

THE UNION VOLUNTEERTH

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

Volume XXXVI No. 9 September 2017



Some of our 7th MI guys in camp at the Jackson Civil War Muster, Aug. 26. Clockwise, from left: Rob Stone, Andrew McComas, Bill Jarrett, Chris Sodman, David Graham, Dan Malick, Jim MacKinnon (reclining on grass). Photo by Ellyn Painter.

Our **Annual Meeting** will be held
on Sunday, Oct. 15,
1:00PM

at Robbins United Methodist Church,
Eaton Rapids. (map pg. 9)

At this meeting we elect new leadership for the coming year. Annual membership dues are also due at this time. (See the sidebar on page 2 for details). PLEASE make every effort to attend, and play an active part in our club.



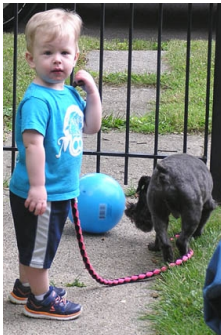
Above photo by Lora Painter



A Visit By the Stulers...

Stormi and Barry Stuler, former members of the Seventh, returned to Michigan for a visit recently. A potluck get together was co-hosted by Bob and Carol Smith with Pat and Dave Downing at the Smith's home in Durand for folks who had been friends of the Stulers back when they were in the club. As with most such affairs there was a lot of reminiscing, laughter, and much good food.

--submitted by Bob Smith



Photos by Ellyn Painter

"September 22nd is the first day of fall. Not today.



Not tomorrow. Put down the pumpkin.

And stop being a life ruiner.

P.S. Pumpkin spice causes constipation."

---Shared Aug. 30 on Facebook by Dave Tennes, one of our fellow reenactors; from Men's Humor



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: Doug McComas

Treasurer: Don Everett

Military: Doug McComas, Captain

Civilian Coordinator: Sue Colegrove

Board Members-at-Large:

Dan Conklin, Joy Henderson,

Bill Jarrett

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

Ellyn Painter, Editor

Delta Township "Play in the Park" Day, Aug 26, - After Action Report

On Saturday, August 26, the 7th Michigan participated in a Delta Township "Play in the Park" event at Sharp Park. The event included 21 activities and games, including a living history school type program conducted by representatives of the 7th. Those representing the 7th included Bob and Carol Smith, Vonda Warren, Pat Downing, Lorrie Roland, Don and Julie Everett, Steve Church and Jim and Gloria Kirschensteiner. The weather was perfect for this event. There were several people who were quite impressed with our presentations, including folks from the Delta Township Parks and Recreation Department. This good impression may pay off in the future for the 7th.

---submitted by Jim Kirschensteiner





After-Action Report: Jackson Civil War Muster, Aug. 26-27, 2017 -

Early war scenarios, Malvern Hill and 1st Bull Run

Symbolism, healing, love and sadness. All took place. For the first time since the "late unpleasantness" the military returned as a company to the Jackson event. Over the course of the weekend we had a total of 14 men in the ranks and two assigned to HQ. We were warmly greeted by our reenactment family. Old friends visited camp from other units all weekend to let us know they were glad to see our return and several local members from "the old days", came to pay a visit (Jerry Zimmerman, Dave Yonnick, John Bednark, Mark Lynch).

We were provided the honor of being flag company by Col. Van for the weekend and the 7th Michigan flags flew in front of HQ all weekend. As I looked down the ranks, it reminded me of why we did and should return. Nearly half of the company had not been part of the 7th when we were coordinating the event. They came to play with our pards and share the experience that they had heard so much about since joining the club.

For one drill 3rd company had over 30 men as we were partnered with our GLB brethren from the 102nd and Pennsylvania Zouaves. Shortly after drill I was notified that the Zoos had been approached by the rebel commander and were enticed to galvanize. I looked across the line during the Saturday Bull Run battle to find them the largest rebel company on the field. Like the old days, Jackson was a teaching event; we had a total of 6 fresh fish in the ranks and the NCOs worked hard to teach basic drill and make sure that everyone was safe. They have my sincere and heartfelt thanks for their work, which will contribute to the future of the hobby.

On the lighter side. We lost one of our corporals to a little Arkansas gal for most of the weekend, the usually dedicated Corporal showing up at the last possible moment from civilian camp. A new recruit, Alex Cash, had a bully time during the event although I heard a rumor that someone looking much like him was in a ball gown at the ball. Wyatt's mother was in the crowd on Sunday and got to see him lead out the Union army carrying our flag. The Buge, probably bored after his health issues earlier this year, was playing with toy soldiers at home (I know, Mark-- "action figures") and we recreated a "heroic" pose that had been first modeled in plastic. Chris and Dave treated us to an awesome chili for Saturday's dinner and the Captain contributed some stone ground corn bread to the repast.

On Saturday before the battle, long term organizations were publicly given plaques which I and the Buge accepted from the Jackson Civil War Society President on behalf of the 7th. We recognize that this was from Tom Berlucchi, and while we truly wish it hadn't happened, we are grateful for the sentiment from our reenacting community. We shed tears as Mark played taps for our lost comrades over the years. Weather was picture perfect for reenacting, friends were first rate, and I for one was glad to be home at 4.30 Sunday instead of 10 pm.

To paraphrase Lincoln: With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the hobby's wounds.

In your service,

Captain McComas



Photos by Ellyn Painter





Left: The re-created toy soldier pose at the Jackson Muster. At right are the "soldiers" they were imitating. Shared by Mark Heath on Facebook.



For those interested, there is an online news video about the Jackson Muster from local TV channel 6 WLNS.com.
<http://wlns.com/2017/08/25/local-civil-war-reenactment-takes-place-during-tense-time/>



Below: "When you fall asleep in camp and others are bored." Shared by Chris Sodman on Facebook.



Above, Left and center-shared by Cyndi Carlson. on Facebook.

"Returning To Jackson"

There's no time like the present to subscribe to my blog,
www.robsbigblog.com.

The latest posting communicates my impressions of the present state of Civil War reenacting in general, and the 2017 Jackson Muster in particular.
 ---Rob Stone---



For the first time in three summers I attended the Jackson (Michigan) Civil War Muster last weekend. The intent of this posting is to convey how I perceive re-enacting in general and this event in particular have changed, and ways – in my experience – they've remained the same.

What's different? Anyone familiar with Civil War re-enacting in the last decade will attest that the hobby is in a lull. Many that took up the hobby in the 1980s "aged out" of it at the end of the Civil War Sesquicentennial in 2015. The number of younger folks coming into re-enacting has dwindled. Starting out in the hobby is expensive: a brand-new reproduction rifle musket can retail for \$1,200. Nowadays many demands are made on young peoples' time, to say nothing of their penchant for passing the hours in front of a computer screen. Finally, the rise of new dimensions of re-enacting, particularly the World War II-era, has diverted people from channeling their energies into Civil War re-enacting.

The bottom line is, around the country dozens of small re-enactments, and not a few larger ones, have disappeared forever. Any number of re-enacting clubs have disbanded, while the membership of surviving ones has shrunk. It is now common for a handful of soldiers belonging to several different clubs to be "amalgamated" at events. At first glance it might appear that Civil War re-enacting itself is passing into history!

There's no denying these realities. Despite them, I believe what I saw at Jackson this year means my hobby will hang on, albeit in a more concise form than before. Numbers were down, but the Jackson Muster still drew enough soldiers, cavalymen and artilleryists for battles and exhibitions of camp life. As ever, it featured "historical presenters" whose first-person talks by figures like Jefferson Davis and Abraham Lincoln drew crowds of visitors seeking to be better informed about issues of Civil War times. During battles the hillside viewing stand was less heavily populated than before, but there were still hundreds of spectators. A unique and enjoyable experience for me was helping a friend fulfill her longstanding dreams of taking part in the muster as both a soldier and as a lady. She did a good job of picking up basic infantry

maneuvers during morning battalion drill, and was a stalwart in the ranks in the course of the afternoon's battle. (Even though it was a Union defeat.) In the evening she learned several period dances, taking part in them with grace and aplomb.

The opportunity to do things like these, and to educate others about this important period in American history, are the reasons why, after 25 years, I remain committed to Civil War re-enacting.

Rob Stone

Reprinted with permission from Rob's Big Blog.

Upcoming Events:

Van Raalte Farm – Sept. 16-17
Harvest Ball – Oct. 14
7th MI Annual Meeting – Oct. 15

Help Needed at the Ball!

Cyndi Carlson is in need of one or two individuals willing to help put up decorations on the day of the Harvest Ball (Oct. 14). Also, we are in need of fall decorations themselves. If anyone has any such decorations to lend or donate to the club, or can volunteer to put the decorations up, please contact Cyndi ASAP.

Cyndi Carlson

Home phone: 517-782-8199 cell: 517-474-3210

email: cyndiinthisservice@yahoo.com

VAN RAALTE FARM 2017

Mark your calendars for September 16 and 17 --Van Raalte Farm, the premier West Michigan Civil War event is less than a month away. Event organizers have planned a great weekend of battle, historical programs and fun that you won't want to miss.

This year's battle scenarios, which are based on the events surrounding Antietam, include the Cornfield and the Sunken Road. The Cornfield fight should be of real interest to 7th Michigan members. The 7th was part of Sedgewick's "strategic withdrawal" from that area during the morning battle on September 17th.

Van Raalte is a great event, in at least its seventh year, that just keeps getting better. Along with the outstanding battles, reenactor host 3rd Michigan Co. F conducts instructive, well run drills each morning. In addition, the daily schedule includes a variety of historical presentations and the ever popular Saturday night reenactor dinner. There are numerous sutlers and plenty of level ground for authentic civilian campers. There's also a rumor that that tavern will be back again for those who plan to malingering.

So start now to check over your gear, roll some rounds and be sure to let Capt. Doug know you'll be there in the ranks.

Further updates per the website:

www.vanraaltefarmcivilwarmuster.com

---submitted by Al Baerren,

Van Raalte event coordinator



Civilians

We had a good group of civilians at Sharp Park for the Delta Township living history event on Sat. Aug. 26.

The ladies worked on the quilt and some drilling was done by our troops. It was a great day for the event.

Next month is Van Raalte Farm. Are the ladies interested in getting together there to finish the quilt ??

Oct 14 is our Harvest Ball. Please contact Cyndi Carlson for tickets and information.

Sue Colegrove,

Civilian Coordinator

Remember:
Tickets for 7th MI
members are \$10.00
per person.



The 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Co. B
is proud to announce:

The 2017 Annual Harvest Civil War Grand Ball

To be held on Saturday, October 14, 2017

At Central United Methodist Church

215 N. Capital

Lansing, Michigan

Take a step back in time as we enjoy a congenial evening of dance, refreshments, and merriment with music by the Ruffwater String Band.

Dance prompt conducted by Glen Morningstar Jr.

Doors open at 6 PM, Grand March begins at 7 PM.

Attendees must be over 12 years of age.

Ticket cost \$25 per person, \$40 per couple.

Youngsters 12-16 years of age \$10 each.

Advance tickets will be available August 1st.

Tickets limited.

Attire is 1860's period formal or modest, modern formal evening wear.

For more information contact: Gilbert or Cyndi Carlson
(517) 782-8199

Cyndiinthisservice@yahoo.com

Meet the Sergeant Major of the Original Seventh Michigan...



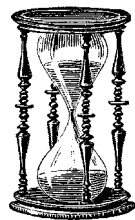
Maggie Smith, daughter of Bob and Carol, was recently visiting with the step-grandmother of her room mate Deanna DaSilva and looking through old photo albums and genealogical information about the step-grandma's family. Low and behold, there was a photo of grandma's great-

great-grandfather, Benoni LaChance who served in Company F of the Seventh Michigan and rose to the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major. Maggie took this photo of his photograph and one of his grave marker, which are shown here. Further research showed that LaChance was born in 1841 in St. Berthelemy, Quebec and later moved to the U.S., living on Mackinac Island. He enlisted in the Seventh at Houghton, Michigan in 1861 at the age of 19. He served in all the regiment's campaigns up to Petersburg where his enlistment was up and he mustered out. He returned to Mackinac Island where he married and fathered 11 children. He held various positions of importance on the island including Justice of the Peace, President of the Village of Mackinac, member of the Board of Education, Probate Judge and Mackinac Bar Association member. He cuts quite a striking figure in his Sergeant Major's uniform. We should probably forward this information to the "Swedes" since they officially represent Co. F. of the Seventh.



Sgt. Major Benoni LaChance, Co. F, 7th MI Inf.

---Submitted by Bob Smith



A Look Back In Time....

A Short Brain Teaser

Submitted by Tom Emerick



Does anyone have information on this CW Union soldier?

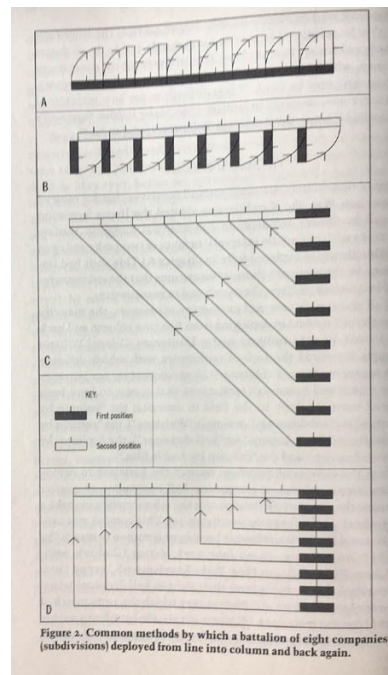
Pvt. John W. Steadman 7th Michigan Infantry
May 30, 1864
Buried in Yorktown VA

Posted by Cyndi Carlson on Facebook

From which military manual
were these
illustrations
of common
U.S. Civil War
maneuvers
taken from?

- A. Scott's
- B. Coppee's
- C. Hardee's
- D. Casey's
- E. Other

(Answer is on
the last page.)



Achievements

One Hundred Nights of Taps, Gettysburg, 2017
August 17, at the Soldiers' National Monument
Gettysburg National Cemetery, 7 pm.
Bugler, Mark D. Heath

from Wendy Allen's Facebook post: 100 Nights of Taps

“A very moving sounding of Taps.”



Left: Mark at the 7th Michigan Inf. Monument at the site of Pickett's Charge. Right: Mark at the Cemetery. Photos shared by Mark Heath on Facebook.

This is what was said in introduction to Mark's performance:

"The Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania is honored to welcome back [Mark D. Heath](#) as tonight's bugler."

Mark D. Heath is the Chief Bugler for Company B 7th Michigan Infantry re-enactor unit. He has been involved in reenacting as both an organizer and living historian since 1995.

Mark's interest in the Civil War is directly attributed to his grandfather, who was a true son of a Civil War veteran. His lineage can be traced to five known ancestors, all of who served for the North.

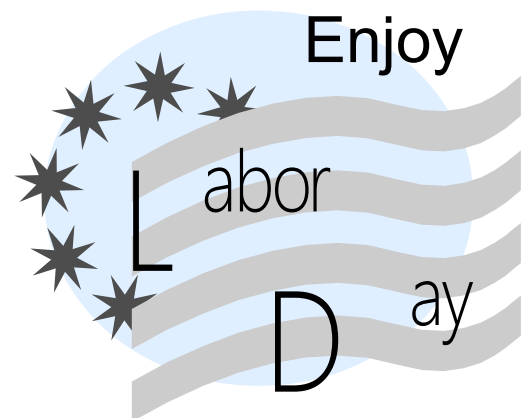
In 1998, he picked up an old Spanish-American War bugle so he could sound 'Taps' at ceremonies and funerals, as a member of the Austin Blair Camp No. 7 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He is self-taught, first learning how to play by ear and then by reading sheet music.

Since then, he has had the honor to sound 'Taps' at many local and national ceremonies, the Andersonville Civil War Prison National Park in Georgia, at Abraham Lincoln's Tomb in Springfield, Illinois and at the Civil War Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington Cemetery, to name a few.

As a member of The Jackson County American Legion Ritual Team he has helped to render Military Honors, by sounding "Taps" for the deceased, over 200 times."



Photo from Wendy Allen's Facebook post



More Achievements
on next page.....

Achievements.....continued



In last month's newsletter, we featured photos of Kyle Emerick's promotion to Technical Sergeant in the U.S. Air Force. On Thursday, Aug. 31, Tom Emerick attended his son's promotion ceremony in Brunsum, Netherlands, and helped "pin" on his new stripes. Tom returned to the States this past Sunday.. Photos courtesy of Tom Emerick.

Michigan History Magazine features 102nd U.S. Colored Troops

The September/October 2017 issue of MICHIGAN HISTORY magazine has a nice article about the 102nd USCT, whose members have fallen in with the 7th Michigan at Turkeyville and Meridian Township. The two-page article is an interview with Guyler Turner, President of the 102nd USCT. In it he addresses his experience as a re-enactor, and shares info concerning the participation of Black troops in the war. ---submitted by Rob Stone

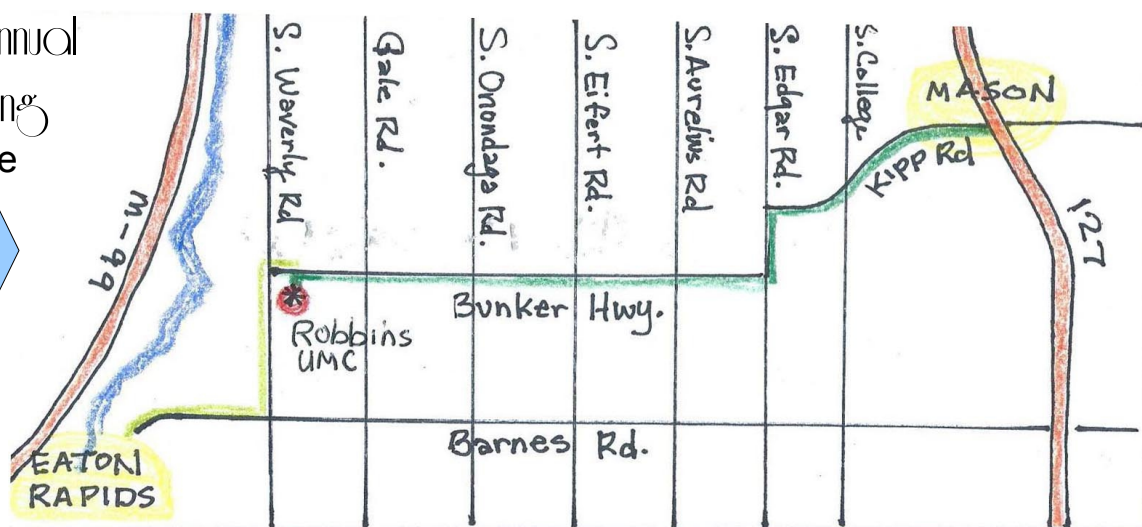
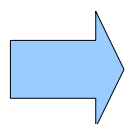
Brain Teaser Answer (pg. 7):
E. British 1764 Regulations

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

Doug McComas, Club Secretary

 dougmccomas@comcast.net

The Annual Meeting is here



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

MAP Not To Scale
Roads are 1 mile apart