

The Pritchard Press

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

Vol. XXXVI, No. 1

January, 2020

Camp Officers 2020

- Commander: John Keith
- Sr. Vice Commander: Len Shaeffer
- Jr. Vice Commander: Doug Gilchrist
- Camp Secretary: Gary Gibson
- Camp Treasurer: David Conklin
- Guard: Charles Keith
- Guide: Vacant
- Patriotic Instructor: Vacant
- Eagle Scout Coordinator: J. Keith/G. Swain
- 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, Jeffry Baker
- Signals Officer: John Keith
- Pritchard Press Editor: Gary Swain

2020 Camp Schedule

- Jan. 25, 2020 Camp Lunch, The Club Car 11:30 AM
- March 3, 2020 Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
- April 7, 2020 Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
- May 5, 2020 Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
- May 9, 2020 Veteran Flags at Mtn. Home Cemetery
- May 16, 2020 Riverside GAR Monument Cleanup
- May 25, 2020 Federal Holiday-Memorial Day
- May 30, 2020 Memorial Day Ceremony at Riverside
- June 2, 2020 Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
- June 6, 2020 135th Department Encampment-Okemos, Michigan**
- July 7, 2020 Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
- August 4, 2020 Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
- Aug. 13-16, 2020 **National Encampment-Atlanta, GA**
- Sept. 1, 2020 Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
- Oct. 6, 2020 Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM
- Nov. 3, 2020 Election Day
- Camp Meeting-Portage Library, 7:00 PM



6225 West D Ave, Kalamazoo, MI 49009

Join us for Camp 20's annual Winter Thaw Lunch which is scheduled for Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 11:30 AM, at the Club Car Grill. Guests are invited...see you there.

Upcoming Events

Kalamazoo Civil War Roundtable

Westwood Methodist Church, 538 Nichols Rd.

Schedule of Speakers

Friday, January 17, 2020, 7:00 PM "TBD"

Friday, February 21, 2020, 7:00 PM "TBD"



Grand Rapids Civil War Roundtable

Kuyper College-Room 213 (New Location)

3333 East Beltline Ave. NE, Grand Rapids

Schedule of Speakers

Wednesday, January 15, 2020, 7:00 PM-Jerry Berg "Hand to Hand Combat"

Wednesday, February 19, 2020, 7:00 PM-GRCWRT Membership Open Roundtable

Wednesday, March 18, 2020 7:00 PM-John Branden "Treatment of Confederate Colored Soldiers"

Thursday, April 30, 2020 7:00 PM Special Meeting with the G.R. Historical Society

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 7:00 PM-Steve Hawks "Battle of Cedar Creek"

Wednesday, June 10, 2020 7:00 PM To Be Announced

Civil War Round Table of Southwest Michigan

First Congregational Church-2001 Niles Ave., St. Joseph, MI

Tuesday, February 11, 2020, 6:30 PM-Faye/Ted Chamberlain-"Why we do Living History

Tuesday, March 10, 2020, 6:30 PM-Prof Jane Schultz "Beyond Nightingale & Barton: How CW launched Nursing"

Tuesday, April 14, 2020, 6:30 PM- John Cohassey "The 22nd Michigan Infantry on the Road to Chickamauga"



2020 LECTURE SERIES -

Sunday, January 12, 2020 3:00 PM-Mike Grobbel "THE POLAR BEARS OF WWI, A MICHIGAN CONNECTION" \$5.00

Sunday, February 2, 2020 3:00 PM- John Burton and Robin Nott "Driving through the Jim Crow Era" \$5.00

Upcoming Events

KALAMAZOO VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



Meets monthly on the third Monday from September to June at the Portage District Library
300 Library Lane, Portage

Monday, January 20, 2020 6:15 PM Skill Session TBA 7:00 PM—"What I've Done and What I've Found"

Monday, February 17, 2020 6:15 PM Skill Session TBA 7:00 PM—"General Meeting-Subject TBA"

Monday, March 16, 2020 6:15 PM Skill Session TBA 7:00 PM-General Meeting-Subject TBA

Western Michigan Genealogical Society

Meets monthly on the first Saturday from September to June at the Ryerson Auditorium of the
Grand Rapids Public Library (111 Library St. NE)

Saturday, January 4, 2020, 1:30 PM-Kris Rzapczynski- "Family History Tools for the Great Lakes State"

Saturday, February 8, 2020, 1:30 PM- Jessica Trotter- "Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors"

Saturday, March 7, 2020, 1:30 PM- Chris Czopek- "Lansing History Detective, Native American Families in Michigan,
Civil War Pension Files"

Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall & Museum

224 S. Main Street Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Free Lectures

Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 7:00 PM- Rob Stone "The Soldiers Clothing and Personal Equipment"

Tuesday, May 19, 2020, 7:00 PM-Tom Berlucci "Detroit's Historic Fort Wayne"

Tuesday, July 21, 2020, 7:00 PM-Kermit Douse "Emory Parady and the Capture of John Wilkes Booth"

Sunday, September 20, 2020 3:00 PM-Jack Dempsey "Major General Alpheus Williams"

Tuesday, November 17, 2020, 7:00 PM-Dr. Jim Pula "The Eleventh Corp at Gettysburg"

Other GAR Activities

Saturday, April 4, 2020, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM GAR 154th Anniversary-Museum Open House

Monday, May 25, 2010, 11:00 AM-Memorial Day Parade and Program

Saturday, July 4, 2020, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM-Annual July 4th Parade and Civil War Living History

Tuesday, August 11, 2020, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM-Annual Civil War Discovery Camp for Kids 7-14

2019 IN REVIEW

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

485

Veteran gravestones cleaned and preserved in 2019

258

U. S. Flags placed on veteran gravestones in Mountain Home Cemetery

70

Total number of Boy Scouts, Scout Leaders, Kiwanis and DAR volunteers who were trained in “Best Practices” in veteran gravestone cleaning and preservation

20

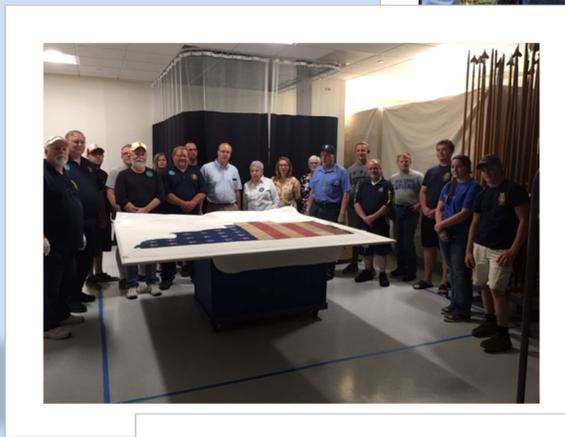
Brothers and Friends of Camp 20 who traveled to Lansing to learn about the Michigan Civil War Regimental Battle Flags preserved at the Michigan Museum

12

Total number of presentations of “Keeping the Memory Green” made to outside organizations by Brothers of Camp 20

3

Eagle Scout projects proposed, equipped, trained and successfully implemented by Camp 20



2019 IN REVIEW

CONTINUED

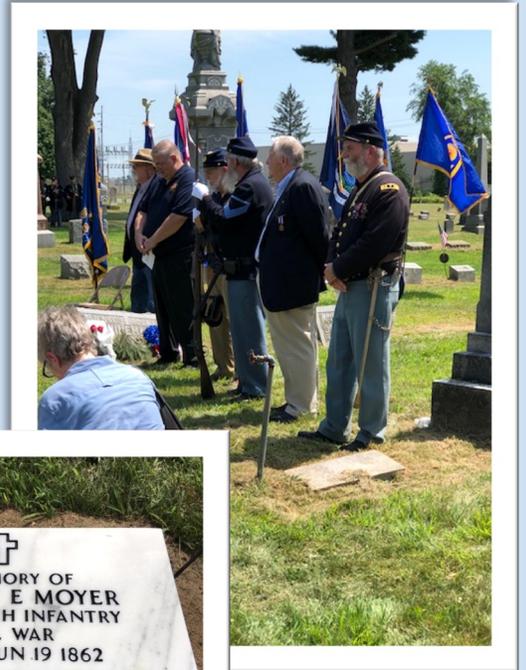
2019 BY THE NUMBERS

2

Dedication ceremonies for new Civil War gravestones conducted by Camp 20

1

One sign was created and installed at the graveside of Camp 20 namesake General Benjamin Pritchard





CAMP ACTIVITIES



Brother Mike Culp, PCC, of Camp 20, presented a program in November for Kalamazoo's St. Monica's Cub Scout Pack 211 teaching them about the Civil War and the life of a Union soldier. The above photo is of the Scouts expressing their appreciation for Brother Culp's outstanding presentation. Brother Culp is the tall kid in the back.

CAMP ACTIVITIES

CONTINUED

Veterans Day

Brother **Jay Miller** (past Commander of the Otsego American Legion Post) remembered our veterans on a blustery

November Veterans Day. Brother Jay and the American Legion Rifle Squad participated in events at the Greater Plainwell Veterans Memorial and again at the Otsego



Veterans Memorial this past Veterans Day.

GAR Flag Holder

Camp 20 brothers are regularly involved in veteran gravestone preservation activities in local cemeteries.

It is not uncommon to see original GAR flag holders which were originally provided by local GAR Posts for their deceased members. The most common holder is the five point star design. The



five point star was first introduced with the U. S. Flag Act of 1777. The original flag holders were usually constructed of “White Bronze” which is really a zinc alloy similar to the grave markers which were sold during the same era of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This material has proven to be very durable. However, like the actual gravestones the greatest danger comes from maintenance crews and with lawn mowers .

Camp 20 Brothers were recently working in Oakwood Cemetery, in Allegan, Michigan and pointed out a beautiful large white bronze mark-



er from GAR Post 170, Department of New York. Unfortunately, the marker had been broken in half due to vandalism. Fortunately, Camp 20 Brother **Bill Costello** was able to repair the marker and it was placed in its current location. He did an excellent job of repairing and preserving the flag holder and the repair is almost imperceptible. Barring any future accidents the flag holder should continue provide service for another century.

Bronson Park Monuments

Update

The City of Kalamazoo has made significant progress in the redesign and the creation of the *Honor Walk* in *Bronson Park* dedicated to the veteran memorials located within the park. The monuments have now been relocated to the arched walkway extending from the northeast corner of the park to the southeast corner. The walkway will be anchored by the Civil War era Columbiad cannon near the corner of Park and South Streets and the Spanish American War statue titled *The Walker* on the corner of Park and Academy Streets.

Current plans call for the SUVCW-Camp 20 to clean the base and repaint the cannon during the summer of 2020. Additionally, some light cleaning of two of the small G.A.R. monuments (see right) are anticipated in the same time frame.

All of the monuments will be described in a new website that the City of Kalamazoo is creating. Camp 20 will provide the copy for all monuments within our purview.



Spanish American War Monument *The Walker* in the original location 2017



Abel Peck

24th Michigan Volunteer Infantry (Iron Brigade)

Abel Peck, at 42 years old, was a little older than the average recruit when he enlisted in the 24th Michigan Infantry Regiment in 1862. Life before the Civil War had not been easy for Abel. He had been married twice but had lost both wives and two infant daughters to natural causes. However, he did have two young daughters that had survived and were each being cared for by family or family friends.

Peck's maturity and faithfulness to duty were undoubtedly important factors that contributed to his promotion to sergeant. Soon he was awarded the high honor of being the first regimental flag bearer by Col. Morrow who commanded the Michigan 24th Infantry Regiment.

Just before the march to Gettysburg he wrote to his young daughter Ella and addressed the dangers that awaited him.

"I expect to have to take my part, and if I fall you must not mourn for I think I am doing my duty and you must think that the honor of having a Father die in the defense of his country will make up for the loss you will sustain."



As the Battle of Gettysburg began on July 1, 1863 Union Maj. General Reynolds rushed his troops to Seminary Ridge and on to McPherson's Woods with the 24th Michigan anchoring the extreme left. They tore into the flank of Archer's Confederate brigade in desperate combat and ultimately forced Archer to surrender. Unfortunately, Sergeant Abel G. Peck was one of the first to fall. Later, Col. Morrow would write: *"I have lost my color bearer, Abel G. Peck, a brave and faithful soldier....a man greatly admired for his almost saintly character."* When the day's fighting had ended, ten men had carried the flag of the 24th Michigan: five were killed and two others were wounded. The flag itself was shot through with twenty-three bullet holes, and the flag staff was shattered. The regiment entered the battle with 496 soldiers. By the end of the day they suffered 363 casualties including ninety four killed or mortally wounded. They suffered more casualties than any other regiment at the Battle of Gettysburg. Abel Peck is buried in an unmarked grave at Gettysburg National Cemetery.

PRESIDENTS' DAY

Presidents Day is the third Monday in February. Since the Uniform Holiday Act of 1971, it is an official holiday and celebrates the birthday of our first president, George Washington.

While Washington's actual birthday is February 22nd., some states also celebrate Lincoln's birthday on the same third Monday even though Lincoln was born on February 12th. Michigan is not one of those states and officially celebrates only Washington on Presidents Day. Nevertheless, Camp 20 honors both Washington and Lincoln on Presidents Day. Many consider these two men as America's two greatest presidents.

