



# The Sharpshooter



SGT. ROBERT FINCH  
1<sup>st</sup> MICH SS

The Official Newsletter of  
Robert Finch Camp No. 14 – Traverse City  
Est. 1914 – The Oldest Active Camp in the Department of Michigan  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

## Camp 14 Initiates 2 New Brothers in January

On 11 January 2020, the Brothers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14 assembled for the first Camp meeting of the new decade. In addition to a large amount of business discussed and conducted, the Camp initiated two new Brothers – Kenny Jones of Grayling, and Rodney Welliver of Cadillac. Both Brothers are Veterans of the U.S. Air Force, and Brother Jones also served in the Air National Guard and Army National Guard (retired).

Commander Lantzer and Chaplain Goodrich, PCC along with Guide O'Hara performed the short-form initiation ritual. PDC Aurand pinned their new membership badges on each new Brother, and the Brothers signed the Redbook for Secretary Smith, PDC.

The Brothers of the Camp gave their new Brothers a hearty welcome upon completion of the initiation ceremony.



Above: Commander Lantzer closes out the short-form ritual for new Brothers Kenny Jones and Rodney Welliver, with Camp Brothers and the wives of the initiates look on.

## Last Veteran of the County Project Heats Up

Per the SUCVW National Website: Beginning in 2003, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUCVW) embarked on the *Last Soldier Project*. The purpose of the project is to locate and appropriately mark the final resting place of the last Civil War Soldier buried in each county/parish and in each state of this great country.

Camp 14 has made this a priority for the current administrative term. Due to Camp 14's large geographical region (19 counties in northern Michigan), and many large ongoing projects, the Last Soldier Project was delayed.

Since October of 2019, 12 of 19 Last Veterans of the County have been identified with several more that are very close to finalization. The research has been conducted thus far by GRO Sawyer, Br. S. Schwander, PCC Goodrich, and PDC Smith.

The Camp plans to hold ceremonies for each county, with more information to come going forward. The first ceremony scheduled is for Kalkaska County at the South Boardman Cemetery on 09 May 2020.



Above: A Last Veteran of the County Flag Holder/Marker



## Commander's Message



With the change of the calendar it reminds me that time is passing and will continue to pass for us until we are laid to rest with those who have gone before or our Savior and King returns to take us to our reward. This fact reminded me of an old saying that my Dad would tell me. He would say, John, "there is no success without a successor". Keeping this in mind, I am trying to make it a point to speak to the young adults and kids that come into my life, by sharing with them history that is meaningful and exciting. I hope to spark some interest, some love of country, some patriotism that will extend our Order into the years beyond ourselves. With the recent Initiations I was again reminded of the words that I spoke when I first pledged my time and resources to the Order when I first stated "to promote actively the objects and interests of this Order always and everywhere". I would today as you read this newsletter, ask that you reconnect and recommit to share a story or event with a younger person. Because if we do not, some day someone will be putting a flag holder by our headstones that will state, "Here lies the last SUVCW member of the county" and we will have failed.

John E. Lantzer  
Camp Commander  
Robert Finch Camp No. 14



### U.S. Navy Blue Angels Return for 2020 National Cherry Festival



The 2020 National Cherry Festival will host the U.S. Navy Blue Angels on Saturday and Sunday, 04 & 05 July 2020. The air shows will be performed over the West Arm of Grand Traverse Bay. In 2018, the Blue Angels voted and announced that the 2018 National Cherry Festival Air Show was the 2018 Air Show of the Year at the International Council of Air Shows. In 2017, the U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds also voted and announced that the National Cherry Festival Air Show was the 2017 Air Show of the Year at the International Council of Air Shows. (picture source: National Cherry Festival)

### Honor Your Ancestors Through Supplementals

When joining the SUVCW as a Hereditary Member, you may have had more than one Union Veteran ancestor to choose from as your qualifying ancestor. If you have wanted to honor your additional grandfathers and uncles, you can do that through filing supplementals.

The SUVCW has one of the most affordable supplemental programs in the patriotic-genealogical organization world. The cost is \$5 per supplemental submitted.

To file a supplemental, you need to fill out the Form 3 application and follow the directions for a supplemental as provided in the form. After completing the form(s), attaching the necessary service proofs & any other information, and including a check made out to "Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War" for the corresponding supplemental(s) (e.g. 3 supplementals at \$5 for a total of \$15), send the aforementioned to the Camp Secretary to be processed. A copy of the supplemental and corresponding documents will be placed in your Camp, Department, and National file.

The supplemental is a great way to document your ancestors for future generations.

<http://www.suvcw.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Form-3-REV-3-2017.pdf>



# Northern Michigan Military Installations – Past & Present



Above: Naval Air Station Traverse City during World War II (source: mlive.com and TC History Ctr.)

## Naval Air Station Traverse City

United States Navy

Traverse City, Grand Traverse County, Michigan

Commissioned in June 1942, Decommissioned 15 November 1945

Naval Air Station Traverse City had a short life in terms of a permanent military installation, lasting just over 3 years. While it had a short existence, it did not lack in bringing excitement and top secret research to northern Michigan, along with over 2,000 personnel. The research was focused on the use of remote-controlled drones (controlled by a nearby aircraft via television invented by RCA) to combat the ever-expanding threat of Japanese kamikaze pilots. At that point, in August 1943 the Navy moved the USS Sable to West Grand Traverse Bay for around a month for testing. Note: the drones were tested from the USS Sable, as well as the NAS Traverse City on a more regular basis.

The fellow side-wheel steamer USS Wolverine (IX-64 – formerly the See and Bee) made up what was called “The Corn Belt Fleet”. Having the two carriers in Lake Michigan provided safety and security to train Naval Aviators compared to off the East Coast and the threats of German U-Boats.

Aircraft and drones from both the USS Sable and NAS Traverse City made gunnery and bombing runs on Waugoschance Point and the area proximate, as well as Waugoschance Lighthouse (built in 1851) in the Straits of Mackinac (near Wilderness State Park). This area was leased by the U.S. Navy for these purposes. The drones could fly 50 miles in front of the trailing control aircraft, and from the ground no area residents were aware that they were pilotless.

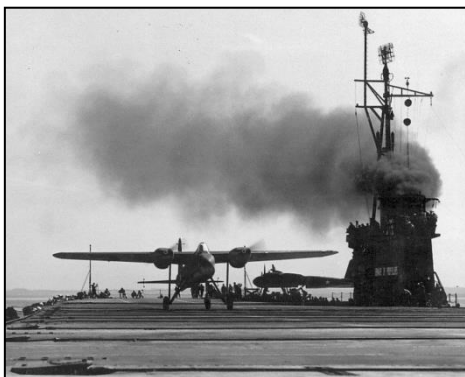
The drones were used to carry out attack missions, which included dropping bombs and launching torpedoes. Also, the drones were used to crash into structures and targets much like the Japanese kamikaze.

Upon completion of research in the northern Michigan, the drone program was sent to the Pacific Theater where it saw very limited usage due to the War moving into its last stages, and meager resources. It is believed that 46 drones were used in combat with 21 successful hits (MHUGL – MTU website).

With the drawdown of units and facilities across the country after the War had concluded, several northern Michigan military facilities were slated to be decommissioned. NAS Traverse City was not immune. With no pomp or ceremony on 15 November 1945 LCDR Jack Glines, U.S. Navy, transferred the Air Station to LCDR J. W. Kincaid, U.S. Coast Guard. From that date forward, the Air Station would formally be known as Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City – the only inland USCG air base in the nation with 3 amphibious planes and shortly after 2 helicopters.

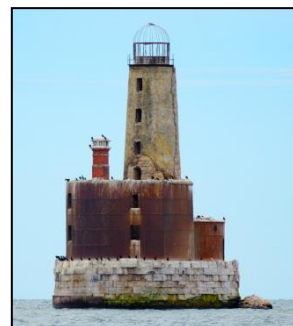


Above: A drone suspended on a crane aboard the USS Sable on West Grand Traverse Bay with Traverse City in the background (source: TC District Library)



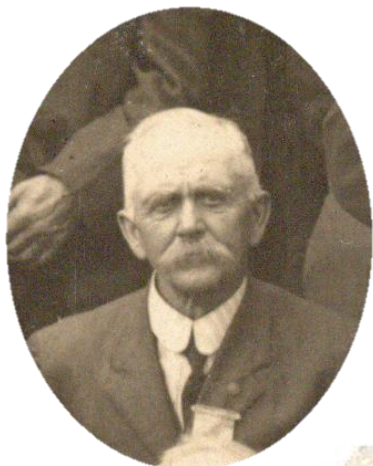
Left: A drone preparing to launch from the deck of the USS Sable on Lake Michigan in northern Michigan (source: mlive.com and the National Archives)

Right: Waugoschance Lighthouse in more recent times (source: wikipedia.org) (note: this lighthouse is believed to be the first lighthouse erected on the Great Lakes completely surrounded by water)



A video of bombing runs on Waugoschance Lighthouse:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5yFV\\_x8noE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5yFV_x8noE)

## Ancestor Spotlight



OREN D. WHITE

### Oren D. White

Co. E, 25<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry  
105<sup>th</sup> Co., 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Veteran Reserve Corps  
25 May 1844 – 08 November 1924  
Great-Grandfather of PCC Jan White

When Oren enlisted someone put a "dot" over the "e" in his name. Thereafter his military record shows Orin as his first name. He was only six years old when his mother died (on her 30th birthday in 1850). His father remarried a younger lady and he was not treated well. As soon as he was of age, he left home and enlisted in the Union Army near Kalamazoo, Michigan.

During the Battle of Tebb's Bend, he received a gunshot wound to his upper right arm. The projectile smashed through his rifle stock and lodged in his upper humerus arm bone along with wood splinters. The bone was shattered and he was taken to the surgeon who told him that the arm had to be removed to prevent infection which could lead to his death. According to family history, he told the surgeon no, and that he would rather die than live the rest of his days without an arm. The surgeon put him back together as best as he could. The wound eventually healed and he was transferred to the Invalid Corps in February of the following year.

In Harper's Magazine, August 1865, Rev. John S. C. Abbott, the historian, writes as follows (original formatting included):

"Colonel Orlando H. Moore was in command of 200 patriot troops stationed at Tebb's Bend, on Green river. This was the only force to retard the advance of the rebels upon New Market. On the 2d of July scouts brought in the report that Morgan's band was advancing in full force upon the Bend. Undaunted by the vast superiority of the rebels in numbers, Colonel Moore, as soon as he received the news, mounted his horse and rode over the surrounding country to select his own battle-field. About two miles from his encampment he found a spot which suited him. The site chosen for the morrow's battle was truly beautiful. It was a lawn of level ground, carpeted with velvety turf, and thick with trees, which, without the slightest impediment of underbrush, were waving in all the luxuriance of June foliage—a spot which a silvery river

'Forsakes its course to fold as with an arm.'

"All night long the men relieved each other in the arduous work, with spade and pick, in throwing up entrenchments. Rifle-pits were dug; a barricade of felled trees was made to check cavalry charges; breastworks were thrown up to stand between the bosoms of the patriots and the bullets of the rebel foe. On the night of the 3d the gallant 200 took possession of these hurriedly constructed works, to beat back a small army of more than as many thousand.

'Theirs not to reason why; Theirs not to make reply; Theirs but to do and die.'

"With not one word of murmuring, and with not one straggler, these heroic men planted themselves behind their frail redoubts to wait the oncoming surge of battle. All were prepared to meet, and with God's aid were determined to repel the charge from the foe, however numerous that foe might prove to be. There was but little sleep in that patriot encampment that night. The men grasping their arms, lay down in the trenches, and thought of home, wife, children, and friends. Memory was busy with the days which had fled, while stern yet anxious thought dwelt upon the future of to-morrow.

The next day was the Fourth of July. That thought alone helped to make them heroes. Who could tell how many, then and there, would be called to put on a martyr's crown?

"With the first rays of the morning sun came the first balls from the rifles of Morgan's sharpshooters. Soon a shell came, with its hideous shriek, plump into the little redoubt, wounding two men. With this hint of what they might expect if obstinate, Morgan sent a flag of truce with Major Elliott, demanding an immediate surrender of the entire force under Moore's command. Colonel Moore replied: 'Present my compliments to General Morgan, and say to him that, this being the Fourth of July, I cannot entertain the proposition.'" Then, turning to his men, he said: 'Now rise up, take good aim, and pick off those gunners.' At those words the patriots opened a calm, deliberate, and deadly fire. The numerous trees and the entrenchments they had thrown up afforded them very efficient protection.

Gradually the little redoubt became nearly encircled by the rebels. Still no one thought of yielding. Colonel Moore was everywhere encouraging and inspiring his men with his own enthusiastic patriotism. The heroic band still loaded and fired with fatal precision, though

"Cannon to right of them,  
Cannon to left of them,  
Cannon in front of them,  
Volleyed and thundered."

"No hand trembled, no heat faltered. For God and the flag they fought and bled. The battle raged with unabated fury on both sides for four hours. At last the enemy retreated, leaving his dead on the field. The rebel army thus checked and discomfited, relinquished the prey it had hoped to grasp, and by a circuit avoiding New Market, continued its plundering raid; the conquerors, justly exultant over their chivalric achievements, with new zest celebrated the Fourth of July. They were entitled to unusual joy, for they themselves had contributed another triumph to the ever memorable day."



# Possible Last Confederate Veteran in Northern Michigan Discovered

Submitted by GRO John Sawyer

While performing research for the Last Veteran of the County Project, GRO Sawyer discovered an interesting find in Charlevoix history. The find was in a 22 September 1937 article in The Charlevoix Courier. The headline reads: "John Johnson, 101, Died on Saturday at Petoskey" with a sub-headline of: "Funeral Services for Aged War Veteran Conducted from See Funeral Home Tuesday".

While an age of 101 years old for a Civil War Veteran is especially noteworthy, there are a few more items that make this Veteran even more so. The biggest item is that this Veteran was in the Confederate Army, never had Union service, yet, is considered the sole survivor of the Grand Army of the Republic Post in Charlevoix. He was made an honorary member of the GAR Post well over 40 years prior to his passing.

The article of interest can be found at the immediate right.

## Donations

Several initiatives were discussed during the January meeting that were taking on donations. These included 4 women of the McPherson GAR Post Plot 241 gravestone project, the Grand Traverse Veterans Honor Guard van project, as well as the Last Veteran of the County project. If you would like to donate to one or more of the projects, please send a check made out to "Robert Finch Camp 14" to the Camp Treasurer along with a note indicating where you would like the funds to be allocated. The Camp Treasurer's address is:

Dale Aurand, PDC  
321 W. 9<sup>th</sup> St.  
Traverse City, MI 49684

THE CHARLEVOIX COURIER, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 1937

### John Johnson, 101, Died on Saturday at Petoskey

**Funeral Services for Aged War Veteran Conducted from See Funeral Home Tuesday**

A life that had more than spanned a century came to an end Saturday with the death at Petoskey of John Johnson, Charlevoix's "grand old man." He had celebrated his 101st birthday anniversary last April 27.

Born when Andrew Jackson was completing his second term as president, Mr. Johnson cast his first ballot for the presidential candidate of the Know Nothing Party in 1858.

Prior to his death, Mr. Johnson was honorary member and sole survivor of the Charlevoix G. A. R., an honor bestowed upon him over 40 years ago despite the fact he had been a Confederate soldier. His service for the Confederacy was not of his own choice. His mother, Katherine Johnson, was a Carolinian, while his father, Samuel Johnson, was a Virginian. Like his mother, John did not sympathize with the Southern cause, though his father and brother fought under Robert E. Lee.

After being drafted, Johnson's company was sent to Clarksville, Tenn. Following the fall of Fort Donnellson, his company was ordered to fall back to Nashville, Tenn., where the officers and many men, including Johnson, deserted. Johnson came north with his wife, intending to join the Union army, but was persuaded not to in view of his previous service.

Mr. Johnson's wife was Marian Boss, whom he married before the Civil War. After short residences in Ohio and Iowa, they came to Michigan, settling on a homestead near Ellsworth. They moved five years later to Charlevoix, then a small community of log cabins.

One of Mr. Johnson's first jobs was to assist in cutting a road through virgin timber between Charlevoix and Petoskey. Few white men were on the job, most of the work being done by Indians. He later worked as a lumber scaler and farmed for many years. About 45 years ago he became groundskeeper at the Belyedere Club. He was caretaker for a number of cottagers until a couple years ago.

Mr. Johnson was a faithful churchgoer and a charter member of the local Methodist church. He voted personally or by absent voter's ballot at every election.



**JOHN JOHNSON**

Surviving him are two daughters, Mrs. John Foley and Mrs. Nannie Lynde, Petoskey; a son, Thomas Johnson, of Madison, Wis.; 11 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Brief services were held at 9:30 o'clock Tuesday morning from the Stone funeral home, Petoskey, and funeral services were from the See funeral home here at 10:30 o'clock. Rev. C. E. Pollock and Rev. John Alexander were the officiating clergymen. Interment was at Brookside cemetery.

## 2020 Department Encampment

The 136<sup>th</sup> Department of Michigan Encampment will be held on 05 & 06 June 2020 in Okemos, at the Okemos Conference Center. This is a great chance to see how the business of the Order is conducted at the Department level. If you are interested in attending and serving as a Delegate, please contact PDC Smith. Attendance isn't required of both days, as the actual Encampment business meeting is not until Saturday 06 June. For more information and the appropriate forms for attending please see:

<https://www.suvcwmi.org/DeptEncampment/DEindex-136.php>

## 2020 National Encampment

The 2020 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War National Encampment will be held on 13 August - 16 August in Atlanta, Georgia at the Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel and Convention Center. The National Encampment is being hosted by the Department of Georgia and South Carolina. This is a good opportunity to visit Civil War sites and see how the business of the Order is done on the National level. Information regarding the 2020 National Encampment can be found at:

[http://www.suvcw.org/?page\\_id=2791](http://www.suvcw.org/?page_id=2791)





## Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9

### Frances Finch Aux. No. 9 Prepares for Department Encampment and “Finch Banquet”

The Sisters of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 had a busy and productive January 2020 meeting. The Sisters are busy preparing for the 2020 Department of Michigan Encampment/Convention on Saturday, 02 May 2020. This year’s Department Encampment/Convention will be held in Traverse City at the Elks Lodge #323. The Sisters are excited to be able to host the Encampment/Convention in Traverse City, and are especially excited to host the ASUVCW National President Wanda Langdon.

Following the Encampment/Convention, the Sisters are planning a “Finch Banquet” to be held at the Elks Lodge #323 with support and partnership from the Brothers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14. A committee from Camp 14 consisting of the three chairs, CC John Lantzer, SVC Dave Ramsey, and JVC Jim Ribby are working with the Sisters to finalize banquet plans.

In the near future, the Sisters will continue work on Auxiliary No. 9’s history scrapbook with the latest activities over the past year. This ongoing project has been an excellent method to document the year-by-year history and events of the Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9.



#### 2019-2020 Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 Officers

President:	Dorothy Rongey, PAP
Vice President:	Mary Rose, PAP
Secretary:	Lisa Smith, PAP
Treasurer:	Lisa Smith, PAP
Pat. Instructor:	Debra Downey
Council #1:	Karen Goodrich, PAP
Council #2:	Debra Downey
Council #3:	Lorraine Jones
Chaplain:	Mary Rose, PAP
Historian:	All Sisters of Aux. No. 9
Press Corrs.:	Mary Rose, PAP & Lisa Smith, PAP
Girl Scout Comm.:	Lorraine Jones, Chair
Girl Scout Comm.:	Emily Breaugh, PAP
Counselor:	Mary Rose, PAP

## Camp No. 14 2020 Meeting Schedule

Per the order of Camp Commander John E. Lantzer, Robert Finch Camp No. 14’s meeting schedule for 2020 is as follows:

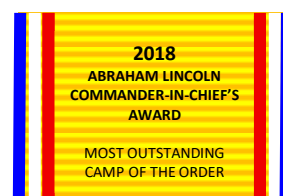
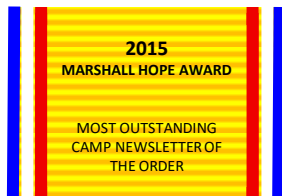
11 January 2020	Elks Lodge #323, Traverse City
14 March 2020	Elks Lodge #323, Traverse City
09 May 2020	South Boardman
02 May 2020 ROBERT & FRANCES FINCH BANQUET	Elks Lodge #323, Traverse City
11 July 2020	Elks Lodge #323, Traverse City
12 September 2020	Elks Lodge #323, Traverse City
14 November 2020	Elks Lodge #323, Traverse City

All meetings begin at 11:30AM (1130)





Robert Finch Camp No. 14 – Traverse City  
Est. 1914 – The Oldest Active Camp in the Department of Michigan  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
www.robertfinch14.org



## 2018-2019 Officers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14

Commander: John Lantzer  
ajlantzer@yahoo.com

Color Bearer: Dale Aurand, LM, PCC, PDC  
stocktrac@charter.net

Sr. Vice Commander: David Ramsey  
daveramsey77@gmail.com

Guide: Bob O'Hara  
bobrenoh@aol.com

Jr. Vice Commander: Jim Ribby  
jimribbyrc@gmail.com

Guard: Calvin Murphy  
calvinm@kaltelnet.net

Secretary: David Smith, LM, PCC, PDC  
wyattusmagnus@gmail.com

CW Memorials Officer: OPEN

Treasurer: Dale Aurand, LM, PCC, PDC  
daurand321@yahoo.com

Graves Registration Officer: John Sawyer  
sawyerc@gmail.com

Council: Jan White, PCC (Chair)  
stocktrac@charter.net

Military & Veteran Affairs Officer: Calvin Murphy  
calvinm@kaltelnet.net

Council: Paul Davis, LM, PCC, PDC  
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Recruiting Officer: Joseph Conger  
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Council: Ted Mattis, PCC  
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Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator: Joseph Conger  
K2rider@chartermi.net

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