

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. 3

June, 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: John Keith

Memorials and Monuments: Gary Swain

Graves Registration: Gary Swain

Color Bearer: Glenn Hall

Historian: Gary Gibson

Chaplin: Bill Brennan

Asst. Chaplin: Jeffry Baker

Council: Bill Costello, Robert Townsend, Jeff Baker

Signals Officer: John Keith

Pritchard Press Editor: Gary Swain

2019 Camp Schedule

July 9, 2019	Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
	*Note: July meeting delayed one week due to July 4th celebration
July 20, 2019	Camp Trip to Lansing-Michigan Battle Flags
August 6, 2019	Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
August 8-11, 2019	National Encampment, Cleveland, Ohio
Sept. 3, 2019	Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
October 1, 2019	Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
Nov. 16, 2019	Remembrance Day-Gettysburg, PA
Nov.-Dec., 2019	No camp Meeting

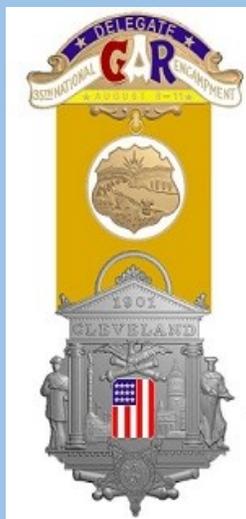
2019 National Encampment

Cleveland, Ohio

August 8-11, 2019

For all of the exciting details about the 2019 National Encampment, please visit the following link:

<http://2019nationalencampment.org/#>



Upcoming Events

Michigan Civil War Battle Flag Tour

You are Invited: Camp 20 has scheduled an exclusive tour of the original Michigan Regimental Battle Flags currently preserved in the Michigan Historical Center located at 702 W. Kalamazoo St., Lansing MI. The tour is scheduled for 11:00 am on Saturday, July 20, 2019. The tour is free and will be conducted by Matt VanAcker, the Director of Capitol Tours, who provides an informative and fascinating explanation of the history of the flags. The tour is open to Camp 20 members and friends. If you have received this newsletter and would like to be included in the tour simply reply to the email delivering the newsletter and join us on July 20th.



Join the Sons of Union Veterans

If you had an ancestor who fought to preserve the Union during the Civil War 1861-1865 and would like to join with other like-minded decedents in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, please call Camp 20 Commander Mike Culp at 269 342-4741.

Grand Rapids Civil War Roundtable

Schedule of Speakers

June 12th-Wednesday-Steve Hawks-Petersburg

Summer Hiatus-Programs begin again in September

Kalamazoo Civil War Roundtable

Schedule of Speakers

Summer Hiatus –Programs begin again in September

Michigan's GAR Museum

Located at 224 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids, MI , the museum 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

July 3rd (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

July 4th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Independence Day - Museum

Open July 4th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Living History Program on G.A.R. Island Park

July 10th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

July 13th (11 AM) - Offsite Program at Vandalia Underground Railroad Festival

July 16th (7 PM) - Speaker Program: (Jim Pula - The Eleventh Corps at Chancellorsville)

July 24th (7 AM - 9 AM) - Presentation to Eaton Rapids Rotary

August 2019 August 7th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

August 13th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Civil War Discovery Camp

August 14th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

September 4th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

September 8th, 9th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Offsite Program: Dearborn Old Car Festival

September 11th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

September 14th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Urban Air Festival Sept -

ember 15th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Urban Air Festival

September 22nd (3 PM) - Museum Anniversary and

Speaker Program: (Larry Hathcock - Last Veterans of the Blue and Gray)

October 2nd (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

October 9th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

October 19th (8 PM - Midnight) - Ghost Tour at Museum

November 6th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

November 11th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Veterans Day

November 13th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

November 19th (7 PM) - Speaker Program: (Quita Shier - Warriors in Mr. Lincoln's Army: Stories of Native Americans who fought in the Civil War)

Michigan's GAR Museum

2019 Seminar Programs

Tuesday, July 16th (7 PM) - Program: *The Eleventh Corps at Chancellorsville* (Speaker: Dr. Jim Pula)

Sunday, September 22nd (3 PM) - Program: *Last Veterans of the Blue and Gray* (Speaker: Larry Hathcock)

Tuesday, November 19th (7 PM) - Speaker Program: *Warriors in Mr. Lincoln's Army: Stories of Native Americans who fought in the Civil War* (Speaker: Quita Shier)

GAR Museum Celebrates 153rd Anniversary of GAR

On the weekend of April 6th and 7th, the GAR Museum in Eaton Rapids celebrated the 153 anniversary of the GAR. Camp 20 Brothers C. Keith, J. Keith, PCC, B. Brennan PCC PDC, L. Sheaffer and G. Swain PCC, lent their support to the celebration.



Brothers Charlie Keith and John Keith (PCC) at GAR Anniversary



MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER & HONOR

The Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20 held its annual Memorial Day Service on the true Memorial Day, Thursday, May 30, 2019 at the GAR Lot in Kalamazoo's Riverside Cemetery. This year the camp was honored to host as our guests of honor, the descendants of Albert Bell Whaling who served in the 5th U. S. C. Cavalry and is interred in the GAR lot.



MEMORIAL DAY



Memorial Day 1902



Memorial Day 2019

Memorial Day Continued

Members of Camp 20 participated in several local Memorial Day commemorations throughout the counties in our area. One of the largest was in Allegan, Michigan. This was the home of General Benjamin Pritchard, the camp's namesake. Camp 20 Brothers marched in the parade, participated in the community Memorial Day Services and then conducted a public ceremony at the grave of General Pritchard.





CAMP ACTIVITIES

Camp 20 recently announced an outreach program to other public minded groups within the community with the expressed two-fold purpose of keeping the memory green by educating the public and of expanding participation in our preservation and restoration programs. Our first success with this objective came at the initiation of Sister Patti Townsend of the Cornelia Stockbridge Shelton, tent #58, of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Sister Patti is also very active in the Kiwanis of Kalamazoo Sunrise and set up a recent gravestone preservation presentation for the club. The presentation was conducted by Camp 20 Graves Registration Office and PCC Gary Swain. Subsequently, eleven volunteers from the Kiwanis spent two mornings at the GAR lot in Riverside Cemetery cleaning 53 Civil War soldier gravestones. This effort significantly improved the readability of the gravestones



Kiwanis of Kalamazoo Sunrise volunteers (L to R) Pat Arney, Darryl Rauhoff, Chris Rauhoff, Alice Witt and Patti Townsend. Not pictured are Michelle Mohney, Joe Buysse, Nathan Smeltzer and sons Ben and Caden

and, more importantly, extended the life of the gravestones. Additional cleaning is planned by this dedicated group for June.



CAMP ACTIVITIES

CONTINUED

On a cold Saturday in April, Camp 20 participated in the cleanup of Poplar Hill Cemetery in Allegan county for the third year in a row. The cemetery is located in Monterey township in Allegan county. This rural cemetery contains 75 Civil War soldier graves. Participating in the clean up



were L to R Camp 20 Brothers; Comer Skinner, John R. Keith (PCC), Ms.Amanda Keith of Girl Scout Troop No. 80024 of Allegan, Brothers Rick Leber, Doug Gilchrist, and Charlie L. Keith

Graves Registration Officer Swain and Camp Commander Culp conducted a graves cleaning workshop for members of the **DAR** at Mountain Home cemetery.



Taps and Gun Salute at Spanish American Veteran section at Riverside Cemetery

CAMP ACTIVITIES CONTINUED



Brother Robert Townsend (Camp 20 Council) takes a short break after cleaning the GAR Monument area in preparation for Memorial Day ceremony.



Sister Patti Townsend and Brother Robert Townsend cleaned General Benjamin Pritchard and his wife Mary's gravestones for Memorial Day



Brother Gary Swain, PCC, conducted a program, in May, on **Michigan and the Civil War** for the Vicksburg Historical Society. He was the featured speaker for the Historical Society's History Day and the May Meander that opened the season at the Historic Village.

Latter in the summer the Camp will join Vicksburg High School students from the AIM Higher group to clean and repair the 65 Civil War gravestones in the Vicksburg Cemetery.

Mountain Home Cemetery Veteran Flags

On a cool, and breezy Saturday in May Camp 20 and volunteers decorated 285 veteran graves with flags in Mountain Home Cemetery in Kalamazoo. Camp 20 Brothers included Tom Bruce, Doug Gilcrist, Mike Culp and Gary Swain. Our dedicated and patriotic volunteers included Rita Swain (4th year) and Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and leader from Troop

