



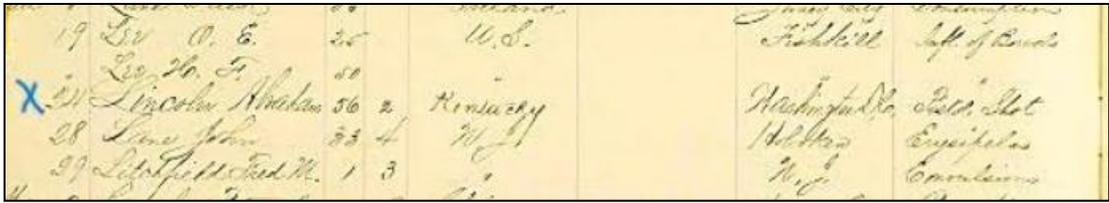
MICHIGAN'S MESSENGER

BODIES IN TRANSIT: BUREAUCRACY & THE FINAL JOURNEY

Submitted by Mark Hoffman, PCC – Camp 17 and Camp 444

I was recently researching Michigan Union soldiers who died in New York City-area military hospitals in 1865 and discovered records on moving bodies into and through New York City. These were referred to as “bodies in transit” and required a permit as part of public health measures against infectious diseases. The register books for these permits survive and have been digitized as part of the city government’s archives. Collection: Burial transit registers (Bodies in Transit) | NYCMA Collection Guides The information is also now available through Ancestry.com.

The bureaucracy of government was applied evenly. A permit was just as necessary for the remains of martyred President Abraham Lincoln in 1865 as it was for ordinary people.



ABOVE: President Lincoln A surviving register notes that a permit was issued to move the body of Abraham Lincoln into and through New York City in April 1865, part of the long journey of his funeral train from Washington, D. C. to Springfield, Illinois. (Source: New York City Municipal Archives)

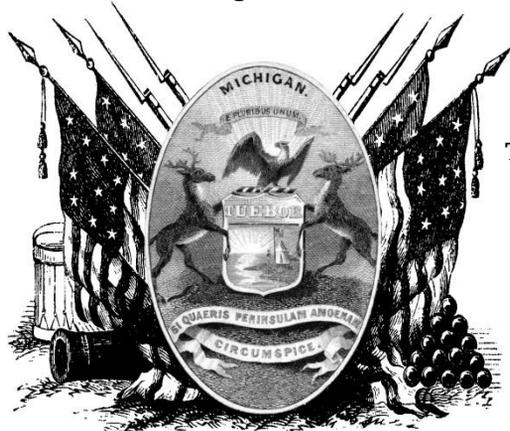
On April 24, 1865, President Lincoln’s body lay in state in New York City Hall and departed on April 25 following a funeral procession up Broadway. That same day a small steamer nosed away from a dock on David’s Island, off the west end of Long Island Sound and near present-day New Rochelle. The dock served DeCamp General Hospital, the largest of several military facilities in and around the region, and the bodies of at least nine soldiers had been loaded onto the steamer.

These hospitals were especially busy treating wounded and sick soldiers arriving by transport ships from Union held ports along the Atlantic coast. In March and April 1865 these patients included thousands of former prisoners of war released by the collapsing Confederacy and men from Sherman’s field armies. Most had been evacuated via Union bases at Wilmington, New Bern, and elsewhere in North Carolina.

continued on p. 2

“TO HER MARTYRS &
HEROES WHO FOUGHT IN
DEFENCE OF LIBERTY AND
UNION”

TUEBOR



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR

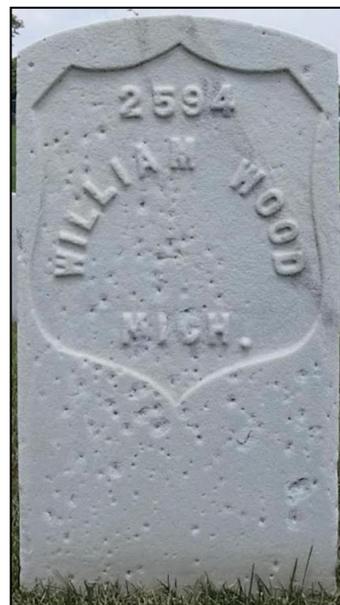
VOLUME XXXIV, ISSUE III
WINTER/SPRING 2026

BODIES IN TRANSIT, CONT'D

That day's load of the dead from DeCamp GH included two soldiers from Michigan: Privates Abram Van Orman and William Wood of the 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics. Van Orman fell ill while with Sherman and in mid-March was sent with others by river steamer from Fayetteville to hospitals in newly captured Wilmington. Ten days later, Sherman's forces reached Goldsboro and Wood among the sick sent to the US hospital in New Bern. Both Van Orman and Wood were transported north to DeCamp GH but died from chronic diarrhea soon after arrival.

Among others, the boat also carried the remains of a veteran Illinois sergeant who died of his wounds received at Bentonville, an Indiana soldier who had enlisted six months previously as a substitute, and an eighteen-year-old recruit who died just six weeks after enlisting. Among the bodies was also that of Private William Tilley of the 14th South Carolina Militia regiment. About fifty-five, Tilley had been captured in February by Sherman's forces and sent north to the US prison camp on Hart Island. He was among sick Confederate prisoners of war sent to nearby DeCamp GH for treatment and died there.

The bodies were unloaded and eventually moved by wagon to the soldier section in Brooklyn's Cyprus Hills Cemetery. They were among more than five thousand wartime Civil War dead buried in what was eventually set apart and designated as Cypress Hills National Cemetery. At least 150 of these dead were from Michigan.



ABOVE: William Wood The remains of Private William Wood are in Cypress Hills National Cemetery. They lie buried near several others who made the same final journey from DeCamp General Hospital, including those of comrade Abram Van Orman. (Source: Find a Grave Memorial 290990172; photo courtesy of Debra Ledyard).

REPORT FROM A TIRED SCRIBE

Submitted by Dick Denney, PCC – Department Secretary

Greetings Brothers,

Some of you have read the message I posted from Assistant Executive Director Doug McMillan which has laid down the law on the completion of SUVCW Forms. I have been expecting this for some time. Some of us have been lax in acquiring the necessary signatures on annual Forms such as Form 22 Certification of Election and Installation of Camp Officers. Over half of the Form 22 I received **did not** have a full set of Camp Council signatures. This omission will get your Form rejected not at National Headquarters, but at my desk because National will not tolerate the current situation any longer. There are a few work arounds available. If a Council Member is not available, the Camp Commander can appoint a Brother as acting Council Member for the purpose of reviewing the Financials and accounts of the Camp and sign off on Form 22. **Remember** the Camp Commander, The Camp Secretary, and the Camp Treasurer **may not** serve on the Camp

continued on page 3



REPORT FROM A TIRED SCRIBE CONT'D

Council per the C&R. Also, if you can contact the Council Member by phone, you can affix the name on the appropriate line and initial it. This is an accepted business practice. (One note: Doug McMillan stated in his letter that the due date for Form 22 to the Department Secretary was January 15th. This is in error; it is February 15th.) Also start your Forms early, September 1st opens installation, begin capturing signatures early that way you will have time to put a completed Form together.

Reminder, It is time to work on Form 27 Annual Camp report.

Good News!

We now have an Assistant Department Secretary, Brother John Bennett of March to the Sea Camp No. 135 has volunteered for the posting. I will be working with John to get him up to speed on the duties and responsibilities of the Department Secretary office.

Remember, I am here to assist you. Please contact me if you need any assistance.

Hang in there, we are all in this together, I am pulling for you.

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Dick Denney, PCC
Secretary, Department of Michigan
SUVCW

ASUVCW – DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Submitted by Sister Lisa Smith, PAP

The ASUVCW – Department of Michigan is looking for donations of canning jars (any size), new/unused lids, & rings. Please bring any donations to the Department Encampment.

- Jars can be used, but clean and in good condition (no cracks or nicks).
- Jars need to be branded (Ball, Kerr, Golden Harvest, etc.) and intended for home canning. Please, NO mayonnaise jars or baby food jars.
- Accepting both regular and wide mouth

The National President and her sister make canned food (pickled veggies, jellies, jams, etc.) to sell at the National Encampment as a fundraiser for the National ASUVCW. The cost of jars, lids, and rings can add up. The Department of Michigan is collecting supplies at our Department Encampment in April to give to them.

The Auxiliary will have a fundraising table set up at the Department Encampment. Please visit and get some great stuff!

ASUVCW SCHOLARSHIPS

The National Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (ASUVCW) awards scholarships annually of up to \$1000.00 for tuition and books to high school seniors and college students (male or female) contingent upon their enrollment at an accredited college or university (either on campus or online), or a trade or licensed professional school prior to December 31st of the year the scholarship is granted.

continued on page 4



GOV. CRAPO CAMP No. 145

Submitted by David Wallace, PDC

Gov. Crapo Camp No. 145 and Gov. Crapo Corps No. 23 WRC held their annual Christmas Dinner on December 13th at the Lennon Cafe in Lennon. It was well attended, and we enjoyed the company of guests Matt VanAcker, Director of "Save the Flags," Department Commander David Kimble, and Past Commander-in-Chief James B. Pahl and his daughter.



ASUVCW – DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN CONT'D

FEMALE APPLICANTS must be the daughter or granddaughter of a current Member or Associate of the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, or a current member of at least one of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic [Woman's Relief Corps (WRC), Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic (LGAR), Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865 (DUVCW)].

MALE APPLICANTS must be a current Member or Associate of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW).

Applications are accepted each year from January 1st to June 30th.

Follow this link for more information: <https://asucw.org/scholarships/>

DEPARTMENT ORDERS & SPECIAL MESSAGES: Department Orders and Special Messages issued by the Department Commander can be found at: <https://suvcmi.org/hq/orders1.php> and are not included within this publication.



GENERAL ORLANDO M. POE CAMP 444

Submitted by David S. Smith, LM, PDC - Camp 444 Commander

Frigid temperatures, high winds, slick roads, and persistent snow did not stop the 2025 edition of Wreaths Across America held at Maple Hill Cemetery in Cadillac. The Marie Therese Cadillac DAR Chapter once again hosted the poignant annual event honoring Cadillac's own hometown heroes.

Treasurer Rodney Welliver and Council Jeff Walker, both Veterans, represented two services in the ceremony.

Brothers and Sisters from Camp 444 and Auxiliary No. 9 that attended and placed wreaths included: Commander Smith, PDC SVC/Sec. Aurand, PDC, Treasurer Welliver, Council J. Walker, Brother C. Walker, Brother Q. Walker, Sister Lorraine Aurand, AP, and Sister Lisa Smith, PAP. JVDC Ron Shull, PCC, also attended the event.

Many kudos go out to Marie Therese Cadillac DAR Chapter for another outstanding job in hosting WAA this year.



ABOVE LEFT: Sister Lisa Smith, PAP of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 places wreaths on Veterans' gravesites at Maple Hill Cemetery



ABOVE RIGHT: Veterans are lined up at the Washington GAR Post 444 Plot representing each branch of the Armed Forces. Two of the Veterans in Camp 444, Council Walker and Treasurer Welliver are in the line.

After experiencing the extremely blustery weather at Wreaths Across America, the Brothers of General Orlando M. Poe Camp 444 spent a warm afternoon among each other, and family and Sisters of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 enjoying a nice meal and celebrating a successful 2025 campaign. A celebratory recap of the Camp winning three National Awards this year, including the Abraham Lincoln Commander-in-Chief's Award was discussed. Commander Smith expressed how proud he was of the Camp and their amazing accomplishments daily in honoring our Noble Dead and making Camp 444 such a special experience to be a part of within the SUVCW.

As part of the annual tradition of the Camp 444 Christmas Campfire Luncheon, awards were given to outstanding individuals for their work during the year, as well as for long-term efforts. This year two Brothers were given the Unsung Pioneer Certificate of Appreciation for their work behind the scenes in

continued on page 6



GENERAL ORLANDO M. POE CAMP 444 CONT'D

keeping Camp 444 a well oiled machine. Those two Brothers are Senior Writer Mark Hoffman, PCC and Patriotic Instructor Adam Betz. The Engineer Award is bestowed upon the Camp 444 Brother that is deemed to be the most outstanding Brother of the Camp. This year, two Brothers were presented the award. The first Brother is JVC/GRO/CWMO Kenny Jones. Brother Jones has received The Engineer Award every year since its inception. His outstanding efforts in the Camp on genealogy research, graves registration, memorials, honor guard, as well as his efforts in service to his fellow Veterans makes him well deserving of the award. The second Brother to receive The Engineer Award is Council Jeff Walker. Brother Walker has continued to support the Camp willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done, and working in the background to take care of things that were integral to the success of projects and events. These four Brothers are most deserving of their awards, and much appreciation is extended to them all.

Camp 444's highest award, the General Orlando M. Poe Award, was conferred on Mr. Matthew VanAcker, Director of the Save the Flags project with the State of Michigan. He receives the award based on his long time support of the SUVCW and the GAR, and his extraordinary and meritorious service as an educator and guardian of Michigan's Civil War History. His award will be presented at a later date in Lansing.

Finally, the Brothers of Camp 444 honored Junior Vice Department Commander Ron Shull, PCC, making him the Camp's first ever Honorary Member. JVDC Shull attends many meetings and events of Camp 444, and volunteers to serve on the Honor Guard when available. The Brothers of the Camp wanted to show Brother Ron how much they appreciate him and his camaraderie, and to make him an Honorary Member of Camp 444 was a natural conclusion.



FAR LEFT: Camp 444 Christmas Campfire Luncheon Attendees (clockwise from left-front): Treasurer Rodney Welliver, Commander David Smith, Council Jeff Walker, Brother C. Walker, Brother Q. Walker, Sister Lorraine Aurand, AP, SVC/Secretary Dale Aurand, PI Adam Betz, JVDC Ron Shull, JVC/GRO/CWMO Kenny Jones, Sister Valerie Jones, Sister Lisa Smith, PAP, and Mrs. Jodie Welliver.



NEAR LEFT TOP: JVDC Ron Shull receives an Honorary Membership in Camp 444 from Commander Smith.

NEAR LEFT BOTTOM: PI Adam Betz receives the Unsung Pioneer Award from Commander Smith.

ABOVE LEFT: Council Jeff Walker receives The Engineer Award for most outstanding Brother of the Camp for 2025 from Commander Smith. (Photo courtesy of Sister Lisa Smith, PAP)

ABOVE CENTER: JVC/GRO/CWMO Kenny Jones receives The Engineer Award for most outstanding Brother of the Camp for 2025. (Photo courtesy of Council Jeff Walker)



142ND DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT – 25 APRIL 2026

LOCATION

Okemos Events Center
2187 University Park Dr.
Okemos, MI 48864
517-349-8700
FRIDAY 24 April 2026

The Best Western has Complimentary Self-Parking, Complimentary WIFI in guest rooms and meeting rooms. The Hotel is now ready to accept reservations for the 2026 Department of Michigan Encampment

The Encampment rate is \$119 per night

Please call the Hotel Directly at 517-349-8700. Ask for "Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War"
Rates are good for CHECK-IN on April 24, 2026 and CHECK-OUT on April 25, 2026

All Hotel reservations must be made by **3 April 2026**. We advise - BOOK NOW if you intend to stay. If you book late, the rate will be honored, if there are rooms available.

TENTATIVE ENCAMPMENT SCHEDULE

8:00 AM - Registration Opens
9:00 AM - Encampment Convenes
5:00 PM - Encampment Closes
5:30 PM - Informal Dinner – TBD

PLEASE NOTE: ALL REGISTRATIONS AND FEES MUST BE RECEIVED BY April 18th

Encampment Registration Forms: TRY TO MAIL BY April 10th TO MEET the April 18th DEADLINE

Encampment Registration Form Link:

<https://suvcwmi.org/DeptEncampment/forms/2026-01-12-DE142-reg-v4-fillin.pdf>

Box Lunches: Must be received by April 14, 2026. Late form means NO Lunch. Please Mail Early!!

Box Lunch Reservation Form Link:

<https://suvcwmi.org/DeptEncampment/forms/2026-01-12-DE142-lunch-fillin-v1.pdf>

All other 142nd Department Encampment items may be found at:

<https://suvcwmi.org/DeptEncampment/DEindex-142.php>

SUVCW ADVERTISEMENT FLYER

Submitted by National Historian & CoA Gary Gibson, PDC

Brothers,

Over the last several years, the membership numbers of the Department of Michigan have steadily dropped. At the 2025 Department Encampment, it was voted to take out a full-page, full-color ad in Michigan History magazine, in an attempt to recruit new members. This ad will run in all six of Michigan History magazine's 2026 issues. The ad that was chosen was created by the National Organization's Promotion of the Order Committee. With the approval of the Commander-in-Chief, Departments and Camps are welcome to print off this ad and use it as they wish. It has been suggested that Camps and individual Brothers place this ad on public bulletin boards – in places such as libraries, grocery stores, colleges, and various businesses (who give permission) such as barber shops or even doctor's or dentists offices. Perhaps you can think of other places the ad can be displayed. Please consider printing off full-color copies of this ad and place it in your area. By getting the name of the organization out to more people, it increases our chances of recruiting new Brothers.

NOTE: The advertisement is on the following page.



Join the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Organized November 12, 1881



FRATERNITY*CHARITY*LOYALTY

www.suvcw.org

Are you looking for a deeper connection to your heritage, a sense of belonging, and a way to make a real impact in your community? The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War offers all this and more. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) is a congressionally chartered 501(c)3 nonprofit charitable and fraternal organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of the Union veteran heroes who fought and worked to save the Union and end slavery in the American Civil War.

From the powerful bonds of brotherhood to the rich traditions and rituals that connect you to our nation's past, we offer a unique space to form meaningful relationships, contribute to important causes, and become a leader in your community. Together, we preserve the legacy of the Civil War and ensure that the lessons of history live on. Membership is open to both descendants of Union Civil War soldiers and non-descendants who share an interest in preserving Civil War history.

Join us today and be part of something greater. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War—where heritage meets purpose, and brotherhood lasts a lifetime.



1 Lincoln Circle at Reservoir Park
Suite 240 (National Civil War
Museum)
Harrisburg, PA 17103-2411

Scan the QR code to
go directly to the
SUVCW web page!



OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
2025 – 2026

DEPT. COMMANDER	David Kimble, PCC
SR. VICE DEPT. COMMANDER	Todd Cordill
JR. VICE DEPT. COMMANDER	Ronald Shull, PCC
DEPT. SECRETARY	Richard Denney, PCC
DEPT. TREASURER	Bruce S. A. Gosling, PDC
DEPT. COUNCIL	David S. Smith, PDC (Chair) Robert R. Payne, PDC Steven Martin, PDC
DEPT. CHIEF OF STAFF	David S. Smith, PDC
DEPT. COUNSELOR	James B. Pahl, PCinC
DEPT. CHAPLAIN	Charles Buckhahn, PCC
DEPT. PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR	Terrance McKinch, PDC
DEPT. COLOR BEARER	Edgar J. Dowd, PCC
DEPT. SIGNALS OFFICER	Robert R. Payne, PDC
DEPT. NEWSLETTER EDITOR – “MICHIGAN’S MESSENGER”	David S. Smith, PDC
DEPT. HISTORIAN	Ron Tyr1, PCC
DEPT. GUIDE	Leonard Sheaffer, CC
DEPT. GUARD	Lloyd D. Lamphere, Sr., PCC
DEPT. GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER	Charles Worley, PDC
DEPT. CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS OFFICER	Leonard Sheaffer, CC
DEPT. EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR	Lloyd D. Lamphere, Sr., PCC
DEPT. ROTC COORDINATOR	Terrance McKinch, PDC
DEPT. GAR RECORDS OFFICER	Gary L. Gibson, PDC
DEPT. CAMP-AT-LARGE COORDINATOR	Joe Bickley
DEPT. CAMP ORGANIZER	David S. Smith, PDC
DEPT. MILITARY & VETERANS AFFAIRS OFFICER	Edgar J. Dowd, PCC
DEPT. AIDE DE CAMP	L. Dean Lamphere, Jr., PDC
DEPT. CEREMONIES & RITUALS OFFICER	L. Dean Lamphere, Jr., PDC

For contact information, see: suvcwmi.org/hq

TUEBOR