

THE UNION VOLUNTEER



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

Volume XXXVII No. 10 October 2018

2018 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: Bill Jarrett
Treasurer: Don Everett

Military: Doug McComas, Captain
Civilian Coordinator: Sue Colegrove
Board Members-at-Large:
Chris Sodman, Joy Henderson, Bill Jarrett
Quartermaster: Don Everett
Club Historian: Doug McComas
Webmaster: David Finch

Website: 7thmichigan.com

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



Bob is Home!!

(And looking an awful lot like Colonel Sanders!) Bob
and Carol Smith with daughter Carrie. Photo shared by
G. Kirschensteiner on Facebook.



Last Chance

To get your tickets !!

The Annual Harvest Ball Is Sat. Oct. 13

Contact Cyndi Carlson
(517) 782-8199 or
Cyndiinhisservice@yahoo.com



DON'T FORGET!
ANNUAL MEETING IS
SUNDAY, OCT. 21
ROBBINS UMC 1:00PM
PLEASE ATTEND AND HELP ELECT
NEW CLUB LEADERS
(OR THE BOGY-MAN MIGHT GET YOU!)

Club News

Meridian Village After Action Report

Bob is Home Sept. 22:
To the membership of the
7th Michigan,

I'm home from the hospital now, after over 3 weeks of being there, and very thankful. While I have a lot of recovery to go I am blessed with good progress so far. I want to thank the membership for the many prayers, thoughts, cards, etc., during this difficult time.. I am convinced that this is the primary reason I am so well off now. The great outpouring of love and concern is very humbling. Special thanks are due to Vonda for her friendship quilt and for all who played a roll in getting it to me. There's plenty of places for signatures and I look forward to getting them from the membership.

Thank you again,

Bob Smith



Latest Update on the Website, from Dave Finch:

Since I never got the domain information I have set up one at: <http://7thmichigan.com>

I have ported most of the text from the old site, as well as all the PDFs I could. But I need to address formatting. I need to attend the next club meeting and get some direction. Sorry for the delays and all that.



This thing has great potential! We had a small group but what an enjoyable weekend. Five military and a similar number of civilians were joined by our pals from the 102nd and a few boys from the 12th South Carolina and our pal Chad Johnson. On Saturday we drilled with civilians and had a very engaged and informed public most of the day. Our battle scenario was a group of Union boys resting at a cabin of pro-Union civilians, stacking arms and lounging after sending out one token picket, Joe Imhoff. Poor Joe was overcome by Reb skirmishers and we were surprised when a shot rang out, wounding our young drummer after nearly being overwhelmed

by the surprise attack. Our superior numbers allowed us to drive away the Rebs. The Mairesse treated us all to a fine dinner that evening and Sunday brought another fine day. We drilled, court-martialed a young man who had stolen from local civilians, enjoyed a paymaster scenario that included the public, and then, facing small numbers and no Rebs, devised a scenario where the Union army ransacked a recently abandoned rebel camp and attempted to move through a hospital. The fine Ladies of Mercy would have none of it and drove away the raiders with a combination of sharp words and well thrown apples. We received good press with visits from channel 6 and 10 from Lansing, had several inquiries for possible new members and generally had a great weekend. Thanks to all who attended and thanks to Meridian Village for being such great hosts. We'll be back!

Military Report: Pards, we have almost concluded a very successful reenacting season. Our annual meeting is one month from now at which time we will be electing officers and NCO's; the positions are: Captain, Lt, 1st sgt, 2nd/3rd sgt, 2 corporal positions. Please pm or email me if you are running or would like to nominate someone. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the meeting.

In your service, Captain McComas



7th Michigan ladies at Meridian Village, Sept. 8-9. Photo by Barbara Spicknall, posted on Facebook.



More of Meridian Village:

Drill scenes at Meridian Village, Sept. 8. Photos by Barbara Spicknall, posted on Facebook.



Our guys at Van Raalte Farm, Holland, MI. From Facebook.

Van Raalte Farm Civil War Muster – Sept. 15-16



From Pinky D'Cat: 3rd Michigan did their usual great job with Van Raalte Farm this year. Fun battle scenario, ammo issue and that world class Saturday night meal. Plus more Confederates than we've seen all season. Nice job, guys.

Also nice to see Armin Berg, coming back from surgery, put in an appearance. Not too many of us old-timers left in the ranks. Army's famous for having cooked that goose at the Cascades one year. (I think it was Cascades....or was it Fort Wayne?.....recall is increasingly slow these days.)

Civilian Report



Hi, Everyone:

I would first like to thank everyone that came out to support and help with our first Blue and Gray weekend, at Meridian Village -- Don and Julie Everett, Pat Downing,

Vonda Warren, Nicole Wilson and Lilly. Thank you everyone..

A special thanks to Doug and the Military for all that you did.. Another special thank you to Nicole Wilson and her daughter Lilly for camping overnight, and to her husband Paul who made dinner on Saturday night. Lilly brought a friend out for the weekend and she expressed that she had a great time and would like to do it next year.

We have a few things that we will have to work on with Meridian Village. If you have suggestions please let me know; you can call or email me.

Doug did a great scenario of payday for the soldiers, and we ladies had a few issues with that! Next we ladies were caring for the injured Doug. We Ladies also fought off Rob Stone and his men... and guess what? We ladies Won!!!!

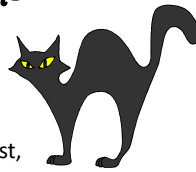
Our first Ladies' sewing circle will be Saturday, Oct 20, 2018 at Vonda's house at 10:00 am. We will be having a brunch. So please bring something either for breakfast or lunch.

Sue Colegrove 517-626-0144 scolegrove@rocketmail.com
Vonda Warren 517-543-4474

Our first club meeting for the new year will be Oct 21, 2018 at Robbins UM Church in Eaton Rapids, MI at 1:00 pm.



HALLOWEEN During the Civil War



This Harper's Weekly, Oct. 26, 1861 illustration (at right) by Thomas Nast, entitled "Jeff Davis, Reaping the Harvest" (via Library of Congress), is cited or displayed in practically every website I looked at regarding Halloween in the 1860s. Depicting the Confederate President gathering in a bounty of skulls, the political cartoon clearly demonstrates that Halloween was a well-known entity by the time of the War Between the States, although not in the exact form we practice it today. It is still not listed as an official public holiday (albeit the "Lincoln Cottage" website states that it was designated so in 1921. So—you pick.)

As most of us know, the historic roots of Halloween are planted deep in the pre-Christian past, arising from many traditions across Europe, but principally from the pagan Celtic harvest festival known as Samhain. In the 8th century, Pope Gregory III declared November 1st "All Saints Day," making October 31st "All Hallow's Eve." This was part of the early church's usual practice of "Christianizing" former pagan rituals among conquered peoples. Christians in some places today still practice "All Hallows" rituals that honor or placate the dead, but the pagan origins of the holiday, with its attendant superstitions, (though these are more carried out in fun), held sway by the Civil War era. By the early 20th century, pretty much all the religious overtones of Halloween had gone by the wayside, and commercialism had taken over. Also, the holiday became more for children, rather than adults.

In mid-19th century America, however, these transformations were not yet complete. The historic strands were still being woven together. The Scots-Irish immigration during the Colonial period, and in the 1840s and 50s, the influx of Irish Catholics escaping the potato famine, predominantly urged on the popularity of the holiday. There is very little to be found in American publications before 1860 about Halloween celebrations. The "Lincoln Cottage" website states that the earliest mention of Halloween in popular periodicals was in the April 1836 issue of Godey's. The Peoria Morning Mail, on November 2, 1862 recounted, "All-Hallow E'en. This old-time anniversary" was celebrated by various local "wild" boys by playing of pranks around town, throwing rotten food, and so on, which they presumably judged great fun. Sounds familiar, doesn't it – if you've ever had your house "Tpeed". Spiritualism was also popular during the 1860s, especially among those wanting to contact their dead soldiers. Mary Lincoln, in early 1862, following the death of her son, Willie, began taking part in "spirit circles" (seances). Such attempts to speak to those who had "passed on" also became, in time, paired with Halloween, the holiday for the dead.



- <https://www.lincolncottage.org/halloween-and-the-civil-war/>
- <https://emergingcivilwar.com/2013/10/31/all-hallows-eve/>
- <http://thebonswan.blogspot.com/2012/10/but-was-there-halloween-then.html>
- <https://styleblueprint.com/everyday/hallowgiving-thanksoween-two-favorite-holidays-one/>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halloween>

Annual Tompkins Freedom Festival



Some fellows we know...
 Though a small, local event, the Tompkins Center festival is a great way to spend a day, or the entire weekend. Mark Heath and the Conklin brothers always participate,, of ten with one or two of our other pards in the reenactor camp, which is kind of a " timeline" area, featuring two or three different periods – WWII, Civil War, 1880's frontier, Rev War, etc. Displays of 19th century steam engines at work, antique farming equipment, crafts, historical museum displays, a bake sale, food vendors,. flea markets, a Friday evening "kick-off" dance, and much more. My sister and I try to make it most years, and always enjoy ourselves. Check it out next year! - The Editor
<https://www.tompkinshistorical.org/tompkins-freedom-festival--steam-show>



Sept. 23

☞ We had a wonderful time at the GAR Hall in Eaton Rapids today sharing stories by and about Lincoln. Had fun meeting many nice people. Thank you for inviting Mr. Lincoln to speak. ☛
 Fred & Bonnie Prizbe

Since I'll be leaving Oct. 3rd to spend a week in Texas visiting my sister & her kids, I was super motivated to get this issue out ON TIME!
 Hope you all enjoy it!

