



The Banner

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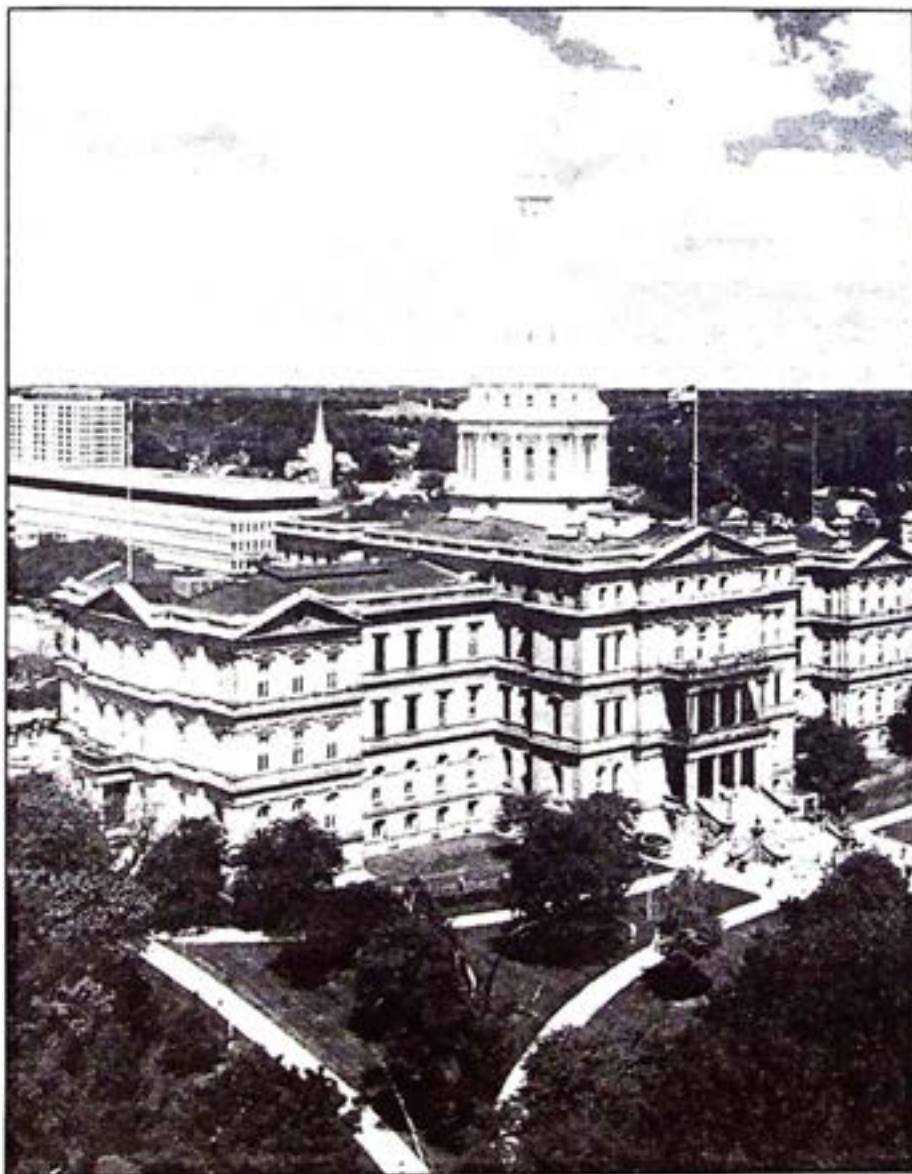


Photo courtesy State of Michigan

Michigan's resplendently restored Capitol is a few miles distant from the 113th National Encampment, SUVCW. Designed by Elijah E. Myers (1832-1909), the Capitol was built 1882-1888 and during the course of the next century was "remodeled" with startling results. Restoration of the building was started in 1989 and completed in 1993. The results are spectacular and an outstanding example of sensitive, careful preservation. The Capitol will be open for tours during encampment. A statue of Austin Blair, Michigan's Civil War governor, stands on the front grounds.

113th National Encampment coming up

By R. C. GREGORY

Banner Editor

LANSING — The 113th National Encampment, SUVCW, will open Friday, Aug. 12, 1994, at the Holiday Inn South/Convention Center.

Michigan Department Commander J. Douglas Park and his committee have held many meetings and work sessions to insure the encampment can accomplish its business. "And the number of phone calls and letters is almost as great as the national debt," Park said.

The Auxiliary to SUVCW and the Ladies of the GAR will be holding their national encampments the same week and in the same location as the Sons. The Auxiliary and LGAR open their encampments before the Sons arrive; consult the schedule at the end of this story for details.

Travel directions, room reservation, and Chief of Staff banquet information were included in the preceding Banner. To summarize:

—Room reservations must be made directly with Holiday Inn South, 6820 South Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan 48911. Deadline for room reservations is July 11. The phone numbers are (517)-694-8123 and (800)-333-8123.

—Reservations for the Chief of Staff banquet on Saturday, Aug. 13, must be made with Isabelle Roberts. Her address is: Isabelle Roberts, Chief of Staff, P. O. Box 11, Candor, New York 13743. The deadline is Aug. 1. Banquet tickets are \$21 each.

—While a few details in the schedules remain to be settled at the Department Encampment June 11, DC Park says Ed Bearrs, chief historian for the National Park Service, will be the speaker at Campfire on Friday, Aug. 12. Special Civil War music, by the 7th Michigan Fife and Drum Corps, is also scheduled. A distinguished figure among CW historians, Bearss appeared in Ken Burns's

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GENERAL ORDERS NO. 4
Series 1993-1994
Commander-in-Chief
1109 N. Co. Rd. 400 W.
Kokomo, Ind. 46901
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1. As I have traveled around the country since last August, I have been very impressed with the quality of the meetings, ceremonies, and events that I have had the opportunity to attend. Our organization is fortunate to have many strong leaders and diligent workers. My year in this office has enabled me to meet many fine people and to make many new friends.

2. During the past year, Brother J. Douglas Park, Michigan Department Commander and Chairman of the 113th National Encampment of SUVCW, and his committee have been making plans and arrangements. I urge all members to attend. It is very important that each Department and Camp-At-Large have representation.

The National Encampment will be held from August 12-14 at the Holiday Inn South, 6820 South Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan 48911, Phone (517) 694-8123. Room rates are \$59 for one or two persons per room and \$69 for three or four persons per room. You are urged to make your reservations early. Other information about this National Encampment is found elsewhere in this issue.

3. Brother Robert M. Druckemiller is to be commended for his successful efforts in organizing a new camp at Toledo, Ohio. On May 15 at historical Fort Meigs in Perrysburg, Ohio, a Charter Meeting was held. We extend our best wishes to the Brothers of General James McPherson Camp No. 66 of Toledo, Ohio.

4. It was a pleasure to be able to attend and participate in the impressive and fitting ceremonies commemorating the 172nd birthday of General Ulysses S. Grant on April 24. Conducted by the Oliver Tilden Camp No. 26 of New York City, the ceremony held at Grant's Tomb included the initiation of five new members of Tilden Camp. At this event I awarded Certificates of Merit to Joseph J. Pucciarelli, Senior Vice Commander and Chairman of the Tomb Ceremony, and to Frank Scaturro, Grant's Tomb activist. Brother James Grismer is Commander of Oliver Tilden Camp No. 26.

5. I also wish to commend Brothers Thomas L. W. Johnson and Robert M. Graham and Attorney Edward G. Pree, co-chairmen of the Lincoln Tomb Ceremonial Committee, for executing a most appropriate ceremony and banquet. I awarded Certificates of Merit to them for their outstanding services to our Order.

6. New York Department Commander Danny Wheeler and his committee are to be commended for their recent publication, *New York Department History, 1866-1994*. This is a real contribution to our archives and will be useful to future generations.

7. Congressman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., is sponsoring a bill that would establish uniformed military guards around the clock at Grant's Tomb. You are urged to write to your Congressman to solicit his support for this important bill.

8. If you have not already done so, please consider donating to the Patriotic Instructor's Fund. Send a donation to Gary Gibson, 1713 Dorchester No. 2, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49001. Also, please consider contributing \$1 or more to the Senior Vice Commander's Fund. Contributions may be sent to Keith Harison, 4209 Santa Clara Drive, Holt, Michigan 48842.

9. You are urged to send historical material and photographs to Gary Gibson for inclusion in the history of our organization to be published next year. His address is given in No. 8 above.

10. Brother Robert J. Eck is commended for the outstanding job of recruiting he has done in the Roanoke, Virginia, area. On April 12, 1994, the Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain Camp No. 20 was presented its Charter by Andrew M. Johnson, Commander of the Maryland Department. We wish Brother Eck and the members much success in the future. Their newsletter is a very attractive publication.

11. I also wish to congratulate Brother Gilbert Bagley of Plainville, Mass., who has organized the Thomas H. Mann Camp No. 83, named for his great grandfather. Gil has done a fantastic job of recruiting and recently received much publicity in *The Free Press* of North Attleborough, Mass. Keep up your good work, Gil.

12. One of my goals this year has been to create sufficient interest in securing a National Headquarters for the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Everyone with whom I have discussed this idea has agreed that one is desperately needed. Two of the Allied Orders of the GAR — The Women's Relief Corps and the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War — have headquarters buildings with museums in Springfield, Ill. Why do we not have one? The answer is rather obvious. I urge you Brothers to donate money or to will funds to the National Organization of the SUVCW for the establishment of a National Headquarters. These monies should be sent to the National Treasurer. Currently, he is Richard D. Orr, 153 Connie Drive, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15214. Brothers, we need to plan for the future.



13. I wish to thank those Camps and Departments that have shared issues of their publications with me this year. Brother Peter F. Kane, Senior Vice Commander of the Maine Department, is to be commended for his excellent *Yankee Lines*. We are pleased to learn of progress and growth in Maine. Keep up your good work.

14. Brothers J. D. Jenkins, Commander of the Gen. George H. Thomas Camp No. 19, of Lancaster, Pa., would appreciate letters of support in his efforts to rescue the home of Major Gen. John F. Reynolds, which is now a porno shop. He hopes to restore the home to its former glory. Your letter of support should be sent to: Michael A. Riley, 2542 Blacksmith Way, East Petersburg, Pa. 17520.

15. OFFICERS' REPORTS: The reports of officers and committee chairmen should be typewritten on 8½ inches by 11 inches white paper and submitted to the National Secretary by Aug. 1, 1994. Oral reports presented on the floor of the National Encampment should be limited to four minutes and should simply highlight the important points of the written report.

16. ENCAMPMENT COMMITTEES: AS Commander-in-Chief, it is my responsibility to appoint several committees to function at the National Encampment. Following are the committees and those appointed to serve on them:

Credentials Committee: George L. Powell, chairman; Forrest F. Altland, Alan R. Loomis, Charles Funck.

Resolutions Committee: Richard C. Schlenker, chairman; Roger L. Olsen, George W. Long, Douglas E. Smith.

Ritual and Ceremonies: Richard L. Greenwalt, chairman; Kenneth Butterfield, Clyde H. Hayner.

Press: Charles A. Rogers Jr., chairman; David Downing.

Audit: Joseph Long Jr., chairman; Ronald Gill.

Officers' Reports: Charles W. Corfman, chairman; Ivan Frantz Sr., Stephen T. Jackson.

Restoration of Rank: Lowell V. Hammer, chairman; Andrew M. Johnson, Danny Wheeler.

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113th National Encampment

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Civil War, and the planning committee is delighted he can appear. He will speak on "Michigan In the War."

—A Civil War display room will be open. Michigan camps and individual collectors will be able to move in and set up for a 6 p.m. Thursday opening. The display room will close at 6 p.m. Saturday. Security will be provided in the room, with some brothers "camping out" overnight in the room.

The displays will include charters, flags, memorabilia, and photographs. Those interested may reach William Brennan, DSVC, who is in charge of the display room at 3289 Babylon Road, R. R. 5, Allegan, Mich. 49010-9212; (616)-673-2229.

—Isabelle Roberts, Auxiliary Chief of Staff, told *The Banner* early in June that her banquet plans are well along. She expects to share emcee honors with PC-in-C Norman Furman, if he is able to attend the encampment.

CofS Roberts said, "I have worked out a new plan for the banquet line-up and believe it will reduce the wait and make everything proceed on time." She has been in contact with the hotel and said there will be a beef entree at dinner.

"It is important," CofS Roberts said, "that dinner reservations be made by the first of August — and that Sons, LGAR, and Auxiliary members use my post-office box number (given above) in sending in their reservations. Without the box number, mail will be returned to the sender and people will be disappointed. We don't want that."

Isabelle Roberts is a long-time quilter and she is currently making a "Friendship Quilt" for which tickets will be sold at the Encampment. Plain blocks to be included in the quilt, she said, are \$1 each and gold blocks are \$5 each. Individuals, camps, and tents are invited to send the money for blocks to her *not later than June 30*. She will have the quilt at National Encampment, and added, "Someone will go home with a very nice keepsake."

Schedules for the three Allied Orders follow.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War 113th National Encampment Thursday, Aug. 11

6 p.m. PC-in-Cs and Past National Presidents' banquet.

7 p.m. PC-in-Cs' meeting.

8:30 p.m. Council of Administration meeting.

Friday, Aug. 12

8 a.m. Registration.

9 a.m. Joint Opening, SUVCW & Auxiliary.

9:30 a.m. Business session.

Noon: Recess.

1 p.m. Business session.

5 p.m. Recess.

6:30 p.m. Campfire. Courtesy hour to follow.

Saturday, Aug. 13

7 a.m. SVR breakfast.

8 a.m. Registration.

8:30 a.m. Business session.

Noon: Recess.

1 p.m. Business session.

5 p.m. Recess.

6:30 p.m. Joint Banquet, SUVCW, Auxiliary, LGAR. Joint open house follows banquet.

Sunday, Aug. 14

8 a.m. Rehearsal for Joint Memorial Service.

9 a.m. Joint Memorial Service, SUVCW, Auxiliary, LGAR.

Council of Administration meeting follows Memorial Service.

Auxiliary to SUVCW Wednesday, Aug. 10

7:30 p.m. Council meeting and Registration.

Thursday, Aug. 11

7 a.m. Dept. Presidents breakfast with National President.

8 a.m. Registration.

8 a.m. Rehearsal for ritualistic work.

9 a.m. Session opens with gift-giving and Exemplification of Ritual.

11:30 Lunch (Club Meetings).

1 p.m. Business session.

3 p.m. National Patriotic Instructor's presentation.

4 p.m. Recess.

4:15 p.m. National Aides rehearsal with Chief of Staff.

6 p.m. Past C-in-Cs' and National Presidents' banquet.

7 p.m. Past National Presidents' meeting.

Friday, Aug. 12

8 a.m. Registration.

9 a.m. Joint Opening, Sons and Auxiliary.

9:30 a.m. Business session.

11:30 a.m. Lunch (Club Meetings).

1 p.m. Business session: Nomination & Election of Officers.

2:30 p.m. Greetings received.

3 p.m. Recess.

6:30 p.m. Campfire. Courtesy hour to follow. Drawing of chances.

Saturday, Aug. 13

8 a.m. Registration.

9 a.m. Business session, financial reports, Installation of Officers.

Noon: Lunch.

1:30 p.m. Meeting of Old and New Councils.

6:30 p.m. Chief of Staff's Joint Banquet, Auxiliary, Sons, LGAR. Joint open house follows banquet.

Sunday, Aug. 14

8 a.m. Rehearsal for Joint Memorial Service.

9 a.m. Joint Memorial Service, SUVCW, Auxiliary, LGAR.

Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic Thursday, Aug. 11

4 p.m. Council of Administration.

5 p.m. Past National Presidents' dinner.

7 p.m. Advisory Council.

Friday, Aug. 12

8 a.m. Registration.

9 a.m. Formal Opening.

10 a.m. Exemplification of Ritual.

Noon: Lunch recess.

1 p.m. Greetings.

1:30 p.m. Memorial Service.

2 p.m. Patriotic Instructor's program.

3 p.m. Business session.

4:30 p.m. Recess.

6:30 p.m. Campfire. Courtesy hour to follow.

Saturday, Aug. 13

7 a.m. Betsy Ross and Pioneer breakfast.

9 a.m. Business session.

Noon: Lunch recess.

1:30 p.m. Business session.

4:30 p.m. Recess. Joint Advisory Council immediately following.

6:30 p.m. Joint banquet, SUVCW, Auxiliary, LGAR.

Joint open house and gift party following banquet.

Sunday, Aug. 14

8 a.m. Rehearsal for Joint Memorial Service.

9 a.m. Joint Memorial Service.

This story was prepared early in June with the best information then available. Obviously, there may be changes. Meeting rooms and other information will appear in the program.

The contract with the hotel does NOT provide meeting rooms on Sunday.

Department Commander J. Douglas Park is general chairman of the National Encampment. His address is: 404 Kenway Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48917. Phone: (517)-321-6768. Questions, concerns, and changes in schedules should be addressed to him.

Restoration of Michigan's last GAR hall ends

By R. C. GREGORY
Banner Editor

SUNFIELD, Mich. — Sunfield GAR Hall restoration work is nearly complete.

The last GAR hall in Michigan still used for its intended purposes, the Sunfield hall is the home of both Helen M. Edwins Tent No. 39, DUV, and Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17, SUVCW and the tent and the camp joined in its restoration.

Dedicated in 1899, the hall is small: 20 by 40 feet. A plain gable-roofed building that without its false front could be a schoolhouse, it was built by the members of Samuel Grinnell Post, GAR, and used by them until death closed the camp. It has long been painted white on the exterior. It was an inexpensive building in 1899 — and, in some ways, that has made restoration slow, time consuming work. It has no interior toilets. The gas range in the tiny kitchen is itself an "antique." It is heated, more or less, by a small space heater which replaced an earlier wood-burner.

Early on, the building had a wooden entrance platform and steps. An early photograph shows plank sidewalk along the street. Ninety years had taken their toll.

Rafters had to be replaced and floor joists also. The interior had been wallpapered more than once. The original shingle roof was replaced at some point with a sheet metal roof. Some windows hadn't been opened in many years.

The hall received a State Historical

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17. I regret that conflict prohibited my attending all Department Encampments and events; however, I have appreciated the many courtesies extended to me and my good wife during our visits in many states. Unfortunately, there were four Department Encampments held the same day as my own Indiana Department's.

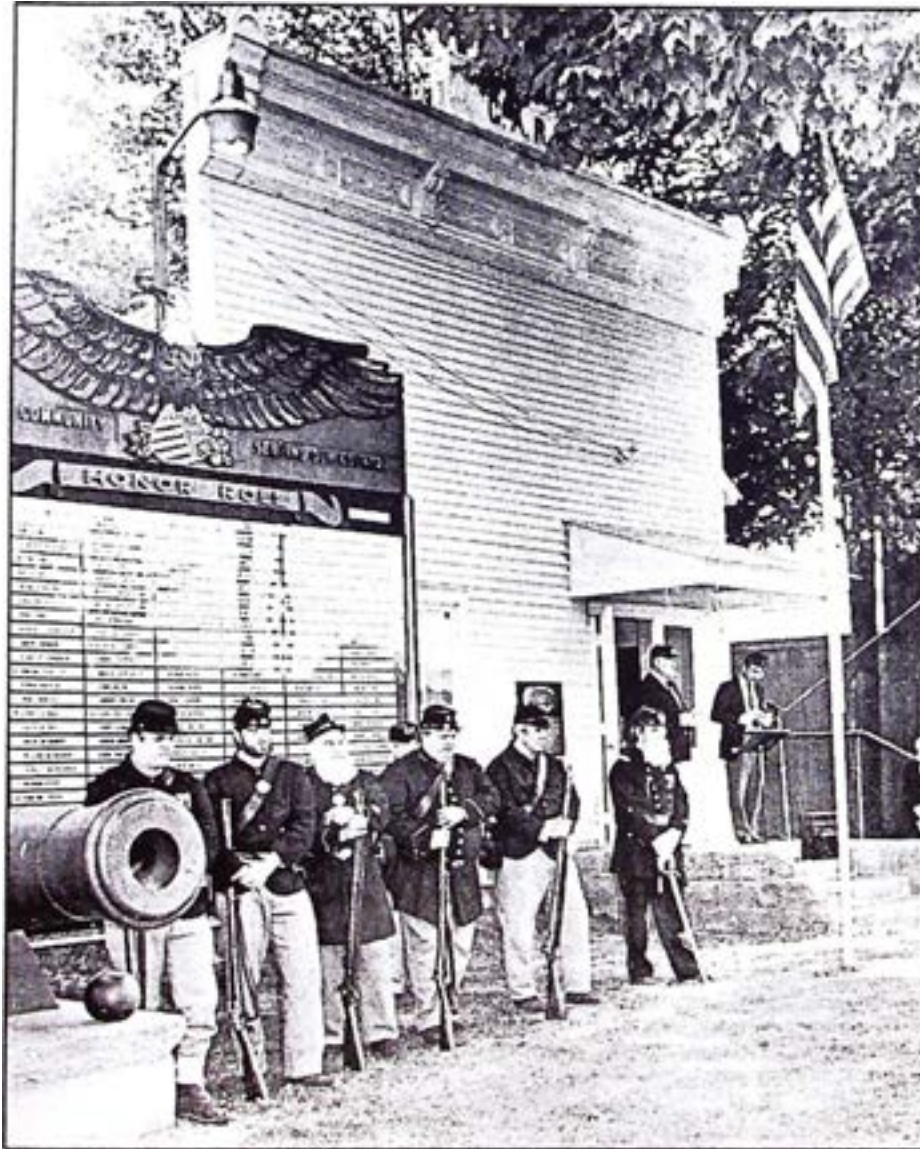
18. Thank you, National Officers and Committees, for the good work that you have done for our beloved Order this year. For the National Presidents — Sisters Florence Spring, Elsie Gould, Phyllis Houston, and Dorothy Colantuono — I wish a most productive and pleasant Encampment. It has been a real privilege and joy serving with you.

By Order Of:
Allen W. Moore
Commander-in-Chief

Marker in 1987 — not only for its survival but also because it was filled with photographs, documents, flags, prints, flags, and other items: it is a treasure-trove of Civil War, GAR, WRC, DUV, and SUVCW materials. Originally each GAR member had his own straight chair with his name, regiment, and sometimes

company painted on the back of the chair. When members died, death dates were often also painted on the chair backs. Post stations, shaped like cannons, and all other items were inventoried, packed, and removed from the

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Sentinel photo by R.C. Gregory

This scene, or scenes much like it, occurred across the nation on Memorial Day. One of four ceremonies conducted or participated in by brothers of Curtenius Guard Post No. 17, SUVCW, this one took place at the GAR Hall in Sunfield, Michigan, the last GAR Hall in the state still in use. From left to right, James Pahl, Todd Rakestraw, LaVerne Aves, David Downing, Richard Williams, and SVC-in-C Keith Harrison; standing in back, William Warren; standing on the steps, National Secretary James Lyons and Camp Commander James Neal.



Photo courtesy Margaret Atkinson

A portion of the second floor of the GAR Civil War Museum and Library at 4278 Griscom Street in Philadelphia, showing original Post No. 94 furniture. The museum and library, located in a nearly 200 year old building, requires continuing preservation and restoration.

GAR Civil War Museum & Library launches drive

By MARGARET ATKINSON
National Secretary
Auxiliary to SUVCW

PHILADELPHIA — The Grand Army of the Republic Civil War Museum and Library, located in Philadelphia, is a non-profit, patriotic organization that seeks to preserve our American heritage and memorialize the history of the Civil War.

The museum's collection of Civil War artifacts, battle relics, personal memorabilia, paintings, documents, and photographs was initially assembled by members of Post 2, G. A. R., Philadelphia. The museum was incorporated in the State of Pennsylvania in 1926, and ceded to direct male descendants of Civil War veterans by the remaining members of the Post. Although a separate entity from any other Civil War organization, it was members of the

SUVCW who served on the board of directors and assumed responsibility for the care of the artifacts. As years passed, the premises were used mainly for meetings and were no longer open to the public.

In 1982, under the leadership of Brother Elmer F. Atkinson, PCinC, who was elected president, a concerted effort was made to restore the museum to its original importance. A membership drive ensued to obtain supporting members and volunteers were solicited to spruce up the building, conduct tours, and put on programs. The Articles of Incorporation were amended to allow women descendants and interested persons without lineage to become members. Members of the board of directors continue to be required to have Civil War lineage.

In recent years an active board and a

core of dedicated volunteers have maintained the building, presented programs to the community, and staffed the museum the first Sunday of each month. At these open houses, visitors are transported back to the 1860s when they are greeted by men in the blue uniforms of the Union and women bustling about in their hoop skirts. Programs are designed to provide the visitor with a first-person perspective on life during the Civil War. Visitors may come face to face with General Meade or General Grant, discover the complexities of medicine, attend a Civil War dance, or learn of the rigors of a soldier's life. In addition to the Open Houses, the museum is open by appointment and also used by a Camp of Sons and its Auxiliary for their meetings and Roundtables. A SVR unit,

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GAR Civil War Museum

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the 28th Pa. Vol. Inf., also headquarters on the premises.

The Museum was moved from its original location in 1958 and the building purchased to house the collection was determined to have historical significance. Built in late Georgian style, it was placed on the National Register of Historic Sites in October 1985 and will celebrate its 200th year in 1996. Because of its age, the building has required some major restorations and repairs in recent years. Three years ago, after an intense fund drive, \$42,000 was raised for a new roof, third floor windows, and restoration of the cornices. In May 1994, work was completed on the repair and restoration of eight original windows in the artifact rooms, this project costing \$22,000. The funds for all this work was obtained through donations of groups and individuals, a few grants from businesses, and fundraisers by the museum volunteers. Members of the Allied Orders from throughout the nation have been prominent in their support of our endeavors.

In an effort to weatherize the building,

the Board of Directors has now launched a drive to secure funding of \$35,000 to have the outside brick walls repointed and repaired. In the first six months, \$7,400 has been deposited in this fund. We are now appealing to our members who are scattered across the nation, our Allied Orders brothers and sisters, and Civil War and preservation groups to assist us in this endeavor. The museum is designated as a 501(C) organization and all donations are tax deductible.

Anyone wishing to make a donation or to obtain more information about the collection and programs may write to G.A.R. Civil War Museum and Library, 4278 Griscom Street, Philadelphia, Pa. 19124-3954; Phone (215) 289-6484.

We express our thanks to those persons and groups who have already made contributions to this endeavor.

Editor's Note: Many SUVCW and Auxiliary members know Margaret and Bud Atkinson. What many may not know is that Stuart McConnell's *Glorious Contentment; The Grand Army of the Republic, 1865-1900* — an excellent book, published by University of North Carolina Press in 1992 — was written, in

part, at the G.A.R. Museum and Library. In his preface, McConnell writes, "My work on Post 2 of Philadelphia would not have been possible without Bud and Margaret Atkinson, the keepers of the flame at the Philadelphia Camp, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Not only did they provide access to the collection at the camp's GAR Memorial Hall, they also put me up at their home on more than one research trip to Philadelphia and helped locate photographs."

Sons who do not know *Glorious Contentment* should find it interesting — and reminiscent of SUVCW at its best and its not so good. The book is, essentially, an in-depth study of three G.A.R. posts, one in Philadelphia, one in Wisconsin, and the third in Massachusetts.

McConnell says, "From partisan origins in 1866 ... the GAR soon foundered and by 1872 was virtually moribund. It revived in the late 1870s as a fraternal order, and by 1890 it had become a powerful lobby for pensions, "correct" history, and a particular brand of American nationalism. ... I have tried to suggest ways in which the Grand Army experience illuminates certain aspects of Gilded Age society outside the post room door. ...

"The GAR's pension campaigns of the 1880s, for example, argued for a new public attitude toward charity. At the same time, the ways in which the Union veteran remembered the Civil War both shaped and were shaped by a late Victorian culture that emphasized sentiment and high morality. Finally, the aging Grand Army members of the 1890s provided a preservationist model of the American nation that many white, middle-class Northerners found congenial as they faced the serious social upheavals of that decade. The nineteenth-century history of the GAR is a study in microcosm of a nation trying to hold fast to an older image of itself in the face of massive social change."

If that doesn't sound familiar, it should.

The points of contention may have changed — but there's still a microcosm, and it isn't so micro. If you don't agree, just try mentioning slavery, or flags, or that Chief Joseph was the greatest field commander this continent has ever produced, and see what happens. What happens is a lot of blather about heritage, which is history with everything inconvenient omitted. McConnell's book is sometimes ironically hilarious.

But it is precisely to keep questions alive and answers tentative that museums and libraries exist. And that's why the GAR Museum and Library with which Bud and Margaret are associated deserves consideration.

Notes from the past of SUVCW

Editor's Note: Following is an item of interest culled by PC-in-C Richard C. Schlenker from the first 100 years of published Proceedings of SUVCW annual encampments.

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The published Proceedings of National Encampments are the best source of information about our order. Also of much historical value are the records and minutes of Davis * Camp stored in a vault at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial in Pittsburgh, Pa.

—In April 1886, C-in-C Payne produced a letter giving a brief history, principles, and objects of SVUSA.

—In 1889, PC-in-C of the GAR Robert Beath in his *History of the GAR* related the founding of SVUSA. The same year, C-in-C Abbott distributed a circular letter among GAR comrades and Chief Mustering Officer MacCabe did the same among SV membership.

—Also in 1889, the Paterson, N. J., *Call* interviewed Major A. P. Davis on the founding, as did the St. Joseph, Mo., *Bal- lot* the following year.

—In 1914, a sketch appeared in The Banner but not in the Proceedings. It

was finally published in the 1916 Proceedings.

—In 1920, the State of the Order Committee entered historical background in the Proceedings.

—In 1931, C-in-C Church entered a history in the Proceedings.

—In 1939, Davis * Camp, host for the 58th National Encampment, updated the 1914 history and presented it to delegates.

Indeed, much has been recorded about our organization.

Richard C. Schlenker, PC-in-C
Washington Representative



Ross Auxiliary inducts three

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — On March 12, 1994, Department of Pennsylvania Auxiliary President Peggy Frantz made her official visit to Anna M. Ross Auxiliary No. 1 — and saw three teenagers initiated into membership in the Auxiliary.

The meeting, held at the GAR Civil War Museum and Library.

Initiated were Karen Powell, daughter of Pennsylvania SVC George Powell; Amanda Kroger, grand daughter of National Auxiliary Secretary Margaret Atkinson; and Melissa Rosenberg, granddaughter of Auxiliary No. 1 President Edna Rosenberg. Among them, these young women have numerous ancestors who fought for the Union.

Also initiated the same day was Susan Potts-Nulty, a nurse, who learned of the existence of the Auxiliary in January. Following the meeting, members and guests enjoyed a delicious supper served by Auxiliary members.

Amanda and Melissa will serve as pages at the Pennsylvania Department Encampment in June. They also expect to attend the National Encampment in Lansing, Mich., in August.



Photo courtesy Margaret Atkinson

New Auxiliary members initiated recently by Anna M. Ross Auxiliary No. 1 in Philadelphia. Back row, left to right, George Powell, DSVC, Pennsylvania; Margaret Atkinson, National Secretary, Auxiliary; and Ena Rosenberg, President, Anna M. Ross Auxiliary; front row, left to right, Karen Powell, Amanda Kroger, and Melissa Rosenberg.

From the mailbag: theft & sale of Civil War items

To The Editor:

A matter has happened to our organization which we feel should be made known to all.

We are the owners of a plot of ground in Forest Hills Cemetery, Dunmore, Pa., which was given to Civil War veterans for the burial of Civil War veterans and for the erection of suitable monuments thereon.

Forest Hill Cemetery recently agreed to sell a bronze cannon which Civil War veterans received from the U. S. government and which they placed on the plot. The cemetery sold the cannon for \$10,000, its reason being that all Civil War veterans are deceased and, therefore, it had the right to sell the cannon.

We have been informed that another cemetery in Dunmore was approached with an offer of \$5,000 for an iron cannon on its veterans' plot. We have also been told that the cannon on the veterans' plot in Washburn Street Cemetery, Scranton, Pa., is no longer there.

I believe the motivation is profit, so it will not stop in our area.

We have retained legal counsel to try to recover the cannon at Forest Hills

Cemetery.

Sincerely,
Robert W. Yeager Jr.
JVC, Ezra S. Griffin
Camp No. 8, SUVCW, and
VP, Scranton GAR
Memorial Association

To The Editor:

In July 1993 a large bronze eagle was stolen from the monument at the grave of Brig. Gen. Adolph von Steinwehr in Albany Rural Cemetery in Menands, N. Y. The monument was erected by the GAR through member contributions. The eagle has large eyes and the wings are just beginning to spread, as if preparing for flight. Its talons grasp several cannon balls on top of a square pedestal. The eagle is approximately 18 inches tall.

To assist in the recovery of the eagle, Albany Rural Cemetery, Col. George Willard Camp No. 154, SUVCW, the Capital District Civil War Round Table, and the 125th New York Regimental Association have offered a reward for information leading to the arrest and con-

viction of the thief or thieves.

Persons with information concerning the eagle's theft are asked to contact Investigator Douglas Wingate of the New York State Police at (518)-783-3225, or Office Kevin Franklin of the Menands Police Department at (518)-463-1681. All calls will be kept confidential. Organizations interested in participating in the reward fund should contact Joseph Germaine, Albany Rural Cemetery, Menands, N. Y., at (518)-463-7017.

As a public service, please print this information ... in your publication. The police suspect the eagle may now be out of New York state. Perhaps with the help of your readership we will be able to rectify this desecration of our Civil War heritage.

Sincerely yours in F, C & L,
William Halpin
Commander, Col. George L.
Willard Camp No. 154, SUVCW
130 Tallow Wood Drive
Clifton Park, N. Y. 12065-2828

Editor's Note: Brother Halpin enclosed a photo but it could not be translated into a halftone, despite best efforts. If he sends another, clearer photo, I'll try again.

Filming Gettysburg: 'What Turner lacked in greenbacks for us, he made up in amenities'

Editor's Note: Here's another piece on *Gettysburg*, interesting because it is by a reenactor who appeared in the movie. Chief Petty Officer Bill Rose of Warminster, Pa., will retire July 4 after 20 years in the U. S. Navy, with primary work in aviation and cryogenic fields. He started reenacting about 12 years ago while stationed in Boston.

He was a member of various Revolutionary War organizations, including the Massachusetts Council of Minutemen, Charlestown Militia, 2nd Regiment Continental Line, and 10th/43rd Regiment of Foot. In 1988, he branched out to the Civil War and was co-founder of the 9th Massachusetts, serving as president and historian.

In 1990, Bill was transferred to Philadelphia and founded the 69th Pennsylvania, which now has 60 members. He has also assembled an extensive historical archive on the Philadelphia Brigade. Last September he founded E. D. Baker Camp No. 101, SUVCW and served as first camp commander.

By **BILL ROSE**
Commander
E. D. Baker Camp No. 101
Department of Pennsylvania
WARMINSTER, Pa. — Originally scheduled as a television mini-series under the title *Killer Angels*, based on Michael Shaara's novel of the same name, Ted Turner released his production as a four-hour major movie named *Gettysburg*.

Some of the stars of *Gettysburg* include Martin Sheen as Gen. Robert E. Lee, Sam Elliott as Gen. Buford, and Tom Berenger as Gen. James Longstreet.

The 69th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry was involved in the dramatic climax which featured 5,000 reenactors in the filming of Pickett's Charge during the week of Aug. 17-22, 1992. A large open field near the filming site was a place to put our tents and call home. Two trailers were set up as shower facilities, but the water was always cold.

It was up early and to bed late; being in the movies is an experience, but long

and boring. The phrase "back to one" is one we'll never forget: go back to your original positions and start again. Over and over. Words cannot describe the food and volunteer help. What Turner lacked in greenbacks for us, he made up in amenities. No one left hungry and during breaks in filming, volunteers were constantly bringing trays of ice water, Gatorade, snacks and fruit. All that was offered reenactors other than this was a hat, T-shirt, medal, and a video (yet to be received) — for a week's worth of work.

Why did so many participate for so little? Certainly it wasn't to become rich and famous. When it was first announced that *Killer Angels* was going to be filmed, many were excited. So many had waited so long; even director Ron Maxwell had been working 14 years to see his dream become a reality. Most reenactors, after hearing the conditions of work, rebuffed the idea of being treated like slaves and refused to give TNT [Turner's production company] the



Photo courtesy Turner Pictures/New Line Cinema

Prominent Confederates in *Gettysburg* include: back row, left to right, Colonel Arthur Freemantle (James Lancaster); Jim Kemper (Royce Applegate); Veneable Marshall (Tim Ruddy); Lewis Armistead (Richard Jordan); T. J. Goree (Ivan Kane); James Longstreet (Tom Berenger); Moxley Sorrell (Kieran Mulroney); Harrison, the Spy (Cooper Huckabee); front row, seated, left to right: George Pickett (Stephen Lang); Robert E. Lee (Martin Sheen); and Walter Taylor (Bo Brinkman).



Photo courtesy Turner Pictures/New Line Cinema

Prominent Federals in *Gettysburg* include: back row from left to right: Sgt. Charles H. Veil (John Hefron); Volunteer Reenactor (John Henry Kurtz); Lieutenant Thomas D. Chamberlain (C. Thomas Howell); Sgt. Buster Kilrain (Kevin Conway); Colonel Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain (Jeff Daniels); Volunteer Reenactor (Brian Pohanka); Hancock's Aide (Ken Burns); Reenactor Supervisor (Dale Fetzer); and Volunteer Reenactor (Jack Thompsen); front row, seated, left to right: Volunteer reenactor (David Jurgella); and Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock (Brian Mallon).

numbers it wanted. It wasn't until Turner agreed to donate \$100,000 for battlefield preservation that a majority agreed, knowing we'd be helping future generations. Was this the reason for the 69th's participation? Not originally. We were some of the early so-called bad boys who wouldn't give the production company what it wanted without fair market value for our services.

Our main goal was recognition of the 69th — not the 69th of New York but our very own 69th Pennsylvania Regiment from Philadelphia. I started writing to TNT as soon as I heard of the production. I wanted to ensure that the role of the 69th and the Philadelphia Brigade was not overshadowed by misconceptions.

Pickett's Charge is concentrated on the Confederates. The first few days of the filming was all Confederates — the grand charge, the artillery blasting them as they marched across the field. When we were finally called on and the Union troops were all lined up, I was called upon to bring our newly-purchased, carefully reproduced flags to Ron Maxwell. He liked them and this secured our place as the color guard of the 69th in the center of the Union defense. The "army" marched to take positions at the

wall and everyone was jockeying for the position of the 69th.

This was the most significant and memorable part for me: for more than a hundred years no one has cared about this regiment, it had been virtually forgotten by history, and now everyone wanted to be us. We marched up behind the wall. With our colors in the lead, those who had previously taken position at the wall were told to make way for the 69th and they did. The "Copse of Trees," "Bloody Angle," and stone wall in the movie occupied only about one-third of the original field at Gettysburg.

Before filming began we had to be made up; grease was put in our hair and "fake" dirt was applied to our faces and hands. Between takes this was constantly repeated to ensure we had that look a soldier had when he hadn't had a chance to wash and was involved in battle for days. Our moment has finally arrived: we hunker down at the stone wall during the filming of the artillery barrage as cannons directly behind us fire continuously. The roar of guns and vibration of the ground made us want to dig in, just as described by original soldiers.

After this we were filmed rising up and firing volleys. Ted Turner and Jane

Fonda arrived; Ted was going to be in his own production as a Confederate, lead his men over the fence and get shot. They did a couple of takes, then Ted and Jane did a quick walk through of our lines and saluted the National Colors I carried.

The action at the wall and "Bloody Angle" was filmed, a close up was done of us, and also the climax, with Gen. Armistead crossing the wall and the hand-to-hand combat. On the first take I didn't like what I saw, so I lowered the National Colors in hopes of ruining the scene, and it would have to be cut. The problem was that as soon as the Confederates crossed the wall, the reenactors portraying the 19th Massachusetts and the 42nd New York, held in reserve behind the Copse of Trees charged too soon and then were firing into the retreating Confederates.

It was at this point that I was ready to walk off the field; this was a misconception which research proves wrong. I immediately went to the Historical Consultant, Brian Pohanka, with whom I had previously corresponded on this subject. He agreed with me and for the next takes the reserves were held back

Filming Gettysburg

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and the Philadelphia Brigade rushed in first. This still wasn't what actually happened by far, but for Hollywood it was as close as we were going to get. The rest of the filming was close ups of Gen. Armistead crossing the wall. So ended our week of stardom. Many friends say they can't see me in the movie, but when I tell them I'm carrying the American flag next to the green flag at the stone wall in the last 40 minutes of the movie, they see me.

The best way to make a movie on Gettysburg would be similar to *The Longest Day* or *Tora, Tora, Tora*, — in a chronological time line. *Gettysburg* leaves many gaps in what actually happened and viewers do not get the whole picture. The other major error is that the 20th Maine was no where near the center on the 3rd day; it was sent in reserve to Big Round Top. [See Note below.] Once again, though: this is a movie on the Battle of Gettysburg, this is a movie based on a book, and everyone needs to keep this in mind while watching it. My advice to all is to go to a library, check out a book or two on the battle and learn more about it. *The Gettysburg Campaign* by E. B. Coddington and *Pickett's Charge* by George Stewart are excellent books on the subject.

The 69th's lineage goes back to some of the earliest Irish militia in Philadelphia. Our Company D is the Montgomery Guards, originally formed in 1824. In 1844 it was combined with other Irish units to form the 2nd Regiment, Pennsylvania militia, more commonly called the Philadelphia Irish Brigade. In April 1861, the 2nd Regiment enlisted for three months, and became the 24th Regiment. On leaving the city, the feelings toward the Irish hadn't changed: they were stoned, and hissed. After their term of service expired, they marched through the heat of August, many clothed only in greatcoats to cover their nakedness. The men of the 24th should have been part of Thomas Meagher's Irish Brigade, which was then forming, but when he came to the city recruiting, Gov. Andrew Curtin sent him packing, saying that Pennsylvanians would fill their own state's quotas, and if any many joined with Meagher, he would lose, if killed, all pension benefits for his family.

Shortly after this Sen. E. D. Baker of Oregon, Colonel of the 1st California (mostly Philadelphians, later the 71st Pennsylvania), came to the city recruiting for his brigade. The difference this

time was that Baker had power and Gov. Curtin could not intervene. Baker was a close friend of Lincoln. Baker linked the men of the 24th to his brigade for political purposes. Lincoln, a Republican, was showing support through Baker by, first, recruiting the lowly Irish; and, second, almost to a man the 24th was Democrats. For the men of the 24th, being linked with Baker meant they'd get better treatment than they had previously received in the Army, they'd be quickly supplied, and would always be in the front in action. Baker put all the tailors in the city at work uniforming his regiments, and the old 24th Pennsylvania was now the 2nd California, and left for the war in shell jackets trimmed in Green for Companies A-H, while Companies I and K wore Zouave uniforms trimmed in green.

Sen. Baker was killed in October 1861 at Ball's Bluff and the California Brigade lost its western state connection. These Philadelphians were now taken under Pennsylvania's quota and renumbered the 69th, 71st, 72nd, and 106th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, more commonly known as the Philadelphia Brigade, and the only one in the Army named for a city. The brigade was 2nd Brigade, 2nd Division, 2nd Corps.

The 69th received its first Irish flag during this time. It was beautiful green silk with gold fringe; on one side was the harp and shamrocks, on the reverse was the state seal of Pennsylvania. It was carried beside the flag of their adopted country until a new one replaced it in 1864. The 69th distinguished itself in the campaigns of the Peninsula, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg.

At Gettysburg, the 69th won its greatest fame in defending the famous "Clump of Trees" at the "high water mark of the Confederacy." They defended the stone wall in front of the trees and refused to yield to the Confederates as they poured over the wall, fighting hand-to-hand. The 69th lost 158 of 258 men, killed and wounded, among them Col. Dennis O'Kane, shot in the chest near the colors.

The 69th reenlisted in 1864 and continued to serve gloriously during the final campaigns of the war. Following the war the veterans of the 69th were involved in the forming of many GAR posts, and were present at the first reunion held at Gettysburg of the Philadelphia Brigade Association and Pickett's Division Association.

The 69th Pennsylvania Vol. Inf., Philadelphia Brigade, Historical As-

sociation was formed in November 1991. An extensive archive has been established. ... One of our goals is recognition of the Philadelphia Brigade. Sen. E. D. Baker Camp No. 101, SUVCW, received it charter in September. Another goal is locating the graves and descendants of its soldiers. Many are buried in unmarked graves in Cathedral Cemetery, and Col. O'Kane's grave will be the first of many to be marked, as funds are raised.

We have been given permission by the National Park Service to have a Wayside Plaque placed at the "high water mark," which will recognize Col. O'Kane and the 69th for those who visit Gettysburg. A final goal would be a statue of Col. O'Kane to be erected in Philadelphia.

He may very well have been the single most important factor in stopping Gen. Lee from splitting the Union Army, achieving victory, and moving into Philadelphia.

Editor's Note: To repeat: Michael Shaara's *The Killer Angels* is a NOVEL; it is based on primary and secondary sources, but it is not history and does not pretend to be.

In his own official report of Little Round Top, written from "Field near Emmitsburg, July 6, 1863, Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain describes spending the night of July 2-3, 1863, in occupation of BIG Round Top, after the Battle of Little Round Top. In the penultimate paragraph of this report, Dr. Chamberlain writes: "About noon on the 3rd of July we were withdrawn, and formed on the right of brigade, in the front edge of a piece of woods near the left center of our main line of battle, where we were held in readiness to support our troops, then receiving the severe attack of the afternoon of that day."

That has to be taken as final, given the writer. Pullen and other secondary sources agree. While there is some disagreement in O. W. Norton's sources as to the hour of the withdrawal, the location on July 3 of the 20th Maine is generally agreed upon. It was, after all, a broad Union front, and "left center" in 1863 and 1992 were of different extent: Pickett charged with at least twice as many soldiers as there were reenactors for the film.

Dr. Chamberlain's later writing on Gettysburg amplifies but does not really deviate from his official report of July 6, 1863. Col. William C. Oates of the 15th Alabama disagrees with Chamberlain and others, and with himself, between his official report of Aug. 8, 1863, and his book in 1905, in which he noted Union cavalry on his left flank, Union infantry

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Pres. Spring leads Auxiliary to SUVCW



FLORENCE H. SPRING
National Auxiliary President

READING, Pa. — Now entering the final months of her term of office, Florence H. Spring of Reading was elected National President of the Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at the 107th National Encampment in Portland, Me., last August.

She joined the New Jersey Department in May 1962 as a member of Auxiliary No. 2. After serving in several Auxiliary offices, she served three terms as Auxiliary president. She served in all department offices and served her first term as New Jersey Department President during 1980-1981. She has been New Jersey Department President five times.

On the national level, President Spring served as National Council member, National vice president, and National chief of staff.

President's Spring's Civil War heritage stems from her great grandfather, Edwin Thomas Sharp, who served with Co. H, 13th N. J. Volunteers from 1862-1865. Her father, Alton Sharp, was a Past Department Commander of New Jersey and served as Senior Vice Commander in Chief of SUVCW. Her

mother, Elizabeth, is a Past Department President of New Jersey, and her daughter, Susan Jamieson, is also a New Jersey PDP.

Florence and her husband Walter have five children, Florence, Susan, Walter III, Dane and Patrick; two sons-in-law, two daughters-in-law, nine grandchildren and one great grandchild. All their children, several of their grandchildren, and nieces and nephews are life members of the Sons and the Auxiliary. They now have four generations of active members in the Auxiliary and three generations of active members in the Sons. Her husband and sons are members of Col. Ellsworth Camp No. 32. The women are all members of Auxiliary No. 2.

Florence has been an executive secretary, a social services secretary, a justice of the peace, and an administrative secretary.

In addition to her activities in the Auxiliary and the VFW Auxiliary, she enjoys reading, candy-making, cake decorating, and craft work. She also spends many hours in volunteer work.

Upton's Charge marked with monument

SPOTSLYVANIA, Va. — Col. Emory Upton and his men who fought on May 10, 1864, in the attack known as Upton's Charge were honored on May 7.

The Society of the Old Greek Cross, Followers of the Sixth Corps, Armies of the Potomac and Shenandoah, dedicated a monument to Upton and his men in a ceremony hosted by the Superintendent of the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania County Memorial National Military Park, and coordinated by members of the Society.

Upton's Charge was "a daring and bloody attack on a Confederate

breastworks in an attempt to break through the heavily fortified lines along the high ground protecting Spotsylvania Court House. Upton was, at the time of the attack, commander of the 2nd Brigade, 1st Division, 6th Corps.

"In pre-attack meetings, plans were made to use 12 handpicked regiments — the 5th and 6th Maine, 43rd, 77th, and 121st N. Y., 49th, 96th and 119th Pennsylvania, 2nd, 5th and 6th Vermont, and 5th Wisconsin to penetrate enemy defenses. ... Upon completion of pre-attack shelling by Union artillery, Upton's forces charged across 150 yards of open



SIXTH

terrain, ... up to the entrenchments." Upton's tactical innovation was to have his regiments charge by column as opposed to charge by line.

"The attack caught the Confederates by surprise and within a few minutes Upton's men had carried the breastworks ... approximately 1,000 men and 10 field pieces were overrun." Here let Gen. U. S. Grant speak:

"Upton with his assaulting party pushed forward and crossed the enemy's entrenchments. Turning to the right and left he captured several guns and some hundreds of prisoners. Mott was ordered to his assistance but failed utterly. So much time was lost in trying to get up the troops which were in the right position to reinforce, that I ordered Upton to withdraw; but the officers and men of his command were so averse to giving up the advantage they had

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in his rear, two battalions of Union sharpshooters all over the place, and the 20th Maine in his front.

Gettysburg, as Bill Rose says, is nearly as notable for its omissions as its inclusions: The Wheatfield, Devil's Den, and the Peach Orchard weren't included in the film. They aren't really in Shaara's novel either. Gen. George G. Meade is barely in the movie. But the movie runs four hours, eight minutes, not four days. The most serious omission of *Gettys-*

burg remains the cavalry battle the afternoon of July 3, 1863, when David McMurtree Gregg and Custer kept Stuart out of Meade's rear. *Gettysburg* is not of Ken Burns calibre, but it is well worth seeing. There are plenty of units and heroes to admire for Gettysburg — the First Minnesota, for example — but the hero of Shaara's novel is Chamberlain. That's a novelist's prerogative.

There were far too many Levi Strauss-type jeans in the movie, and they hadn't been invented.

Upton's Charge monument

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gained that I withdrew the order.

"To relieve them, I ordered a renewal of the assault. By this time Hancock, who had gone with Birney's division to relieve Barlow, had returned, bringing the division with him. His corps was now joined with Warren's and Wright's in this last assault. It was gallantly made, many men getting up to, and over, the works of the enemy; but they were not able to hold them. At night they were withdrawn.

"Upton brought his prisoners with him, but the guns he had captured he was obliged to abandon. Upton had gained an important advantage, but a lack in others of the spirit and dash possessed by him lost it to us. Before leaving Washington I had been authorized to promote officers on the field for special acts of gallantry. By this authority I conferred the rank of brigadier-general upon Upton on the spot, and this act was confirmed by the President. Upton had been badly wounded in this fight." [Grant, *Memoirs and Selected Letters*, Library of America, 1990; pp. 549-550. The only other battlefield promotion to brigadier-general Grant made was of Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain.]

Upton later commanded in brigade in the Valley, and still later commanded the 4th Cavalry Division under Gen. James H. Wilson in Alabama and Georgia.

After the war, he remained in the Regular Army and served as commander of West Point. He appears to have been highly regarded by Gen. W. T. Sherman; Sherman sent him on an extensive tour of world military establishments. Upton wrote a long report, urging reform of the U. S. military establishment — which didn't happen, given Congresses during the Era of Good Stealing. He was, perhaps, the brightest younger man in the Army between 1865 and his death, by suicide, in 1881. His important *Military Policy of the United States* was published in 1904 by Elihu Root, who was then Secretary of War.

The Society of the Old Greek Cross was founded in 1988 by a cadre of 6th Corps enthusiasts and is dedicated to research, education, and preservation of sites, memorabilia and traditions of the 6th Corps. For information, write Paul J. Heimbach, 9501 4th Place, Lorton, Va. 22079.



Photo Courtesy Allen W. Moore

After the rededication of the gravesite of Gen. W. T. Sherman, members of the Gen. William T. Sherman-Billy Yank Camp No. 65 stood for a photo with C-in-C Allen W. Moore. From left to right: Steven Leicht, Anthony P. Burk, C-in-C Moore, Thomas Willmering, and Stanley Prater, chairman of the ceremony.

Camp rededicates Sherman's grave

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Gen. Sherman's grave in Calvary Cemetery, St. Louis, was rededicated Feb. 27, 1994, with a Sherman descendant and brother present.

The rededication ceremony was conducted by the Gen. William T. Sherman-Billy Yank Camp No. 65 of St. Louis.

Lincoln-Cushing follows 1868 service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — This year's Memorial Day ceremony of the Lincoln-Cushing Camp was a recreation of the original Decoration Day Ceremony in 1868, with slight modifications.

Camp members and guests gathered at 5 p.m. on May 30 at the portico of Arlington House (Lee Mansion) where opening ceremonies were held. After those services, the procession marched on to the Tomb of the Unknown Civil War Dead.

Guest of honor was Brother Frederic Cauldwell Jr., a Son and a great great grandson of Gen. Sherman.

Presenting a wreath on behalf of SUVCW were Commander-in-Chief Allen W. Moore and Camp Commander Thomas Willmering.

Brother David R. Curfman, M.D., made possible a special ceremony booklet which contained a significant portion of the history of the 1868 event.

After ceremonies at the Tomb, Sons and guests adjourned to Fort Myer for dinner.

A camp member, Brother Kim B. Holien, an historian with the Department of the Army, presented a slide illustrated talk on the history of Arlington National Cemetery.

Daniel Butterfield and the story of 'Taps'

Editor's Note: David A. Turpin, JVC, Department of Iowa, presented "The Story Behind Taps" at the Department Encampment, in April. It is reprinted here as it appeared in the Newsletter of Grenville M. Dodge Camp No. 75 and Auxiliary No. 8, of Des Moines, Iowa.

By DAVID A. TURPIN
Commander, Grenville M.
Dodge Camp No. 75

JOHNSTON, Iowa — Taps: The lonely bugle grieves and we think of Memorial Day, Veterans Day. Tiny American flags on seemingly endless rows of white crosses. Plaintive bugle notes that bring an involuntary lump to the throat.

Taps: A reverent hush falls over the mourners gathered beside a freshly dug grave. Eyes moisten as an Army officer gently folds an American flag, carefully folded in a triangle, to the widow, then, — on behalf of a grateful nation — renders a slow, final salute.

Taps: And, if you have ever served in the Armed Forces, you can no doubt still hear the haunting notes rising to the stars and see the lights flickering out around camp. An overwhelming sadness wells up as you think of family and loved ones far away.

Of all military bugle calls, none is more melodic or has such universal appeal as Taps. It is the one call that is used at all U. S. military burial services; it is always sounded, or blown, to mark the end of the minute of silence on Veterans Day. "It rolls down the curtains on the soldier's day, and upon the soldier's life, the composer of Taps once said.

But few of us know the origin of Taps, or how it came to be one of America's most inspiring pieces of military music. Strangely, the composer was not a musician, had no "formal knowledge of music nor of the technical names of any notes." He composed Taps simply by ear. His name was Daniel Butterfield, a Union general in the Civil War.

Butterfield's unit had taken part in the Battle of Gaines Mill, near Richmond, Va., on June 26, 1862. His men had faltered and in spite of a serious wound, Butterfield seized the colors and rallied his men to hold their ground. (He later received the Medal of Honor for his bravery.) This action allowed the Army of the Potomac to withdraw safely to Harrison's Landing.

But the Army's morale was low and even lower when President Lincoln announced that reinforcement was impossible. Gen. McClellan was advised to rest and repair. An atmosphere of seriousness settled over the camp. Younger volunteers were homesick. The

older men's thoughts were of their anxious families. Butterfield sensed the mood as night closed over the Virginia hills, and he began to turn over in his mind musical phrases that would express the strange, quiet hush that hung over the army of tents where thousands of men slept and sentries kept watch.

The next morning, July 2, 1862, Butterfield called his brigade bugler, Oliver W. Norton, and whistled his melody to the surprised bugler. Norton soon had the notes down on the back of an old envelope and played them that evening. On that still summer night the notes of Taps were heard beyond the limits of Butterfield's brigade, as the notes echoed through the valleys. The next morning other buglers came to learn this new sound they had heard the evening before.

A few days later, a soldier in Battery A of the 2nd U. S. Artillery died. Because the army was surrounding a fearing a firing squad would provoke new fighting, Capt. John D. Tidball ordered the bugler to sound Taps. This was the first use of the call at a military funeral.

Taps followed Butterfield to new commands. It is even said the Confederates adopted Taps, using it at the burial of Gen. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson in 1863.

Taps was officially adopted by the Army in 1874. By 1900 all U. S. military services were using Taps, and France adopted the American call during World War I.

At the end of World War I, Gen. John J. Pershing called in Hartly B. Edwards, an American soldier, to sound the final Taps to signal the Armistice had been signed. His bugle that cost the government \$5.00 in 1918 is now in the Smithsonian Institution.

As for Butterfield, he was severely wounded at Gettysburg but did not retire until he was felled by fever during Sherman's March to the Sea. He resigned from the Army in 1870 to serve in the Treasury Department under President Grant. Later he was a prominent banker, shipper, real estate operator, and merchant. In old age he retired to Crag-side, his country home in Cold Spring, N. Y., overlooking the Hudson. In the evening, he could hear the West Point bugler just across the river sound Taps.

Butterfield died in 1901 and was buried in the cemetery of the West Point Military Academy at West Point with full military honors, and to that saddest song of all, his beloved Taps.

Editor's Note: Butterfield was buried by special order at West Point; he was a graduate of Union College, not USMA.

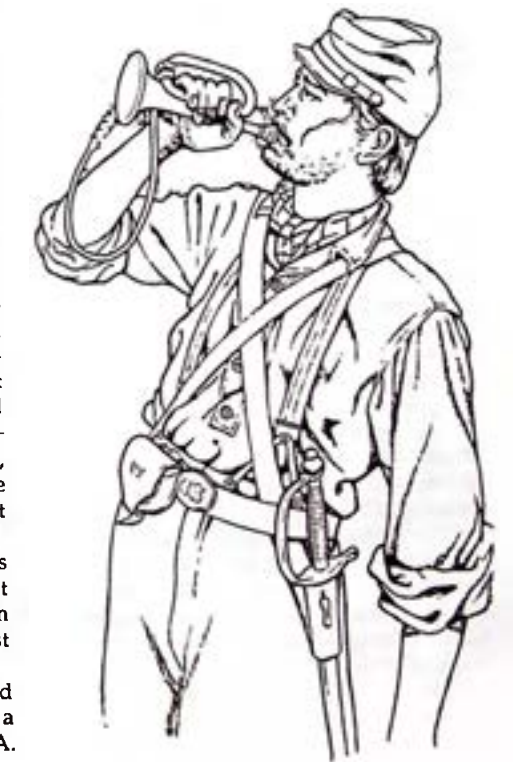
Butterfield had been Gen. Hooker's chief of staff and stayed in that role for Gen. Meade, after Meade was named to command the Army of the Potomac.

The Butterfield-Oliver Wilcox Norton connection has its interest. Norton edited and wrote *The Attack and Defense of Little Round Top, Gettysburg, July 2, 1863*, first published in 1913 and now in print from Stan Clark Military Books. This book is fundamental documentation. On his title page, Norton described himself as follows:

"Private Three Months Volunteers, April 21 to July 24, 1861. Private Eighty-third Penn. Vol. Inf., Aug. 28, 1861, to Nov. 10, 1863. First Lieutenant, 8th U. S. C. Inf., Nov. 10, 1863, to Nov. 10, 1865. Post Q. M. Ringgold Barracks, Texas, June to Nov., 1865. Chief Q. M., Jackson's Div., 25th A. C., June to 1865. Member George H. Thomas Post No. 5, G. A. R., Dept. of Ill. Member and Ex-Commander of Illinois Commandery and Member of the Commandery in Chief of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States."

The Jackson referred to is probably Richard Henry Jackson, 1830-92.

Norton also wrote *Army Letters, 1903*, and *Strong Vincent and His Brigade at Gettysburg, July 2, 1863, 1909*. Norton was brigade bugler for Vincent (3rd Brigade, 1st Div., V Corps) at Gettysburg. He was blind during the years he wrote his books.



Picket Line: Notes from Departments and Camps

California & Pacific

SAN JOSE, Calif. — For the first time in many years, the California Department Encampment was held in San Jose. It was an honor for Gen. Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4 to host the encampment.

The California Department has three camps and one Auxiliary:

—Gen. Phil Sheridan Camp No. 4, Wayne Pyle, Camp Commander.

—Auxiliary to Gen. Phil Sheridan Camp, Helen Pyle, President.

—Gen. John Gibbon Camp No. 19 of Chino, Calif., Gary Fradella, Camp Commander.

—Gen. John A. Logan Camp No. 20 of Los Gatos, Calif., Thomas Mason, Camp Commander.

Camp Commander Wayne Pyle hosted the encampment at his home.

Department officers elected for 1994 are:

Don Greely, Department Commander; Daniel Bunnell, SVC; Harold Smith, JVC; Donald Cheney, Secretary; Wayne Pyle, Treasurer; and Donald Cheney, Chaplain.

The Department Encampment ended with a banquet in the River Glen Mobile Home Park's recreation hall. Several camp members live in the park.

Massachusetts

By DOUGLASS R. KNIGHT
Commander, William Tabor
Camp No. 162, Massachusetts

SALEM, N. H. — Notes from the Department of Massachusetts:

—On May 21, 1994, William Tabor Camp No. 162, Department of Massachusetts, SUVCW, was activated at American Legion Post No. 122, in Methuen, Mass.

Tabor was a Congressional Medal of Honor winner born in Methuen, Mass.

Officers elected are: Douglass R. Knight, Camp Commander; Joseph B. O'Neil Jr., SVC; Robin W. Lewis, JVC; Thomas F. King, Secretary-Treasurer; George M. Butman, PI; and Dana A. Peterson, Chaplain.

—On May 29, Tabor Camp participated in a ceremony honoring an Unknown Soldier from the Civil at Bourne National Cemetery, Bourne, Mass. (Bourne is on Cape Cod.)

—On May 30, the camp participated in the Memorial Day parade in Lawrence, Mass.

—On March 20, Commander Victor

Falcetti and Past Commander Clarence Richardson of the New England Regional Association joined members of Camp No. 83 and Camp No. 162 in the Lawrence, Mass., St. Patrick's Day parade. Gilbert Bagley and his color guard were appreciated. After the parade the group met for dinner.

—Chaplain Dana A. Peterson recently donated a copy of the Jan. 30, 1869, *New York Ledger* and a Civil War map to the Kelley Library in Salem, N. H.

—On May 28, Tabor Camp and other Sons in Massachusetts participated in a "proper, 1860s-style burial in Mount Wollaston Cemetery" at Quincy, Mass., of an unknown Civil War soldier. An April 18, 1994, story in *The Patriot Ledger* of Quincy said, in part:

"He'll have a historically accurate interment, a procession of Civil War reenactors, a horse-drawn caisson, and music from the era. ... This fellow never received a proper burial," said William MacMullen, the director of the U. S. Naval and Shipbuilding Museum and one of the ceremony's planners. This was something we thought we could do for him."

[Hank] "Bradley, the city's veterans service agent ... has handled burial arrangements for hundreds of 20th century veterans, but never for one so long after the soldier's death. And never for a veteran whose skeletal remains were discovered in a box in a warehouse.

"Workers at the Massachusetts Military Research Center in Natick found the skull and a few bones [in March] amid piles of old state military records, letters and memorabilia that were being moved to Quincy, where they'll be housed at the U. S. Navy and Shipbuilding Museum.

"MacMullen said the unmarked box was sent to Natick decades ago as part of a shipment from the Grand Army of the Republic hall in Gloucester. ...

[Funeral director] Scott DeWare ... ordered a 19th century coffin for the burial — a pine box that's wider at the shoulders and narrower at the head and foot. ... On May 28, the man's remains [lay] in state at United First Parish Church, where Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams and thier spouses, Abigail and Louisa Catherine, are buried. A procession ... then transported the coffin to Mount Wollaston Cemetery.

The soldier was buried with Quincy's Union dead in the section that surrounds the cemetery's Civil War monument."

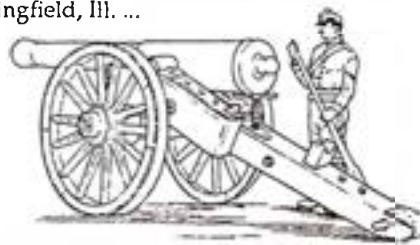
Michigan

LANSING — Michigan Department Commander J. Douglas Park, who is also National Member-At-Large Co-ordinator, writes, in *The Michigan Messenger*:

"I am pleased to report that, at long last, Highway U. S. 12 is now known as the "Iron Brigade Memorial Highway." House Concurrent Resolution 626 ... passed the Michigan House of Representatives on Jan. 26, 1994, and the Michigan Senate on March 3, 1994. It is through the efforts of Brothers Kent Armstrong and Michael Nye, a state representative, that the resolution finally passed and was not left to languish in committee. ...

"The State of Indiana has already passed legislation which accomplishes the equivalent designation in that state and officials from Michigan and Indiana are reviewing signage so, we hope, uniform signage will be seen in all states. It is now up to the states of Illinois and Wisconsin to complete the overall project of designating U. S. 12 as the Iron Brigade Memorial Highway over its entire length.

"The effort in Wisconsin has passed its House and is now in the Senate. When these separate legislative efforts are completed, signage will inform the public that the Brigade was formed from three of the states — and the 24th Michigan Infantry served as an honor guard for President Lincoln's body in Springfield, Ill. ...



New Jersey

HIGHTSTOWN, N. J. — Some 40 members and guests attended the New Jersey Department's annual Lincoln Banquet on March 12, 1994. The banquet is sponsored by Abraham Lincoln Camp No. 100, the State Camp of New Jersey.

Host for the dinner was Dr. David Martin, N. J. Department Commander. After dinner, historian Joseph Bilby gave an illustrated talk on the 15th N. J. Infantry, based on his book *Three Rousing Cheers*.

N. J. Department Encampment was held in Hightstown June 10-11, 1994.

Michigan works on departmental database

By John Mann
Editor
Michigan Messenger

LANSING — The Michigan Department is in the process of compiling a list of members' ancestors. This requires the cooperation of all camp secretaries, as the Department currently has no information on members' ancestors. All this information is kept at camp level. The information needed is basically what is required on the membership application form.

Many brothers have more than one ancestor under which they could have joined SUVCW, but chose to register under only one ancestor. To help make the Department member ancestor database as complete as possible, all brothers are asked to fill out membership applications for any and all ances-

tors which would qualify them. Also include as a separate ancestor listing any ancestor who served in more than one unit or who re-enlisted in a unit other than his original one. This requires members to fill out application sheets for each additional ancestor and/or ancestor who served in more than one unit. When the forms are complete, hand them to the camp secretary who will forward them to me.

To make it easier for the person compiling the database (namely, me), please make a notation in the margin of the form of the relationship of the ancestor to the person filling out the form. Please use F for father, GF for grandfather, GGF for great grandfather, etc. Please use U for uncle, GU for great uncle, etc.

When listing muster dates, the enlistment date may be substituted if the

muster date is not established. The date of death while in the service should be substituted for the discharge date, if applicable. Under the column "Reason," list the reason for discharge (wound, end of term of service, sickness, etc.) or death (died of wounds, died of disease, accidental death, etc.)

Assuming each member has at least two qualifying ancestors, it is obvious that the list will be quite large. One member is known to have 26 qualifying ancestors and several are known to have five or more. Because of budget restrictions, size of the list, and other considerations, it has been decided that the lists will be distributed at the 1995 Department Mid-winter Conference next February.

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C-in-C Moore attends Lincoln birth ceremony

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The annual wreath-laying ceremony commemorating the anniversary of the birth of President Abraham Lincoln was held Saturday, Feb. 12, 1994, at the Lincoln Memorial.

Brother Peter A. Dixon, a member of the national Council of Administration and of Lincoln-Cushing Camp, SUVCW, in Washington, served as chairman of the Lincoln Birthday National Commemorative Committee.

Commander-in-Chief Allen W. Moore presented a wreath for the National Organization of SUVCW, and was accompanied by his wreath bearer, Brother John Walls, who is a new member of Anna Ross Camp No. 1 of Philadelphia, Pa.

PC-in-C Charles W. Corfman presented the wreath for the National Auxiliary to SUVCW in the absence of National President Florence Spring, who was unable to attend because of weather. Other PC-in-Cs in attendance were Gordon R. Bury II and Lowell V. Hammer.

Following the wreath-laying ceremony, a luncheon was held at Pier 7 restaurant, Channel Inn, Washington. The featured speaker was Frank Scaturro who gave a detailed talk on the deplorable condition of Grant's Tomb and his current efforts with the National Park Service and Congress to restore the tomb. AWM, C-in-C



Photo courtesy Allen W. Moore

At the Lincoln Memorial ceremonies on Feb. 12, 1994, John Walls, left, served as wreath-bearer for Commander-in-Chief Allen W. Moore.

Print featuring Custer to be at National Encampment

Editor's Note: A print by CW artist Don Spaulding will be raffled off by the Department of Michigan to help defray the cost of the National Encampment. The following story explains the circumstances.

By DONALD WORKMAN

Commander Wa-Bu-No Camp No. 53

SHEPHERD, Mich. — Several weeks ago I stopped at Norm's Fine Arts and Collectibles to talk with Norm LaBarge. Norm had attended one our camp

meetings and had expressed an interest in joining Wa-bu-no Camp No. 53.

... Norm, to my utter amazement, offered to donate a Civil War print, fully matted and framed, which we could raffle off as a fund raising activity. Realizing our camp did not have the capability of conducting such an undertaking, I suggested to Norm that it be offered to the Michigan Department.

...I called DC J. Douglas Park and told him of the offer. Park excitedly accepted the offer and earmarked the print as a

major fund raiser to finance the National Encampment. Norm submitted flyers on several prints, which I forwarded to Commander Park.

The Department has selected the print entitled "Bravado" by artist Don Spaulding. The work features Gen. George A. Custer, mounted, guidon in hand, charging across a field toward Confederate troops, with ... Union troopers following. The print depicts an actual event at Five Forks, Va. The work is beautifully rendered in full color and it is spectacular.

Michigan's last GAR hall

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hall to storage so interior restoration could take place.

Gradually, during the past five years, the work has been done, with money raised and spent jointly by Sons and Daughters. In recent months, picture rails and chair rails were removed and plaster work restore. Interior walls have been painted. A good deal of slow, frustrating work has been required. Some of the materials have been returned from storage. By the time DUV and SUVCW hold national encampments in

August, the building, its contents and furnishings will be in fresh, restored order.

Curtenius Guard Camp has spent approximately \$2,500 this year, as has Helen M. Edwins Tent — and this does not include expenses of previous years. The hours upon hours of work by members of camp and tent, at minimum wage, would amount to five or six times that amount. But a tradition continues: Union veterans and their WRC built and furnished Sunfield GAR Hall — and their descendants have restored it.

Lawrence, Mass., Civil War Memorial Guard newly formed

LAWRENCE, Mass. — A newly formed Lawrence Civil War Memorial Guard rededicated the Soldiers and Sailors Monument on the Lawrence common on April 17, 1994.

The common was used as parade ground by Company I, 6th Regiment, before it was mustered into federal service in April 1861. Some of its men were killed in Baltimore, Md., on April 19, 1861, while attempting to reach Washington in response to President Lincoln's call for volunteers.

Bill Fontaine is founder of the Memorial Guard and re-enacts Major Benjamin Watson. At the rededication guests from the 54th Massachusetts and 22nd Sharpshooters of Massachusetts were also guests.

Frank Tucker, Massachusetts Department Commander, SUVCW, also attended the rededication.

Editor's Note: Bill Fontaine sent The Banner a color photo, taken at the rededication. Unfortunately, the color photo was too dark to make a halftone. RCG

Michigan works on database

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Updates will be issued periodically. The list will also be available on computer disk.

Benefits include:

—Members may be able to find other members who had ancestors in the same unit, possibly the same company, and exchange information.

—Members may find they have "shirt tail" relatives in the Department, from a common ancestor.

—Non-members reading the list will

be more apt to join our organization of they find a member with an ancestor in the same unit or a common ancestor. This list can become a recruiting enticement, especially for people interested in genealogy. ...

—Above all, by creating such a list, we will be helping fulfill the oath we all took when we joined the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, that we would "preserve the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and of those that fought to save the Union, 1861-1865."

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