

The Pritchard Press

The Newsletter of the General Benjamin Pritchard, Camp 20, Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Vol. XXXV, No. 1

January, 2019

Camp Officers 2019

- Commander: Michael Culp
- Sr. Vice Commander: Gary Thomas
- Jr. Vice Commander: Steve Rossio
- Camp Secretary: Gary Gibson
- Camp Treasurer: David Conklin
- Guard: Charles Keith
- Guide: TBA
- Patriotic Instructor: TBA
- Eagle Scout Coordinator: TBA
- Memorials and Monuments: TBA
- Graves Registration: Tom Bruce
- Color Bearer: Glenn Hall
- Historian: Gary Gibson
- Chaplin: Bill Brennan
- Asst. Chaplin: Jeffry Baker
- Council: Bill Costello, Robert Townsend
- Signals Officer: John Keith
- Pritchard Press Editor: Gary Swain

Upcoming Events

The following schedule of camp activities is tentative until approved by consensus of the March 2019 Camp Meeting.

- Jan.- Feb. 2019 No camp Meeting
- January 26, 2019 Annual Camp Luncheon-Brewster's, Paw Paw 11:30 am
- March 5, 2019 Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
- April 2, 2019 Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
- April 27, 2019 **Department Encampment-Okemos Conference Center**
- May 7, 2019 Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
- May 18, 2019 Veteran Flag Placement-Mountain Home Cemetery-Kalamazoo 9:00 AM
- May 25, 2019 GAR Monument Clean Up-Riverside Cemetery-Kalamazoo 9:00 AM
- May 30, 2019 Memorial Day Ceremony-Riverside Cemetery-7:00 PM
- June 4, 2019 Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
- July 9, 2019 Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
- *Note: July meeting delayed one week due to July 4th celebration
- August 6, 2019 Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
- August 8-11, 2019 **National Encampment, Independence, OHIO**
- Sept. 3, 2019 Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
- October 1, 2019 Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM

Michigan's GAR Museum

The museum, located at 224 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids, MI is open the first and second Wednesday of each month from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Below is the schedule for the first half of 2019.

January 2nd and 9th

February 6th and 13th

March 6th and 13th

April 3rd and 10th

April 6th & 7th B-Day Open House

May 1st and 8th

June 5th and 12th

Michigan's GAR Museum

It has been a busy winter at Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum. In November, we were contacted by museum founder, Don Limpert, who told us he would like to give the museum more artifacts - and to bring a truck! After renting one, several board members went to Don's and were very surprised at the amount of wonderful artifacts Don wanted to give the museum. Included were many items that belonged to Pomeroy Post No. 48 of Jackson, Michigan, including the adjutant's desk, three officers' stations that are cannon barrels turned upright, the ballot box, the gavel, and several photos. Also included were the parade guidon from Farragut Post No. 32 of Battle Creek, a portrait of Admiral Farragut, and a GAR slouch hat from an unidentified member of Post No. 32. These items have been added to the Post No. 32 exhibit. We also received the silk parade banner from the Betsy Ross Tent No. 19, Daughters of Union Veterans, of Jackson, Michigan which is in almost new condition.

There are many other artifacts not mentioned, so be sure to plan to attend the G.A.R. Birthday Open House on Saturday, April 6 and Sunday, April 7, 2019 to see several of our new treasures.

Gary L. Gibson, PDC
Curator of Exhibits and Board Secretary
Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum



Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865

The sisters of Cornelia Stockbridge Sheldon Tent #58, Kalamazoo are pleased to be a part of Camp #20 Newsletter. Thanks for including us!

We are on winter break until our first meeting on April 2. None of us is very brave about driving in the winter or after dark.

We have lots of plans for the new year including field trips and Civil War projects. We will be hosting the District Meeting for our Michigan Department of Sisters, in October, in beautiful downtown Mattawan and our Department Convention in May in Hastings! We will certainly miss having the Sons there with us.

We are looking forward to participating in many activities with the Sons and hope you will call upon us to join you in Memorial Day services as well as anything else that comes up.

Please ask your "significant other" to consider being a part of our group. We would love to have him or her come join us!

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Sally Redinger PNP

Cornelia Stockbridge Sheldon Tent #58

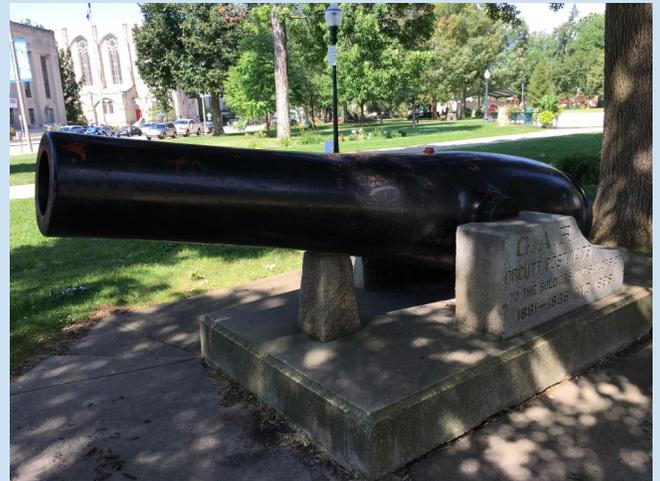
DUVCW

Kalamazoo, Michigan

Upcoming Project-Bronson Park GAR Cannon

The five year span since the camp painted the Civil War era Columbiad cannon in Kalamazoo's Bronson Park has taken a toll on it's appearance. The cannon was originally placed as a GAR memorial to Kalamazoo's Orcutt Post #79 and for the soldiers and sailors who fought in the Civil War, as well as the Sons who fought in the Spanish American War. It currently anchors the southeast corner of the park, along with the Spanish American Soldier statue in the north east corner, which combined, anchor the veteran memorials in the park.

Several past and present officers of the SUVC Camp 20 recently met with a representative of the City of Kalamazoo and discussed the city's plans to reorganize the memorials within the park. The cannon will remain in it's current location. However, as the below photos suggest, it is time once again to repaint the cannon and to restore it to its original appearance. This proposed project will be discussed and resolved at our March 2019 meeting.



2019 Dues are Due

SUVCW membership dues for 2019 are again \$36.00 and are due immediately. If you have not already sent payment please do so to Camp 20 Treasurer:

David L. Conklin

14447 Uldriks Drive

Battle Creek, MI 49017

Thank You Brother Mike Stone

Camp 20 Brother, Mike Stone, donated 96 of his own collection of Civil War books to Camp 20 to do with as we see fit. We give a big thank you to brother Mike for helping to spread knowledge about the Civil War. This generous donation will help the camp in our efforts to "keep the memory green!"

Bro. Stone has been a valued member of our camp since November 24th, 1998. His Civil War ancestor was his great –great uncle, Private John W. Hoke, Battery I, 11th Indiana Light Artillery



Hiram Hadden Gravestone Repaired By Camp 20

The Hiram Hadden gravestone in the GAR lot at Riverside Cemetery in Kalamazoo was severely damaged due to “spalling” or rusting of the original iron pins that held two section together. Our camp contracted with Pattens Monument company to remove the damaged portion of the stone, drilling out and replacing the iron pins with stainless steel. This project was completed in November; The repaired stone should last another century!



Before Repair



After Repair

Camp 20 Honors Allegan Eagle Scout Noah C. Festerling

On December 20, Camp 20 Brothers attended the Court of Honor for Boy Scout Noah C. Festerling of Allegan, Michigan. At this event Noah was awarded his Eagle Scout Badge and papers. Additionally, PCC John R. Keith presented the new Eagle Scout with the Sons of Union Veterans Eagle Scout Certificate for his Eagle Scout Project: building a fire pit for the American Legion Post 89, in Allegan. This pit, designed to



Brother John R. Keith, PCC, presents SUVCW Eagle Scout Certificate to Eagle Scout Noah C. Festerling

properly retire American Flags, further honored veterans by surrounding the pit with engraved stones bearing the names of current and past local veterans that were donated by their families. Also attending the Court of Honor were Camp 20 Brothers Tom Bruce, Bill Brennan (PDC & PCC), Charlie Keith, Robert Townsend and Sister Patti Townsend of DUVCW Tent 58.

Keeping the Memory Green

General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20 Brother Gary Swain, PCC, hosted WMU's Lifelong Learning group on a historical tour to Monroe, MI to learn about the life of Michigan Civil War General George Armstrong Custer. The tour guide for the daylong excursion was noted Custer expert Brother Dave Ingall of Nash-Hodges camp 43.



The WMU Lifelong learning group visiting the original Gen. George Armstrong Custer home in Monroe, MI. Seated in front is Steve Alexander, nationally known Custer reenactor and owner of the Custer home.

The group visited the original Custer home (now a private residence), the Monroe County Museum, the Custer-Bacon plot at Woodland Cemetery and the River Raisin Battlefield.



"Sighting the Enemy"

Famous Custer statue dedicated by President Taft and widow Libby Bacon Custer

Kalamazoo Civil War Roundtable

Schedule of Speakers

February 15th-Tom Deitz from the Kalamazoo Valley Museum will present a program on **Life in Kalamazoo During the Civil War**

March 15th-Peter Gaudet will present **Gettysburg Photography-Then and Now**

April 12th-James S. Paula will present **The XI Corps at Gettysburg**

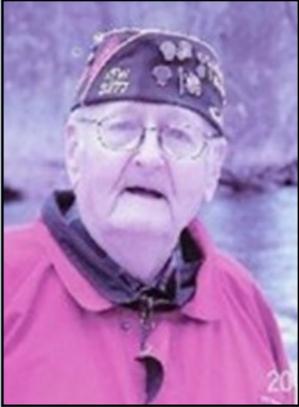
May 17th-Ernest Abel will present **John Wilkes Booth and the Women Who Loved Him**

January Luncheon Announcement

Camp Commander Mike Culp announces the annual camp luncheon will be held Saturday, January 26th at 11:30 am at Brewster's in Paw Paw. We look forward to seeing everyone there. Friends and family are welcome.

In Memoriam 2018

The General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War lost three beloved brothers during 2018. Long-time members, each brother made significant contributions to the SUVCW and they will be fondly remembered.



Clifford (Bob) Burhans 10/16/1925—8/3/2018

Brother Cliff was very active in Camp 20 activities and served as Camp Guard for many years. An Army veteran who served in both WWII and the Korean War, Cliff was also active in the VFW and American Legion and played a leadership role in the creation of the Veterans Memorial in Plainwell. He was initiated into the camp on July 3, 2007 and his Union ancestor was his great-grandfather R.M. Reynolds who served in the 1st. Michigan Cavalry.



Cleon Duryea 12/2/1925—8 /5/2018

Originally initiated into the General John Logan, Camp 1, in Grand Rapids, on April 12, 1994, Brother Cleon transferred to Camp 20 when that camp dissolved. Unfortunately, health issues prevented him from taking an active roll in Camp 20 activities, but he supported our efforts in spirit. His Civil War ancestor was William Duryea, a private in Co. K, 4th Michigan infantry.



Arthur (Art) Bonnell 6/29/1935-4/7/2018

A valued member of Camp 20's Council for many years, Brother Art was always the voice of calm and reason and his sage advice is missed. He was initiated as a member of our camp on August 5th, 2005, and remained a member in good standing until his recent Honorable Discharge. Art was the great-grandson of William H. Shaw, who served in the 140th N.Y. Infantry.

In Memoriam 2018

DUVCW Cornelia Stockbridge Sheldon Tent #58



Patricia Quinlan Albertson 5/2/1923 - 5/30/2018 Kalamazoo

Sister Albertson, a *Real Daughter*, was a member of the DUVCW Tent #58 since 2013. She was the daughter of Pvt. James Webster Woodstock of Co. G, 10th Vermont Infantry, who was present at Lee's surrender at Appomattox. She attended the DUVCW National Convention Michigan in 2017 and was, undoubtedly, the last *Real Daughter* to do so. In her last years she was wheelchair bound and unable to attend Tent meetings.

Our Civil War Ancestors

Pvt. William Henry Baker

By Jeff Baker

About twenty years ago I began to search for a Union Army veteran. I had his Grand Army of the Republic medal, his last name and several stories about him. Beyond that he was unknown. He was my father's grandfather and we had forgotten him. My first step was to obtain a copy of my grandfather's death certificate. On the bottom his father's name was listed. Finally, I knew that his name was William Henry Baker. Next came the process of learning about him from census records and his service and pension records from the National Archives. He was born February 10th, 1840 in Walworth Township, Wayne County, New York; the youngest child of Royal and Sarah Baker. In 1842, his family came to Highland and they started a 40 acre farm. Here they experienced Michigan farm life in the 1840's. Young Billy came to know the crow of the rooster, the feel of walking barefoot in the wagon tracks of Middle Road and the cooling waters of Kellogg Lake. His older brother Edward died in 1845. Then between 1850 and 1854 his Baker grandparents and his parents died. The farm then passed to William Henry's oldest brother Anson Waldo Baker.

William Henry Baker married Emma Cowles on April 1st, 1862. He remained by her side for two years but then answered the call of his country. On September 5th, 1864 he enlisted in Battery M, 1st Michigan Light Artillery. He traveled south where Battery M was manning the fortifications at Cumberland Gap. Here they were part of the 1st Brigade, 4th Division, 23rd Army Corp. Upon his arrival he was issued some infantry equipment and a 58 cal. rifled musket. Then he joined his fellow artillerymen on patrols into the rainy hills of southwestern Virginia. They did this from September into the spring of 1865. Then the war ended and Battery M walked home arriving in Jackson Michigan on July 12th. During its entire term of service Battery M carried 297 officers and men on its rolls. It lost 3 men killed in action and 13 men who died of disease. On August 1st Battery M was mustered out of service.

William Henry then returned to Emma's side. On January 25th, 1867 their first child, Arthur Waldo Baker, was born. Three other children were born to them. One of them lived to the age of 24, and the other two died in infancy.

Continued on next page

In 1891 they sold their 60 acre farm in Section 18. This was the southwest corner of Middle and Hickory Ridge Road. Then they moved to Grand Rapids. Arthur worked for the Pere Marquette Rail Road and after a few years he married a young teacher named Mabel Merriman. On April 3rd, 1916 William Henry and Emma became grandparents. On that day my father, Eugene, was born, the only child of Arthur and Mabel Baker.

William Henry Baker was loyal to his family, his country and his friends. In late 1918, for example, a friend needed his help to move a piano down some stairs. In the process the piano fell on William Henry breaking his hip. While he was in the hospital for this he contracted pneumonia which ended his earthly life on January 7th, 1919. On that day he found peace. His thoughts were still his thoughts, fully clothed within his memories, his loyalty and his courage. He was met by his grandparents, his parents and 3 of his 4 children. Emma joined them in 1927 and Arthur joined them in 1947.

My search for William Henry Baker has taken me back to the birth of his great-great-great grandfather William Baker, in the town of Concord, Massachusetts Colony in 1655. It has also taken me back to his grandmother's father, Lt. Edward Waldo who was wounded in the battles of Bunker Hill and Bennington, while serving in the 16th New Hampshire Militia, during the Revolution. It has also reunited me with other members of my larger Baker family.

