the Red Cedar River and has handy bathrooms. Also, a Sunday Farmers Market will take place nearby from 10 am to 2 pm. This should help draw spectators to our living history. As with last year we will have plenty of high school students visiting to ask questions and get extra credit. According to our contact the organizers have some news releases going out in an effort to bolster attendance.

I am aware, as are the organizers, that the Perryville National Event is competing with this living history, but we should still be able to get out a half dozen military and as many, or more civilians. Please make every effort to attend this worthwhile, fun and very "recruitable" event.

Bob Smith

Event Coordinator

NOTE: There are 2 parking lots, and street parking is allowed anywhere.



New Member Chairman:

Daniel Malick (military)
dmalick12@gmail.com

Julie Everett (civilian)
djkeverett@comcast.net

President: Rob Stone
Vice President: Katie Everett
Secretary: Bill Jarrett
Treasurer: Don Everett
Military: Doug McComas, Captain
Civilian Coordinator: Katie 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

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

Visit YOUR History!

Williamston History Day Tours

Sunday October 9th 1-5pm FREE
Start at any site - Refreshments - For more info, call 899-4898
Maps available at each site

Williamston Depot Museum
386 W. Grand River
New exhibit: "First Baptist Church, Celebrating 175 Years."

Civil War Reenactors
McCormick Park
7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment

St. Katherines Episcopal Church
Built 1887
4650 N. Meridian Rd.

Branch School
19th Century one-room schoolhouse
985 Sherman Road.

Cemetery Tours
Summit, Mount Calvary and Foote Cemeteries

Williamstown Township Park
Open House

Military Report

I sit here in my comfortable room as the rain is pouring down. I think of the times this season where I was under the canvas under the same condition. The season is almost over. At this writing my last military event is likely to be Perryville, and at this writing I'm not sure if I'll be carrying a rifle or a sword, but either will be fine, we will do what is best for the event as we have all season. I love that battlefield and the fact that we are on the actual ground.



Van Raalte after action-Sept. 17-18, 2016:

Can't be Holland without rain and the skies opened up twice Friday evening, but then it was done. The weather was fantastic for the remainder and we had a great time! Despite packing everything needed, except for the canvas. Oops. Thanks to Dave and Chris for saving my bacon on that one.

On Saturday we fielded 12 men and were first company. Given our size differential (12 in 1st company, vs the 3rd's 43), we functioned very appropriately as skirmishers in the battles. The main body of troops, and after valiant pushes and struggles, were slaughtered almost to a man. As in most events Saturday was a little rough with some of our reb friends suffering "scenario amnesia" requiring some quick adjustments by Major Marty Walker, but by Sunday it all came together and looked fabulous. As is always the case with our friends in the Third the food, drink and camaraderie flowed throughout the weekend.

We observed, but did not participate in the consumption of pickled pig lips (we got us some smart boys)!

The boys were issued 30 rounds by our hosts over the weekend and these were much appreciated. 1st company worked much of the weekend with the NY Fire Zoo's and we enjoyed the cooperation and friendship of [Chad Johnson](#) and his boys. As has been the case this season your captain found ways to invert the company and such, but the boys, with a little good natured ribbing, are "doing what I meant, not what I said". Don't miss out next year; the event continues to mature and grow!

The weekend before Van Raalte we had military participation at the Charlotte parade, and Meridian Village.

If you aren't coming to Perryville I strongly encourage you to go to Williamston. It's a fun day with good turnout of kids and a great recruiting event in our own backyard.

Wolcott Mills is also an October event. Head on up to support our friends from the 4th if you can it's a great location and event.

On a more personal note, I have truly enjoyed my first year as Captain. At Van Raalte I felt for the first time that I was competent enough to be in command and can see that I will continue to learn and grow with you.

The annual meeting is coming up as well. I have had some feedback for people interested in NCO positions but it's not too late to run for a position.

I feel like this year we are turning a corner, and we are facing a period of renewed growth and stability.

I remain as always,

Your most obedient servant,

Captain McComas

"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!



Reenactor Event Time Line For Perryville-Oct. 7-9

Wednesday, Oct. 5 – Advanced parties can access camp areas. Please make arrangements with Reenactor Coordinators to do so.

Thursday, Oct. 6 – at 1:00 p.m. Reenactor registrations open at the American Legion Hall in Perryville. Address location is on Registration Map.

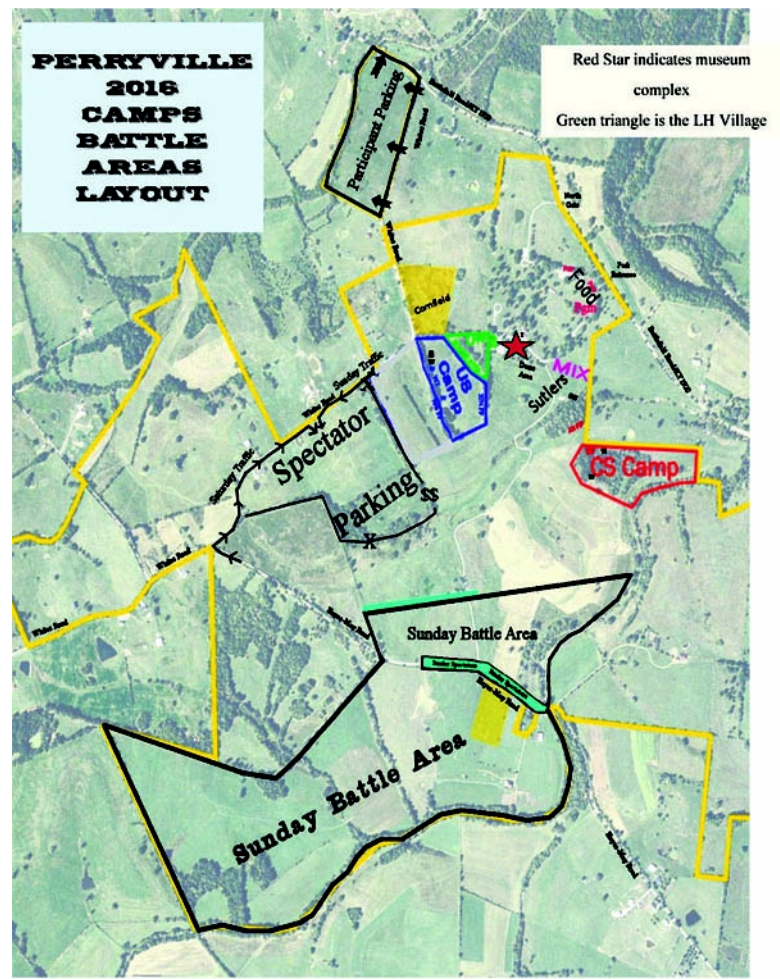
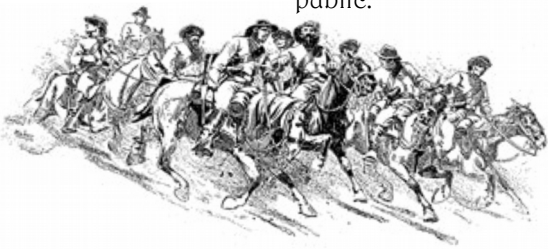
Friday, Oct. 7 – at 12:01 a.m. Reenactor tactical commences

Saturday, Oct. 8 – at 12:01 a.m. Vehicle access to reenactor camps ceases.

Saturday, Oct. 8 – at 2:00 p.m. The Cornfield Battle

Sunday, Oct. 9 – at 2:00 p.m. The Fight for Bottoms' Farm

Sunday, Oct. 9 – at 3:30 p.m. Reenactor camps closed to public.



October is the best time of year
for those historic cemetery
walks, but no matter when they
occur, they often yield
interesting results....

Doug McComas submitted this:

"On my annual visit to Mackinac Island I was wandering through St. Anne's cemetery and found this stone and plaque. As it states he was sgt major for the 7th. I thought the group would find it interesting that one of our regiment spent his life on the island and was justice of the peace and judge for Mackinac County."





At Left: Rob Stone at the Gazebo, discussing with passersby daily life for the typical Civil War soldier. Right: Katie (nee) Smith. Photos courtesy of Rob Stone; Bob & Carol Smith.

Editor's Note: Visit the Meridian Village website at: <http://www.meridianhistoricalvillage.org/> to see 2016 Fall Festival Photos which feature members of the 7th MI demonstrating daily life in the log cabin.



Meridian Historic Village Fall Festival – Okemos, MI Sept. 10

In spite of the wet weather the attending members of the 7th were cozy in our period cabin at the village and a steady crowd of spectators made our day fly by. Present for the 7th were Anson Roland, whose knowledge of the cast iron stove was extremely helpful in our cooking efforts, Sue Colegrove, Dave Downing, Dave Slayton, Steve Church, Rob Stone and the "Smith Clan" represented by Carol, Katie, Jane, Grant and yours truly. Carol, Jane and Grant produced homemade apple sauce on the stove which was delicious at lunch and made the cabin smell particularly good. We handed out all the recruiting information we had and encouraged a number of young families to consider membership in the 7th. We'll see if any of them take the plunge.

In the course of the day Sue and I both had opportunities to talk about next year's event with the village organizers. Next year they plan the event for Saturday, July 1st to coincide with a celebration of Meridian Township's 175th "birthday." This has the good effect of moving it away from the September events that have caused us to "split" for this event the last two years. If 4th of July parades are not moved to the weekend we should be able to attend next year's event in better numbers. They would really like to see a military encampment and possibly a skirmish if numbers permit it. They have plenty of room and an excellent hill for spectators to watch. The cabin will be ours again if we want it. We can go into more detail when we select our events for next year.

Submitted by,
Bob Smith



Above: Anson Roland, demonstrating children's games at the cabin. Photo by Sue Colegrove.



Smith family in the cabin. Photo shared by Bob & Carol, Facebook



Photo courtesy of Sue Colegrove.

Frontier Days Parade – Charlotte Michigan

September 10, 2016

Well, another Frontier Days Parade has come and gone. The weather stayed dry for the parade although we had a few gentle spritzes while waiting to begin (ask Al B. and Jim M. about the rainstorm that interrupted their dinner). The military ranks were composed totally of privates (actually all past Captains of the 7th Michigan, Co. B). Jim Kirschensteiner commanded the first division, Jim MacKinnon officered the second division, Al Baerren ruled the third division with an iron fist, and I (seems to be a pattern here) brought up the rear with the fourth division. Quartermaster Don Everett drove the team of horses (Louis Chevrolet would have been proud) pulling the wagon transporting the civilian contingent composed of Vonda Warren, Joan Emerick, Julie Everett, Joy Henderson, Gloria Kirschensteiner, Ellyn Painter, and Coletta Crews. The ladies did an outstanding job decorating the “wagon”. Miss Vonda provided an overabundance of patriotic decorations to enhance its appearance. The parade was your normal “walk in the park” with lots of spectators cheering the ladies and saluting the troops. Every block it seems a new youngster repeated the proverbial question of “is it loaded?”. Following the parade we retired to Miss Vonda’s residence to partake of a cornucopia of dishes, desserts, libations, and good conversation. A good time was had by all. Thank you Vonda for opening your home and being a wonderful host!

Most Respectfully, Your Obedient Servant
Tom Emerick



Photos above, and below by Andrea Davis, shared on Facebook.



From Pinky D'Cat
(aka Al Baerren)

It was great seeing everyone at the Charlotte Parade on Saturday. The weather was perfect for marching and Tom E did a great job on the Club description that announcers read for us at least three times along the Parade route. Having us troops march behind all those women on the wagon was half the fun.

Special thanks to Vonda for hosting the potluck. Vonda's place is a great place for a get-together and it was fun to catch up with everyone. I've never been so full. Even with all us reenactors together in the same place, it only rained for a while and it didn't start until we were all inside.



By Andrea Davis



Photos above, and at right, by Ellyn Painter.



First person? Imperative!

by Rob Stone from robsbigblog
Posted by wordmainspring on
September 15, 2016

In language, the **imperative** is a grammatical mood that “forms commands or requests, including the giving of prohibition or permission, or any other kind of advice or exhortation.”

In a quarter century of participation in American Civil War re-enacting, I have had plenty of opportunities to see the

variety of attitudes with which women and men approach the hobby. I think it can fairly be said that *all* hobbies exhibit a spectrum of involvement, from near-fanatical to ultra-casual. That’s the freedom a hobby ought to afford.

In re-enacting this spectrum is manifested at one end by people that style themselves “progressives.” Such folk strive for authenticity in all aspects of their impression. Thus, they are likely to make their own clothing (following mid-Nineteenth Century materials and patterns) and eat foods that were typical soldiers’ fare.

The other end of the dial sees those that are apt to have a replica canvas tent stuffed with beer coolers, air mattresses, cots, LED lights and other modern-day creature comforts. The pejorative term “farb” (whose origins and meaning are open to debate) is often applied by progressives comparing themselves to these less authentic brethren and sistern (yes, that is a genuine word).

(Full disclosure: my re-enacting club’s philosophical perspective falls smack-dab between these extremes. It is a family-friendly group whose members – whether civilian or military – work hard to present impressions that are authentic, without lice-ridden clothing or possibly catching dysentery! Also, I don’t judge re-enactors that make use of the items listed in the last paragraph.)

I am developing a series of hour-long talks to educate people about aspects of life in Civil War times. (Check out <https://www.facebook.com/Near-as-I-remember-Reflections-of-a-Civil-War-Veteran-285082678359556/>)

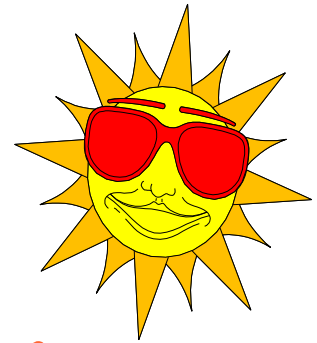
The evolving list of lectures, which can be tailored to particular audiences, addresses topics that I believe will be of interest to many people.

What has all this to do with the posting’s title? Central to “Near as I remember” is making my presentations in first-person. To credibly communicate Civil War times I must “exhort” listeners to accept me as a time traveler, one that can answer questions while looking quizzical when asked about cell phones, airplanes, and the like. Recognizing this has enabled me to, if you will, *enflesh* a gentleman of the 1860s.

This is more than wearing a woolen uniform, hefting a rifle musket and passing around replica bullets and hardtack. It necessitates describing the past with deep knowledge, confidence and enthusiasm. If I’m to honor the past, first-person *is* imperative!

I’m curious: have any of you experienced presentations by women or men that are representing the past? What did they do well, or what could they have done better?

Reprinted by permission



Club News

While most of us are bracing ourselves for the coming of a typical Michigan autumn, some of our 7th Michigan members are having an end of year fling in the sun! Jim and Gloria Kirschensteiner are in Florida, and the Smith family (Bob, Carol, and daughters) are touring the Mediter-ranean. Jealous.....oh, so jealous..... We’ll be waiting for all those vacation pics, guys!

Also, Mark Heath recently celebrated a birthday on September 29.

Happy Birthday, Mark!



Have you ever wondered

what it would be like to be able to go to the top of one of these Towers?

I have (when over the last few years some of my co-workers were able to do it). Well, I got the chance this year – no words can really describe it, but I have pictures.

ASK ME. Thanks!

Julie A. Everett

Administrative Assistant

Federal Highway Administration

315 W. Allegan St., Room 201

Lansing, MI 48933

Julie.everett@dot.gov

The Blue Bottle

Respite Tent Update

2016 Goals

1. Provide a historically accurate impression that demonstrates the direct and indirect ways in which the Civil War and Spiritualism affected one another.
2. Provide a place for brief respite from the adversities of re-enacting a war for military and civilian re-enactors in need of such respite.

At VanRaalte, the 7th soldier encampment received a pot of forager stew. (Note: Salt is both an acquired taste and a sodium health concern; we don't salt soups/stews, but you are welcome to add your own salt to taste if you wish.)

We also provided water after drill/battle.

It's been a challenging year, from idea to encampment, and I thank all who helped along the way.



THE UNITED STATES HOSPITAL AT GEORGETOWN, D. C., FORMERLY THE UNION HOTEL.
U.S. Hospital at Georgetown, D.D. - formerly the Union Hotel

Frozen Tears: Exploring Civil War Era PTSD in the Context of Civil War Re-enacting

By Julie Sarge

Part 2: The Inner View

(Question: In which Larry McMurty book in the LONESOME DOVE series does a former Ranger and Civil War veteran tell Woodrow Call that Call has no idea what the war was like because "When we get into it with the Comanches, maybe it's ten or fifteen of us, and fifteen or twenty of them, all of us shooting at one another. But in the big fight [war] I was in, it's thousands and thousands on both sides, and cannons and smoke and horses running around half kilt. I seen one horse come by with just a leg in a stirrup----it's terrible.")

A.) Dead Man's Walk

B.) Comanche Moon

C.) Lonesome Dove

D.) Streets of Laredo

(Answer appears at end of article.)

Although the medical personnel and volunteers---and later family and friends----of Civil War vets with PTSD wrote a great deal about the pain they witnessed, the veterans themselves shared very little of their anguish. Many attempted to describe their experiences but quickly summed it all up with a phrase like "It's too awful to put into words."

When we recount a birth, a wedding, a contest, a party, we access the feelings we felt then. We do the same for movies we've seen, concerts we've heard. People, military and civilian alike, shy away from discussing various aspects of traumatic war events, because such discussion brings up intense emotions, emotions that the people have quelled in order to survive the event itself. If such emotions surface (often indicated by a pain in one's throat or by a sudden tearing up in one's eyes) people quickly shut such feelings off again.

Sadly, many cultures and societies consider expressing such emotions to be inappropriate and take great pride in denying strong emotions of any kind. This, of course, was considered simply good manners and proper decorum during the Civil War era. This also prevented those with PTSD from seeking help. As a matter of fact, it still prevents those of us with PTSD from speaking up, from seeking help.

Yet, each person who does speak up and seek help has a chance to resolve the original trauma as well as gain a skill set to use in times of future stress and trauma.

Continued on next page.....

[Personal permission has been granted to publish the following piece in order to help others.]

When I was just past 30, I was diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (Delayed Onset), due to a chaotic and abusive childhood. I was blessed and lucky enough to find a skilled counselor/therapist who not only helped me deal with my past but also taught me to deal with my present. I continued to add to my knowledge and skills for my own benefit and in turn began to help others with the same issues. I now say that I have Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome, because I've come to define it as a normal human reaction used to survive abnormal human situations.

I'm a civilian, and I portray a civilian at re-enactments, and recently I was at a smaller event when my past collided with my present in a very unexpected way.

Several men came up behind me, quietly, with guns. They were from our unit, galvanized so as to fight against other soldiers. I was startled that they were behind me, and I looked about to see what was going on. Off in front of me was a roped off battle field. I could see other soldiers there.

Now I understood that this was the planned out battle engagement, but I found myself acting in a strange manner. I asked the nearby galvanized guys, "Should I take cover?"

"No." One gave me an odd look.

I then asked, "Well, if those soldiers over there had live ammo, would the bullets be able to hit us here?"

Another odd look. "Yeah, they would."

As the galvanized guys went out to the field, and all through the battle, I ducked in and out of nearby bushes, all the while wondering why on earth I was doing so. Then I noticed two girls, in period clothing, standing near the battlefield ropes, and my first thought was, very weirdly, "Who's going to help them get away?"

By this time, I realized that I was probably having a mild emotional flashback to something in my past. I sat down, calmed my breathing, and ran through known possibilities but drew a blank. "Weird," I thought as I glanced once more at the girls, "I'm retired from public ed for over three years and I still feel responsible for----Oh, holy crow!"

Suddenly I knew exactly what had triggered my flight among the bushes and trees. I don't know which side won the battle that day. I simply sat there, remembering an early spring day more than seven years ago...

I was teaching 4th grade that year, a class top-heavy with needy kids, and we teachers were told that our district would be implementing CODE RED intruder drills soon. It was February, and I taught my students about the Underground Railroad, then used that concept to introduce the CODE RED drill. Students understood and practiced several times with growing skill and confidence. I always believed that I could run a safe, positive classroom for all my students, and we were, I believed, well-prepared.

Sure enough, our school had a drill. It was not announced as a drill, however, so neither staff nor students knew whether we were practicing or facing real danger. My students responded quickly and quietly: lights off, out of sight, silence, door locked. We were even better than we'd been in our best practice.

What we didn't know was that the district security guards were checking our response. Imagine us sitting in silence, only to hear the jingle of keys and the sound of a key in the lock of our door! Twenty-six pairs of eyes looked at me in panic as the door swung open.

Thank goodness the guard had a proper uniform on! He glanced about the room, spotted us and smiled. "You all are doing a great job!"

He then closed and locked the door, leaving twenty-seven people relieved but fully capable of running 5 miles in ten minutes due to the huge surge of adrenalin in each and every one of us.

Now at the re-enactment as I recalled that CODE RED incident, I consciously acknowledged for the first time that I'd placed myself between my students and the door, between my students and whatever danger might enter through that door-----and I also acknowledged for the first time that each and every school day after that, I went to work fully aware on a deep level that I would stop with my body whatever rock, knife, or bullet that came through the doorway in order to protect the children in my charge, but that I was unable to keep them truly safe in the way I'd always believed before. And each day after that drill, I went to school with the knowledge that I myself might not survive till dismissal.

The inner view of PTSS differs in details from person to person, but the core of it is basically the same: a person faces a situation that endangers the personal survival on some level; no hope to cope effectively is available; in order to survive, the person dissociates, shifting perspective in the process. Life seems different afterward, because we've not only shifted our perspective but we've also lost an essential part of ourselves. We then have an added task-----searching for the part of our self that vanished in the dissociation.

Part 3 The Hidden Healers will appear next month.

Answer: Reuben told Call this in STREETS OF LAREDO.



Italianate home of Tom & Joan Emerick, 106 E. South St. Mason, MI

The lovely domicile at left, with which we are all familiar, will be one of 7 featured residences on the

Mason Historic Homes Tour

Sponsored by the Mason Area Historical Society

Next Saturday, Oct. 8 From 10AM – 4PM

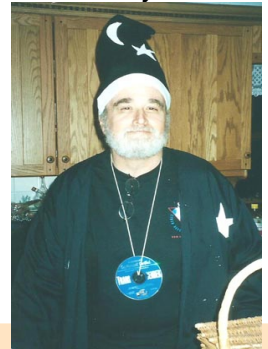
Tickets/brochures available for \$12 each at Wares Pharmacy, Bestsellers Bookstore and Coffee Company, the Maple St. Mall, and the Historical Museum (202 E. Oak St.)

Museum Phone: 517-676-9837

Website: www.masonmuseum.org

Email: info@masonmuseum.org

Below: Stormi & Barry – We miss you!



A Look Back in Time... Halloween 2003

7th MI members past and present -party
at Barry & Stormi Stulzer's home,
Charlottz, MI



Photos by Ellyn Painter





*Come along Virginia
You can stop
and smell the
Roses later!
We must not dawdle!
We must order our tickets for the
Harvest Ball!*

Last Call for Harvest Ball Tickets!

Our annual Harvest Ball is fast
approaching – Sat. Oct. 22.
Music by Ruffwater String Band, with
Glen Morningstar, Jr.
7th MI members: \$10 each!
Going fast!
Contact Gilbert or Cyndi Carlson for
tickets.

517-782-8199
cyndiinthisservice@yahoo.com



**Ladies,
Are You Ready
to Face the
Winter?**

Check out Vol. II, Episode 20,
"Women's Winter Headwear"
Featuring Will Eichler
The Civil War Digital Digest
@civilwardigitaldigest
on Facebook.



Future Events.... the club has received invitations to the following events currently in the consideration and planning stage.

2017

Delhi Township 175th Anniversary Living History (Holt, MI)

June (no date given)

Contact: Jacob McCormick (delhitownship175@gmail.com)

Notes: Mr. McCormick says they did something similar in 1992.

Greater Washington Area Historical Society Living History (Macomb County)

June 4

Contact: Ira Holcomb (holcomi@comcast.net)

Web site: washhistsoc.org

Notes: They are asking for r-enactors to be present during a craft show.

Village of Three Oaks Sesquicentennial (Berrien County)

August 18-19

Rain date: September 15-16

Bounty: \$500

Contact: Randy Miller (miller1090@att.net)

Notes: Mr. Miller asked for an answer a.s.a.p. Rob told him a reply would come by September 19.

2019

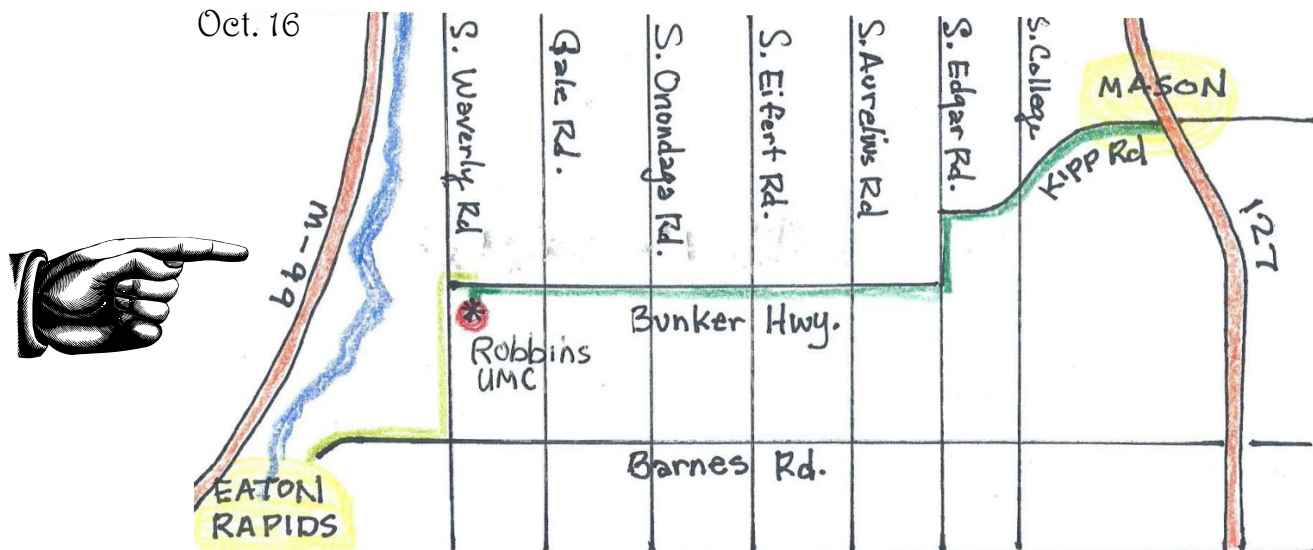
Fort Wilkins 175th Anniversary (Copper Harbor, MI)

July (no date given)

Notes: Keith Harrison passed along a specific invitation for the Seventh from Jim Newkirk (Battery D, Michigan Light Artillery). They're seeking an infantry encampment at the fort.

Map to Robbins UMC - Club Meeting

Oct. 16



Robbins United Methodist Church - 6419 Bunker Rd. (Hwy),
Eaton Rapids, MI 48827 517-663-5226

MAP Not To Scale
Roads are 1 mile apart