

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. 4

July, 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: Mike Culp
- Eagle Scout Coordinator: Gary 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

- July 11, 2020 Field Trip-Underground RR Tour-
Postponed to 2021
- July 25, 2020 Eagle Scout Gravestone Project
Riverside Cemetery, Sect. HH 10:00 AM
- August 4, 2020 Camp Meeting-GAR Lot Riverside
Cemetery 7:00 PM
- Aug. 13-16, 2020 **National Encampment-Atlanta, GA
Canceled**
- August 22, 2020 Eagle Scout Gravestone Project
Mountain Home Cem., Kazoo 10:00 AM
- Sept. 1, 2020 Camp Meeting-GAR Lot Riverside
Cemetery, 7:00 PM
- September, 2020 Camp tour of Antietam and Gettysburg
Battlefields-**Postponed to 2021**
- Oct. 6, 2020 Camp Meeting-Location TBD, 7:00 PM
- Nov. 3, 2020 Election Day-Don't Forget to Vote
Camp Meeting-Location TBD, 7:00 PM
- December, 2020 No Camp Meeting Scheduled

DUE TO THE RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO THE ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC, THE 2020 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT OF THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR HAS BEEN CANCELLED. PLEASE



U. S. Grant-Detroit Home

In earlier issues of the Pritchard Press, we reported upon the planned move of the Julia and Ulysses S. Grant home from the Michigan State Fair Grounds to Detroit's Eastern Market. The fifteen mile move will begin in late July. During the first week of July the second story was temporarily removed to facilitate the actual move.



Footings were poured at the new location in mid-June and final prep work should be completed and the concrete sufficiently cured to allow the move to begin by late July.



Current plans call for the home to become a museum to Grant and his impact on Detroit during his stay in the state.

Last Civil War Pensioner Dies

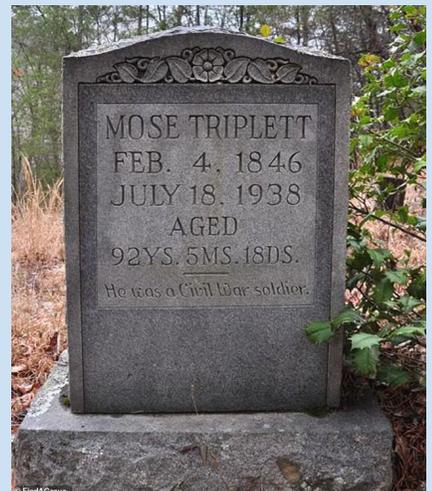
When Irene Triplett passed away in a North Carolina nursing home on May 31, 2020, she was the final person to receive a Civil War pension, a monthly check of \$73.13 from the Department of Veteran Affairs

She was the daughter of Mose Triplett who was 84 when Irene was born in 1930. He originally enlisted in then 53 North Carolina Infantry in May of 1862 and later transferred to the 26th North Carolina Infantry. He became ill on the March to Gettysburg. The 26th North Caro-



Mose Triplett in Center of photo. His first wife is on the left

lina Infantry originally fielded 800 men but lost 734 killed, wounded or captured at Gettysburg. Meanwhile, Mose deserted from the Virginia hospital in 1864 and ultimately enlisted in the Union regiment the 3rd North Carolina Mounted Infantry aka Kirk's Raiders. He passed away in 1938 at the age of 92, just a few days after attending the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.





CAMP ACTIVITIES



June Camp Meeting

The June 2020 camp meeting was held a little later in June and in a non-traditional location due to the government Covid-19 regulations and in an abundance of caution by the camp. The meeting was held at the GAR monument in Kalamazoo's Riverside Cemetery. This location provided a shaded open air setting where we could exercise social distancing, wear face masks and conduct camp business. This unexpected change of venue proved to be a popular option and will be our temporary meeting location as long as weather permits and health concerns remain.



The June meeting began with a tour of many of the GAR gravestones by Brother Gary Gibson (PCC & PDC). Brother Gibson has laboriously researched each of the soldiers interred in this section and provided a fascinating biography of a number of the soldiers.

CAMP ACTIVITIES

July 2020 Camp Meeting

The July camp meeting was once again held at the GAR monument in Riverside Cemetery. During the meeting Brother Andrew Burnham was sworn in as the newest member of the General Benjamin Pritchard, Camp 20 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Brother Andrew is the grandson of beloved deceased Brother Clifford Burhan.

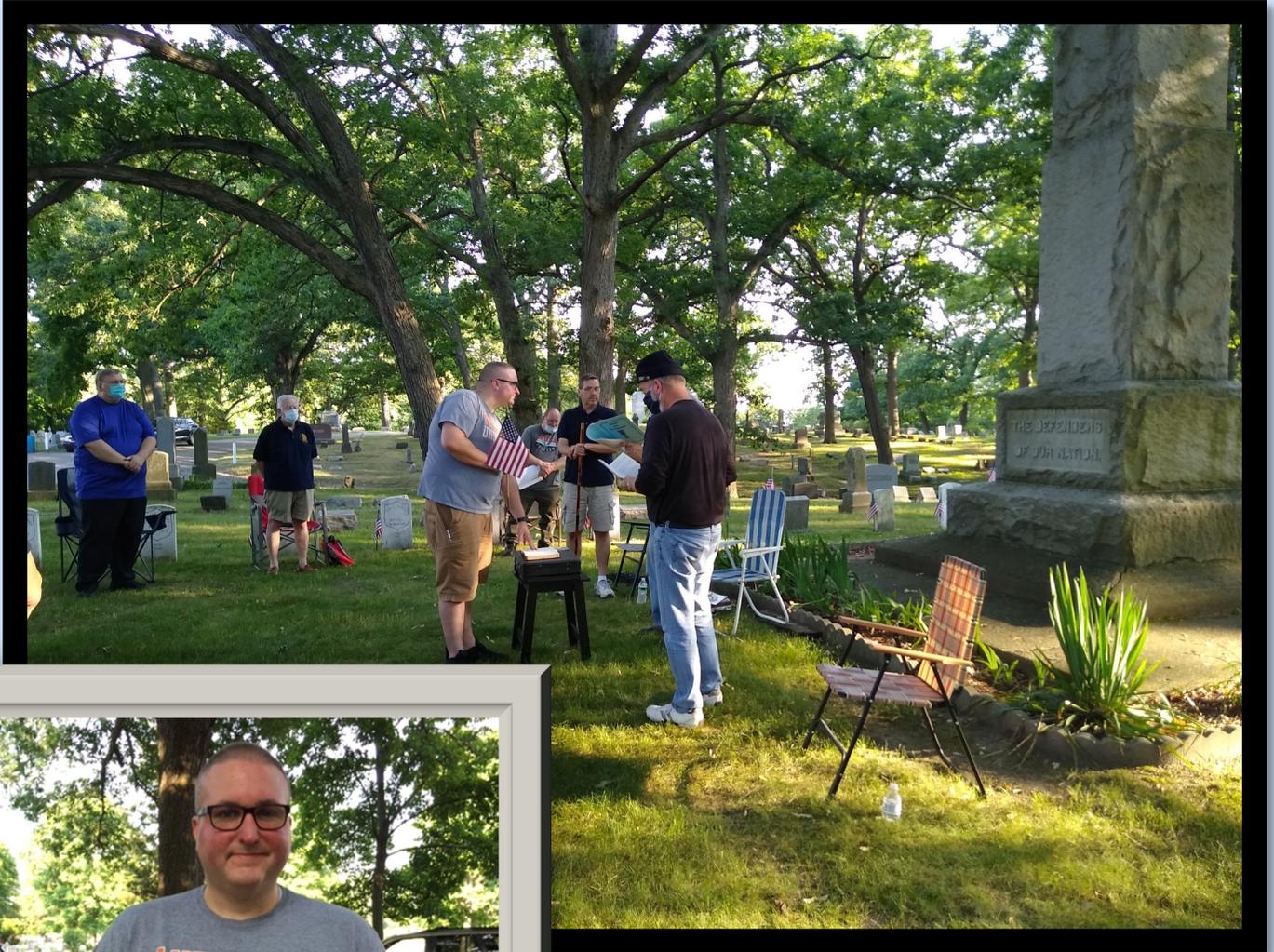


Photo Courtesy of Len Shaeffer

Camp 20 Welcomes New Brother Andrew Burnham

CAMP ACTIVITIES

Welcome Back Brother Ron Bellenger

The General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20 of the SUVCW is very pleased to welcome back brother Ron Bellenger to our membership. Brother Ron was an early member of Camp 20 and later transferred to the Henry Plant Camp 3 in Grand Haven, Mi. Brother Ron, a member of Camp 20 in the 1980's and 1990's, was a past camp commander.

1989



The photo on the right was taken on Memorial Day, May 29, 1989 at the Allegan Memorial Day Parade. Brother Ron Bellenger is on the left and Brother Bill Brennan is on the right.



Photo courtesy of Bill Brennan

CAMP ACTIVITIES

Lakeview Cemetery-South Haven

Brothers of Camp 20 joined teams with the Star of the Lake Masonic Lodge , in South Haven, MI, to clean and preserve veteran gravestones in Lakeview Cemetery . Our combined group of seven preservationists cleaned and extended the life of 26 veteran gravestones and family monuments. The SUVCW is grateful to the Star of the Lake Masonic Lodge for all of their efforts in caring for the final resting place of our American soldiers.

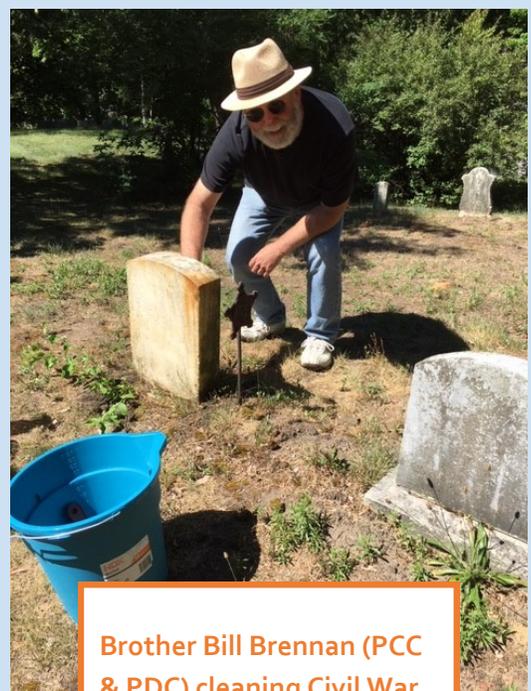
Star of the Lake Masonic Lodge #158 volunteers:

L to R

Bob Saunders, Tim Stegeman, Bruce Thatcher and Larry Getsoain



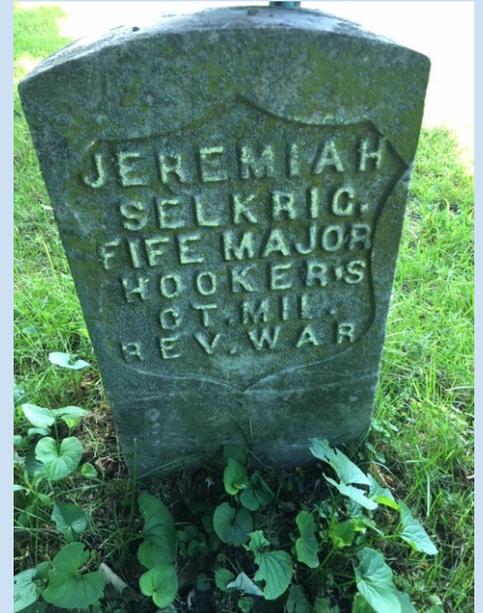
Brother Mike Culp (PCC) cleaning gravestone of 13th Michigan Infantry veteran



Brother Bill Brennan (PCC & PDC) cleaning Civil War veteran gravestone

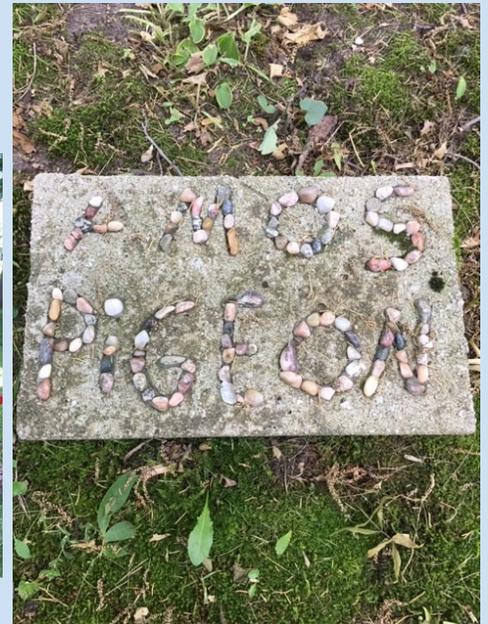
CAMP ACTIVITIES: GRAVES REGISTRATION

SELKIRK CEMETERY



The graves registration team searched for the Selkirk Cemetery which is listed in Wayland Township in Allegan County. After several attempts to locate the cemetery in the location listed, it was discovered that there were two pioneer gravestones in the side yard of a farmhouse marking the final resting spot of a Revolutionary War veteran and his son a War of 1812 veteran.

BRADLEY INDIAN MISSION BURIAL GROUND



The Bradley Indian Mission Burial Ground is located down a gravel road in Wayland Township, Allegan County, MI. It is a beautifully maintained cemetery and contains the graves of many military veterans. The graves registration team found one Civil War veteran from Co. K of the First Michigan Sharpshooters as well as one other to research.

FOR THE GREATER GOOD

One of the many traditions of the Grand Army of the Republic maintained by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is the promotion of good citizenship and the encouragement of civic duties. Therefore, from time to time we will highlight the actions of Camp 20 Brothers whose expression of those values go beyond normal camp activities. We will call attention to these activities in an occasional newsletter article titled **FOR THE GREATER GOOD**.

THE TRAIL ANGEL

Brother Tom Bruce has been a member of the General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20 since 2006. During that time he has served as Graves Registration Office for many of those years. He was responsible for recording many Union soldiers buried in Van Buren, Kalamazoo and Allegan counties and providing that data to the Department and National databases. He has also provided numerous gravestones for soldiers whose graves went unmarked. In addition to these responsibilities, Brother Tom has been an enthusiastic supporter of all camp activities and could always be counted upon to participate in each of those events.



Recently we learned that Brother Tom has turned a hobby into an act of generosity to Michigan's outdoor enthusiasts. Over the past few winters he has carved walking sticks and then each spring he has left them along the Kal-Haven trail with the sign "Free". On a recent bicycle ride from Kalamazoo to South Haven along the trail, we discovered Brother Tom's most recent gift to trail hikers. In the trail rest area where it crosses M-40 in Gobles, MI there were approximately 18 of his most recent hand carved walking sticks with a sign offering them free to anyone who would like one.



As one trail user wrote on the Friends of the Kal-Haven Trail Facebook site a few weeks ago *"And thanks to the guy at Gobles who makes the walk easier. We don't know who you are but you are a Trail Angel."*

FLASH BACK FROM THE PAST

Camp 20 Memorial Day Parade-May 28, 1990

General Benjamin Pritchard grave site, Oakwood Cemetery, Allegan, MI



Photo courtesy of Bill Brennan

Front Row kneeling L to R

Bob Gryga (with Drum) Al Anthony, Bill Brennan, Jeff Maddox, Chip Zantello

Second Row Standing L to R

Gary Gibson, Unidentified, Mike Culp, Unidentified, Jim Platt, Unidentified, Rick Cubberly, Dean Parker, Jim Lyons, Ron Bellingerr (holding flag), Howard Nunemaker, Everett Pritchard

Third Row Standing

2nd from left is Howard Nunemaker, 4th from left is Stuart Norby, also in back row are Robert Rowe and Ken Hilts