



Gary L. Gibson, PDC

Candidate for Council of Administration

Mustered into the SUVCW at the age of 16, on September 1, 1978, as a Member-at-Large. Became Life Member No. 214 in 1988.

I claim my right to membership by the service of my great-great grandfather, Sgt. Martin F. Horan, Co. H, 4th Michigan Cavalry.

Gen. Benjamin Pritchard Camp No. 20, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

- Helped to organize and a Charter Member, 1983.
- First Secretary-Treasurer 1983 - 1985
- Three terms as Camp Commander. 1986, 1988, 1989
- Also held the offices of Sr. Vice Commander, Historian, Patriotic Instructor.
- Currently the Camp Secretary and Historian.

Department of Michigan

- Chairman, Department Council 1986 - 1988
- Sr. Vice Commander 1988-1989, 1989-1990
- Three terms as Department Commander - 1990-1991, 1991-1992, 2004-2005
- Counselor 1996 - 1997
- G.A.R. Records Officer 2008 – present.
- Department Historian 2023-2024, 2024-2025
- Chairman of several Committees
- Served on five National Encampment Host Committees – 1988, 1994, 2000, 2017, 2022.

Central Region

- Jr. Vice Commander 1991-1992
- Sr. Vice Commander 1992-1993
- Commander 1993-1994

National Organization

- Historian, 1994-1995, 2023-2024, 2024 to present
- Chaplain 1991 (Appointed to serve for the Encampment)
- History Book Coordinator, 1992 - 1994

- Patriotic Instructor 1993-1994, 2006-2007
- Chairman, Program & Policy Committee, 1990-1991 (The only Brother to serve as Chairman and not hold the office of Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief.)
- Elected member of the Council of Administration, 1998 – 2001
- Chairman, 50th Anniversary of the Last National Encampment of the G.A.R., 1999
- Special Committee on Digest, 2009-2010
- Camp at Large and Department Organizer. Organized Department of Oklahoma and four camps at large – one in Oregon, two in North Carolina and one in Georgia. 2002-2003, 2005-2006
- Chaired the committee to develop *Memorial University*, 2006 – 2008 (Originally designed as a Junior members program)

Sons of Veterans Reserve

- 2nd Lieutenant, Co. A, 30th Michigan Infantry, 1998 – 2000
- Currently a Private, Co. A, 14th Michigan Infantry,

Other Organizations

- Companion, Ohio Commandry, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, 1990 – present
- Sons of the Revolution in the State of Michigan 1989-present. Served as President, 2004 – 2016
- Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, 2002
- Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall & Museum, 2013 – 2024 Founding Board Member, Exhibit Curator and Board Secretary.

Honors

- The only three-time recipient of the Department of Michigan's Abraham Lincoln Award, for efforts to *keep green the memory of the Union Soldiers, Sailors and Marines* – 1997, 2008, 2014
- Honored with a plaque from Department of Illinois, SUVCW, (2017) in appreciation for work in helping to re-organize the Department in the 1990's.

Education

- Associate of Arts, Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Kalamazoo, Michigan
- Bachelor of Science, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Other

- Researched over 130 Union Civil War veterans, to obtain and place headstones on unmarked graves in Kalamazoo County, Michigan. 80 headstones placed thus far.
- Author of *Kalamazoo County and the Civil War*, published by The History Press, February, 2021.
- Married to Mary E. "Beth" Gibson, for 33 years. Beth is a member-at-large of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic.
- Background Artist, 3rd Battery, 1st Michigan Light Artillery, TNT movie *Gettysburg*, 1992