



Lansing/Sunfield
Curtenius Guard Camp #17
Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Samuel W. Grinnell GAR Post #283
<http://suvcw.org/mi/017/017home.htm>



Sesquicentennial Civil War History Seminar Showcases
Annie Etheridge, Civil War Nurse and Kearny Cross Winner

The Lansing/Sunfield, Camp #17, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will celebrate the Civil War Sesquicentennial, by sponsoring the next in their series of -Free- Civil War History Seminars. The presentation is officially recognized by the State of Michigan, Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, and the National Organization of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War as a Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Event.

The program will be held on **Tuesday, February 28, 2012 at 7pm. at the Sunfield United**



Brethren Church located at 8436 West Grand Ledge Highway (M-43) in Sunfield, Michigan. The church is located approximately ½ mile west of the four corners of (Sunfield Hwy & M-43) where you turn at to go to the village of Sunfield. The topic of the presentation will be ***“In the Words of the Soldiers: The Story of Annie Etheridge, Civil War Nurse.”***

Presenters will be Bruce, Bernadette and Marcia Butgereit. Bruce, is a member of the Gen. John A. Logan Camp No. 1 (Grand Rapids), Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) and Commander of the Michigan Commandery, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS). He has coordinated restoration efforts for many Civil War memorials and conducted countless ceremonies to dedicate and/or rededicate headstones for Civil War soldiers. Bruce is a professional historical researcher, preservation consultant, genealogist, public speaker, and historian. He has received numerous awards for his historical work. Today, he serves as the Executive Director for the non-

profit organization *History Remembered, Inc.*, which provides educational programs on history and helps communities preserve many treasures of their past.

Based on information obtained in part from the Michigan Women's Historical Center, at the outbreak of the American Civil War in 1861, Annie Etheridge (Michigan Annie) of Detroit followed her husband, James, to join the 2nd Regiment Michigan Volunteer Infantry as its Vivandière (Daughter of the Regiment), rallying and aiding the men in battle. She rose to prominence for her bravery. Etheridge served as what today would be called a combat medic, providing immediate medical care to wounded soldiers, often while under fire during battle. She served as a battlefield nurse for four years during the American Civil War in the Michigan 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Infantry Regiments. She saw some of the hardest fighting of the Civil War, including the battles of Fair Oaks, 2nd Bull Run, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and the Wilderness. Etheridge also served as an army nurse on a hospital transport during the winter of 1861-1862 and in an army hospital in the summer of 1864. When women were ordered out of

the Union military camps. High ranking Union officials specifically pled for an exception to the order for Etheridge.

Annie received the “Kearny Cross” for bravery, which was typically given only to soldiers who distinguished themselves in battle.. She was one of only two women during the Civil War ever to receive this honor. After petitioning the government, Etheridge also received a military pension in 1887. Upon her death in 1913, she was afforded a military funeral with honors and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

The Story of Annie Etheridge, Civil War Nurse, will be covered when the Butgereits, Civil War Living Historians, make Annie’s story come alive as they tell the story this remarkable woman and her contributions to our wounded soldiers during the Civil War.

(Directions and maps to the Seminar location, can be viewed by visiting the Lansing/Sunfield, Curtenius Guard, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War website at

<http://suvchw.org/mi/017/017home.htm> and clicking on the **Announcement** link.

Maps to Brethren Church, 8436 West Grand Ledge Highway, Sunfield, Michigan

