



# 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

## Traverse Area Historical Society Makes Major Donation

With the Summer ahead, the annual projects of Robert Finch Camp No. 14 have been piling up after another northern Michigan Winter. Within Oakwood Cemetery in Traverse City, three projects are at the forefront – two reaching completion and one that will always be on-going.

The first project is the placement of the Last Veteran Buried in the County marker. That Veteran for Grand Traverse County is Joshua Moe, buried near GAR Plot 241 in Oakwood Cemetery. The second project is the placement of two headstones in the GAR Plot 241 for Comrades William Bond and Robert Bell. There have not been significant proofs that have allowed the ordering of VA headstones for Mr. Bond and Mr. Bell. From newspaper accounts at the time of their deaths, McPherson GAR Post 18 provided services for both men demonstrating evidence of their ties to that GAR Post. Thus, two headstones were ordered to memorialize these two Veterans that have had unmarked graves since their deaths. Finally, the third project is the on-going efforts in cleaning headstones within Oakwood Cemetery with D2 cleaning solution.

Naturally, all of these projects require funds, and this is where the Traverse Area Historical Society (TAHS) approached Robert Finch Camp No. 14 to aid in defraying these costs. The TAHS Board most generously voted to completely fund the Last Veteran Buried in the County marker, most of the costs for the headstones of Comrades Bond and Bell, and funds for D2 cleaning solution.

This is a perfect example of two organizations focused on history coming together to honor past local citizens for their important contribution to our Nation, as well as their lost significance within the fabric of Grand Traverse area history. Much appreciation is expressed to Dr. Stephen Siciliano and Mr. Matt Groleau of TAHS in making these projects come to fruition. A ceremony for the headstones and Last Veteran Buried in the County marker placement, as well as the Ladies of GAR Plot 241 will be forthcoming. Stay tuned.



Above: Headstones procured for William Bond and Robert Bell, both buried in the GAR Plot 241

## Joyfield's Unknown USCTs

*Submitted by: Dr. Shelley Viola Murphy, Palmyra, VA*

The Bureau of Colored Troops and the United States Colored Troops (USCTs) were created in May of 1863, just over 200,000 soldiers in total, which includes 135 regiments of infantry soldiers, six regiments of a cavalry, one regiment of light artillery, and 13 regiments of heavy artillery. Also, for the U.S. Navy there was 19,000. African American men and women were critical components during the war besides being on the front lines there were cooks, spies, nurses and scouts and more. One of the most famous females for the Civil War is Harriet Tubman. This was highlighted in the recent release of the movie. The USCT's were involved in all major battles throughout the Civil War. In an article written by Joseph Mouser in July 2017 on the Blackpast.org website explained that the:

“troops were primarily African American, but Native Americans, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders were all included within the ranks, as well. By the end of the war, nearly a tenth of the entire Union Army consisted of members of the USCT, which peaked at 178,000 individuals.”

All the horrible racial discrimination also occurred. The life of a colored soldier was beyond what we assumed. Think about it, some who were enslaved had to fight to survive, freedmen had to fight just as much to live as free individuals and then to join to fight for freedom of others, this was the most sobering thing I can think of. In my opinion African Americans have yet to earn their freedom in certain realms. President Lincoln himself was quoted as saying, “Without the military help of the black freedmen, the war against the South could not have been won.”



# Commander's Message



Gentleman and fellow Brothers of Camp #14,

With the recent mandate by the Federal Government to practice social distancing and essential travel restriction until April 30th, it is the decision of the Frances Finch Auxiliary #9 and the Robert Finch Camp #14 Banquet committee to postpone the May 2<sup>nd</sup> Finch Banquet 2020. We are planning to reschedule this event in September so please keep your eyes out for more information.

Any checks already sent in will be returned. No checks have been deposited. If people do not receive their checks back in the mail in the next week or two, please contact me by e-mail (ajlantzer@yahoo.com).

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

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



**REMINDER: Next Camp Meeting is currently scheduled for 09 May 2020 at 11:30AM (1130) at the Senior Center in South Boardman, MI (special location), Last Veteran Buried in Kalkaska County Ceremony following**

## Last Veteran of the County Donations

If you would like to donate to the Last Veteran of the County project, or to sponsor a particular county, you can send a donation to the Camp Treasurer, Dale Aurand, PDC. Please send a check or money order made out to "Robert Finch Camp 14" to the Camp Treasurer along with a note indicating what county or counties you would like to sponsor if that is an interest. The Camp Treasurer's address is:

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

## 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)

The Sharpshooter - Distributed 6 times annually to: all Camp No. 14 Brothers, Auxiliary No. 9 Sisters, selected Department of Michigan Officers, selected National Officers, and friends of the Camp. Note: All Camp, Department, and General Orders and SUVCW communications are sent to Camp No. 14 Brothers via e-mail expeditiously, and are not included herein.

Commander: John E. Lantzer

Editor: David S. Smith, PDC

# Northern Michigan Military Installations – Past & Present



Above: Insignia of USCGC Mackinaw WLBB-30 (courtesy of USCG HQ)

## USCGC Mackinaw

United States Coast Guard

Cheboygan, Cheboygan County, Michigan (homeport)

WAGB-83 – Commissioned: 20 December 1944, Decommissioned: 10 June 2006

WLBB-30 – Commissioned: 10 June 2006

Cheboygan, Michigan has been the proud home of the USCGC Mackinaw since December of 1944, first with the ship WAGB-83, and now currently the WLBB-30. The first USCGC Mackinaw was known as the “Queen of the Great Lakes” and the largest icebreaker on the Great Lakes. The ship was built in Toledo to serve the war effort to keep valuable materials moving during the winter months – materials specifically for the operation of the steel mills in the region. WAGB-83 was the largest icebreaker assigned to the Great Lakes, and that distinction remained throughout its entire service. For those wondering what WAGB stands for:

W – was a designation of Coast Guard vessels to distinguish them from U.S. Navy vessels since World War II with the W being placed before the bow number (e.g. W83)

AGB – Arctic Glacier Breaker

The old Mackinaw was a derivation of the Wind class icebreakers, and borrow its design from said class. Technically, the USS Mackinaw was a Mackinaw class icebreaker, and the only one of the class.

The 290 foot long Mackinaw at full load displaced 5,252.4 tons and drew 19' 2.25" of water. Her innovative features included a 12 foot diameter bow propeller which draws water from beneath the ice ahead, both weakening the ice and sending water along the sides of the hull and reducing ice friction. The Mackinaw also has a heeling system which can shift nearly 112,000 gallons of ballast water from side to side in 90 seconds, allowing a rocking motion which assists the Mackinaw in freeing itself from ice. The Mackinaw had a compliment of 8 Officers and 67 Enlisted men and women.<sup>1</sup>



Above: USCGC Mackinaw WLBB-30 (source: lakesuperior.com & USCG 9<sup>th</sup> District)

The new ship, USCGC Mackinaw WLBB-30 commissioned on the same day as WAGB-83 was decommissioned. The 240 foot long ship is the largest cutter on the Great Lakes. For those wondering what WLBB stands for: W is the same as above. LBB – stands for big buoy tender (LB), ice breaker (B). The ship was built by Marinette Marine Corporation in Marinette, WI across the border from Menominee, MI in the UP. The crew size of this vessel is 9 Officers, 5 Chief Petty Officers, and 41 Enlisted men and women. For full technical characteristics of the new ship, see: <https://www.atlanticarea.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/District-9/Ninth-District-Staff/Prevention-Division/Cutters/MACKINAW/Characteristics/>

<sup>1</sup><http://www.mightymac.org/cgcmackinaw.htm>

The current USCGC Mackinaw continues the Christmas Tree Ship tradition restarted by the previous Mackinaw. The ship in 2019 delivered around 1,200 Christmas trees to Chicago departing from its homeport of Cheboygan. The trees were cut from the northern LP and UP. The tradition honors the original Christmas tree ship the *Rouse Simmons* which sank in 1912 with all hands on board during a tree run. The Mackinaw traces the same route as the *Rouse Simmons* with a stop at the site of its sinking and performs a wreath ceremony.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/11/28/coast-guard-carries-michigan-christmas-trees-chicago-honor-1912-shipwreck.html>



Above: Insignia of USCGC Mackinaw WAGB-83 (courtesy of semperparatus.com)



Above: USCGC Mackinaw WAGB-83 During Icebreaking Activities (courtesy of themackinaw.org and USCG)

# Ancestor Spotlight I

Submitted by Dr. Shelley Viola Murphy, Palmyra, VA



**Ahira & Elizabeth Boyer – abt. 1915**

(note: Ahira wearing his GAR Membership Badge)

## Ahira Worden

Co. I, 15<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry

20 March 1838 (Eaton Co. MI) – 12 December 1916 (Oceana Co., MI)

G-Grandfather of MVAO Calvin Murphy

A little bit about Pvt. Ahira H. Worden, Co. I, 15<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry...

Eaton County, Michigan welcomed Parley & Lydorianna (Boyer) Worden along with 21 others (Boyer's and Cummings) as the first settlers to Chester Township in Eaton County, Michigan in June 1837. They hailed from the Herkimer County, New York area. Parley and Lydorianna had their first son is Ahira Harvey/Harry Worden on 20 March 1838. Parley's other children, all born in Eaton County, are Arnold 1840-1922 (who also served in the Civil War, Enlisted in Company Batty F, Michigan 1st LA Batty F Light Artillery Battery on 09 Jan 1862. Mustered out on 12 Jun 1862 at Louisville, KY.) Abigail 1842-1917, Sylvina 1844-1915, Atahualpa 1849-1914, Sanford H. 1855-1934 and Dudley 1859-1934.

Ahira marries Elizabeth (Boyer) on 23 July 1859 and they have eight children (Leonard 1864-1924, Sophia 1867-1868, Joram 1868-1868, Loren 1869-1872, Sylviana 1871-1872, Luther 1873-1873, Jennie 1877-1942 she marries Calvin Fowler, and Arthur, 1882-1942. Only three of their children make it to adulthood. In late 1860, Parley relocates the family to Oceana County. Parley Worden dies 5 May of 1862 in Oceana County. Ahira and his wife comes to Oceana County in 1863 per his obit.

Michigan was critical to the successful mission of the Union Army. President Lincoln was quoted as saying "Thank God for Michigan!". We can understand this by some of the statistics about Michigan <sup>1</sup>:

- 14,753 Michigan soldiers died in service
- 4,448 of the deaths were combat death related
- Over 1,000 died from disease
- Michigan suffered the 6th highest losses in the Union states
- 1600 Colored Troops served

The Worden brothers, Ahira and his brother Arnold both registered for service in June of 1863.

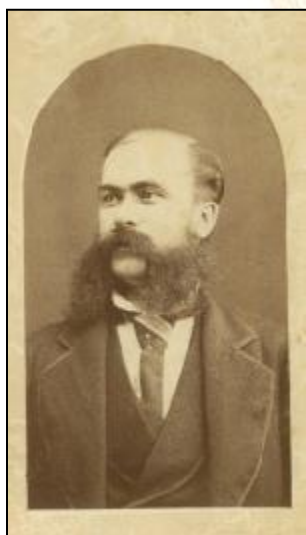
<sup>1</sup>Michigan Encyclopedia (Vol. 1, 2008/09 ed., Matthew L. Daly, Jennifer L. Herman & Caryn Hannan, p. 82-58.

Deaths of Union Forces by States 1861-1865 <https://web.archive.org/web/20070218081244/http://users.aol.com/dlharvey/stat.htm> Retrieved 5/3/2018

# Ancestor Spotlight II

Submitted by GRO John Sawyer

continued on Pg. 5



**Bowman Morgan**

## Bowman Morgan

13<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Maine Infantry

1841 (Charlotte, ME) – 05 February 1911 (Lynn, MA)

G-Grand Uncle of GRO John Sawyer

Brandon Morgan was a proud member of several Maine Infantry Regiments, including the 13th, 16th, & 20th, from Nov 1861 until Jun 1865. He saw hard service in many of the major conflicts of the Civil War including Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, Wilderness, Spotsylvania, and Petersburg. Morgan marched in the Grand Parade in Washington, May 1865. He was a leather worker and shoemaker later in life. In the 1910 Census, he was listed as a Leather Inspector for the US Government.

Bowman had a sister, Sarah Morgan 1842 -1897, who was my Great Grandmother. She was married to my Gr Grandfather, Francis Sawyer, 1831-1899. A son of Francis, John Sawyer, 1890-1975 is my Grandfather. John migrated to Michigan from Maine around 1900, settling in Detroit. John had a lengthy career with Packard Motor Car Co, retiring in 1955. A son of John Sawyer was Harold Sawyer, 1919-1994, my dad.

Bowman Morgan, Civil War Veteran, a Boy in Blue, an American hero, and my G-Grand Uncle. May we always strive to keep "green" the memory of these heroic Veterans.

## Ancestor Spotlight I cont'd

Ahira's Civil War profile says he was 28 years old when he enlisted in Company I, Michigan 15th Infantry Regiment on 16 Mar 1865. This regiment was organized in March of 1862. During the war 3 officers were killed/mortally wounded, 4, died of disease or by accident, 60 Enlisted killed or mortally wounded and 268 enlisted died of disease or accident. Battles were fought in Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia. When Ahira enters they are in battles near Hilton Head, South Carolina to Winston, Kinston, Raleigh, North Carolina.<sup>2</sup> He mustered out on 13 Aug 1865 at Little Rock, Arkansas and took the train and basically walked his way home to Michigan arriving around September 10th, 1865.

Ahira was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Shields Post 68 in Oceana County, which was Chartered 27 July 1882. We believe Ahira is in the photo in the back row, the 5th counting from the left.



Above: GAR Veterans of Shelby, MI (photo from family files of Dr. Shelley Murphy - believed to have been pulled from the Historical Society or the Michigan GAR website) (Ahira believed to be back row, 5<sup>th</sup> from the left)

<sup>2</sup>Historical Data Systems, comp. *U.S., American Civil War Regiments, 1861-1866* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1999.



Above: Chair Whittled by Ahira Worden (photo taken by Dr. Shelley Murphy)

The family oral history collaborated with Ahira's Civil War pension application that while he served he also suffered from chronic diarrhea until his death, which he contracted in Little Rock, Arkansas. His service record acknowledges that he was in the hospital in Little Rock. John Kerr, a neighbor in Oceana County and fellow Civil War soldier, who also registered with Ahira was a witness in his pension application. He said that Ahira was a healthy farmer with a stout build before the war. After the war Ahira was unable to work a full day on the farm.

During Ahira's life before and after the war he attempted to keep his farm going, but he was also known for whittling. Here is a photo of a chair, still in the family that Ahira whittled. All of his grandchildren from his son Arthur to some of his 4x great-grands have sat in this chair.

*continued on Pg. 6*

## 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
<del>02 May 2020</del> ROBERT & FRANCES FINCH BANQUET	<del>Elks Lodge #323, Traverse City</del> <b>POSTPONED</b>
09 May 2020	South Boardman, Kalkaska Co.
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)



# Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9

## Frances Finch Aux. No. 9 Ladies of GAR Plot 241 Project

The end of a project is here, and the Ladies of GAR Plot 241 now have their headstones. The Sisters of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 and Camp 14 GRO Sawyer ensured funding was achieved, and through the work of Oakwood Cemetery Sexton Branden Morgan, the previously unmarked gravesites of the Ladies of GAR Plot 241 are now properly remembered. The headstones have been installed in the past several days.



Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 has a very busy schedule in the next few months (dependent on the current situation). Several events include:

- 2020 ASUVCW Department Encampment (TC Elks Lodge #323) — 02MAY2020
- Finch Banquet with Camp 14 — 02MAY2020
- Last Veteran Buried in Kalkaska County — 09MAY2020
- Linwood Cemetery Memorial Day Weekend Ceremony — 22MAY2020
- Memorial Day Weekend Events (throughout area) — 22- 24MAY2020

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

## Ancestor Spotlight I cont'd

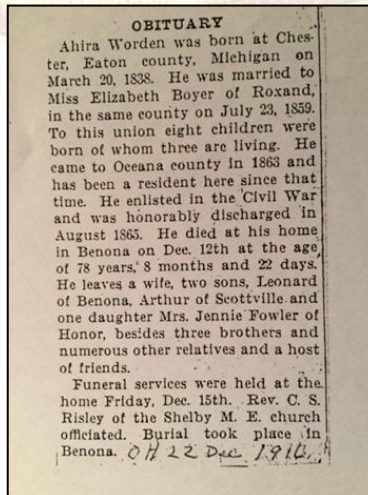
The Dependent and Disability Pension Act<sup>3</sup> was passed and signed by President Benjamin Harrison in June of 1890. This allowed Ahira to apply for a pension since he was honorably discharged. He applied in April of 1881 and after being denied several times over 25 years, he did receive his pension by 1907. He receives his pension of \$20 per month for 9 years before his death. His Obit was posted 22 Dec 1916 in the OH newspaper.

On 12 Dec 1916, Ahira passes and is buried in the old North Benona Township Cemetery, Oceana. There are no headstones in the old part of the cemetery and Parley is also believed to be buried along with other Worden's. Elizabeth at the age of 70 years old applies for Ahira's pension and it is approved December 16, 1916.

<sup>3</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dependent\\_and\\_Disability\\_Pension\\_Act](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dependent_and_Disability_Pension_Act)

Near Right: Obituary of Ahira Worden

Far Right: Ahira Worden's GAR Post Ribbon for Shields Post No. 68, Shelby, Michigan. MVAO Calvin Murphy wore this ribbon when he was initiated by Robert Finch Camp No. 14 into the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. (photo courtesy of Dr. Shelley Murphy)



## Joyfield's Unknown USCTs cont'd

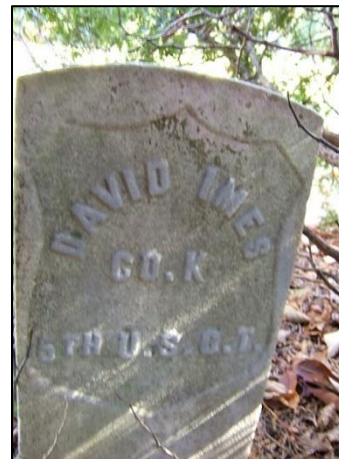
The Davis family has been in Benzie County since 1863, primarily in Joyfield Township. William and Mildred (Brand) Davis, free colored landowners (11 acres) left Franklin County, PA in 1858, stopping in Medina, Ohio for five years. Two of the Davis children were born in Ohio (Henry and Alma). While in Ohio they purchased 25 acres of land. The Davis's sold their 25 acres arriving in Michigan in 1863, thus homesteading 160 acres in Joyfield. As you know the Homestead Act of 1862 required the perspective landowners to work the land for five years. They received the land certificate on 1 Oct 1870. Joseph Brand Davis, first born son of Mildred's (born in March of 1838 in Chambersburg, PA), also homesteaded 160 acres right next to his parents. Joseph received his land certificate 1 November 1871. The Davis family sold 5 acres of land to the Joyfield Township on 12 June 1871 for the Joyfield Cemetery.

My family spent our summers on the Davis homestead property as well as the Manistee County Marsh family homestead. I actually moved to Benzie County, lived on the Davis homestead property and worked at Mitchell's. While surveying Joyfield Cemetery for more family I located a David Imes. His headstone was under the bushes near William Davis's tall blue tombstone.

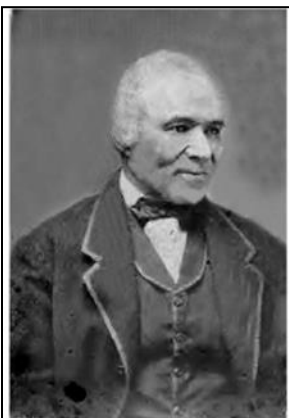
David Imes, son of John and Elizabeth Imes, born in PA about 1840, is a man of color and a USCT serving in Co. K, 5th Regiment. He has a sister named Marybell, who married Joseph B. Davis. Joseph and Marybell are the parents of Horace B. Davis, known as the first born child in Joyfield Township. David also, had a sister named Caroline who is listed in the 1870 census in the household of Charles Bailey (founder of Benzonia). David's wife was Emeline, she died between 1870 to 1871. I believe it was before the cemetery was in place. Her grave along with four other family members are supposedly on Joseph's property around a tree.

Pvt. David Imes, Co. K 5th Regiment USCT is listed on the African American Civil War Memorial plaque A-14. I am including the link so you can read more about the 5th Regiment and their accomplishments. ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/5th\\_United\\_States\\_Colored\\_Infantry\\_Regiment](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/5th_United_States_Colored_Infantry_Regiment))

David Imes died on 20 Dec 1889 in Benzie County. His real estate was listed for sale. I retrieved the jacket to his military service record from fold3.com. Also, the Imes family a few years ago shared with me a copy of a letter that David Imes wrote to Frederick Douglas. David Imes is the brother-in-law of my 2nd great uncle Joseph Brand Davis. I want to make a note, to date I have not be able to locate if Joseph Brand Davis also served. I mentioned earlier about the Davis's being in Ohio, David and Joseph both registered for the Civil War in 1863 in Wayne County, Ohio. At this time, I am tracking 6 Joseph Davis individuals who served in the Civil War. I believe this is a photo of David Imes:



Above: David Imes' headstone (taken in 2016 by Dr. Shelley Murphy)



Above: David Imes (photo labeled as such received by Imes family member in 2016)

Charles and Margaret "Maggie" (Cowen) Baty/Batey, another early colored family who settled in Joyfield Township. The Batey family were neighbors of the Davis family. There is not a lot of information on this family except they were known as being a very proud family. Oral history says that Maggie Batey danced for President Lincoln. Someone living in Benzie County has the picture or article to support this. This person was connected to one of their sons. It was Clayton's wife or a person who took care of him. Mr. Charles Batey was supposedly enslaved and oral history says that Mrs. Maggie Batey purchased her husband for \$90 dollars. This has been written in a few articles. I have not been able to confirm this. He too might have been a USCT, but I have not researched enough to confirm it. Mr. Baty was born in Virginia and Maggie was born in Danville, Boyle County, Kentucky. Their daughter Fannie was a school teacher and I believe the first African American teacher in Benzie County. So far, I was not able to locate a picture of George. Here is a photo of the Baty's second house. The first house burned and the photo is the second house. My mother Verna Worden at the time, remembers going to the Baty house. Typically, the community comes together to help the family during their time of need. The Baty's did not accept any assistance in rebuilding. The Baty property eventually became the property of Willie Branch.

*continued Pg. 8*



**Far Left:** The Bennet family had a 109<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for Maggie Baty (Maggie is sitting and holding the cane) in Joyfield

**Near Left:** The Baty's second house

## Joyfield's Unknown USCTs cont'd

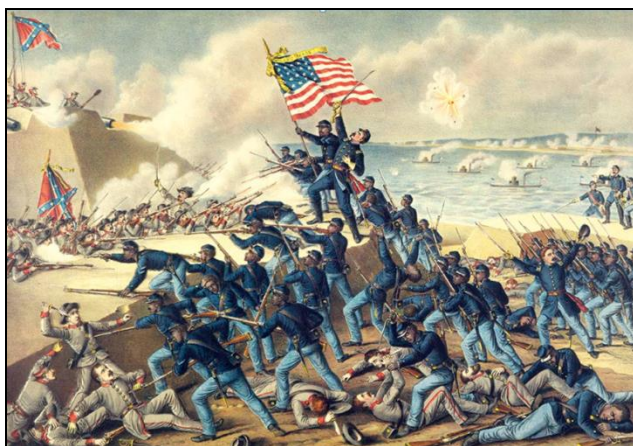
George W. Cowan was born 22 August 1835/6, in Kentucky, son of Cyrus and Mary (Roberson) Cowan, was widowed (his wife was Eliza) and died 17 Oct 1922 and buried in Joyfield. On his death certificate (Michigan Death Certificates, 1921-1952), his race was listed as White. Wonder why they put that on his certificate? I am not sure how they figured that out. He was listed as a barber in the census, and sister to Margaret "Maggie" (Cowan) Baty. It is believed that George came to live in Joyfield after the war.

George enlisted in 1863 and was assigned to the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment (Colored). This regiment is well known and highlighted in the Denzel Washington movie "Glory" where Robert Gould Shaw (known abolitionist) was the commander. A good resource to learn more about the 54<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry Regiment is to visit the Massachusetts Historical Society located online at: (<http://www.masshist.org/online/54thregiment/index.php>). Please do not take how the movie was laid out as the total truth about this regiment. The 54<sup>th</sup> as the first northern Black volunteer regiment fought in numerous important battles such as the assault on Fort Wagner. Per the blackpast.org online site: "in the Fifty-fourth, however, only 113 men (13%) hailed from Massachusetts. The new regiment represented a broad geographical spectrum, including soldiers from 15 Northern states, four border states, five Confederate states, Canada, and the West Indies. At least 30 were former slaves."

During this battle it was reported that they had 600 men and lost 270 during this battle alone. Putting colored soldiers in the military always brought controversy. Some points were that the colored soldiers were lazy, not skilled or smart, and couldn't follow orders, all the much needed traits of a soldier. But the successes of this regiment basically allowed the recruitment of colored men to continue.

George Cowan was baptized and confirmed a member of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints on 22 June 1907 at Weldon, Benzie, Michigan. He attended the Joyfield, Michigan Branch as well as the Davis & Marsh families. In the 1920 census, he was listed as Black and as an uncle in the Baty household.

In closing, I hope this write up provides a little glimpse of our USCTs that lived out their lives after the war in Benzie County. I was not sure they had been recognized as all Civil War soldiers should. Could there have been more USCT's, maybe, we just need to look for them. Thank you! - Dr. Shelley Viola Murphy



Above: Famous picture of the Storming of Fort Wagner, July 18, 1863 by Kurz and Allison, 1890 (Courtesy Library of Congress (LC-DIG-pga-01949))

### Camp 14 Newest National Life Member



Camp 14 welcomes the latest Brother of our Camp to become an SUCVW National Life Member. The Camp Secretary has received notification from SUCVW Executive Director David Demmy that Brother John Milks is now an SUCVW National Life Member.

Brother Milks is a United States Marine Corps and Vietnam Conflict Veteran. He belongs to other area Veteran organizations such as the VFW, American Legion (where he is the current Commander of the Bowen-Holliday Post 35), and the Traverse Area Honor Guard.

Congratulations Brother Milks!



### Camp 14 Assistant Secretary Appointed

Brother Rodney Welliver was appointed by Camp Commander John Lantzer to serve the rest of the term as the Camp's Assistant Secretary. This will provide the Camp with redundancy for administrative tasks, and serve as a role in learning the requirements for serving in the elected office of Secretary.

Brother Welliver is a United States Air Force Veteran, and belongs to other Veteran organizations such as the American Legion and the Vietnam Veterans of America

Congratulations Brother Welliver!





## In Memoriam – Brother William Hanusik

Former Camp 14 member and forever Camp friend, Brother Bill Hanusik passed away on 29 March 2020. His obituary is as follows:

William Hanusik, age 66, of Roscommon, died on Sunday, March 29, 2020, in Grayling, with his family at his side.

William was born Sunday, July 19, 1953 in Detroit, Michigan, the son of John and Shirley (Peck) Hanusik.

William married Varlya Burris on August 21, 1983 in Trenton, Michigan.

William had several passions. He enjoyed war reenacting, genres from 1812 through World War II. He was known for being quite the history buff. He also enjoyed having been an extra in civil war movies. William enjoyed doing demonstrations to teach children about the civil war. He also enjoyed participating in graveyard walks where he would do portrayals of a person and their life of one who was buried there. William will be remembered for having played Ebenezer Scrooge in Wyandotte during the Christmas Home Tours. He enjoyed his Lionel trains. He enjoyed refurbishing old civil war guns. He also will be remembered for liking to watch Jeopardy and was actually pretty good at knowing the answers. William most of all, loved spending time with his family and friends.

William will be greatly missed by family and friends. He is survived by his beloved wife Varlya; children: Trisha Jones of Roscommon and Thomas Hanusik; sister Carol Ann Colaluca of Woodhaven, Michigan; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends; and of course, all the “fur babies”.

William is preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law Ralph Colaluca.

William’s family has chosen to remember him privately at this time.

The family prefers memorial contributions be made in William’s name to the Lung Association.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Wagner and Walsh Funeral Directors, Roscommon.



Above: Oakwood 11 Ceremony (May 2018) – Brother Hanusik (fifth from the left) as part of the SUVCW Honor Guard (SVR, Camp 14, and friends).



### Brother Bill Hanusik

In Action at the 2014 Kalkaska Dual Medal of Honor Ceremony

Brother Bill Hanusik as remembered by PDC Smith:

Brother Hanusik was a member of Camp 14 for several years, transferring his membership to our Camp after attending one of our grave dedication ceremonies in Vanderbilt where he joined in with us to participate. He was so impressed with us that he wanted to be a part of us. The feeling was mutual, as we wanted him to be with us too.

Brother Bill eventually transferred to U.S. Grant Camp No. 67 a few years ago due to the ease of access for Camp meetings on I-75, as well as he traveled to the Bay City area more frequently. He was very hesitant to transfer, and worried that his Brothers in Camp 14 may not understand as he really enjoyed being a member of Camp 14. His concern was genuine, and most definitely appreciated. Despite his transfer, he offered his services to be able to support our Camp in ceremonies if he was available as a member of the Honor Guard. For anyone that didn't know Brother Bill, that was the kind of guy he was - thoughtful, supportive, and always willing to help if possible. He was a major history buff, a reenactor (including being in the film Gettysburg) of various time periods, and a great representative to our GAR forefathers.

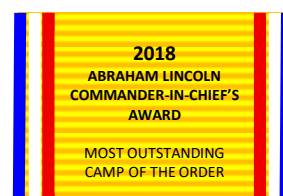
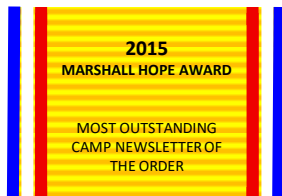
At first when you met him, his personality almost seemed "northern Michigan gruff", but after talking with him for less than 5 minutes, you soon realized that he was a very kind gentle bear, and an American History buff. Once you got to know him, you were honored to call him friend.

Brother Bill's last work with Camp 14 was at the Oakwood 11 ceremony back in May 2018. He served on the SUVCW Honor Guard for that event. It was so good seeing him back in TC. He was happy to support the Camp and be a part of our history. We had a good talk and a laugh as always whenever we saw each other - in TC or at the Grayling artillery competition, etc.

Rest in peace Brother, you will be greatly missed.



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



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