

Michigan's messenger

The Official Newsletter of the Department of Michigan — Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Volume V Number 2

November 1996

Department Officers 1996/1997

Commander

David F. Wallace
7017 Granada Drive
Flint, MI 48532-3023

Senior Vice Commander

Paul D. Hodges
2300 Heights Avenue
Lansing, MI 49010-3514
(517) 482-4718

Junior Vice Commander

Kent L. Armstrong
P. O. Box 618
DeWitt, MI 48820-0618
(517) 669-5765

Secretary

Richard F. Lee
1111 Kern Road
Fowlerville, MI 48836-9257
(517) 223-9497

Treasurer

James T. Williams
8032 Ore Knob Drive
Fenton, MI 48430-9355
(810) 629-4603

Council

Gary L. Gibson
Donald H. Workman
James Neal

Chief of Staff

Terrance L. McKinch

Camp Organizer

Kent L. Armstrong

Patriotic Instructor

Edgar Dowd

Chaplain

Gordon F. McAllister

Counselor

James B. Pahl

Historian

Ronald Bellenger

Guide

Howard Streeter

Guard

Laverne Aves

Color Bearer

Patrick D. Wallace

Department Orders No. 2

Series 1996/1997

1. All Camps and Brothers are reminded to remember to observe Veteran's Day (November 11th) and Remembrance Day (November 19th). All Camps and Brothers should conduct or participate in appropriate community services wherever possible.

2. Remembrance Day ceremonies will be observed in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, on Saturday, 16 November 1996, under the auspices of the Sons of Veterans Reserve. The Department of Michigan will place a wreath, as part of an appropriate ceremony, at the First Michigan Sharpshooters monument, as directed by the 107th Department Encampment. Those Brothers interested in participating or requiring additional information regarding these ceremonies should contact Department Chief of Staff, Captain Terrance L. McKinch.

3. The Department Commander extends congratulations to the following Brothers of the Department of Michigan who have been elected or appointed to positions within the National Organization at the 115th National Encampment: Gregory D. Hayes, Managing Editor, *The Banner*; Kent L. Armstrong, Chairman, National "Save Outdoor Sculpture" Special Committee; Edgar Dowd, National Camp and Department Organizer; Richard Greene, National Aide to the National Camp and Department Organizer; Keith G. Harrison, PC-in-C, National Aide to the National Secretary; Hon. James B. Pahl, National Counselor; John Mann, Chairman, National Graves Registration Committee; L. Dean Lamphere, Jr., National Department-at-Large Secretary/Treasurer; Terrance L. McKinch, Chairman, National Military

Affairs Committee; J. Douglas Park, Program and Policy Committee; Gene A. Taylor, National Aide to the Graves Registration Committee; Richard A. Williams, National Membership List Coordinator.

4. The Department Commander highly commends the following Camps for their hospitality extended and for hosting and representing the Department at the following events: Gen. John A. Logan Camp No. 1 (Ceremony of Remembrance, Grand Rapids); Gov. Austin Blair Camp No. 7 (Jackson Civil War muster event); Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 22 (Charlton Park, Hastings event); Gen. Phil Kearney Camp No. 67 (River of Time, Bay City event); Gilluly-Kingsley Camp No. 120 (Howell Melon Festival); Gov. Crapo Camp No. 145 (Crossroads Village, Flint event); Maj. Henry Wallace Camp No. 160 (Ovid-Elsie living history).

5. The GAR Memorials and Graves Registration Committee has been restructured into the following three (3) subcommittees:

1. Graves Registration — John Obermeyer, Chairman; 2. GAR Records — James T. Lyons, PDC, Chairman; 3. GAR Memorials — Kent L. Armstrong, Chairman. This restructuring is a result of current issues being addressed at the National level and at the recommendation of Department Counselor, Hon. James B. Pahl. As addressed in the Department Bylaws, the function of the Committee (and now its Subcommittees) will be to ensure the preservation of existing Grand Army of the Republic Memorials and to record and preserve the final resting place of the soldiers and sailors of the Union. It will be of the utmost importance that all Camps and all

(Continued on page 2)

Department Orders

(Continued from page 1)

Brothers participate and assist in the undertaking of this Committee and subcommittees when called upon to do so.

6. The following Brother has agreed to accept appointment to the GAR Records Subcommittee: Gregory D. Hayes (Gilluly-Kingsley Camp No. 120).

7. The following Brothers have agreed to accept appointment to the GAR Memorials Subcommittee: Kent L. Armstrong — Chairman (George Anderson Camp No. 58), Michael W. McMillan (Maj. Henry Wallace Camp No. 160), Kim Leese (Gen. Phil Kearney Camp No. 67).

8. Senior Vice Department Commander Paul D. Hodges, has agreed to accept appointment as the Department representative to the Commander's Group.

9. A special committee comprised of Senior Vice Department Commander, Paul D. Hodges, James T. Lyons, PDC, and Department Chief of Staff, Terrance L. McKinch has been formed to handle arrangements and planning for the Department Encampment and for the Department Mid-Winter Conference.

10. Camps are reminded that all reports must be forwarded to the Department Secretary in a timely manner.

11. All Camps are requested to forward a copy of their existing Camp Bylaws to the Department Secretary no later than 31 December 1996.

12. This November 28th marks the 133rd anniversary of the formal observance of Thanksgiving. In issuing his Executive Order directing the observance, President Lincoln proclaimed, "I do, therefore, invite my fellow-citizens in every part of the United States, and all those who are at sea and those sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens." As we gather with our families and friends this November 28th, let us remember the blessings won for us and the cost paid by the brave soldiers and sailors whose sacrifice has preserved our Nation.

By Order of:

David F. Wallace
Department Commander

Attest:

Richard F. Lee
Department Secretary

Weekend of Remembrance

All Camps and Brothers are requested to mark their calendars for August 1, 2 & 3, 1997, to plan to participate in the "Weekend of Remembrance" at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans (originally, the Old Soldier's Home). The 107th Department Encampment approved the recommendation that the Department of Michigan take on the primary planning responsibilities for the "Ceremony of Remembrance" in conjunction with the Gen. John A. Logan Camp No. 1 of Grand Rapids which has been the sponsor of the event with the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Planning has moved forward with the Commandant of the facility and his staff, representatives of the State of Michigan Veterans Administration, and representatives of the Michigan National Guard. A special Department Committee has been formed which includes representatives of the Allied Orders from within the Department of Michigan.

In reviewing the previous events held at the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans, the administrators of the facility expressed a desire to expand on the activities surrounding the "Ceremony of Remembrance" to include the veterans of the Home in more of the activities and to help better present the mission of the Home to the public in general. Plans have been developed to expand the program into a weekend event which would begin with registration on Friday evening, "The Ceremony of Remembrance" and related activities on Saturday, and a small reenactment on the grounds of the facility on Sunday. In order to involve the veterans of the Home in more of the activities, a Saturday evening dinner with period music (*not* a dance or military ball) has been planned for the registered participants and the veterans. Also, there will be demonstrations and visitations by SUVCW and Allied Orders members both within and outside of the Home. As the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans was originally founded to serve the needs of Civil War soldiers, there are several artifacts within the Home's archives, and these will be set up in a display room during the "Weekend of Remembrance".

I hope that all Camps and Brothers will plan to attend this important event. Several reenacting groups will be present, but we want to encourage all Brothers to attend. You don't have to be in uniform to participate, and your support of this event is important. Not only is it a fitting way to pay tribute to the memory of your Civil War ancestor, but it is an important way to say "thank you" to the men and women of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. Please plan to attend.

David F. Wallace
Department Commander

Department Officer Reports

Senior Vice Commander

It is a pleasure to report the appointees to the Bylaws Committee for this year. They are Brothers John Braden, James Frye, Daniel Graves, Gordon McGarey and Kenneth Strickler.

The Department Bylaws charge the committee, chaired by the Senior Vice Commander, to "annually review the Bylaws of the Department and bring to the attention of the Department any necessary revisions." The committee now asks for the help of the membership. We invite **your** suggestions for bylaw amendments.

Bylaws are basic rules of conduct for the organization. They are not merely guidelines and cannot be suspended at will. The Bylaws cannot be changed without previous notice to the membership and, in the Department of Michigan, without a two-thirds vote (*of the membership present at the Department Annual Encampment, ed.*)

Our Order is a dynamic organization. Expanding programs and new activities at all levels can call for related procedural adjustments. Bylaw revisions to accommodate them sometimes are necessary.

Amendments were adopted at both the 1995 and 1996 Encampments. As reported in the August issue of "Michigan's Messenger," the latest changes exempted Camps from paying per capita taxes for Juniors as well as Life Members and Real Sons and they deleted the limit of five members for standing committees. Further, they authorized payment of expenses of up to \$50.00 for the Senior Vice Commander and up to \$100.00 for the Junior Vice Commander.

As you proceed through your various Camp and Department activities, please be alert for any Bylaw adjustments which may be advisable. Then give your suggestions and comments to me no later than February 15 in order to move through the amendment process on schedule. In the meantime, we'll be reviewing the Bylaws ourselves.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Paul D. Hodges
Department Senior Vice Commander

Junior Vice Commander

Recruitment — I have the honor to report that the names of 64 prospective members have been sent out to the JVC's of the Camp nearest to them. Of these, I've had the pleasure to recommend several that I personally know, for Member and Associate membership. I want to thank all of the JVC's contacted for their follow-up with an application, dues info and warm invitation for the prospective member to attend their next Camp meeting.

I also want to thank Camps 7, 17, 101 and 145 for sending me the names of prospective members from outside their areas who signed a recruiting roster at a display set up by these Camps. Camps 1, 43, 58 and 67 have reported several applications have been sent to interested men near them, too. I salute all of you who've demonstrated an aggressive effort to bring new members into the work of the Order.

National Recruiting Recognition — I offer a respectful reminder that our National headquarters has established the practice of honoring individual members for their recruiting efforts. If you bring in three or more members, you will "be appointed as a National Aide and be issued a National ribbon," to be worn behind your membership badge. "Those who recruit five (or more) new members will receive a Certificate of Merit." There is also a recognition for the top recruiter in each Department that I invite you to earn.

Whether it's someone you know personally, or an acquaintance whom you've recruited, please be sure to place your name on the new member's application where it asks, "Recommended By:" (the witness line is for the Camp Secretary's signature after a candidate for membership is initiated).

Attention Camp Secretaries! Please submit to the Department Secretary the name of your Camp members who recommend at least three new members to your Camp. And those who bring in five or more! The Department Secretary will then forward this information to National Headquarters. Thank you.

Publicity — We must take advantage of every opportunity to bring respectful attention to our Order! The public needs to become more aware of not only that our organization exists, but more importantly, what our purpose is and the pride shared by those who join in honoring the memory of those who served and sacrificed to save the Union!

I have shared with Commander Wallace a listing of all daily and weekly published newspapers in Michigan that the Department can utilize for "General Press Releases". But I

Department Officer Reports

would like to stress that more can be accomplished on the local level by each Camp with the media in its own area. Any public ceremony hosted by your Camp can be a recruiting opportunity and so should be published before, as well as after the event. Many Camps observe a Remembrance Day Ceremony that compliments existing programs of the VFW and American Legion for Veteran's Day. This should all be put in the public eye. Over the winter, there are opportunities that can be explored with historical and genealogical groups in your area. I would like to see us develop a positive relationship with Civil War Roundtables that can compliment their mission and ours. They can be a source for a speaker that could attend a Camp program, advertised as open to the public.

Our graves registration work is something that we can proudly share with the public, too. Your local Historical or Genealogical Society may gladly do a write-up on your Camp's efforts and share this in the local papers.

Next spring, the approach of Memorial (Decoration) Day is the time to educate your community that it is the GAR that we all have to thank for the creation of this proud tradition; and that we are the recognized successors to the GAR. This is another time to work with the VFW and/or American Legion in your area. And, to drive a point home, hold a ceremony of tribute at as many communities as you can (near your Camp) that have a monument or memorial dedicated by the GAR! We need to promote a new sense of community pride in some areas for an important part of their heritage that has become neglected. By demonstrating and then communicating "what we're all about," we will offer a proud example that will draw new members to us!

Positive "Public Relations" can also be gained by presenting and publicizing, two unique recognitions from our National Organization. One is the SUCVW *Certificate of Appreciation* for those who faithfully display our Nation's Flag in a continuous and correct manner (all year long and properly lighted if displayed at night). Nominations should be submitted to Brother Edward J. Krieser, National Patriotic Instructor, 1354 Gilleevan Drive, Valparaiso, IN 46383-9069. The other recognition is the SUCVW National *Eagle Scout Commendation Certificate*. Camp Secretaries may obtain these from the National Quartermaster. Camp No. 58 has honored eight Eagle Scouts in Clinton County with this recognition. For more information and notification of an Eagle Scout's Court of Honor Ceremony in your area, please contact Brother Gary Ralston, Dept. of Michigan, SUCVW Eagle Scout Commendation Coordinator, 1775 Valley View Lane, Milford, MI 48381.

All of us should be concerned with bringing new talent and resources into our Camps. Actually, many of the points

presented here are assigned or recommended duties of the Patriotic Instructor and Senior Vice Commander (ref. Camp Structure Flow Chart and Job Descriptions for Camp and Department Officers), so, it's a built-in support system for our common goal.

And last, but not least, after Camp elections and appointments have taken place, another opportunity for publicity is for your local paper to list your new Camp Officers and print a phone number for inquiries.

Attention All Camp JVC's — All Camp Junior Vice Commanders are automatic members of our Department's Membership Committee. Our Department Bylaws state that, "The purpose of the committee shall be to put forth proposals and implement programs for the recruitment of Brothers into the Order." Well, from what you've already read, you've seen *my* proposals. As committee chair, I respectfully request that all 1996 Camp JVC's submit a brief report, detailing their Camp's recruitment efforts and any ideas wanted to see tried. I'd like this to be shared with the 1997 JVC's and those in charge of membership for the new Camps that are forming. Please file these with me by December 15, 1996 (see address on page one). Thank you.

For all newly elected 1997 JVC's and those re-elected to this post, please send me your name and address asap so I may continue sending your Camp the information on prospective members, without interruption. Thank you.

New Department Recognition — I wish to thank Department Commander Wallace for granting my request that we formally honor those groups and individuals who adopt an original Civil War Battleflag in the State of Michigan Capitol Collection. (An adoption refers to the donation of \$1,000.00 toward the conservation of a particular flag, chosen by the contributor.) Commander Wallace has designed a very unique document that we can all be as proud to give, as those who receive it. This is another example of how we can make our order visible, offer sincere appreciation, thus promoting and gaining good will and maintain an image that will draw new members to us.

Senior Vice Commander Paul Hodges made the first presentation of this award to the student body of the Mattawan Later Elementary School. Through the leadership of their teachers, Mrs. Sally Redinger and Mrs. Elizabeth Ross-Taylor, these young folks have generated fundraising projects that have produced \$5,000.00 to help save flags that Civil War soldiers from Michigan served under. A special ceremony was conducted in the Michigan Historical Center Forum in Lans-

(Continued on page 5)

Department Officer Reports

Chaplain

I am writing this article to remind you of our Civil War Veterans Remembrance Day in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, November 16, 1996.

I have been told by Brothers of the Gov. Crapo Camp and the SVR who have attended the yearly parade and memorial service, that the ceremony is a sight to behold. They say the event literally has thousands of uniformed soldiers and sailors who march in the parade through downtown Gettysburg. After the parade they separate and go to the individual monuments they are there to specifically honor.

Even though I plan to attend this grand occasion this year, I realize many of you will not be able to attend for one reason or another. For those of you who cannot attend, I would encourage you to travel to a nearby Civil War cemetery, monument or memorial and say a prayer thanking the soldiers for the sacrifices that were made.

If you cannot make it to any of the above, please say a prayer for the soldiers wherever you are.

Thank You and May God Be With You.
In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Gordon F. McAllister
Department Chaplain

(Continued from page 4)

ing on September 26th. State Representative James Middaugh and several Bureau of History officials were present to offer their recognition. The occasion coincided with a rotation of original Civil War flags on display in the museum wing of the Historical Center. Keith Harrison, PC-in-C, commanded a uniformed honor guard which helped dignify the proceedings.

As a member of the Capitol Battle Flags Task Force, I invite more of you to become familiar with the *Save the Flags* project. Please contact Mrs. Kerry K. Charikoff, Capitol Building, P. O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI 48909-7514. Telephone (517) 373-5527. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted in F., C. & L.,

Kent Armstrong
Department Junior Vice Commander

Treasurer

The following statements have been prepared from the books and records of the Department. I have elected to publish quarterly statements based on our fiscal year ending 31 May rather than continuing to publish statements at calendar quarter ends.

Department of Michigan, SUVCW
Statement of Assets, Liabilities and Fund Balance
At 31 August, 1996

Assets	
Checking Account	\$2,198.96
Savings Account	3,670.08
Russell Alger Memorial Fund Savings Account	<u>515.95</u>
Total Assets	\$6,384.99
Liabilities and Fund Balance	
Liabilities	
Due Camp at Large	\$51.00
Due S. V. R.	122.00
Miscellaneous	<u>7.00</u>
Total Liabilities	\$180.00
Fund Balance	
Restricted Funds	\$515.95
Unrestricted Funds	<u>5,689.04</u>
Total Fund Balance	\$6,204.99
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$6,384.99

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
for the Quarter ended 31 August, 1996

Revenue	\$2,335.64
Expenditures	<u>(2,985.01)</u>
Excess of Expenditures over Revenues	(\$ 649.37)
Total Fund Balance, Beginning of Period	\$6,854.36
Total Fund Balance, End of Period	\$6,204.99

Yours in F., C., & L.,

James T. Williams
Department Treasurer

Department Officer Reports

SVR Adjutant

It is my pleasure to announce the promotion of two more reservists. Effective 8 September 1996, privates Edgar Dowd and Gordon McAllister were promoted to the rank of corporal. They will be serving under 1st sergeant Lamphere in Co. B, 30th Michigan Volunteer Infantry. Also, 2nd Lieutenant James Pahl has resigned his commission and post as commander of Co. A, 30th Michigan Volunteer Infantry. He has requested to serve in his former grade as 1st Sergeant, Co. A. This request was granted by Captain McKinch and was effective on 8 September 1996.

It is that time of year again to think of dues for the coming year. This is the current dues structure in the Michigan Military Department:

- | | |
|--|-------------|
| 1. Enlisted and Non-Commissioned Officers: | \$5.00/yr. |
| 2. Field Officers: | \$8.00/yr. |
| 3. General Staff Officers: | \$10.00/yr. |
| 4. Cadre, Inactive Reserve: | \$8.00/yr. |

Two dollars of your dues stay on deposit with the Michigan Department, SUVCW, for use by the Michigan Military Department. Currently, these funds are being used to purchase chevrons for our non-commissioned officers. The balance of the dues monies are forwarded to the District for use at both the District and National levels. I hope this gives you a better understanding of the dues structure and how the funds are used. I will send out dues notices the first part of November.

Chief of Staff

I am sitting at my computer resting after Brother David F. Wallace and I returned from the Central Region Conference in Indiana. There were a number of Departments and Allied Orders represented there and I am very glad that the weather was as nice as it was. The conference will take place next year in Wisconsin. Commander-in-Chief Alan R. Loomis was present, as was his Chief of Staff, David Turpin, from Iowa.

Commander Wallace has been very busy and I, as Chief of Staff, have been tagging along trying my best to lend a hand. We have had two meetings with the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans administration in preparation for next year's Day of Remembrance. This will be a three day event with a ceremony, followed by a pig roast and music on Saturday night and a short battle on Sunday. There will be lots of other attractions for all the Allied Orders and their members. I encourage you to make your plans now for 1997's Day of Remembrance, which will be held August 1, 2 and 3. We also met with the GAR Records Committee and worked out some plans of action with chairman James T. Lyons.

I want to remind all officers that the quarterly officer's reports are due now to me so I can give them the Commander. I will try to keep all officers informed as to new developments in the Department and National. If you need any special assistance please feel free to contact me.

From the Desk of our Commander, Captain McKinch, comes these reminders:

1. 11 November 1996, Veterans Day, all reservists should take time to remember the sacrifices of our Nation's Veterans. Participate in services with your local Camp.
2. 16 November 1996, remembrance Day, Gettysburg, PA, all reservists who can are urged to participate. This is the 40th Anniversary of the GAR Remembrance Day.
3. 22 March 1997, tentative date, Spring Muster at Crossroads Village. Annual infantry training. A must for promotion in the SVR.
4. August 1, 2 and 3 1997, Day of Remembrance, Grand Rapids, MI, make plans to attend the largest activity to be held in recent memory at the Home for Veterans. Captain McKinch has been working with General Rice, Deputy Director of Veteran Affairs in Michigan, as well as the Staff from the Home for Veterans. Plans now call for three days of activities beginning on Friday night and running through Sunday afternoon. This is some of what is planned:
 1. Military bivouac for SVR troops and re-enactors.
 2. Parade and Honor Services on Saturday.
 3. Large dinner for the troops Saturday evening.
 4. Battle reenactment on Sunday.

As the time draws near and more information becomes available, I will keep you posted.

Respectively Submitted in F., C. & L.,

Lt. Daniel V. Graves
Adjutant, 30th MI Volunteer Infantry

Yours in F., C. & L.,

Terrance L. McKinch
Department Chief of Staff

Department Officer Reports

Eagle Scout Award Coordinator

Becoming an Eagle Scout is a distinguished honor for any Boy Scout. We in the SUVCW have the opportunity to make this special occasion for these boys even more distinct by presenting them with an Eagle Scout recognition certificate. These certificates are available from our National Quartermaster and bear the emblems of both the SUVCW and the Boy Scouts of America and is signed by our Commander-in-Chief.

To achieve the honor of being awarded the highest rank that a young man can receive from the Boy Scouts is a long and arduous task. Along the way these boys are required to complete over five hundred various requirements ranging from passing basic camping and woods skills and earning their "tote'n'chip", to show they how to properly handle a knife, to independently leading an "Eagle Scout Project" to show the leadership abilities they have acquired. Along the way they must also complete twenty-one merit badges including many of which are required such as "Citizenship in the Community", "Citizenship in the Nation" and "Citizenship in the World". Another merit badge available to them, one where if our members are merit badge councilors would help them and possibly our membership, is the "Genealogy" merit badge. In completing this badge they might find out, with the help of their councilor, that they have War of Rebellion ancestors.

After all the hard work that these young men put into earning their Eagle, they deserve all the recognition they can get. It is the hope of the Department of Michigan that each and everyone of these deserving young men will receive recognition for their achievements from the SUVCW. It is preferable that this be done by the individual Camps. It has been, and continues to be, my pleasure to contact and inform the various Scout Councils and their districts and advancement committees of our *Eagle Scout Award Certificate*. If your Camp has been recognizing these exceptional young men, then a hearty thank-you for your efforts. If up till now your Camp hasn't been a part of this worthy undertaking, I ask you to please give it your attention. If any Camp or Brother has any questions, please feel free to contact me at the address at the bottom of this article. Who knows, in helping and recognizing these young men, we might find some of our new Brothers and leaders. Let's not allow any Eagle to go unrecognized!

Yours in F., C. & L.,

Gary F. Ralston

Eagle Scout Award Coordinator
1775 Valley View Lane
Milford, MI 48381

Camp Organizer

Department Commander Wallace has approved the Camp Number requests for three new Camps! They are: Number 76 at Monroe; Number 147 at Cadillac; and Number 404 at Westland. The names of the Camps will be voted on by their memberships, once each Camp is formally organized.

Efforts continue for the organization of Camps to serve the Counties of: Alcona/Iosco; Allegan/Ottawa; Alpena/Presque Isle; Delta (U. P.); Hillsdale; Mason; Menominee (U. P.); and Washtenaw.

In our last Department newsletter, I touched on the subject of some Camps having members that voluntarily transfer out to help form a new Camp. In case you didn't see it, I stated that, "This is sometimes a bit painful for some Camps to see their Brothers leave, but it must be accepted and supported as a healthy occurrence for our 'family', if it is to grow. If you would like to be a part of this natural growth, please step forward." I want to thank the membership and officers of Austin Blair Camp No. 7, who've come forward and continue to support this process.

If you presently travel some distance to a particular Camp because we do not yet have one in your county, please consider how a Camp could serve our purposes in the community near you. The Department exists to further this effort. Our most important work happens on a local level and our existing Camps can only focus their energies so far. With each new Camp, we will be able to further our work, on a broader scale. Thank you for your help.

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Kent Armstrong
Department Camp Organizer

Memorial Day Quiz

We all know that Memorial Day came about when GAR Commander-in-Chief, General John A. Logan issued his now famous General Order No. 11 of 1868. But, do you know why the date, May 30th, was selected? Please turn to page 11 for the answer.

Department Officer Reports

Our New Look

You may have noticed the "new look" to *Michigan's Messenger*. Faced with a large increase in copying costs, having *Michigan's Messenger* professionally printed as opposed to copied on a copying machine became a viable option. This will only enhance what has already been recognized as the most outstanding newsletter within the SUVCW. One enhancement will be the ability to include photographs within *Michigan's Messenger*, so please submit them with your articles. We can't guarantee that every photo will be used (that's an editorial decision), but those photos submitted will certainly be considered for publication. Black and white photos work best, but half-tones can be made from color photos also. A reminder — all Camps should appoint a contact to refer Camp news to the Managing Editor of *Michigan's Messenger* (note: the Job Description for the Senior Vice Camp Commander includes responsibilities for publication, so here's an excellent opportunity for a Camp Officer to fulfill part of his assigned duties). Articles should be submitted to:

John Mann
Managing Editor
Michigan's Messenger
2495 S. Washington Road
Lansing, MI 48911-7216

Thanks for your previous contributions! Remember, this is your newsletter. Your contributions and submissions have made it, and will continue to make it, the top notch publication that it is!

David F. Wallace
Department Commander

Editor

Having *Michigan's Messenger* printed, rather than copied, allows us to go to an 11" by 17" format, folded to 8½" by 11" for a more professional look at very little more cost. This format also requires us to have a newsletter in multiples of 4 pages, i. e., 12, 16, 20, etc. and requires more planning. I would therefore like to ask all contributors to submit their articles to me as early as possible so as to make my job easier. At the end of this article I have included a deadline schedule. Please note these dates on your calendar if you wish to contribute articles to the newsletter.

Due to the necessity of printing in multiples of 4 pages, it may become necessary to hold some articles until the next issue, if including them would mean having to run blank pages. All articles of a date sensitive nature will receive priority.

I would like to build an inventory of "filler" articles for the newsletter. A mix of different article lengths would be best, from one or two paragraphs to two or three pages. These articles should be authored by our members so we avoid copyright infringements. Anything pertaining to Civil War veterans, the GAR and its Allied Orders, the Civil War, local monuments to Civil War veterans, etc. will be most welcome. I would also like to have articles pertaining to collecting GAR, Allied Orders memorabilia, especially some of the more unusual items. The four page format should give ample opportunity for the use of these filler articles.

If you have access to a computer, I would appreciate your sending the information on computer disc. Please include a printed copy in case the disc gets damaged in the mail. I can import the following word processing files: ASCII; Word for Windows 1.0, 2.0, 3.0; Word for DOS 3.0 - 5.0 and 6.0; Word Perfect for Windows 5.0; Word Perfect for DOS 5.1; Works for Windows 2.0; Works for DOS 2.0; Windows Write 3.0 and 3.1. If you do not have access to a computer, don't feel left out! Use a typewriter if you can, or just use the time honored, old fashioned pen or pencil. All submissions welcome!

When submitting photographs, please keep in mind that black and white photos reproduce best. Color photos tend to lose a lot of contrast when converted to black and white. *Photographs will not be returned*, so do not submit any if they are something you want to keep or are one of a kind! Please include an identification list of people in your picture (i. e., back row, left to right, etc.), but do not write it on the back of the picture! Any impression left from writing on the picture may show up in the printed picture.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

John Mann
Michigan's Messenger Editor

Submission Deadline for Michigan's Messenger

Copy must be received by:	For the Issue of:
January 15 -----	February
April 15 -----	May
July 15 -----	August
October 15 -----	November

Department Officer Reports

Legislative Committee

I received my copy of the Michigan Laws Relating to Veterans (see page 8 of the May issue of the Michigan's Messenger). It's packed with information. Those interested should also make the effort to obtain the publication.

Camp Commanders were sent a copy of House Bill No. 5496 which changed Section 3 of the Michigan Compiled Laws 35.83. Sections 1 and 2 of that law are unchanged and are found on page 8 of the May issue of the Michigan Messenger. They are also found in the Michigan Laws Relating to Veterans, except for the revised section which the Camp Commanders have in their possession.

Recently some artillery pieces came up missing in Indiana. This committee recently obtained a compiled list of artillery pieces in Michigan from SUVCW members. You will be learning more on this topic in future Messengers.

This committee has obtained a notarized copy of the Deed of Conveyance establishing the Sons of Union Veterans as the heir of the Grand Army of the Republic and the rightful owner of all property owned by the Grand Army of the Republic. Have a Camp Officer contact Dick Williams (address in the last issue of the Michigan Messenger) to obtain a copy of the Deed of Conveyance. One copy will be issued to each Camp expressing an interest in obtaining a copy of the Deed of Conveyance.

In F., C. & L.,

Dick Williams

Legislative Committee

1917 Teel Avenue

Lansing, MI 48910-3117

Veteran's Day

A notice from the Department of Veterans Affairs states that: In observance of Veterans Day, a multiple-page insert, produced by Detroit newspapers, will highlight the 50th anniversary of the Veterans Health Administration. This extensive informational insert will be placed in the Sunday, November 10th, 1996 editions of the Detroit News and Free Press.

The insert will highlight the wide range of patient care, education and research programs provided by the VA medical centers located in Ann Arbor, Battle Creek, Detroit and Saginaw.

Legislative Committee

Dick Williams asked me to come up with something concerning Proposal C on November's General Election Ballot. As a veteran of the Korean Conflict and a Michigan veteran, I am concerned as to what happens every time the Legislators dip into the Veteran's Trust Fund. They just paid back \$52 million they had borrowed over the years. But, what about next time? It took a long time to get the money restored to the fund this time!

Proposal C on the November ballot is an amendment to bar the Legislature from borrowing money from the Veteran's Trust Fund again. (The proposal language follows this article, *ed.*) Vote Yes on Proposal C and ask your friends to vote Yes. Even if you're not a veteran, this proposal could affect you or your children someday in the future.

Yours in F., C. & L.,

Douglas Colley

Legislative Committee

Proposal C

Approved By the Board of Canvassers

August 26, 1996

A PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH THE CURRENT MICHIGAN VETERAN'S TRUST FUND IN THE STATE CONSTITUTION AND REQUIRE THAT EXPENDITURES FROM THE FUND BE MADE SOLELY FOR PURPOSES AUTHORIZED BY THE TRUST FUND'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

The proposed constitutional Amendment would:

- 1 Establish the current Michigan Veteran's trust Fund and the Board of Trustees responsible for administration the fund in the state constitution.
- 2 Require the transfer of all funds in the existing Michigan Veteran's Trust Fund to the constitutionally established Michigan Veteran's Trust Fund.
- 3 Authorize the State Treasurer to direct investment of the fund.
- 4 Stipulate that except for the State Treasurer's investment actions, an expenditure or transfer of a fund asset, interest, or earnings could be made only upon the authorization of a majority of the fund's Board of Trustees.

Should this proposed constitutional amendment be adopted?

Yes _____ No _____

Camp News

Camp No. 7 Gov. Austin Blair

As this year draws to a close, reflecting back seems to be common practice. This year we were active in four cemeteries, ordered and set 5 new Civil War veteran headstones and repaired or reset over 20 other Civil War veteran headstones. We participated in four major events honoring Civil War veterans and set up a large display and tent at the Jackson Civil War Muster. We purchased a 3' x 10' banner which reads *Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War — Jackson, Michigan* complete with a wood pole that slides through a pocket at the top of the banner, allowing it to be displayed while on parade marches, identifying who we are and where we are from.

The installing of several new members and another Junior was a highlight for me. The Camp also voted to add three more meetings to our schedule for 1997. We will now be meeting on the second Monday of January, February, March, April, May, July, September, October and November.

I am encouraging the organization of a new Camp in the Litchfield/Jonesville area. This year there was discussion on this matter and Camp 7 supports the idea. Currently, we have four members that drive from Litchfield to Jackson and there seems to be more prospects in that area. Although we do not like to lose members, we have been encouraged by the possibility of helping to establish new Camps, such as George W. Anderson Camp in DeWitt last year. We lost about six members who formed the nucleus of the new Camp, but the Order is richer by that Camp bringing in 14 new members that would otherwise not have joined the Order because of driving distances. Edward Pomeroy Post 48, GAR, helped to establish several GAR Posts around Jackson County, such as the ones in Concord, Hanover, etc. Maybe Gov. Austin Blair Camp can do the same for our Order, only time will tell.

Todd Holton

Camp No. 28 Alexander French

Because of the nearness to the Labor Day weekend, the September 3rd Camp meeting was moved to September 9th for the convenience of the membership. Boundry limits for SUVCW Graves Registration was discussed at this meeting, so as

not to duplicate and conflict with the same type of work with other Camps within the Department.

The Department Seal was affixed to our Camp Charter by Brother Leo Cohoon of Wa-bu-no Camp No. 53. Thanks again, Leo, for all your efforts in helping to secure the long awaited Charter for Camp 28.

Our newest member, Frank Curtis, was presented with his Badge of the Order, along with the War Medal and WWII service bar. This brings to nearly 50% of the members of the Camp who saw service in either WWII, Korea or Viet Nam. Three members of the Camp served in more than one conflict. David Waldron, WWII, Korea and Viet Nam; Jerald Waldron, WWII and Korea; and Jamie Williams, Korea and Viet Nam. All three served in the U. S. Navy. Prospects are good for another WWII Veteran to become a member of Camp 28, Kreation Culimore of Chippewa Lake. Kreation is currently Chaplain of Chapter 18, Disabled American Veterans, of Big Rapids.

The September 10th meeting was closed with a playing of Taps and a salute to our National Colors and to the men of 1861-1865 who wore the blue.

A reminder to all members of Alexander French Camp that the November 5th Camp meeting is time to elect new Camp officers. Please make an effort to attend this meeting.

John Walker

Camp No. 58 George W. Anderson

Commander Kent Armstrong recently welcomed Department SVC Paul Hodges who presented the Department's Gov. Austin Blair Membership Award to Camp No. 58. This award signifies the Camp having the greatest number of new members from the previous calendar year. The award was officially announced at the recent Department Encampment. Commander Armstrong graciously accepted the award on behalf of the Camp.

Camp 58 held a special ceremony during July to honor the contributions of local Clinton County Eagle Scouts. Each scout was issued the SUVCW Certificate of Commendation for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of Amer-

(Continued on page 11)

Camp News

(Continued from page 10)

ica. In attendance were Past Commander-in-Chief Keith Harrison, Department Senior Vice Commander Paul Hodges, DeWitt Mayor Michael Towns, the Scouts, their Scout Masters, parents and members of Camp 58. The following young men were honored:

Bath Troop 67 — Scott Horton, Adam Raymer, Jason Jones and Ezekial Cooley.

St. Johns Troop 72 — Kyle Black.

DeWitt Troop 77 — David Wangen, Jef Fox and Richard Ryan.

Recent Camp proceedings have brought the Junior Member issue to a conclusion. Members voted to allow Juniors in the Camp by setting an initiation fee at \$3.00 (for the Ritual Book) and Camp dues at \$5.00.

Camp 58 recently welcomed two Members to the Order, Mr. Kim Altvater of St. Johns and Mr. Tom Dingler of Grand Ledge. Also welcomed was Mr. Michael Towns of DeWitt as an Associate.

Some of Camp 58's other recent activities and on-going projects include:

- Brother Don Boak coordinated the manufacture of hand sewn Camp Station Banners along with metal presentation stands, all being excellent facsimilies of originals.
- Graves Registration. Three-quarters of Clinton County cemeteries have been completed.
- Camp 58 now has a National Flag, which came into possession in time for Memorial Day activities. The Camp will now undertake steps to raise funds for the purchase of a Camp flag.
- Efforts are continuing on the creation of a new Altar.
- Special Cemetary projects. DeWitt — install grave stones on previously unmarked graves of soldiers that have been identified through cemetery records. St. Johns — clean, repair and paint grave markers/flag holders.

Mark Pangburn

Memorial Day Quiz Answer

That was the day the last Union Volunteer was discharged from the service of the United States, May 30, 1868.

Civil War Memorials

I can think of no project that is more important than the cataloging and proper care of *all* Civil War Memorials, especially those dedicated by the GAR and our Allied Orders. The SUVCW's special national liaison committee for the *Save Outdoor Sculpture!* Program submitted an article to *The Banner* that encourages all Departments and the Camps within them to become active in the saving of *all* Union Civil War Monuments and Memorials across the nation, whether there is a piece of sculpture involved or not! This includes memorials with cannon barrels and even the most modest plaque. Nothing that is dedicated to the memory of those who helped save the Union, should be overlooked. A lot of information is already on paper and/or microfilm but we need a full accounting of what can be physically found — and what cannot.

Through Department Secretary Lee, I was able to reach Brother Richard Hutchins and request a copy of his listing of all original Civil War cannon in Michigan. Brother Hutchins is to be commended for his work and for mentioning that he'd heard a Bay City area private cemetery was planning to sell a cannon barrel in its possession. Commander Wallace suggested that we contact Brother Gordon McAllister of Camp No. 67, who took immediate action, obtaining a Court Order that keeps the cannon tube where it is for now.

On September 17th, I wrote to our Department Counselor, James B. Pahl, PDC, respectfully submitting that we have GOT to get the word out to all government bodies, local prosecutors and their law enforcement organizations, and the private cemetery associations, etc., that these tributes to our heritage are protected and are to be maintained as memorials! I offered that, with the help of our legal advisors, we can be "pro-active," rather than reactive in this matter.

I have submitted to our Department leadership and C-in-C Loomis, that *protection* of these memorials is even more important than *preservation*. Yes, we have to preserve these pieces of our heritage — but we can't save what's not there. The selfish interests of collectors and those who would profit by sale of items to them, has totally removed memorial items from countless sites and burial places (yes, this even includes grave markers/flag-holders) across the nation. The attempt to reverse and/or undue the effects of nature on memorials is monumental by itself, but we also have to insure that these treasures do not disappear by the "hand-of-man." I have submitted to Commander Wallace that we should have specific, updated language enacted into law, protecting Civil War Memorials and *all* GAR property. With the help of our legal-professionals, I hope that the GAR/SUVCW Deed-of-Conveyance will be recognized by authorities nationwide. Thus, helping facilitate our care of GAR Memorials, records.

(Continued on page 12)

Civil War Memorials

(Continued from page 11)

unused burial plots, and perhaps the GAR Halls which still stand.

Counselor Pahl was enthusiastic about all this and asked Commander Wallace to form a special Department Committee, charged with the "task of contacting the Camps and assigning to each Camp the task of physically locating each gun, photographing it and then writing a letter to the owner of the land upon which the gun sits, sharing the history of the gun and the interest of the SUVCW and the relevant Michigan law." Brother Pahl added that, "The special committee can then expand upon the cannon tube program and ask each Camp to expand their program to other statues and cemetery plots." Well, I'm all for this, but I respectfully submitted to Commander Wallace that legal letters should come from our legal experts. How do you feel about all this?

As it stands, our Department Bylaws identify a Graves Registration and Memorial Committee. It is charged to, "seek and identify all graves of Civil War veterans and all monuments, memorials, etc., dedicated to Civil War veterans and the Grand Army of the Republic within the State of Michigan. The committee shall bring to the attention of the Department any disrespect or lack of attention shown to any Civil War grave or memorial." This, being in place already, negates the need for a new committee. Having seen the reference to this responsibility, I asked some time ago about any records that may already be kept somewhere but as yet have gotten no reply. As many things change, I think we owe it to ourselves and those we honor, to get out there and find all that can be found, record its condition, plan any necessary preservation work, and always check established records along the way, to see what may be missing!

Recognizing the vast amount of work to be done, Department Commander Wallace has taken action to divide the load of this committee's responsibilities. There is now a Graves Registration Subcommittee, a GAR Memorials Subcommittee and a GAR Records Subcommittee. The Memorials Subcommittee will be Chaired by yours truly, with Brothers Kim Leese (Camp No. 67) and Mike McMillan (Camp No. 160) taking care of computerized and "hard-copy" records keeping. I will soon be working with these gentlemen to perfect a form that Camp members may use to record information on all memorials across our state. For those parts of Michigan without local Camps, we will assign areas of responsibility in order to prevent a duplication of effort. Brothers Leese and Richard Williams have recently sent me a "Compendium of Donated Obsolete Ordnance" compiled by Wayne E. Stark. We will compare this to Brother Hutchins's list and share it with each Camp. We will also send out a listing of all the orig-

inal GAR Posts and their locations in Michigan, to be checked for memorials.

Brother Pahl has suggested that our Camps conduct ceremonies at these memorials and thus create an interest that will attract new members. I think this is a natural, which goes along with what I've submitted as Department JVC, on recruitment. In Michigan, we currently have two ongoing fundraising projects for the restoration of two GAR Monuments, with sculptures. When the work is done, these will both be excellent focal points for large rededication ceremonies with all the "P.R." stuff already presented.

Our Brothers in Camp No. 53 are working toward the preservation of the bronze soldier atop the Memorial dedicated by the GAR and WRC at Shepherd (Salt River Cemetery). Please contact Camp Commander Wayne A. Nash at (517) 835-4248 for details on how any contribution may be made, if you would be kind enough to help.

I have the honor to be spearheading the effort to restore the marble soldier atop the GAR Memorial dedicated by the Joseph Mason Post No. 248 at Wacousta. If you would like to help, a contribution check may be made payable to "Watertown Charter Township." Please note on the memo-line that the check is for the "GAR Monument Fund." Mail your donation to Watertown Charter Township, 12803 South Wacousta Road, Grand Ledge, MI 48837-9240. *Thank You!*

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Kent Armstrong

Save Outdoor Sculpture Committee Chairman

Ohio Online

The Ohio Historical Society has received \$150,000 in grants from the State Library of Ohio and the Ohio Public Library Information Network. The grants will enable the society to make historical documents, such as the Ohio Constitution and public records like the rosters of Ohio's Civil War military troops, available for viewing on the World Wide Web.

During the next year, approximately 100,000 pages of documents and records will be converted, including the Northwest Territory ordinances; the *Index to Ohio Death Records* for 1908 through 1944; the *Ohio Newspaper Index*, which contains 66,000 entries of historical and modern newspapers; and rosters of Ohio troops who fought in the Civil War, the Mexican-American War and the War of 1812.

The Capture of Jeff Davis

The following is an interview of a Civil War veteran who participated in the capture of Jefferson Davis at the close of the Great Rebellion. This interview was conducted by Dr. John Winters of Brooklyn, Michigan.

Our Great Civil War ended almost fifty years ago and many of our more unusual and out-of-the-ordinary events that were widely written up in the contemporary newspapers and such magazines as "Harper's" and the "Atlantic Monthly" are known now but a few "library friends" and to those of the preceding generations. Mr. Green of Addison Junction took an active part in one of the most widely heralded of these events, i. e., the capture of the Confederate President, Jefferson Davis, who, after the fall of Richmond and the surrender at Appomattox, made a desperate effort to reach the forces of Generals Kirby Smith and Price, in Mississippi. His capture in Georgia, while on his way to the coast and then to England, where he hoped to secure aid for the South, was one of the culminating events of the war that had so nearly rent asunder forever the great American Nation: the nation which was destined to be the first perfect Democracy, a light unto the nations and the Utopia longed for by the great and good of all races since government began upon earth. Therefore, of solemn import were the events which decided whether our Government was to be destroyed or preserved; whether it was to be "Liberty and Union, now and forever, one and inseparable!", or whether we were to be split in twain - divided into two weak nations, jealous and with divergent interests.

Mr. Green is an active, erect old man and is of good Yankee stock coming from "York State", whence hail so many of the upbuilders of the middle West. His erect carriage, his keen eyes and the style of his mustache and goatee combine to make an effective military presence. Of medium height and light, sinewy physique, he must have been an ideal cavalryman, of the type that made the Michigan horsemen dreaded by the Southerners.

I found him digging potatoes in his garden one bright cool August morning and opened the subject of Davis' capture, explaining that for the younger generation especially, the story would be both interesting and instructive - that our knowledge of the War was largely of the dry "text-bookish" nature and that a participant's story of the great Confederate's arrest would be appreciated.

"Uncle Stil" thoughtfully gathered some scattered and earthy potatoes into a neat pile by means of his hoe and then, leaning on the handle regarded me with shrewd gray eyes. "Yes, I reckon it's so", he said, "But I scarcely ever think of the capture without someone says something of it. Do you know the year when Jeff was caught?" Caught unawares and

uncertain, I confessed that I didn't. He chuckled indulgently and a trifle sadly. "Well, our regiment, the Fourth Michigan Cavalry, comprising part of General Wilson's command, left Chickasaw Bluffs late in March, '65, on a campaign of destruction, calculating to weaken the South by destroying provisions, cotton and the like and to interrupt communications by tearing up tracks and cutting wires. We captured Selma, Alabama; they surrendered us the town and saved it that way - might as well sit down if we're going through that campaign."

We adjourned from the potato patch to chairs in the shade and Mr. Green filled the bowl of his twist-stem briar pipe, lit it with a Swedish safety match and, thoughtfully reminiscent, drew long puffs. I tried to materialize the visions of his retrospective eye - the roads of the plantation country thronged with the long lines of the Union Cavalry advancing, under a mighty cloud of dust borne on balmy Southern breezes, past the hamlets of the slaves; past great fields neglected and waiting in vain for the negro and the mule; past the stately pillared mansions of the planters, deserted for the military camp by the owners and their sons.

Having the pipe well under way, Mr. Green began once more: - "We took Montgomery, Alabama, April twelfth - it surrendered without much resistance and there's not much to say about that. Our next big capture was Columbus, Georgia: We burned the town after we let folks get out with what they could take with 'em - provisions and the like. The twin bridges over the Flint River at Columbus had been soaked with oil so as to burn and cover the retreat of the rebels, but they didn't have time to fire 'em properly and we crossed and captured General Howell Cobb and his entire command at Macon. I don't recall the exact date, it's been so long, but it must have been the sixteenth or twentieth of April, '65. We occupied Macon and used it as a center for our operations in Georgia - I reckon most of 'em wouldn't interest folks now."

"On Sunday, May the eighth, our company and three others of the Fourth Michigan were called to 'boots and saddles' at about nine o'clock in the evening. We were sent under Colonel Pritchard of Allegan to Hawkensville, better than thirty miles down the Opamulga, which flows south and into the Gulf. We didn't know what we were sent for; the Colonel had sealed orders and was to open them at Hawkensville."

"When we arrived at Hawkensville the next morning, the orders were opened and 'twas learned that one of Davis' under-secretaries had come into Macon Sunday and given himself up and revealed to Wilson the whereabouts of old Jeff himself. The orders were to take three companies of the First Wisconsin Cavalry, which was guarding captured cotton, and

(Continued on page 14)

The Capture of Jeff Davis

(Continued from page 13)

the entire detachment of seven companies go in search of Davis, calculated to be near a place called Irwinsville - or some such name - about a hundred miles further yet towards the Gulf. (A company was supposed to be a hundred men, but full companies were scarce towards the end of the war; sometimes there wouldn't be more than fifty to a company.) We took a few rations at Hawksenville, but not many as the Wisconsin boys were short themselves."

"We set out from Hawksenville and followed the Opa-mulga, traveling on the river road. Monday night we came to a ferry that an old man kept; he had an old flat boat that he pulled back and forth across the river with a rope and earned his living getting folks over. We saw by the tracks that a train had been along and Pritchard asked about it. The old fellow said that a wagon train had passed and had stopped a little further along to feed; we could see for ourselves where they had baited their teams. Thinking it might be worthwhile, Pritchard decided to follow them up."

"Right here the river made a big bend and they had cut a new road over the neck of the point that lay in it, so it was quite a bit shorter to take the new road than 'twas to follow the bend around. Here we divided, the Wisconsin men taking the new road while we kept on down the river road. There were around two-hundred and fifty men in each detachment; even this many seems a lot to send after one man, but we didn't know how strong a band of rebels we might meet and we were prepared."

"Tuesday morning, early, we Michigan men came to the site designated as 'Irwinsville' - wasn't much 'ville' as far as we could see, only an old house and some nigger quarters. Of course, there might have been a town near somewhere, but we didn't see any. We dove into the hen coops by this house, calculating to piece out our rations with chicken, and the racket called a woman to the door. She commenced to take on, - 'Yo'all's ain't usin' a pore woman right, no way! The *quality* that war along this-a-way las evenin' paid well fo' every feathah they'uns took!' Of course Pritchard pricked up his ears at this and commanded, 'Quiet!'. He asked the woman about this party with so much money and learned that they were in camp over the next rise of ground."

"Of course, we were quite a bit interested, thinking this might be old Jeff himself and choked the hens while six men under Lieutenant Randolph were sent to reconnoiter. They came back and reported that there was a camp ahead and the order was given for the whole detachment to advance. When we gained the crest at the rise, with the wagons and tents below us in the darkness, we closed in from all sides."

"Some niggers were already stirring around to get breakfast and Pritchard asked them where the commander was. The darkies pointed towards the best tent and said, 'In dar, massa, in dar.' The Colonel opened the flap and told the folks inside that they might consider themselves under arrest. Of course, there was a stir inside and they soon saw the fix they were in. In the meantime, the officers that were in the other tents had been secured, about a half a dozen of 'em. The occupants of the first tent soon asked permission to go to the creek after water and two of 'em started out with pails. One had on a hooded rubber coat that reached from head to foot and as he went by Andrew Beebe, the skirt caught on a snag and Andrew saw spurs flash in the firelight. Of course Andrew grabbed him, and when he tore the hood off, we saw that it was the old rebel Davis himself! This was Tuesday morning, May 10th, 1865."

"Besides Davis, there were his wife and a boy and a girl, his wife's sister and these six or eight officers that I told you about, besides the camp servants. They had wagons, a couple of ambulances and an old barouche for the women, and teams to draw 'em. We hadn't much more than made sure of the prisoners than we heard shots from the pickets that had been stationed when we first descended on the camp. Here we stood to go into battle with one of the scattered detachments of the rebels and maybe lose all we'd gained and more! We went to support the pickets, leaving the prisoners well guarded, and learned that an advance guard of cavalry had approached. Our boys had demanded the countersign and they stopped. They asked again for the countersign, saying, 'We're the Fourth Michigan; who are you?' Our boys said that the foremost man replied at that, 'Fourth Michigan, eh? You're just the men we're after', and fired and wheeled. Of course, this was enough and our boys replied with their carbines."

"Their main body soon came up and the skirmish began in earnest. We could hardly see what we were shooting at because of the poor light and there seemed to be but little execution. As quick as it got lighter, somebody yelled, 'Cease firing! We're killing our own men!' And 'twas so; we were firing on the Wisconsin boys and had killed two and two Michigan boys, George Dutcher and a man from Flint - don't know as I ever did know his name - were corpses."

"We buried our dead and sent a courier to the men guarding the ford and started back to Macon. Davis was put in one of the ambulances, a light green wagon with an open top, and six men rode guard on him, two before and behind and two on each side; I guarded him when my turn would come. Jeff was mad and wouldn't say a word - lay on his face for miles without a sign of life."

(Continued on page 15)

The Capture of Jeff Davis

(Continued from page 14)

Mr. Green's description seemed to me a powerful picture of fallen greatness - Jefferson Davis, a member of a proud Southern family, head of the Confederate States of America which had promised to become supreme in the western hemisphere; to be a great slave holding empire extending from Carolina to the Rio Grande, with fleets of merchantmen bearing abroad her riches of cotton and sugar - Jefferson Davis, drawn in a wagon over Georgia roads and guarded by jubilant Michigan boys! There are few parallels in history - Hannibal the Carthaginian, an exile in the East taking the poison of his signet; Napoleon, once master of Europe, a prisoner of the British.

I was brought back from the East and St. Helena by Mr. Green's voice as he continued: "Mrs. Davis, the two children and her sister rode in the barouche; she squalled, it seemed to me, every step of the way - thought Jeff would be hung, I guess. The officers were disarmed but were allowed to ride their horses. We were, I think, two days and a night making the return trip. I remember that as we drew near Macon, the headquarters band met us and played some good Yankee tunes - 'We'll Hang Jeff Davis To A Sour Apple Tree', 'Yankee Doodle' and 'The Star Spangled Banner'. We had a Yankee flag hung from the ambulance roof and, as we were traveling north, the west wind would blow the old flag into the ambulance where it would snap and flutter over Davis, but he wouldn't pay any attention."

"'Twas lucky that we came upon their party when we did, for Davis had been sly enough not to travel with the party, but always alone. He'd come in that night, though, but was calculating to leave early the next morning - that's why the darkies were starting the breakfast fire so early. If we had been an hour late we might have never caught him, for one lone man is a mighty hard thing to lay your finger on in a disordered region."

"Jeff was sent right away to Fortress Monroe under guard of a whole regiment and twenty-four men, under Pritchard, picked from the Fourth Michigan. These men went on to Washington and were discharged, but I wasn't lucky enough to go and had to stay in the service. Some said that the Fourth Michigan might have gone if it hadn't for Colonel R. H. G. Mintey, the division commander, who, because he had to stay himself, wouldn't let but the twenty-four go. It took quite a string of coaches to carry the detachment, but Davis travelled in the best style for he had a brand new coach from the round-house in Macon."

"Our command returned to Tennessee as the campaign was over with. We got to Nashville about the first of June, '65,

where the old men were discharged, but us boys were kept 'til the fifteenth of August. I have an idea that Maximillian's being in Mexico caused our government to hesitate on a complete disbandment in May."

"Our Lieutenant Colonel was made Brevet Brigadier General Benjamin D. Pritchard and got a tenth part of the hundred thousand dollars offered for Jeff's capture - we didn't know anything about the bounty when we took him. 'Twas four or five years before it was all distributed and since it went according to rank, it wasn't very much by the time it got down to us privates."

Mr. Green knocked the ashes from his pipe and we rose somewhat stiffly, for there was a cool breeze despite the bright sunshine and azure blue of the August heavens. "Well, I guess that's about all of it. They let Davis out after two or three years;" (here a cold glint came to the old warrior's keen blue eyes).

The above transcript was acquired from the Winters family through his daughter. The transcript, including the introductory paragraph reproduced here in italics, was typed by Dr. Winters from his original notes. It is not known whether the transcript has ever been published before. Family members guess that the interview was made either in 1912 or 1913, but no one remembers for sure.

Dr. Winters was a veterinarian for many years in Brooklyn, Michigan. He was 23 years old when he joined the Michigan National Guard in 1915 with the rank of Lieutenant and was sent to France during World War I when the Guard was called to active duty. He served with the Veterinary Corps and returned home with the rank of Captain. In his later years, Dr. Winters was considered to be one of the town's more colorful characters, though still very respected.

In F., C. and L.,

James Neely, DCC
Gov. Austin Blair Camp No. 7

This article originally appeared in the May 1995 issue of the *Camp Blair Courier*, the newsletter of Gov. Austin Blair Camp No. 7. A follow-up article to *The Capture of Jeff Davis*, with additional information on "Uncle Stil" Greene, along with the official version of the capture as it appears in *Michigan in the War*, will appear in February's issue of *Michigan's Messenger*, space permitting.

Coming Events

November

Monday, November 11, 1996

Veteran's Day. All members and Camps should take the time to remember the sacrifices the members of our armed services have made to keep our country free.

Saturday, November 16, 1996

Remembrance Day. Gettysburg, PA. Parade, Memorial Service, Wreath laying at a Michigan monument by the Michigan Department Sons of Veterans Reserve and a period Ball in the evening.

January

Wednesday, January 15, 1997

The deadline for submission of articles for inclusion in February's Messenger. Articles received after this date will be printed only if space permits.

February

Saturday, February 15, 1997

The Department of Michigan's Fifth Annual *Midwinter Conference* at the Best Western Midway Hotel and Conference Center, 7711 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, Michigan 48917. 1:00 pm Workshop Program (tentative) Highlighting:

- Exemplification of the Ritual•
- Camp Officers Training•
- Group Discussions of Selected Topics•

5:30 pm Washington - Lincoln Dinner, Co-sponsored with the Sons of the Revolution (Michigan). Social Hour, Dinner and Guest Speaker. More details to follow in February's Michigan Messenger.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Michigan's Messenger
 1917 TEEL AVENUE
 LANSING, MI 48910-3117

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 1171 Lansing, MI

Address Correction Requested

James T Lyons
 411 Bartlett St
 Lansing, MI 48915-1805