

THE UNION VOLUNTEER

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

Volume XXXV No. 9 September 2016



Caught these four characters in the ranks at Jackson – 32nd Annual Jackson Civil War Muster, Aug. 20-21, 2016. Photo by Ellyn Painter

Next Club Meeting:

Saturday evening, September 17,
at the Van Raalte Farm event

Notice of Annual Meeting:

Our 2016 annual meeting
will be held on Sunday, October 16, 1:00pm
Robbins United Methodist Church
Eaton Rapids, MI

Please make every effort to attend, as this is our most
important meeting of the year!

Annual club dues will also be due at this time!

**There's still time to order your
Harvest Ball tickets!** See page 10 for details.



What is THIS?

As I was driving by a few weeks ago, I noticed yet ANOTHER new modern sculpture in Ella Sharp Park in Jackson --this one "gracing" the front lawn of the historic farmhouse. Not sure which rules of logic apply here...Hmm..

Photo by Ellyn Painter



Club Leadership

New Member Chairman:

Daniel Malick (military)
dmalick12@gmail.com

Katie Everett (civilian)
cinderellie_2003@yahoo.com

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.

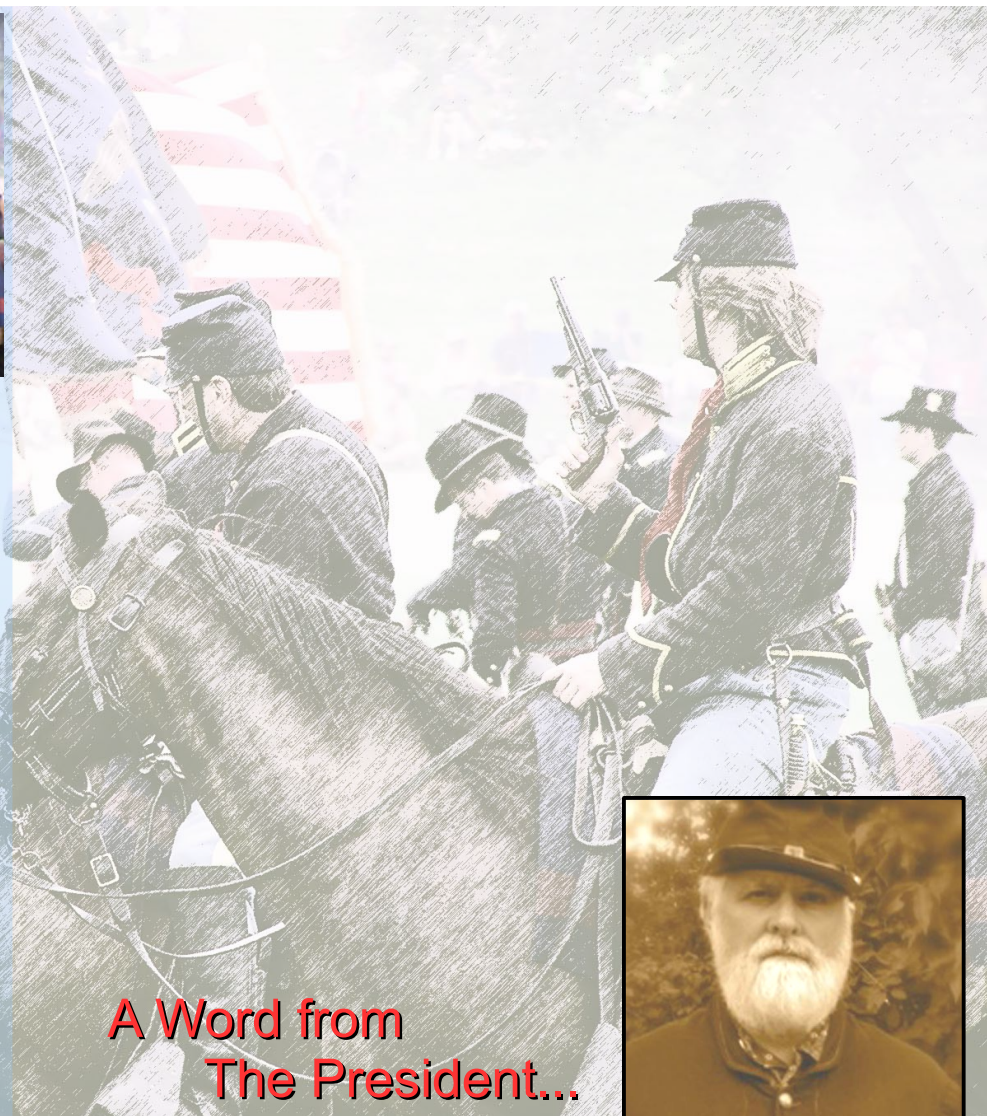
Personal news items are welcomed and
encouraged, or photos of special
events. Original articles (800-1000 word
limit) pertaining to the Civil War or
reenacting are also desired.

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

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

Thank-you.

Ellyn Painter, Editor



A Word from The President...



Now that the 2016 Campaign Season is
winding down . . . Wait! Nothing could be
further from the truth!!

This month and October offer unique opportunities to enjoy the variety of
events offered by our hobby. Meridian Historic Village, Van Raalte Farm,
Woldumar Nature Center and 154th Battle of Perryville still lie ahead of us.
These are, with the exception of Perryville, what I categorize as low-
intensity events. I've always found such to be a nice way to wind things
down. That being said, you owe it to yourself to participate in 154th
Perryville, so please sign up!

I urge you to take special notice of the club's Annual Meeting, which occurs
on Sunday, October 16. Among other things, we will elect (or re-elect)
people to the offices that help assure the club's smooth functioning. Do all
you can to attend the Annual Meeting, and consider running for an office in
the Seventh's civilian or military wings.

Speaking of elections, I do not intend to run for a second term as
President. I've been proud to act in this capacity during a year wherein a
lot of hard, creative work has been done to "reset" the club, with a view
toward insuring that it will thrive in future years. There is still a long way to
go but thanks to Bob Smith's drive a solid foundation has been
established.

Rob



Military Report

The season has flown by! Our next major military event is VanRaalte Farm in Holland, MI. A great little event and as of this writing we have as many as 10 men planning on attending (this should give us a small company). It's not too late to come; just let me know. We are well treated and well fed.

Perryville update: At this writing we have 6 military and 2 civilian registrants from the 7th Michigan. There are a total of 14 Michigan military who will fall in under Rob Van's command. If you check registration there is a mishmash of battalion identification but we will be with Army of the Wabash/Great Lakes Battalion/Cumberland Guard. We need a minimum of 20 men for a company and I would expect that Rob will keep the Michigan Men together as one company. I will be sending emails shortly about departure times/working on caravanning and ride sharing for this event.

It is almost that time again for Officer/NCO elections. If you are interested in running for Captain, Lieutenant, First Sergeant, Sergeant, or Corporal please contact me. I do intend to run for Captain again and feel I have a lot to learn to lead in a competent manner. I appreciate the support, help and patience of the group as I try to step into this new role.

Finally, Jackson. I along with several other military men attended Jackson this year. I came as a private and we fell in with the 4th Michigan and 21st Michigan. Jackson will never be "Jackson" for us again. The event has changed. It's much smaller (only 10 or so sutlers). It has sponsors for virtually everything and was heavy on the presentations vs. living history.

That said, it is a new day and time. I never expect that it will be a "max event" for the club. But.

Rob Van is a good man who operates completely differently than his predecessor. For instance he saw me in ranks as a private at our first formation, crossed through the front rank to greet me and shake my hand. The Great Lakes Battalion had the largest company at the event and Denny Whiting was the wing commander. It is a new day. Let's strongly consider at least a company presence next year at the event and put the past in the past.

I'm excited that we have added to the military for the first time in at least a couple of men. We will move into the post-150's into what to be sure is a different hobby. We get to decide if that is good or bad.

I remain your most obedient servant,

Doug



"Here's a preview of what to expect at this year's Battle of Perryville!"

Go to the 7th Michigan's Facebook page to see a short video from the Kentucky Parks Service about the Perryville event.

A Look Back in Time...



The Courthouse construction crew in Kirschensteiners' back yard, summer 2008: L to R - Dick Williams, Doug McComas, Don Everett, Mark Lynch, Jim Kirschensteiner, Jeff Verstraete. This is the original group who constructed the pieces and put them together for the first time. (for new members - this was the first "building" we created for Jacksonburg, the Special Impressions camp at the Jackson Civil War Muster).



Announcements

Club Roster Correction: Please note that Vonda Warren's phone number is incorrect in the roster - the correct number is 517 543-4474.

From Granddad Dave Slayton:

Another blessing has arrived, as most already know, our fifth grandchild: **Emilia Paige Flowers**.

August 3rd, 7 lbs 13oz, 18 inches long, and both Mother and Baby are doing well. Thank you, God for the answered prayers!



In Sympathy: On August 28, Dale Roland "sprouted his wings and went home to be with the Lord about 8:20pm....He is finally at peace." He was the father of Anson Roland, and uncle of Sandra McCarrick. The club extends its condolences to Anson, Lorrie, and Sandra.



Living Historian's Creed

We are the people to whom the past is forever speaking.

We listen to it because we cannot help ourselves, for the past speaks to us with many voices.

Far out of that dark nowhere which is the time before we were born, men who were flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone forged a path through fire and storm to break a path to the future.

We are part of that future they died for. They are part of the past that brought the future.

What they did--the lives they lived, the sacrifices they made, the stories they told and the songs they sang and, finally, the deaths they died--make up a part of our own experience.

We cannot cut ourselves off from it. It is as real as if it happened last week.

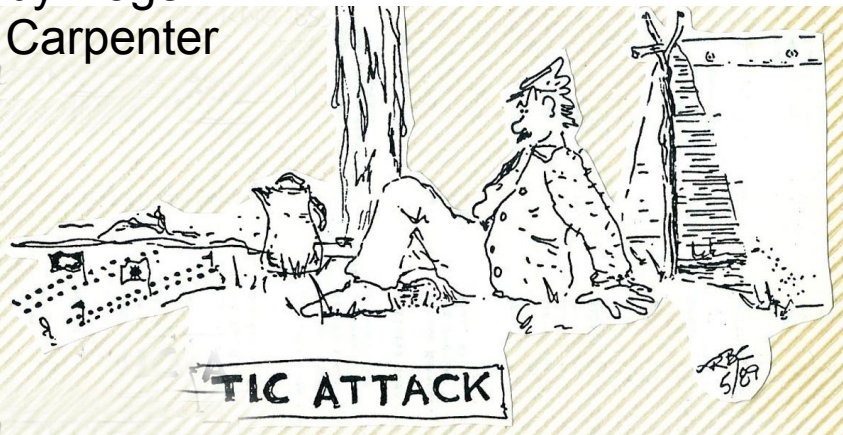
It is a basic part of our heritage as Americans.

Bruce Catton

I wish to make a slight apology. In reading over my editorial about Confederate flags in the last issue, I realized, regarding my example of women viewed as inferior, that I inadvertently made it sound as if only men would have been--by our current standards--unenlightened in this way. This is not true. Although Dolly Madison did feel it necessary to remind her husband to "remember the ladies." Oh, dear, did I just make things worse?



by Roger Carpenter





Col. Rob Van leads the Union troops in the Review following the battle on Saturday.



Some of us just can't stay away from Jackson—

particularly those of us who live in the area. Although it certainly meant a great deal to everyone in the 7th MI across the decades as “our” event, to us members who live or work in Jackson, it is also a “home” event, and I admit I couldn't resist walking over, incognito (ie., not “dressed”) on Saturday to see the sights. Well, and I went back on Sunday, too, with my sister. We spent alot of time in bookseller tents--our particular vice! At the Authors' Row, I met two authors who have published via CreateSpace, the same as me, so that was fun. I also talked with Dave Finney there, who has recently co-authored a new book -- “Images of America: Remembering Michigan's Civil War Soldiers.” He asked me to say hello to all the members of the 7th MI with whom he's worked over the years.

I ran into Cyndi Carlson twice--once each day, each time right after she had just purchased food!! Visited several other old friends, too, from other clubs while in Jacksonburgh. Sparing my aching old legs, I chose not to make the long trek back to the regular civilian and military camps (as it was, I walked over from my house both days--as many of you know, I live close enough to be well within the sound of the artillery fire, but it is nearly a half mile walk each way)--or I likely would have seen more people I know there, as well. I planned to come back Saturday pm to WATCH the ball--that would be another first for me--watching, rather than dancing--but was too tired.

continued next page...

Jackson, concluded...

As seen in the photograph at right, I noticed several new buildings in Jacksonburgh; strangely, though, I didn't see any of "our" buildings. There were listings in the program for presentations to take place in the courthouse, but I didn't see our old white courthouse, unless it was disguised in some way! Jacksonburgh seemed to me to have grown a bit, with some new occupants. Sutlers' Row, on the other hand, only boasted about nine vendors, as far as I could tell.

Battles were good, but battle lines sadly truncated. Still, Spectator Hill was very crowded with visitors for the Sunday battle, and it was fun to actually watch a battle all the way through for once. (During our years "working" the Jackson event, battle time was usually my only free time in which to take a nap!)

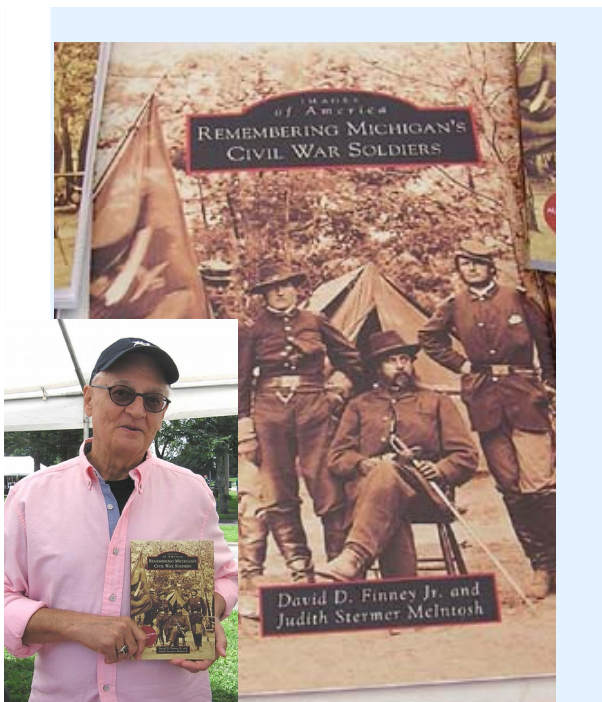
Doug's suggestion is a good one—that the 7th Michigan should consider supporting the Jackson event in a small way. Of course, it will never be the same as it used to be for us, but many in the club still miss the event. As our captain said, it's time to move on and let old wounds heal. A return to Jackson might help.

Either that, or find another August event to attend!! We need one!

Ellyn Painter



Above: Jacksonburgh now; below: the 7th Michigan's "Courthouse" building in its first year of operation in Jacksonburgh, Aug. 2008. Photos by Ellyn Painter



Dave Finney with his new book: *Images of America: Remembering Michigan's Civil War Soldiers*.

<https://www.arcadiapublishing.com>

It is also available on Amazon.com where there are reviews to be read.

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.

The Blue Bottle Respite Tent will be at Van Raalte Farm with food and water available for those who are setting up on Friday. Foods include hard-boiled eggs, crackers, cold fruit, boiled tatties, boiled yams, and forager stew (Mebbe a chicken or a possum or two/tossed into the pot for forager stew. Okay, no possums, but it'll be tasty, nourishing, and free.)

---submitted by Julie Sarge

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

by Julie Sarge

Part 1: Overview

(Question: Which long-running TV western portrayed Civil War veterans prone to PTSD as "Weary Willies"? Answer appears at end of article.)

Soon after the American Civil War began, army surgeons, doctors, nurses, and civilian volunteers noticed a strange new malady among the wounded, sick soldiers who came into their care, a malady seemingly unrelated to their physical wounds and in a separate category altogether from the usual diseases such as pox, smallpox, measles, mumps, typhoid, and dysentery. This unknown illness had an odd, worrisome set of symptoms that included bouts of rapid heart palpitations; shortness of breath; sleeplessness; nightmares; visual, auditory, and kinesthetic hallucinations; sudden intense rages; sudden intense panics; an inability to weep; crying jags; constant unnecessary vigilance; hopelessness; a need to control everything and everyone; and more. Not every soldier displayed every symptom, and some soldiers displayed weirdly opposite symptoms, such as an inability to cry over the death of a friend or relative but breaking down into uncontrollable sobs upon spilling a spoonful of porridge on the floor.

That most medical personnel and volunteers chose to note these symptoms as illness was fortunate for the affected soldiers, because civilians who displayed such symptoms were often declared insane and sent off to asylums that were little better---and often worse---than prisons. Of course, given that there was a war to fight, it was impossible to declare dozens, then hundreds, of soldiers in both armies to be mad as hatters and lock them away. As time went on, however, with no clear cause nor cure for this strange condition, it was not only possible but also quite common to condemn the afflicted soldiers as cowards, shirkers, malingerers, and traitors to the glorious cause---be it Northern or Southern.

Those in the medical fields and mainstream society in general had been trained to treat physical body wounds and physical disease only; that a soldier might have sustained a mental, emotional, or spiritual wound was unthinkable. Physical wounds were more difficult to deny, given a soldier minus a hand, dripping blood, or appearing to have three extra joints in his shin due to broken bones. Chills that caused teeth to rattle like castanets, fevers that dried out compresses in minutes, vomiting, and diarrhea were also difficult to ignore.

Standard treatments of surgery, diet, mercury pills, medicinal alcohol, quinine, and laudanum had little to no effect on this malady called "irritable heart," "nostalgia," or simply "homesickness." New treatments included prohibiting any activities that reminded soldiers of home in hopes that such prohibitions would cure "homesickness." Other treatments such as vigorous physical work served as a temporary distraction but not as a cure. Again, what applied to one case did not apply to other cases, and at the end of the war, all that was known was the collection of symptoms.

Home didn't cure "homesickness" for those soldiers who survived the war long enough to return there. The fathers, brothers, uncles, cousins, and sons had not only changed physically during the war but mentally, emotionally, and spiritually as well. So much so that in many cases, although the home folks were grateful that their returning soldier was spared a painful, lonely, traumatic death in the war itself, they had no way to cope with the painful, lonely, and traumatic aftermath of war that the ex-soldier struggled with day and night.

One hundred fifty years after the War Between the States, this mysterious malady would be termed PTSD, Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome. It would become a familiar, but not always understood, term. In the years that recently followed the war, former soldiers who displayed symptoms of PTSD were often treated as civilians were---they were declared insane. Sadly, many spent their last years in asylums little better---and often worse---than prisons.

Part 2 The Inner View will appear next issue

Part 3 The Hidden Healers will appear a month later

Question: Which long-running TV western portrayed Civil War veterans prone to PTSD as "Weary Willies?"

Answer: Bonanza

Photo: Angelo Crapsey, 1861. This cheerful-faced young soldier sadly committed suicide in 1864 after experiencing the horrible realities of war.
armstrong.edu Armstrong Undergraduate Journal of History - *Suffering in Silence: Psychological Disorders and Soldiers in the American Civil War*



Remaining 2016 Key Effort Events



Sept. 17-18 – Van Raalte Farm

Oct. 7-9 – Perryville, Kentucky

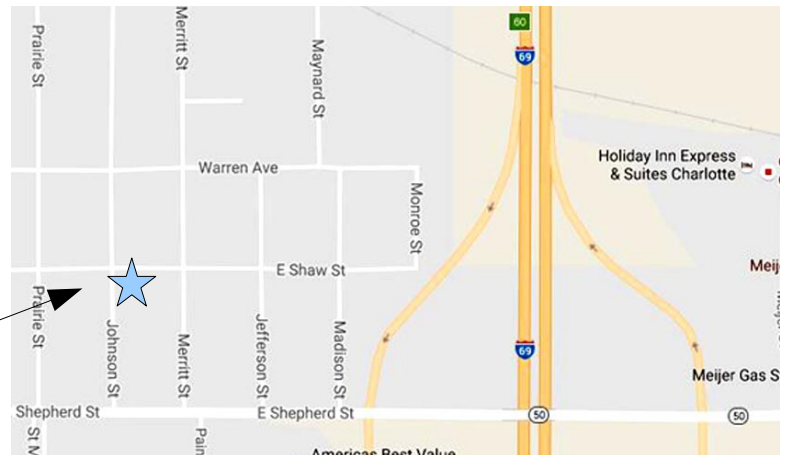
Oct. 22 - 7th MI Annual Harvest Ball

Dec. 3 - 7th MI Annual Christmas Party

September 10, 2016 - Frontier Days Parade – Charlotte, MI

The 7th Michigan is participating in the annual parade through the streets of Charlotte. Step off for the parade is at 10:30 a.m. We will be mustering after 8:30 a.m. at Vonda Warren's home in advance of the parade. There will be a trailer for the Civilians to ride on. The Military will not be firing volleys during the parade. Vonda has graciously offered to host a potluck dinner after the parade for Club members interested in socializing following the festivities. Please RSVP to Vonda (517) 543-4474 if you plan to stay for dinner and, if you plan to bring dish to pass, and what food you may be bringing. Dinner participants will need to bring their own table service and chairs. Vonda's home is located at 602 Shaw Street, Charlotte, Michigan 48813.

Tom Emerick (517) 604-6116 is the co-coordinator for the event should you desire any additional information.



September 10, 2016 – Meridian Village, Okemos

We need to start setting up about 9:30. The event will go from 10am-3:00pm. We have full use of the cabin and the area around the cabin .. Lorrie and Anson are bringing the games they have. We have use of the wood burner if someone would like to cook. Wood will be provided.

We need to bring our own lunches. As of right now they have not gotten a food truck.

We need people to help with games or to do knitting or quilting, and one person is needed to handle a recruiting station.

There will be no barn dance this year. We are working on it for next year.

The historical society will supply signs to show where we are to be located.

If any question please email or call Sue Colegrove:

scolegrove@rocketmail.com 517-626-0144

Van Raalte Farm, Holland, Michigan - September 17-18, 2016)

Only a few weeks left to get ready for one of the premier events of the season. Start rolling rounds now for two full days of battles and drill. Battle scenarios this year are based on First Bull Run. The map below was copied from the event website: <http://www.vanraaltefarmcivilwarmuster.com> and it shows the event area looking south from 16th Street. As in the past, reenactor parking is in the brown area in the lower right corner.

Travel from the Lansing area is via I-96 and M-6 to I-196. Drive south on I-196 to the Holland area and the Adams Street/ 16th Street exit. Follow 16th Street west to the event location on the left, or south side, of the road for registration and reenactor parking.

The website listed above includes a variety of military, civilian and living history activities throughout the weekend. Some basic items from the schedule include the following (next column):

Saturday

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 10:00 AM | Military Drill (Union at Battlefield, Confederates on VanRaalte House Lawn) |
| 2:00 PM | Battle Reenactment: Battle of Manassas |
| 5:00 PM | Dinner for Reenactors at Red Barn |
| 7:00 PM | Ball at Red Barn |

Sunday

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 11:00 AM | Military Drill (Union at Battlefield, Confederates on VanRaalte House Lawn) |
| 1:30 PM | 1st Holland Regimental Volunteer Band |
| 2:00 PM | Battle Reenactment: Battle of Manassas |

Editor's Note: The (very cute and artistic!) map drawing mentioned is in 72dpi so best viewed on either the website mentioned above, or on the 7th Michigan's Facebook page. I tried to copy it to the newsletter, but could not increase the resolution sufficiently to make a clear image for print format. Sorry. The website also has a complete schedule.

Additional information on the Meridian Village event, from the organizers....

Dear Exhibitor,

On behalf of the Friends of Historic Meridian and the Meridian Township Parks and Recreation Department, we are pleased to confirm your participation at the 18th Annual Meridian Fall Heritage Festival on Saturday, September 10, 2016, from 10 am to 3 pm.

We ask that you arrive at the Festival in time to have your display ready at 9:45 AM. Please plan to stay until 3 PM when the festival closes.

Please refer to the attached chart for information about your assigned festival location.

Please enter Central Park from Marsh Road between the Public Safety Building and Nokomis Learning Center turning right at the first opportunity. A Friends of Historic Meridian volunteer will greet you

with more information, starting at about 8 AM. After setting up, please park your vehicle in the "Volunteer Parking" lot between the log cabin and Nokomis Learning Center.

Pioneer dress is appreciated but certainly not required, however it adds to the ambiance of the Festival and the Village. I understand that some exhibitors may have equipment or supplies that cannot get wet. In case of inclement weather, we have a rain/wind contingency plan and will go on with the Festival.

On behalf of the Meridian Historical Village Special Events Committee, I would like to thank you for your participation. You help make the Meridian Heritage Festival a meaningful celebration of our rich heritage. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at rjtierney@gmail.com or at 517-339-2314 or the Village office at 517-347-7300 or at meridianhistoricalvillage@gmail.com

Sincerely,

Renee Tierney
Friends of Historic Meridian
Special Events Volunteer

Meridian Historical Village; Operated by the Friends of Historic Meridian

P.O. Box 155 Okemos, MI 48805-0155

Work:(517) 347-7300

Web: <http://www.meridianhistoricalvillage.org>

Email: meridianhistoricalvillage@gmail.com

The Friends of Historic Meridian operate the Meridian Historical Village located in Central Park at 5151 Marsh Road in Okemos, MI.

Editor's NOTE: Again, notice that I could not print the chart referred to above. It says that 7th MI participants will be located at the Gazebo (Rob Stone), and at the log cabin and environs.

Saturday, September 24

American Heritage Festival -

Woldemar Nature Center, Lansing, MI

Time: 10 AM – 5 PM. Katie Everett is the point person (coordinator) for this event. Our latest information is that Ben Cwayna of the 12th S. Carolina is in charge of the Civil War portion of the event and would welcome the 7th joining them there. The 7th MI does have a very busy month of September planned, but if you wish to participate at Woldemar this year, contact Katie Everett for more info. 517-420-6837 cinderellie_2003@yahoo.com

Williamston History Day Event-

Sunday, October 9th


Last year the club attended a one day, three hour living history event in the town of Williamston. We had a good time interacting with the public, particularly high school students who were getting extra credit by learning from us. We've been invited back again this year and they expect to place us in front of the City Hall near the Civil War statue as we were last year. This event offers a good opportunity to recruit as there are no other active reenacting groups in the area, the people who come out are interested in history and a good many will be of the younger generations. Details are still a bit scarce, but we believe the hours will be from noon to 3 pm. I'll be acting as coordinator for the event since Jim K. will be out of town. If you have any questions, I'll do my best to get answers for you. Just give me a call at 989 288-7112. We need both military and civilians. See you there.

Bob Smith



"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



There seems to be quite a bit of excitement and anticipation of the upcoming Harvest Ball. We have gotten the word out on social media along with sending out Save the Date cards to those who have attended in the past. A few tickets have already been purchased as well as confirmation from fellow reenactors that they are planning on coming. We also lowered the price of tickets for those who want to bring their younger children above the age of 12. This is in hopes of generating a love for historical dance from the next generation.

Abraham Lincoln and his lovely wife are planning on attending. I believe it would be lovely to have a receiving line as our guests enter the ballroom; this way everyone would have an opportunity to greet the president. Of course, I must first get his approval as Mr. And Mrs. Lincoln may want to attend the ball incognito! LOL!

We hope to have a little surprise for all those in attendance during the intermission.

I am so pleased and grateful for the members of the 7th who have offered their help in decorating and organizing the food. I would surely falter at this task if it were not for the help and encouragement that I have received from so many in the 7th.

Although It saddens me to think of the leaves falling off the trees and the days becoming shorter my spirits are lifted when I think of the wonderful evening we will have Saturday, October 22. See you there!

Cyndi Carlson

Contact Cyndi and Gilbert at: 517-782-8199

cyndiin hisservice@yahoo.com

