



Michigan's

Messenger

The Newsletter of the Department of Michigan – Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Volume XXVIII, Number 3

Chartered June 24, 1884

Fall 2019

John R. Mann, Editor Emeritus

Richard C. Danes, Editor

*Recipient of the Marshall Hope Award for Best Department
Newsletter of the Order 2002, 2007, and 2011*



Christmas greetings to all, may you greet the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020 with excitement and joy. In this very special time of year, just as I urge you, my brothers, to remember our Brothers from the past, who spent many Christmases away from family, in defense of the Union, I urge you to remember those who are, today, spending time away from family in defense of our Union.

Just as our forefathers didn't know if this Christmas would be their last, we don't know if it is our last, or if it will be the last with someone we love. So, make this a special one, celebrate each day with gusto and an enthusiasm for life that can infect those around you. Take the time to check in with your Brothers and, if possible, spend some time with them. While they may not be blood family, we are bound to each other through the bonds of Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty. These are the same bonds that held our fore-fathers, the Grand Army of the Republic, together in a tight knit Order, as "They drank from the same canteen."

*My Brothers, May the God of Peace be with you and your family during this time.
In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,*

Robert R Payne
Department Commander



Department Commander

Robert R. Payne, DC

Winter Greetings to all! The Fall is passing and here we are, December, with it comes the snow and, of course, Christmas. The past three months have moved with great quickness, late Summer, into the Fall, the celebration of Thanksgiving and that great Michigan Holiday, Deer Season.

The past few months have brought us Labor Day and many Memorials commemorating the lives of the Boys in Blue. Last Soldiers remembered, ancestors commemorated, and Historical Markers dedicated. Brothers, you have done an excellent job "Keeping Green the Memory" of the Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Revenue Cutter Service who sacrificed in saving the Union.

We have just finished Veterans Day, a day which started as a remembrance of the end of the terrible Great War, and now a day to remember all who have served. All of us have a link to these men and women, we cannot forget them. In 1863, President Lincoln asked our entire nation to hold a Day of Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday in November, to thank our Creator for the blessings He has brought us. We, as a nation, still hold this tradition of Thanksgiving today. I hope everyone spent time giving thanks for the blessing they have received this year. Some of those blessing were things received or people we encountered, other blessings were the things or people we didn't encounter. Either way, we all have blessings to be thankful for.

On November 22nd, the 56th anniversary of the assassination of President Kennedy, I had the privilege to participate in laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns, in Arlington National Cemetery. It was an honor to do so, I describing it is difficult, walking down the marble steps with 2 men I have known most of my life and a friend from recent years, this went beyond my wildest dreams of honoring our fallen. I also joined in honoring the Unknown Civil War Soldiers, with my comrades from the 14th Michigan SVR, brothers of the Department of Michigan, faithful and true brothers of the Order. Marching in the Remembrance Day parade and honoring the Michigan Boys in the Gettysburg National Cemetery and soldiers of the 4th Michigan Infantry who fought at Gettysburg, were all blessings I have had to be thankful for.

As a final note, as I am writing this on Thanksgiving morning, I am truly blessed to have had the honor and privilege to serve this Department as Department Commander. Thank you.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Robert R Payne, DC


Department Orders #10 Series 2019 – 2020
Headquarters, Headquarters, Holt, MI
September 20, 2019

Where as I have been informed of the loss of our Brother Philip Parks of The Albert & James Lyons Camp 266 on 17 September 2019.

Where as Brother Parks was an integral part of Camp 266 and, having served as Department Junior Vice-Commander in 2000-2001 and Senior Vice-Commander 2001-2002, he served the Department of Michigan well.

I am hereby ordering all Camp Charters and Membership Badges be draped in black for a period of 30 days from this order.

I am asking all brothers to hold his family in their prayers. May God be with his family, friends, and The Albert & James Lyons Camp during this time of loss.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

<p>/s/ Robert R. Payne Commander, Department of Michigan Sons of Union Veterans Sons of the Civil War</p>	<p>ATTEST /s/ Richard Denney, CC Secretary, Department of Michigan Sons of Union Veterans of the the Civil War</p>
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Department Orders #11 Series 2019 – 2020
Headquarters, Headquarters, Holt, MI
November 6, 2019

Where as November 11 has been set aside by the United States Government as the Official Day to Honor Veterans.

I hereby ask all Brothers, if possible, to commemorate the day with a Veterans Group or local event. If that isn't possible, individually, pause and reflect on the sacrifices made by all Veterans.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

<p>/s/ Robert R. Payne Commander, Department of Michigan Sons of Union Veterans Sons of the Civil War</p>	<p>ATTEST /s/ Richard Denney, CC Secretary, Department of Michigan Sons of Union Veterans of the the Civil War</p>
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**2019 - 2020
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 Kevin Lindsey, PCC
 Michael Maillard, PCC
- Chaplain**
 Rev. Charles F. Buckhahn, PCC
- Patriotic Instructor**
 David Kimble, CC
- Color Bearer**
 Edgar J. Dowd, PCC
- Military Affairs**
 Edgar J. Dowd, PCC
- Counselor**
 Paul T. Davis, PDC
- Guard**
 Steven Martin
- Eagle Scout Coordinator**
 Nathan Tingley
- Signals Officer**
 David Wallace, PDC
- Michigan's Messenger Editor**
 Richard E. Danes, Sr. CC
- Historian**
 Keith G. Harrison, PCinC
- Guide**
 Nathan Tingley
- Graves Registration**
 Richard E. Danes, Sr., CC
- GAR Records**
 Gary L. Gibson, PDC
- Civil War Memorials**
 John H. McGill
- Chief of Staff**
 L. Dean Lamphere, Jr. PDC
- Camp At Large Coordinator**
 George L. Boller
- Aide de Camp**
 Paul T. Davis, PDC

Department Chaplain

Submitted by Department Chaplain Charles Buckhahn, PCC

Browsing the internet for ideas for this article, I discovered several articles on Christmas during the Civil War. The theme of these articles was that the Civil War helped change the celebration of Christmas, "setting the stage for the more modern Christmas holiday we know today ("How the Civil War Changed Christmas in the United States" by Erin Blakemore)." This same article also stated, "By the end of the war in 1865, Christmas had gone from a relatively unimportant holiday to the opposite—a day rooted in an idealized vision of home."

One can understand how this change happened; soldiers were separated from spouse and children and the possibility of death hung over families in both the North and South. However, soldiers and families still remembered the true message of Christmas. One such soldier was Sergeant Henry W. Tisdale, 35th MA Volunteers. He wrote this in his diary on December 28, 1862, while he was in a hospital in Alexandria, VA recovering from a wound received at South Mountain:

Last Sabbath of the year. I do not realize it so. Indeed feel my heart is cold to true spirited life. Am feeling more and more each day my need of God's quickening grace in my heart. Feel that my little wasting of time my little sins I often commit are perhaps the occasion of God's hiding His face from me. Yet ought to feel too that it is not by any words of my own that I can merit His grace still also must realize that while I love sin cannot hope for His mercy or grace. Must therefore yield the whole service and love of my heart not as hoping for reward for my so doing but as my rightful service, and what devout gratitude for God's goodness call upon me to bestow. Had a fine Christmas dinner provided for us by the ladies of Washington and Alexandria. The hospital is full to overflowing with wounded from Fredericksburg, VA. Sorry to learn by the papers of the death of our Major Sidney Willard formerly captain of our company killed at Fredericksburg. I fear more men of our company and regiment have been laid by in the fight. Had services in the hospital today. Have a good Chaplain connected with it. Received letter from brother, Herbert.

The Sergeant was in Tennessee for Christmas, 1863, when he wrote this in his diary:

Christmas Day. What a contrast in surroundings to the Christmas days of the past. No rations until near night, so no dinner. But still it has been in many ways a Merry Christmas. Wrote to Nellie. Mind busy of how the dear ones at home were enjoying the day. Trust that I am learning that it is not the position of material blessings and surroundings that are necessary to give a contented and peaceful spirit. Feel that the blessings of memory, the sense of the love of the dear ones at home, of the privilege of correspondence with them, the sense of God's love and care, the precious teaching and promise of his holy word, and privilege of prayer and communication with him have in them rich sources of comfort and content.

I pray that all of you may know "God's love and care" this Christmastide as we celebrate the birth of the Savior of all of humanity. A blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year to the Brothers of the Department of Michigan, SUVCW, and to their families!

***In this Issue: Officer's Reports, Department Orders,
Camp News, SVR Travels, The 1890 Census, Event
Announcements, and much more***

Graves Registration

By Department Graves Registration Officer Rick Danes



A wooden headstone in Keweenaw County

At the December 14th Department Graves Meeting, I will announce that we have reached another milestone with our database, having 75,207 Civil War and Other War records represented.

At our meetings, we have very spirited discussions, not always about the Civil War, but in each session we learn something!

Our meeting schedule for 2020 has been set, and confirmed with the State Library, thanks to our member Mark Hoffman, so we have a home for the next year.

The meeting schedule is: March 14, June 13, September 12, and December 12.

All are welcome to join us.

Sgt. John S. Cosby Camp #427

Submitted by Rick Danes PCC



At the St. Paul's Cathedral Veteran's Day Service.

Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous New Year to our Michigan Brothers and Sisters

Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum's

(224 South Main, Eaton Rapids, Michigan)

*Submitted by Keith G. Harrison, Board President***Seminars and Other Programs for 2020**

Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Memorial Hall and Museum in Eaton Rapids will be sponsoring 5 Free Civil War History Seminars and 4 additional programs during 2020. The dates and times for the seminars and programs are:

Free Seminars

Tuesday, March 17th (7 PM) - *The Soldier's Clothing and Personal Equipment* (Speaker: Rob Stone)

Tuesday, May 19st (7 PM) - *Detroit's Historic Fort Wayne* (Speaker: Tom Berluca)

Tuesday, July 21st (7 PM) - *Emory Parady and the Capture of John Wilkes Booth* (Speaker: Kermit Douse)

Sunday, September 20th (3 PM) - *Major General Alpheus Williams* (Speaker: Jack Dempsey)

Tuesday, November 17th (7 PM) - *The Eleventh Corps at Gettysburg* (Speaker: Dr. Jim Pula)

Other G.A.R. Museum Sponsored Programs

Saturday, April 4th (10 AM - 5 PM) - Grand Army of the Republic 154th Anniversary (Two floors of G.A.R. artifacts and memorabilia and other special G.A.R. exhibits will be on display.)

Monday, May 25th (11 AM) - Annual Memorial Day Parade and Memorial Day Program on G.A.R. Island Park

Saturday, July 4th (8 AM - 5 PM) - Annual July 4th Parade and Civil War Living History on G.A.R. Island Park (Artillery, Cavalry, and Infantry)

Tuesday, August 11th (10 AM - 3 PM) - Annual Civil War Discovery Camp for Kids 7 - 14 years

Information about Michigan's only museum dedicated to the G.A.R. may be obtained by going to Museum's website at <http://garmuseum.weebly.com> or its Face Book page at GARBrainerdPost111MemorialHallAndMuseum.

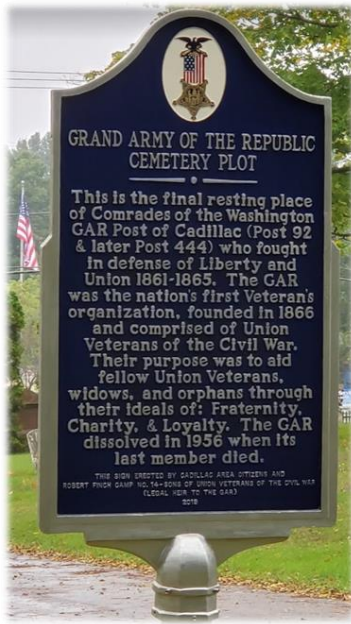
Keith G. Harrison, Board President
Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall & Museum
Past CinC
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

ROBERT FINCH CAMP NO. 14 – December 2019
Submitted by: David S. Smith, LM, PCC, PDC

The Fall of 2019 has been especially busy for the Brothers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14. On Saturday 12 October the Brothers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14 along with Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9, the Sons of Veterans Reserve (Co. A, 14th Michigan Infantry – Irish Rifle), Bugles Across America, Cadillac Area Honor Guard (consisting of several area Veterans organizations), Rolling Thunder, and Citizens and Veterans of Cadillac came together at Maple Hill Cemetery to dedicate the newly erected memorial sign honoring the Washington GAR Post Plot. This dedication was the conclusion of several years' work in fundraising, planning, and other work at the GAR Plot. The event was well covered by a feature article in the Cadillac News (formerly the Cadillac Evening News), and was the weekly feature of "Northern Michigan in Focus" on TV 9&10 News, the CBS affiliate in Cadillac (it is a very moving feature in the way it was produced, and is highly recommended for viewing). The links to the media coverage can be found here:

<http://cadillacnews.mi.newsmemory.com/publink.php?shareid=13789bc81>

<https://www.9and10news.com/2019/10/16/northern-michigan-in-focus-civil-war-sign-dedication/>



Left: The dedicated GAR Cemetery Plot Sign in Maple Hill Cemetery, Cadillac, MI

Below Left: The Colors are posted with PCC Goodrich, PDC Smith, PCC Mattis, and CC Lantzer looking on.

Below Right: Cadillac Area Veterans Jerry Benson and Greg Burk raise the US Flag on the GAR's flagpole in Maple Hill Cemetery.



Continued from previous page



Above Left: The SUVCW Honor Guard and the Cadillac Area Honor Guard march in to begin the ceremony
 Above Right: PAP Lisa Smith and Bugles Across America Bugler Thelma Paul await the ceremony's start



Above Left: JVC Ribby recites the Gettysburg Address
 Above Right: Co. A, 14th Michigan Infantry – SVR reloads in preparation of firing the next volley

After the sign dedication at Maple Hill Cemetery, various ceremony participants went to the Haring Charter Township Cemetery just north of Cadillac to pay respects to William Lamphere, a Comrade of Washington GAR Post 444. Comrade Lamphere is the second to last Civil War Veteran in Wexford County. He is also the lineal ancestor of PDC L. Dean Lamphere, Jr. and PCC Lloyd Lamphere, Sr. Many members of the Lamphere family attended, and a special ceremony was conducted by Co. A, 14th Michigan Infantry – SVR and Brothers of Camp 14.



Above Left: Camp 14 Brothers and Co. A, 14th Michigan Infantry – SVR at the Lamphere gravesite
 Above Right: The SVR fires a volley to honor Comrade William Lamphere

Continued from previous page



Above Left: William Lamphere (on the right) during the Civil War

Above Right: Captain L. Dean Lamphere, Jr. PDC, recites background and family history of William Lamphere

On Veterans Day, Memorials Officer Scott Schwander planned and led a cemetery tour in Traverse City's Oakwood Cemetery highlighting Civil War Veterans buried there and other historical gravesites. The tour was given for several teachers and their students from The Children's House Montessori School. Other Brothers that aided the tour included: JVC Jim Ribby, PDC Dale Aurand, PDC David Smith, and PCC Ted Mattis. The tour was well received and the teachers and students enjoyed the history of the various Veterans and other Civil War discussion.



Above Left: CWMO Schwander discusses one of the Boys in Blue that rests in Oakwood Cemetery to the students of The Children's House while JVC Ribby and PCC Ted Mattis look on.

Continued from previous page

Graves Registration & Memorials Work: Camp No. 14 Brothers continue to pursue the identification of the Last Veteran of the County for the Camp's 19 assigned counties, and have confirmed the Last Veteran in Wexford County. The Brothers of Camp No. 14 as of this date have completed the cleaning and reconditioning of 876 headstones belonging to Union Veterans.

The 9th of November saw the regular November Camp meeting with elections and installation of Officers. PDC Paul Davis installed the Officers acting as a representative of the Department of Michigan. The Elected and Appointed Officers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14 for the 2019-2020 administrative term are:

Commander: John Lantzer
 Sr. Vice Commander: Dave Ramsey
 Jr. Vice Commander: Jim Ribby
 Secretary: David Smith, LM, PDC
 Treasurer: Dale Aurand, LM, PDCCW
 Council: Jan White, PCC (Chair)
 Council: Paul Davis, LM, PDC
 Council: Ted Mattis, PCC
 Patriotic Instructor: H.G. Smith
 Chaplain: George Goodrich, PCC
 Historian: George Goodrich, PCC

Color Bearer: Dale Aurand, LM, PDC
 Guide: Robert O'Hara
 Guard: Calvin Murphy
 Graves Registration Officer: John Sawyer
 Memorials Officer: Scott Schwander
 Military & Veteran Affairs Officer: Calvin Murphy
 Recruiting Officer: Joseph Conger
 Eagle Scout Cert. Coord.: Joseph Conger
 Signals Officer: Jan White, PCC
 Quartermaster: Dale Aurand, LM, PDC
 Newsletter Editor: David Smith, LM, PDC

***Future Michigan's Messenger Publications
 Submittal Dates and Publication Dates***

***Winter - March 1 for a March 15 Publication
 Spring- June 1 for a June 15 Publication
 Summer - September 1 for a September 15 Publication
 Fall - December 1 for a December 15 Publication***

Send all articles to Rick Danes, Editor, preferably at editor@suvcwmi.org, or to 2612 Burns Street, Dearborn, Michigan 48124-3204

ALL PUBLICATIONS WILL BE MADE ON TIME

***Please do not send me photos without the names of persons in the photo and a suggested caption.
 Thanks for your support!***

General Benjamin Pritchard Camp #20
Submitted by Gary Swain

The General Benjamin Pritchard Camp 20 initiated a 2019 outreach program to several other organizations with the expressed objectives of keeping green the memory of the importance of the Civil War, honoring all veterans, expanding the impact of our camp preservation efforts and training the next generation of preservationists. We worked with the Kiwanis, the DAR, the Marine Corp League, the Boy Scouts, and historical societies. During September and October the camp directed, trained and supervised three Eagle Scout programs which resulted in the Eagle Scout candidates earning the coveted rank and the cleaning and preservation of 390 veteran gravestones. This combined with additional camp projects and other organizations resulted in a total of 485 veteran gravestones cleaned and preserved and the training of over 70 new gravestone preservationists in 2019.



Scouts cleaning and preserving Spanish American and Civil War gravestones in



L to R Rich Walsh (Scouts BSA, SW Council & Marine Corp League, Matt Walsh Eagle Scout Candidate) and Gary Swain (Camp 20 PCC, Graves Registration Officer and Eagle Scout Coordinator)



Troop 244 Scouts BSA Michigan Troop 244 cleaning WWI, Korean and WWII veteran gravestones

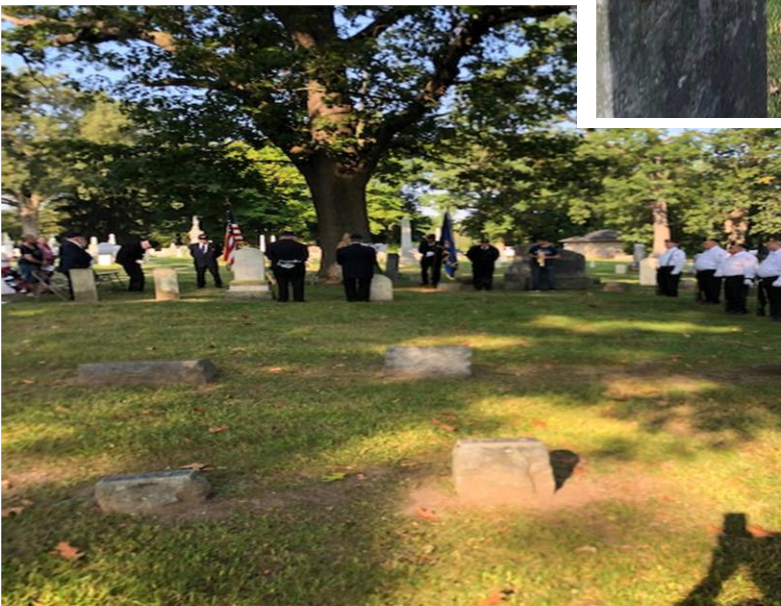
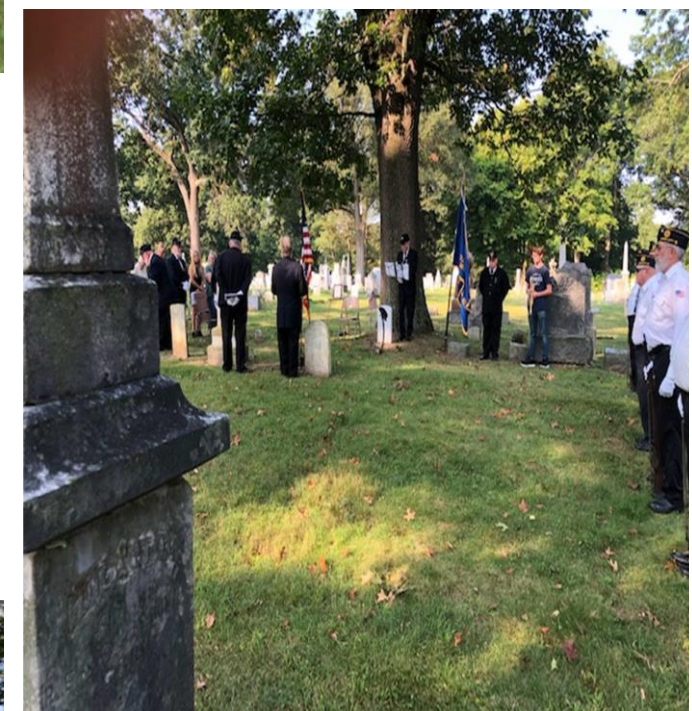


Troop 244 Scouts BSA Michigan Troop 244 during training on Labor Day weekend 2019

General Benjamin Pritchard Camp #22*Submitted by Blaine Valentine*

Colgrove-Woodruff, Camp 22 of Battle Creek Michigan, participated in a Headstone dedication ceremony Saturday September 21st for Pvt. Riley Lahym Batt'y D 1st Mich Lt. Art'l., at the Union City cemetery . The Brother's that participated were Cmdr. Dave Knockemus, Bro. Howard Streeter, Bro. Steve Datema, Bro. Dave Eddy, Bro. Jim Jackson, Bro. Louie Cuyler, Bro. Don Miller, Bro. Dan Wolf and Bro. Jack Smith. Also participating were Sis. Peaches Streeter of the WRC and the Union City American Legion honor guard. Thank you to the Union City Historical Society.

*Continued*



Gov. Crapo Camp and Gov. Crapo Corps Attend Annual Remembrance Day Dinner
Submitted by David F. Wallace, PDC



Members of the Gov. Crapo Camp and Gov. Crapo Corps attended the annual Remembrance Day dinner held for those members not attending ceremonies in Gettysburg and has become an annual event for the Camp and Corps as a way to honor the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic. Attending this year from the front left: Wanda Lamphere, Lloyd Lamphere, Sr., PCC, Robert May, PCC, Marilyn May, Linda McKinch, Neal Zabicki; and front right: Susan Wallace, Carol Powers, Dawn Bastian, Tom Powers; not pictured: Gene Taylor and David F. Wallace, PDC.

Gov. Crapo Camp and Gov. Crapo Corps Veterans Day WWI Memorial Dedication



On November 11th members of the Gov. Crapo Camp and Gov. Crapo Corps with the assistance of Co. A, 14th Michigan Infantry, SVR, participated in the dedication of a new memorial to those from the Flushing area who served and sacrificed during World War I. Pictured are Camp Commander Terry McKinch and Senior Vice Corps President Linda McKinch, presenting a memorial wreath on behalf of the Camp and Corps. Brother Len McInerney of the 14th Michigan Infantry served as vigil during the ceremony. After the ceremony, all three groups shared breakfast at a local diner and received the thanks of many Flushing residents for lending their participation in the dedication ceremony.

A Soldier's Letter Home

Submitted by John Mann

October the 29 A. D. 1861

faer i take my pen in hand to let you kno that iam well at present and i hope that thes few lines ma find you all well at present

we have bin travelin for 7 days and we have settled down for a few days til we get rested travelin over hilles and montens is hard werk acarying our nap sack and gun banks he giv out and i took his load and carred it to camp next morning loaded up agan an traveled agan now we as in the earsten part of kentuckey wehant got in no fite yet last nit the picet gards got shooting at dogs and rased te ridg ment we wer sure we would get in a fit but we did not

itell you that we would like to get in one soon or will come home
our ridgment has captured 4 head of horses nine head of cat tel the last one are dead the last wen I helpt to kill and that was about you bet tes behive that is tuff
iwont help to kill adool agan for teas lares too tuff

(begin reverse side of letter here)

itellyoun that old rooster that icaptured was agat eal bet ter iboill al him til mid rist itell you that ilike rooster this is ahard way writing alay ing on my belly +banks is awerking on the roads he could not werk annuf in big lick thes is not roes annuf thes you mit kno that he is well now I must bring my let ter to a close but rembimber you must ecuse my post riting

Simon Presler

when you rite

to the 21 first ridg ment

in the care of H. H. Alban

I George Presler

The front of the envelope is addressed as follows:

Mr. George Presler

West independence post

Hancock Co

Ohio

Soldier's letter

Written on the front, right side of the envelope is: Due 3 (3 cents postage due as there was no stamp on the envelope)

Written on the back flap of the envelope is the following:

Brother Simons Letter

He was killed at Ringold Ga

March 21, 1864

Written at the bottom of the reverse side of the envelope, upside down to the above is:

14th Army Corps

badge

acorn

Continued

Note: All words are as spelled in the letter (as near as I can decipher them anyway) and there is no punctuation whatsoever in the original. The only capitalization of letters is what is presented here.

The letter is written on lined paper, similar to a child's lined notebook paper, only of much better quality and is written in ink, as is the writing on the front of the envelope. The writing on the back of the envelope is in pencil and was written by my great grandfather, Jacob Presler. The letter was given to my Aunt Mae (Florence Mae Mann) by Jacob (her grandfather) before his death in 1925 and was bequeathed to me by her.

Simon enlisted 6 September 1861 at the age of 19 in the 21st Ohio Infantry and was assigned to Company F as a Private. Although the letter indicates he was killed on the 21st of March, his medical record shows he actually died in the Military Hospital at Chattanooga on the 23rd. Simon was shot in the chest while coming off picket duty by one of his own men, most likely by accident. He lingered two days before dying. His body was shipped home and was buried in Big Lick Cemetery, Big Lick Township, Hancock Co., Ohio.

The "banks" mentioned in the letter was John Banks Moore. He was the husband of Phoebe Jane Presler, sister to Simon. John enlisted 6 September 1861 at the age of 29 in the 21st Ohio Infantry, Company F and died of disease 29 April 1862 in the Chattanooga Military Hospital. He is buried in the Chattanooga Military Cemetery.

Eight of the ten Companies of the 21st Ohio were equipped with the Colt Revolving Rifle.

Simon was one of four brothers who enlisted in the Federal Army the others being: Samuel Presler, enlisted at the age of 26 as a Private in the 21st Ohio Infantry and died of measles 22 December 1862 in the hospital at Nashville; George Washington Presler enlisted 26 August 1864 as a Private at the age of 18, 178th Ohio Infantry, Company G. and survived the war, moved to Emerson Township, Gratiot County, Michigan where he died in 1928; and my Great Grandfather Jacob Presler who enlisted in the 88th Indiana Infantry, Company H as a Private, 29 August 1862 at the age of 17. Jacob died 10 April 1925 and is buried in Forest Home Cemetery, Hicksville, Defiance County, Ohio.

Jacob and the 88th Indiana marched and fought with Sherman's Army down to Atlanta, on to Savannah, through the Carolinas and the battle at Bentonville, N.C. and finally ended up in Washington D.C. where he marched in the Grand Parade before being sent home. Jacob drew a map of his travels during the Civil War which I have in my possession.

John Mann



Jacob Presler, 88th Indiana Infantry, CO H



Simon Presler 21st Ohio Infantry CO F



Gov. Crapo Corps No. 23 - WRC Observes 135th Chartering Anniversary



The members of the Gov. Crapo Corps No. 23, Department of Michigan, Woman's Relief Corps, joined the Brothers of the Gov. Crapo Camp No. 145 to observe the 135th anniversary of its chartering, October 15th, 1884. The observance of the occasion was held at the former residence of COL Thomas Stockton, 16th Michigan Infantry Regiment, and Comrade of the Gov. Crapo Post No. 145 of Flint. The ladies shared a history of their Corps, which has been in continuous existence since its chartering in 1884, and installed a new member to their Corps. They continue to focus on providing for veterans needs with donations and service to the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center in Saginaw. After the meeting everyone enjoyed a reception with cake and punch, and tours of COL Stockton's home. Pictured from left to right are Gov. Crapo Corps members Kirstie Roy, Dawn Bastian, Linda McKinch, Amanda Whitney and Carol Powers.

Editor's Note: Why Michigan's Messenger is now distributed electronically:

In 2005 the Department was faced with rising printing and mailing costs for the nationally recognized Michigan's Messenger. Very few options were available to Department Officers, so the issue was put on the floor at the Department Encampment.

The Members voted to publish Michigan's Messenger in an electronic format, with each edition being forwarded to one person in each Camp (thereafter called a Camp Signals Officer), who would then distribute the newsletter to all Camp Members.

As a result of this action by the Membership, dues have not been raised.

I believe that the Camps have the responsibility to report changes, so that we can continue to serve you, you must provide me with a current contact for electronic mailing.

I have tried to include every article that was sent to me prior to publication, so that all future issues will be timely. I welcome all constructive suggestions, and encourage all of you to submit relative news about your committees, your Camps, and your ancestors. This is your newsletter, and its success depends on you. Rick Danes, editor@suvcwmi.org.

**Co. A, 14th MI SVR
Submitted by Rob Payne, DC**



Dean and Paul presenting wreath at Arlington, Tomb of the Unknowns

NCO's lay wreath at Civil War Unknown Monument,
Arlington National Cemetery



Co. A, 14th MI SVR prior to laying wreath at Arlington

Continued



In the Orderly Room at Arlington after laying the wreath



Co A, 14th MI SVR AT Civil War Unknown Monument

Continued



Members of Camps 7,14,17,20,67,135, and 145 after the 2019 Remembrance Day Parade



Remembering the Michigan Soldiers in Gettysburg National Cemetery

Continued



L. Dean Lamphere, JR, PDC with James B Pahl, PCinC at the 4th Michigan Monument

Christmas Greetings From the Front

“It is Christmas Eve (1862). I would hang up my stockings only that for the past 4 or 5 nights I have not taken them off at night, in fact have not taken off my clothes for the past five days, untill this morning, when I took a general wash and clean clothes. I intend however to undress tonight and go to bed again like a w-- man. I have an invitation to a Christmas dinner tomorrow from a Surgeon in charge of one of the hospitals here so if we do not move, I shall go.”

Seneca B. Thrall, 13th Iowa Infantry, Holly Springs, Mississippi

“Christmas day (1863) came and we were anxious to celebrate in some way. I had held on to ten dollars Packard gave me, as I feared we should need it for salt, but concluded to have a nice dinner, so I bought a squash and we feasted on boiled squash and salt.”

***Cap. John G. B. Adams, Co A 19th MA INF
at Asylum Prison, Charleston, SC***

Destruction of the 1890 Census
Posted on October 14, 2019 by Jenny Ashcraft

Genealogists and historians have lamented the loss of the 1890 census for more than a century. When researchers inquire about the 1890 census, their questions are quickly dismissed with the explanation that a fire destroyed the records. The truth, however, is more complicated. The 1890 census records did sustain extensive smoke and water damage in two different fires (1896 and 1921), but the damaged records sat languishing in a warehouse until the 1930s when Congress ordered their destruction.

The 1890 census was unique for several reasons. For the first time, officials decided to gather data on a separate schedule for each family. Families answered questions about race, immigration and naturalization, the number of children born and living, and questions relating to service in the Civil War. It was also the first census that used punch cards and an electrical tabulation system.

INQUIRIES.		1	2
1	Christian name in full, and initial of middle name.	John A	Mary A
	Surname.	Hayward	Hayward
2	Whether a soldier, sailor, or marine during the civil war (U. S. or Conf.), or widow of such person.	Soldier (U.S.)	+
3	Relationship to head of family.	Head	Wife
4	Whether white, black, mulatto, quadroon, octoroon, Chinese, Japanese, or Indian.	White	White
5	Sex.	Male	Female
6	Age at nearest birthday. If under one year, give age in months.	5 1/2	51

After enumerators finished the 1890 census, the Department of the Interior stored portions in Washington D.C. in the basement of Marini's Hall. On March 22, 1896, a night watchman discovered the rear of the building was on fire and notified the fire department. Firefighters arrived to find dense smoke pouring from the basement. Though they extinguished the flames before sunrise, the fire damaged or destroyed the special schedules for mortality, crime, pauperism, benevolence, special classes (e.g., deaf, blind, insane) and portions of the transportation and insurance schedules. The general population schedules, however, were safe and stored in the basement of the Commerce Building.

FIRE RUINS RECORDS

Priceless Census Papers Suffer
in Commerce Building.

TWO OVERCOME BY SMOKE

The Washington Post, January 11, 1921

Continued

On the evening of January 10, 1921, an employee at the Commerce Building noticed smoke rising through the elevator shaft and sounded the fire alarm. For hours, firefighters soaked the building with water to quench the flames. When the smoke cleared, archivists found 25 percent of the 1890 census schedules destroyed, while half of the rest sustained serious water damage. Government officials debated whether the burnt and waterlogged records could be salvaged.

This tragic fire spurred discussion about the need for national archives to hold public records. While awaiting funding for an archive building, Census Director William Steuart warned the damaged records would continue to deteriorate. Not much is known about what happened to the census records between 1922-1932, but in December 1932, the Chief Clerk of the Bureau of Census sent the Librarian of Congress a list of documents deemed no longer necessary and scheduled for destruction. Included in the list were the 1890 damaged census records. The Librarian approved the list and forwarded it to Congress who authorized it and the damaged records were destroyed. Ironically, just one day before Congress authorized the destruction of these records, President Herbert Hoover laid the cornerstone for the new National Archives Building.

In 1934, the National Archives Building opened in Washington, D.C. In 1942, officials found a damaged bundle of 1890 census records from Illinois that escaped destruction. In 1953, they also found fragments of records from Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, and the District of Columbia. These rediscovered records comprise just a tiny fraction of the 1890 census, leaving 99.99 percent of the original records lost forever.

More Christmas Greetings From the Front

On Christmas Day (1863) Arza Bartholomew, Jr. of the 21st Michigan Infantry wrote to his wife: "The weather is so mild that we can write with comfort in the tent without a fire. If it doesn't get any colder than it is now, it will not be very bad." The very next day the weather turned, and the Division began the famous "Mud March" towards Murfreesboro.

"Cool but pleasant. Corpl. Spaid, Dick Bachman, the orderly and I had a splendid Christmas (1863) dinner today, consisting of roast goose, mashed potatoes, good gravy, bread and butter. The goose was bought in market yesterday by F. Spaid for \$1.25, stuffed with crackers and oysters and roasted by Mrs. Duncan. We had it served up on a fine large platter, borrowed, bought or stolen for the occasion."

Sgt. John L. Hoster, Co A 148th NY INF at Fort Norfolk, VA

"Another Christmas (1864) in the Confederacy – Warmer and rainy towards night – Made a mutton pie – Not much like Christmas at home – Rumors of Sherman moving on Augusta two columns – Remodel our shelter for a rainy night & darkness sets in with a steady cold rain – No snow seen yet."

Capt. Alonzo M. Keeler, Co B, 22nd MI Inf, at Asylum Prison Camp, Columbia, SC