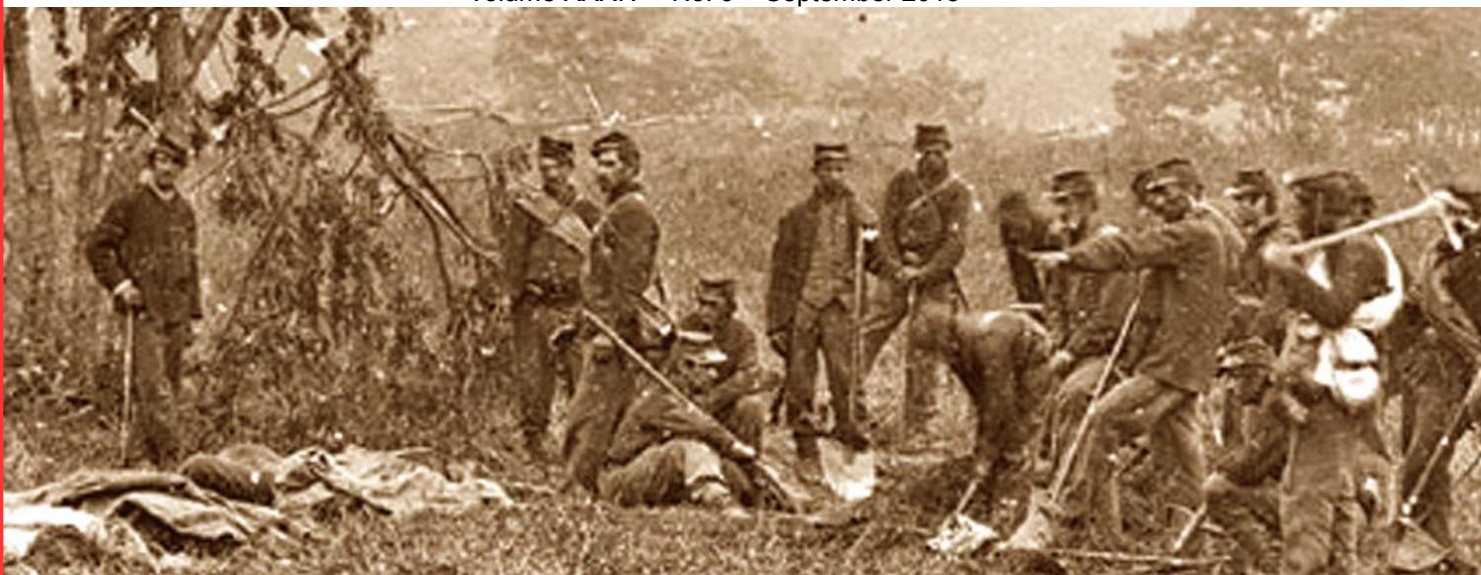


THE UNION VOLUNTEER

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

Volume XXXIV No. 9 September 2015



**September 17, 1862 -
the bloodiest day of the War..
Antietam Creek, Maryland**

Alexander Gardner's photographs of Antietam were the first ever images to show dead soldiers on the field of battle. A New York Times article about the photographs said it was as if the "dead had been laid at our doorsteps." Above, one of Gardner's photos of a burial detail following the battle. From hauntedamericatours.com

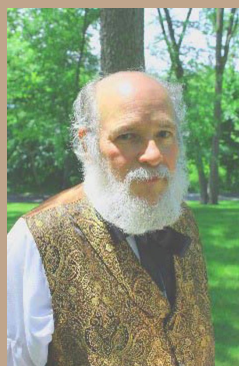
Next Club Meeting:

Sunday, Sept. 27 1:00pm
Robbins United Methodist Church
6419 Bunker Road, Eaton Rapids

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

Sunday, October 18
Robbins UMC, Eaton Rapids.

Meet for breakout sessions 1:00pm;
business meeting to begin 1:30, with
election of 2016 leadership positions



President's Report

The Cannon return ceremony at the State Capitol on Aug. 8 was a nice event; 8-10 people from the club were in attendance.

Congratulations are due to two couples who were married over the summer: Heather and Zack; and Melissa and Casey.

On Sept. 19 our civilians will be conducting children's games at Meridian Village, Okemos. Note that we will have the military at Van Raalte Farm that weekend, and there will also be events at Mason's Down Home Days. See the Civilian Report for more info on these activities. Contacts are Katie Everett, Civilian Chair; or

Sue Colegrove – 517-626-0144

scolegrove@rocketmail.com.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, Oct. 18. Please note that only those members up to date with dues and with names currently on the club roster may participate in the voting for 2016 leadership positions.

Anson

In the Battle of Antietam, General Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the North was ended on this battlefield in 1862. More men were killed or wounded at Antietam on September 17, 1862, than on any other single day of the Civil War. Federal losses were 12,410, Confederate losses 10,700. Although neither side gained a decisive victory, Lee's failure to carry the war effort effectively into the North caused Great Britain to postpone recognition of the Confederate government. The battle also gave President Abraham Lincoln the opportunity to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, which, on January 1, 1863, declared free all slaves in States still in rebellion against the United States. Now the war had a dual purpose: to preserve the Union and end slavery. Antietam National Battlefield, along Antietam Creek in Sharpsburg, Maryland, commemorates the American Civil War Battle of Antietam, September 17, 1862.

Know any CW battlefield ghost stories? Haunted battlefields are an ever popular theme. In the October newsletter I plan to print some of these tales. If you've had a spooky experience while touring a Civil War site, or have heard a good one, pass it along to me to share in next month's issue. ---The Editor



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 19-20 - VanRaalte Farm Civil War Muster, Holland

Sat. Sept 19 - Civilians at Meridian Village, Lansing

Sept 19-20 - Mason Down Home Days

Sat. Sept. 26 - Ladies' Sewing Party – Home of Joan Emerick

Sun. Sept 27th - Club Meeting, Robbins UMC

Sun. Oct. 18 – ANNUAL CLUB MEETING

Harvest Ball - Oct. 24 – Central UMC, Lansing

Nov. 6-8 – Ladies' Retreat, Wacousa

November 15 - Cub Meeting, Robbins UMC

Sat. Dec. 5 - Annual Christmas Party

New Member Chairman:
Jeff Verstraete (military & civilian)
jbvisme@gmail.com

President: Anson Roland
Vice President: Doug McComas
Secretary: Bill Jarrett
Treasurer: Don Everett
Military: Dave Slayton, Captain
Civilian Coordinator: Katie Everett
Board Members-at-Large:
Jeff Verstraete, Rob Stone, Melissa Bateman
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 (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



**Happy Birthday,
Jessie!**



Mom Brittnie with two week old Jessie Adelynn Myers, who was born Aug 1st, Weight = 8.5lbs and 20" long with jet black hair.

Parents: Eric and Brittnie (nee Jarrett) Myers. Grandparents: Bill and Teresa Jarrett



Captain Slayton

Military Minutes - July & August 2015

July 18-19, 2015 Charlton Park-Hastings

Except for dodging thunderstorms it was another good event on the grounds of the historic village. Even the storms cooperated a little, such that we got the two battles and Sunday morning tactical in. The Saturday night scenarios got washed out though. Hot and muggy was no surprise, but the mosquitoes were only awful, not horrendously terrible. We had 14 military attend, and I thank you all for being there. We worked with the 4th Michigan infantry, with Capt Russ Paul leading on Saturday, and I had the honor on Sunday. That worked well as we had a fairly large company which is always more fun.

Once again though, the barber, mayor, blood-letter and sutler had a run-in with the Pinkertons. Several gun fights broke out, but they seem to be poor shots and lived to tussle another day. Except for the 1st Sergeant. He started a "discussion" with the barber, who took offense at the Sergeant's accusation (and some name calling). The Sarg got shot. Fortunately, a couple of us who shall remain anonymous, were able to get a new watch since Sarg had no longer need of it. He had already lost all of his pay at games of chance anyway and we sold his shoes to the barber. That part is not in the letter we sent to his parents.

For the battles we trekked out to the high meadow, gratefully stopping frequently to get some water in and take a break. Not many of the military had problems with the heat, thanks to getting water in all the time and the assistance of the civilians who passed out Gatorade, water and ice. Saturday we were the victors, driving the Sesech off the field. Sunday we took our turn getting routed. Have given my all for the cause, the company command fell to the 1st Sergeant, who promptly tried to save the company, or what was left. He became a casualty, and alas, only two survived. Something about going for help. Beside a couple of intense storms, it went well. It was again my privilege to lead, or be in the ranks, of the 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Company B.

Rededication of Loomis Battery Cannon – State Capitol

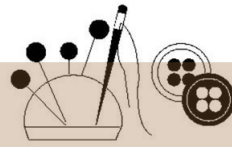
Yet another once-in-a-lifetime ceremony was held August 8th at the Michigan State Capitol. Two replica cannons were placed at the location of the original Civil War Cannon, on the same stone bases that have survived all these decades. It was an honor to participate in the ceremony and celebration in remembrance of the soldiers and sailors from Michigan that served. Thanks to all those that attended, civilians and military alike, especially to Don for bringing our Company flags that were the biggest ones there, giving those attending the chance to see what battle flags were like. Like every time I've been a part of an event as Captain, I deeply appreciate how my pards help me out and make us a superb outfit. I have always appreciated being entrusted to lead such good people.

Don't forget our next and last "max" event. See details below.

God bless.
Captain Dave Slayton

September 19 - 20. Van Raalte Farm Civil War Muster (Historic Van Raalte Farm Park, 1076 E. 16th Street, Holland, Michigan). Free Dinner Saturday Night. Battle both days, and a tactical. Bounties are offered for cavalry and artillery. Portraying the final months of the war: the battles of Five Forks and Appomattox Courthouse. Registration website: <http://vanraaltefarmcivilwarmuster.com/>. Contract: VanRaalteMuster@gmail.com, or by Telephone at 734-277-6369.

Civilian Report



Hello All! Our summer season is winding down and we will be gearing up for our monthly meetings and sewing parties. We will be doing a living history at The Meridian Historical Village on September 19th. Setup for this event is at 9am and the event will go from 10am-3pm. The civilians will be setting up a tent and fly to demonstrate games and toys of the period. Parking is available at the Meridian Mall. There will be food vendors on site if you wish to buy lunch, also there will be sloppy joes or you can bring your own lunch. People are needed to help set up, if you are available please contact me or Sue Colegrove. This is the same weekend as the event in Holland that is a military event. Any of the military not going to the event in Holland are more than welcome to come to Meridian Village and set up a tent. If you do not want to go to the event at Meridian Village there is also a living history being put on by Marie Coughlin of the 24th MI at the Mason Historical Museum for Mason Down Home Days. If you are interested in attending that event please let me know and I can give you her contact information.

Our first sewing party of the year will be at Joan Emerick's home in Mason on the 26th of September. We will be meeting for breakfast at Big Boy at 9am and those who do not wish to join us for breakfast can meet at Joan's house at 10am. As always please bring a dish to pass for lunch. I look forward to seeing you there!

Finally it is time for our annual ladies retreat weekend. This year it will be November 6-8. It will be at the Girl Scout cabin in Wacousta like previous years. More information will come in the following newsletter.

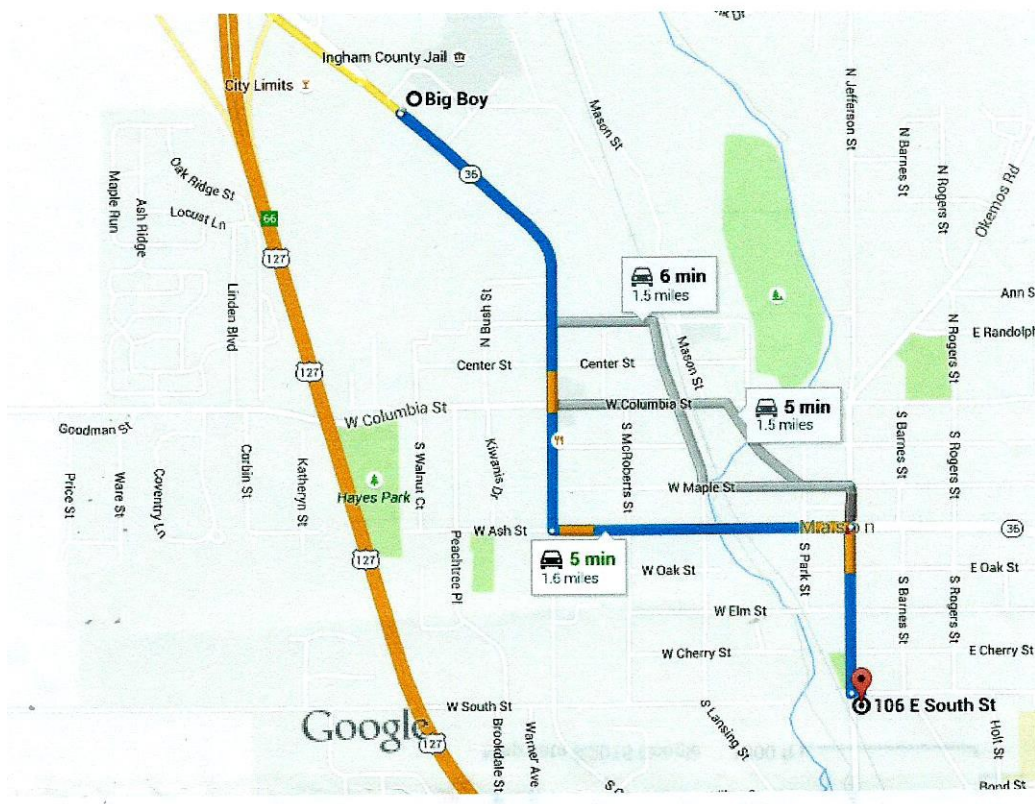
Katie
Civilian Chair
cinderellie_2003@yahoo.com
(517)420-6837

Big Boy in Mason:
660 Cedar Street,
Mason, MI 48854

Joan Emerick:
106 E. South Street,
Mason, MI 48854
(517) 604-6116

Big Boy, 660 Cedar St, Mason, MI 48854 to
106 E South St, Mason, MI 48854

Drive 1.6 miles, 5 min



The following email was received from Jim Kirschensteiner regarding a planned event in Williamston, MI. It is my understanding that it has already been passed on to the members of our military; I reprint it here with Jim's permission in the view of alerting the remainder of the club membership to this opportunity.

---The Editor

Sent: Tuesday, August 25, 2015 8:50:36 PM

Subject: Williamson Annual History Day

Gentlemen,

I received a call today from a fellow by the name of Earl Wolf who lives in Williamston. He was calling to see if the 7th could provide a few reenactors for Williamston's annual history day. He said he talked to Anson last spring about this but had not heard anything since. He tried to contact the 7th via our website, but had no success there (need an email address linked to the web site). Then he sent a letter to our PO Box, but got no response there either. He has been frustrated tried to reach someone in the 7th to talk to. He said he talked to someone that knew I was a reenactor and that's how he got my phone number.

Williamson's annual history day is Sunday, October 4th and will be held from 1 to 4 pm. He said they set up several stations around town such as at the cemetery, the museum, the city hall, etc. and people go from station to station to learn about the history of Williamston, Michigan, the area, etc. He said they would like to have a few Civil War reenactors stationed at the city hall near a new historical marker commemorating Michigan soldiers in the Civil War. He said we could set up a small encampment (a few tents for example) and talked to the visitors as they come by about the Civil War, life in camp, battles, etc. He said if we want to we could fire a few volleys from time to time as a demonstration and have our flags there. Civilians could talk about civilian life during the Civil War period. He said that many (about half) of the visitors would be high school students who get extra credit for visiting each of the sites. It sounded like they may write a report on what they learned to get the extra credit. Don, this sounds exactly like many of the school programs we do, like Ovid for example.

Time is fleeting as they have a city board meeting coming up soon and I told him I would get back to him after talking this around some. It seems like we could and should have a few people there to do these sorts of events. After all, this is part of what the 7th's mission is. I can be there as a soldier. Therefore, I am asking our Captain and First Sergeant to canvas the troops quickly to see if we can get a few guys there, maybe four or five, and our civilian chair person (Katie) to see if we can get some civilians there too. In my talk with Mr. Wolf, he said anything ranging in size from the Grand Ledge living history done on the island to the Jackson Cascades muster :) would work for them. I think a school type program would be about right.


Please let me know as soon as you can, so I can get back to Mr. Walsh. He has been frustrated enough trying to contact the 7th and deserves a response about what we can or can't do.

Thanks

Jim

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

William Jarrett, Club Secretary

 bljarrett@aol.com



ONE OF THE MEN OF COMPANY B: PRIVATE PERRY ABBOTT

By Doug McComas
7th MI Club Historian

While I love reenacting, nothing brings me closer to the experience of the men who were there than handling period materials. I have a small but growing collection of autographs, documents, cartridge and cap boxes and various trappings that accompanied the civil war soldier. As time allows I will try to include articles in the newsletter with these materials and some context and history for them where possible. This month's contribution is the discharge of Pvt. Perry Abbott.

Perry Abbott was mustered into service in the 7th Michigan Company B in Detroit, Michigan as a recruit by Capt Harty?, on the 14th of February, 1862 for a three year enlistment. Pvt. Perry is described as being 19 years old, standing 5 feet 4 inches tall with dark complexion, raven hair and blue eyes. His listed occupation at enlistment was "farmer". Private Abbott was born in Halstren, Germany. He likely fought in Yorktown, Fair Oaks, Peach Orchard, Savage Station, White Oak Swamp, Glendale, Malvern Hill, 2nd Manassas, Antietam and Fredricksburg.

Townsend's book states he was discharged after wounds at Gettysburg. But a portion of his discharge materials in my possession show that he was discharged due to disability March 14, 1863, before that battle. One can guess that his wounds were from either Fredricksburg or Antietam but this is unknown and given his departure location was likely departing from a hospital where he stayed for some period.

At his date of discharge. Pvt. Abbott had not been paid since June 30 of 1862 (8 months and 13 days before!) He was paid at 13 dollars per month, credited 14.73 to travel from Baltimore, MD to Detroit Michigan a trip that was assumed would take 34 days. He was credited for 45.50 in unused uniform allowance and 17.00 for "rations". He was paid out a total of 161.81.

The documents at right are a certificate to receive his pay and an accounting of his credits and debits on discharge.

Strange and Fascinating Facts About the Civil War Taken from *The Civil War; Strange and Fascinating Facts* - by Burke Davis

The war was touched off by an artillery duel between Confederates ashore at Charleston, South Carolina, and a garrison of Federal troops at Fort Sumter in the harbor. Commander of the handful in blue was Major Robert Anderson, whose father-in-law was a Governor of Georgia. Anderson had been so adept as an artillery pupil in his days at West Point that his instructor had broken tradition to keep him as an assistant at the West Point. The Confederate commander who directed the firing on Fort Sumter was the instructor himself, General P.G.T. Beauregard.

Albert T. Bledsoe, a West Pointer, Episcopal clergyman, and lawyer, had made his office next door to Lincoln's Springfield, Illinois law office. Bledsoe became Assistant Secretary of War of the Confederate States

It was Lincoln's law partner, John Todd Stuart, who landed a West Point berth for a young soldier of promise. This young soldier was Confederate General George E. Pickett, whose name became inseparably linked with the battle of Gettysburg.

CERTIFICATE

TO BE GIVEN TO VOLUNTEERS AT THE TIME OF THEIR DISCHARGE TO ENABLE THEM TO RECEIVE THEIR PAY, &c.

I CERTIFY, on honor, that Perry Abbott of Company (B) of the 7th Regiment of Michigan State Volunteers, of the State of Michigan, born in Halstren, Germany, aged 19 years, 5 feet 4 inches high, Dark complexion, Blue eyes, Black hair, and by occupation a Farmer, having joined the company on its original organization at Detroit, and enlisted in it at the muster into the service of the United States at Detroit, on the 14th day of February, 1862, to serve in the Regiment for the term of three years; and having served honestly and faithfully with his Company in Michigan, to the present date, is now entitled to a discharge by reason of Disability Wounded in action

The said Perry Abbott was last paid by Paymaster John H. Lawrence on the 1st day of June, 1862, and has pay due him from that time to the present date, and also pay for the use of his horse, having been mounted during the time, and he is entitled to pay and subsistence for traveling to place of enlistment and whatever other allowances are authorized to volunteer soldiers, or militia, so discharged. He has received 25 dollars advanced by the United States on account of clothing.

There is to be stopped from him, on account of the State of Michigan, or other authorities, for clothing, &c., received on entering service, 25 dollars; also, for expenses of subsistence for traveling from place of enlistment to the place of residence, amounting to 14 dollars; and on account of the United States for extra clothing received in kind from Michigan and for other stoppages, viz: Clothing not used amounting to 109 dollars; and he has been sublet for traveling to his place of enlistment, up to the 1st day of June, 1862, 17 dollars. He is indebted to Michigan 161 dollars.

GIVEN IN DUPLICATE, at Detroit, this 14th day of March, 1863.

John H. Lawrence Paymaster
Larington Smith Commanding Company

Two of these certificates, (or portions), are to be given to each volunteer soldier who may be discharged (previous to the expiration of his term of service) by the company, that he may at any time receive from the Paymaster his pay, &c., and also, the unpaid or other other commanding his company, will certify to the receipt of the delivery of his military certificate, on both certificates the holder is "entitled to" the discharge, and should also present, by exchange, to the Paymaster to have his papers returned to him. The discharge is to be given back to the holder, by the Paymaster; the latter only retaining it in order to the duplicate certificate.

(Form No. 5.)

The United States,
To Perry Abbott Michigan discharged
from Company (B) 7th Regiment of Michigan MI Dr.

	DOLLARS.	CENTS.
For pay from <u>1st</u> of <u>June</u> , 1862, to <u>1st</u> of <u>March</u> , 1863, being <u>8</u> months <u>13</u> days, at <u>13</u> dollars per month	109	63
For retained pay due		
For pay for traveling from <u>Baltimore, Md</u> the place of my discharge, to <u>Detroit, Mich</u> the place of my residence, <u>61</u> miles, at twenty miles per day, equal to <u>3</u> days, at <u>4.91</u> dollars per month	14	73
For subsistence for traveling as above, <u>16</u> days, at <u>10</u> cents per ration or day	1	60
For clothing not drawn	109	30
Amount	116	86
Deduct for Army Asylum		
Deduct for clothing withdrawn		
Balance	161	81

RECEIVED OF John H. Lawrence Paymaster U. S. Army, this 16 day of March, 1863, One Hundred Sixty One dollars and 81 cents, in full of the above account.

PAY
SUBSISTENCE
CLOTHING
Dollars

(SIGNED IN DUPLICATE.)
Perry Abbott
John Geo. Townsend

Meridian Heritage Festival

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19th

10 am - 3 pm

10 am Welcome &
Flag Ceremony

"Sisters of the Union"
Re-enactment Group

7th Michigan Civil War Civilians

Early American demonstrations
(spinning, candles, lace making, and
wooden buckets)

Pioneer children's activities and games

Tollhouse cookies sale at Tollgate House

Book Signing: "Meridian Township," a
Pictorial History

Vintage Base Ball Game between the
Chelsea Monitors and the Royal Oak Wahoo's

Arts & Crafts Marketplace in Central Park Pavillion

Pony, Cart Rides & Fishing

Meridian Farmers' Market
@ Meridian Mall Parking Lot

Bike Parking Available



10:15 am
Music Performance:
The Gracewood Singers



Sponsors:
MSU Federal Credit Union
LorAnn Oils



Sesquicentennial Report - September 2015

Of the 147 Sesquicentennial events listed thus far on the Reenactors' Civil War Sesquicentennial Calendar for 2015 on the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners' website (www.micw150.us), 14 have been reported for August. Additional information on each of these events may be obtained by going to www.micw150.us/2015events.htm and clicking on the month in question.

--September 2015--

- 2 & 9. Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum** (224 S. Main Street, Eaton Rapids, Michigan). 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM. Contact: Deb Malewski, at GARmichigan@gmail.com
- 4 - 7. Buxton National Historic Site & Museum Civil War Days** (Buxton National Historic Site & Museum, 21975 A.D. Shadd Road, North Buxton, Ontario, Canada). Website: <http://www.buxtonmuseum.com/>. Contact: Shannon Prince, Curator, at buxton@ciaccess.com.
- 11 - 13. Civil War Days** (Historic Fort Wayne 6325 West Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan). Tactical demonstrations both days, Battle Reenactment, Vintage Baseball Game, Civilian Camps, Ice cream social, Civilian activities, Special Impressions, firewood, and showers. Contacts: Doris Julian at Juliandoris2@aol.com or Tom Berlucchi at Tberlucchi@yahoo.com or by Telephone at 248-840-5234.
- 14. Presentation: The Drumbeats of War** (Muskegon Museum of Art, 296 Webster Avenue Muskegon, Michigan). 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Website: [Art of Gettysburg and the Civil War Lecture Series](http://www.artofgettysburg.com). Contact: George P. Maniates at George.Maniates@muskegoncc.edu or by Telephone at 231-720-2570.
- 18 - 19. 11th Annual Mid-Michigan Civil War Muster** (Deerfield Nature Park, 2425 W. Remus Road (M-20,)Mt Pleasant, Michigan). Website: <http://www.tenthmichiganinfantry.com>. Contact: Email at tenthmich@yahoo.com or Telephone at 989-400-3904.
- 19 - 20. Van Raalte Farm Civil War Muster** (Historic Van Raalte Farm Park, 1076 E. 16th Street, Holland, Michigan). Registration website: <http://vanraaltefarmcivilwarmuster.com/>. Contact: VanRaalteMuster@gmail.com, or by Telephone at 734-277-6369.
- 19 - 20. Marine City Heritage Day** (Historic City Hall grounds, 300 Broadway Street, Marine City, Michigan). Contact: Friends of City Hall at 810-765-8421.
- 21. Presentation: The First Cut is the Deepest** (Muskegon Museum of Art, 296 Webster Avenue Muskegon, Michigan). 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Contact: George P. Maniates at George.Maniates@muskegoncc.edu.
- 25 - 27. Angola Civil War Days** (Commons Park, Angola, Indiana). Website: <http://www.angolacivilwardays.com>. Contact: Tom Frederick at 260-316-4676.
- 25 - 27. River of Time Living History Encampment** (South end of Veterans Park, 800 John Kennedy Drive, Bay City, Michigan). Website: <http://www.riveroftime.org>. Civil War contact: Paul Davis at pdmarcomm@aol.com.
- 26 -27. Living History: Guns n Gowns** (Greenmead Historic Village, 20501 Newburgh Rd, Livonia, Michigan). Contact: Darlene Lum at lumdarlene@yahoo.com.
- 26. Celebration 2nd Year Anniversary of Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum** (224 S. Main Street, Eaton Rapids, Michigan). 3:00 PM. Contact: Deb Malewski at GARmichigan@gmail.com.
- 28. Presentation: The Advance of Freedom** (Muskegon Museum of Art, 296 Webster Avenue Muskegon, Michigan). 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Contact: George P. Maniates at George.Maniates@muskegoncc.edu.
- 30. Program We Hunble Ourselves** (Dearborn, Michigan). It's a 2 hour symphony concert and a sing-along. Website: <http://www.WeHumbleOurselves.com>.

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 in November and creates the statewide Reenactors' Events Calendar.

