



The Sharpshooter



SGT. ROBERT FINCH
1st 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

In Memoriam: Camp 14 Legend – PCC Neal Breaugh

Robert Finch Camp No. 14 lost an absolute legend on 06 July 2020, as PCC Neal Breaugh left us for the great bivouac in the sky. Our tremendous loss, is for certain Heaven's gain.

Brother Breaugh served and led Robert Finch Camp No. 14 faithfully, for over 21 years. PCC Breaugh was initiated on 07 January 1999 in Traverse City. During his tenure he helped to build Robert Finch Camp No. 14 into one of the most respected Camps in the entire Order, taking it to heart that Robert Finch Camp No. 14 is the oldest active Camp in the Department of Michigan. His leadership was known Department-wide, and Camp 14 was known as "Neal's Camp".

PCC Neal Breaugh was elected and appointed to numerous offices within Camp 14. Brother Neal spend many years as Camp 14's Secretary and Treasurer ensuring that all was in order administratively, and coordinating all Camp activities, projects, and ceremonies. These efforts put many a Camp Commanders' minds at ease knowing that all was professionally cared for and duly handled. In 2004, Brother Neal was elected as the 47th Camp Commander of Robert Finch Camp No. 14. Later on, PCC Breaugh was appointed to the honorable office of Chaplain, which like everything else he performed with precision and grace.

In addition to serving in Camp offices, Brother Neal served the Department of Michigan diligently. PCC Breaugh was elected to the offices of Junior Vice Department Commander and Senior Vice Department Commander. Additionally, he served on the Department Council for several years.

In 2014, at the Camp 14 Centennial Banquet, PCC Breaugh was the very first recipient of the prestigious Sgt. Robert Finch Award for meritorious and long term service to the Camp, as well as his efforts in reestablishing Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9.

While we can never replace Brother Neal and what he meant to so many; we can strive to carry on the work and passion that he embraced in the SUVCW and everything else that he touched during his life. Godspeed Brother, until we meet again.



Above: PCC Neal Breaugh and PAP Emily Breaugh at a ceremony in Vanderbilt, Michigan.

Samuel Phillips, Last Veteran Buried in Missaukee County Honored

continued pg. 3



On 08 August 2020, Brothers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14 conducted a ceremony to honor Samuel Amandus Phillips, Co. E, 3rd Michigan Infantry, the Last Veteran Buried in Missaukee County. Junior Vice Commander Ribby led the ceremony as acting Commander, Graves Registration Officer Sawyer served as acting Memorials Officer, Asst. Secretary Welliver as acting Guard, and Recruiting Officer Conger served as acting Chaplain. PDC Aurand, PDC Smith, and Brother Jones were in support at the event. Bugles Across America Bugler and Camp friend, Thelma Paul played Taps. The Lake City American Legion Post 300, American Legion Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion served as the Honor Guard for the ceremony.

The Camp was honored that several branches of Samuel Phillips' progeny were in attendance. Additionally, the Missaukee County Sheriff Department attended including Sheriff Wil Yancer, Jr.

Mr. Phillips was the second Last Veteran Buried in the County ceremony conducted by Camp 14.

continued pg. 6



Commander's Message



It is that time of year once again. Camp dues for the 2020-2021 administrative term can be paid to the Camp Treasurer. Dues are still \$45. Please make checks out to "Robert Finch Camp 14".

Checks can be sent to the Camp Treasurer at:

Dale Aurand, PDC
321 W. 9th St.
Traverse City, MI 49684

The earlier that dues are paid, the easier it is on the Camp's Officers in collection. Thank you!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

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



November Meeting Date Changed

The November Camp meeting has been changed per a vote of the Camp at the 12 September 2020 meeting. The new date of the November meeting is one week earlier, Saturday, 07 November 2020. This will allow accommodation for Brothers that will be engaged in the opening of the firearm deer season on the 15th.

Please note the change in date to 07 November 2020 at the Cherryland VFW Post 2780 in Traverse City.

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. 9th St.
Traverse City, MI 49684

Camp 14 Brother Accepted in Mayflower Society



Brother Kenny Jones recently received news that he has been accepted as a member of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Michigan during the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower landing. Brother Jones is a USAF, Michigan Air National Guard and Michigan Army National Guard

Veteran and Retiree. A great article on this rare accomplishment and Brother Ken can be found at:

<http://www.crawfordcountyavalanche.com/news/grayling-man-confirms-his-roots-date-back-relatives-who-came-country-mayflower>
(picture courtesy of the Crawford County Avalanche)

2020 National Encampment

The 2020 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War National Encampment will be held virtually on 24 October 2020. Please see General Orders No. 37 as issued by Commander-in-Chief Norris regarding the Encampment.

Finch Banquet Postponed Until 2021

Due to the ongoing public health situation, the Frances Finch Aux. No. 9 and Robert Finch Camp No. 14 "Finch" Banquet is postponed until 2021. The event is still anticipated to be held at the Elks Lodge No. 323 in Traverse City. Stay tuned for more information regarding the rescheduling of the event.

In Memoriam – PCC Breagh, cont'd

A wonderful video of Neal was produced by his children and can be seen at:

<https://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com/obituaries/Neal-Breagh/#!/PhotosVideos/b68f1907-cob3-4017-a2c2-961511b87959/1215744e-092b-4e6c-b3d9-c4311b21888>

The video is really worth viewing; it is an excellent tribute to a great Brother.

OBITUARY

On July 6th, 2020, Neal Francis Breagh decided that the only place he hadn't traveled to that he wanted to explore was Heaven. So, at the age of 86, he booked a one-way passage to the celestial city where he is no doubt dancing, telling stories, and trying to figure out how he can pull some strings for the Lions.

Neal was born on March 23, 1934 in Detroit. As he grew, he developed a passion for history, learning about different cultures, and travel. During his lifetime, he would journey to places that a child born during the Great Depression could never have imagined, traveling extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, the Middle East, and the Far East. Despite all of the exotic locations he toured, some of his favorite trips were taking his children to Civil War battlefields and National Historic Landmarks, exposing them to the hands-on history that he loved so much.

Neal's professional life would also take him on journeys he couldn't have anticipated. Neal grew up always believing that he would be a priest. However, after graduating from Sacred Heart Seminary in 1956, he felt strongly that there was a different path he was supposed to follow...although he had no idea what it was. Over the course of his life, he worked many different jobs, some of which include: stock boy, copy boy, sports writer, forklift operator, loading dock worker, ad salesman, football and basketball coach, referee, reserve police officer, business owner, activities director, driving instructor, and executive director of two teachers associations. But it was his decision in 1957 to get a teaching certificate, and eventually a Masters Degree from the University of Detroit, that would not only change his life forever, but also the many thousands of students who he would go on to teach in both California and Michigan during his 40 years as an educator. A favorite teacher of so many, up to his final days on earth Neal would encounter former students during grocery store trips, doctor visits, and errands who would go out of their way to catch up with him to tell him how much they loved him as a teacher and what his classes meant to them. These were special moments for Neal.

In 1960, Neal married tennis champion June Stack. While their marriage didn't last forever as they'd hoped, they worked together to raise their four children—Shawn, Todd, Michelle, and Heather—and remained lifelong friends. As it turned out, the great love of Neal's life was his second wife, Emily. They married in 1977 and with Emily's daughters—Monica and Cindy—created a large blended family. Neal and Emily were soulmates and he adored her until his last breath.

Neal was preceded in death by his parents Francis and Norma Breagh, and his sister Joanne. Neal leaves behind many who love him including his wife, brother John, sister Kay, 4 children, 2 stepchildren, 9 grandchildren, 12 great grandchildren, many nieces, nephews, and cousins, not to mention all of their spouses, and an abundance of extended family members and friends...all of whom will miss him greatly.

As you live your life, Neal would want you to remember the saying that he always had on his answering machine and by which he lived: "Have fun, because life is too short not to enjoy it!" Giving back to the community and helping others were priorities for Neal, as is evidenced by his extensive work with the Knights of Columbus, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, and the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War. In lieu of flowers or gifts, memorial donations are requested to be sent to St. Vincent de Paul TC, 1207 Woodmere Ave, Traverse City, MI 49686 or call 231-947-8466 for phone donations.

A celebration of Neal's life and legacy will be held at a future date when the people whose lives he touched can gather together in the same room, enjoying laughter and song, and embrace one another. In the meantime, please share memories of Neal with his family by visiting his Tribute page at <https://www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com/obituaries/Neal-Breagh/>.

The family is being cared for by the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation Services.

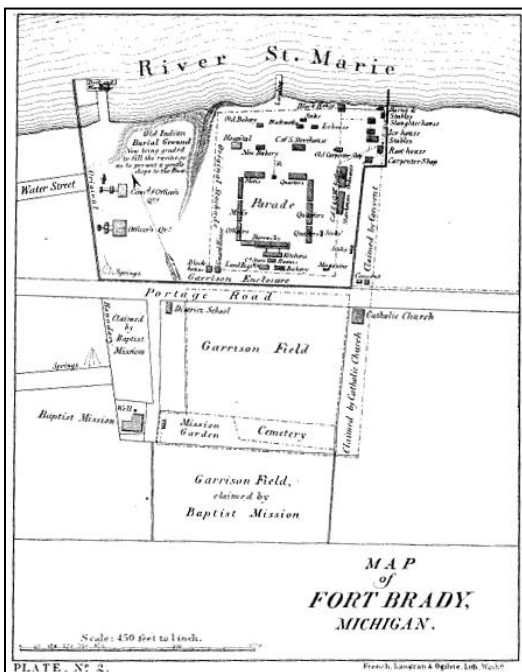


Top: PCC Neal Breagh at the Calkins ceremony

Middle: PCC Neal Breagh receiving the first Sgt. Robert Finch Camp No. 14 from PCC Bill Skillman and PDC Dale Aurand in 2014

Bottom: PCC Neal Breagh as Chaplain providing prayer at the Martin Sehl ceremony in Vanderbilt

Northern Michigan Military Installations – Past & Present



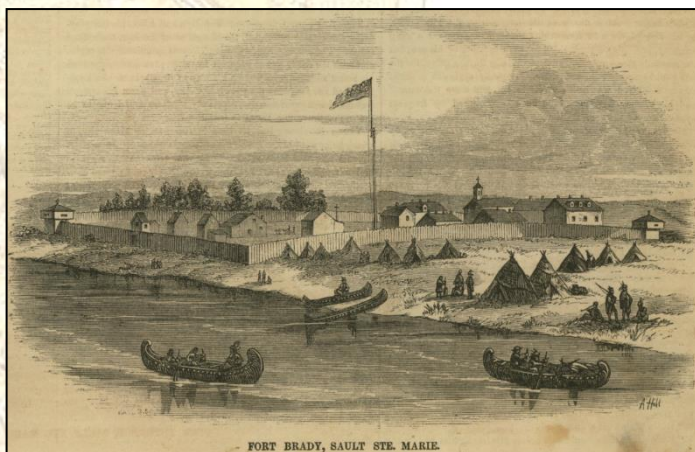
Above: Map of rebuilt Old Fort Brady (2nd Fort -1870)

(picture source from: fortwiki.com)

The US Army arrived back at Fort Brady in 1866 due to the high possibility of the locks being sabotaged, and a staging location for invasion. The garrison's mission focused solely on protection of the canals and locks located in Sault Ste. Marie. Company D, and later Company B of the 4th US Infantry arrived on 12 May 1866. The dilapidated structures were rebuilt and remodeled, thus creating the 2nd Fort at Old Fort Brady.

During the late 1800s, the shipping canal was widened, and the location and structures of Old Fort Brady were deemed insufficient. **General Philip "Fightin' Phil" Sheridan** selected a new more strategic location for Fort Brady to relocate on Ashmun Hill.

Construction began on the New Fort Brady on Ashmun Hill during the 1880s, and was completed in 1893. Old Fort Brady was abandoned, and the garrison moved to New Fort Brady (3rd Fort) at that time. In 1894, Fort Mackinac closed leaving the New Fort Brady as the only major US Army post in northern Michigan. The soldiers and supplies from Fort Mackinac were sent to Fort Brady. Also in 1894, Fort Brady troops were called up for civil unrest. In 1898, 2,000 troops were stationed at Fort Brady for training prior to being sent to Cuba during the Spanish-American War.



Above: Old Fort Brady (1st/2nd Forts) (picture source from: wikipedia.org)

During World War II, Fort Brady expanded to accommodate over 20,000 troops stationed there. The 702nd Military Police Battalion was stationed there in 1941 to protect Sault Ste. Marie's locks, canals, and navigation channels. Additionally, cold weather training and maneuvers were conducted at Fort Brady during World War II. The US Army deactivated Fort Brady on 25 November 1944, and declared the post as surplus on 01 October 1945. Troops vacated the Fort by the latter portion of 1945, and the Michigan National Guard assumed protection of the locks and canals of the Sault region. Camp Lucas, a small section of the fort property was reactivated briefly during the Korean War. In 1946, Fort Brady was given to the Michigan College of Mining and Technology (Michigan Tech) in Houghton for a Sault Branch. "Michigan Tech - Soo Branch" later became Lake Superior State College and then University (LSSU). New Fort Brady is alive as a university campus, but one can still see the Fort in its structure and grounds.

Near Right: Fort Brady Honor Guard at perimeter fence - circa 1940s
(picture source from: lssu.edu)

Far Right: New Fort Brady Main Gate with Officers' Row in background during recent times as LSSU (picture source from: fortwiki.com)

Information for this feature were sourced from:

- <https://www.lssu.edu/fort-brady/>
- http://www.fortwiki.com/New_Fort_Brady
- [http://www.fortwiki.com/Fort_Brady_\(2\)](http://www.fortwiki.com/Fort_Brady_(2))
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Brady
- <https://ss.sites.mtu.edu/mhugl/2017/10/29/the-abridged-history-of-fort-brady/>



Fort Brady

United States Army

Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa County, Michigan

Constructed: 1st Fort (Old): 1822 2nd Fort (Old): 1866 3rd Fort (New): 1893

Closed: 1st Fort (Old): 1857 2nd Fort (Old): 1892/3 3rd Fort (New): 1944

Fort Brady the 1st Fort was established in 1822 on the site of the earlier French Fort de Repentigny. Fort de Repentigny was a colonial fort erected in 1751 by French Captain Louis le Gardeur de Repentigny to protect the French fur trade in the Great Lakes. In 1760, the British captured the fort during the French & Indian War. The British held the fort until it was destroyed by fire and abandoned on 22 December 1762.

The 1st Fort, "Old Fort Brady" was established in June 1822 by Colonel Hugh Brady with Companies A, B, D, K, and I of the 2nd US Infantry from Sackett's Harbor, New York. Brady received his commission from George Washington in 1792, served under "Mad" Anthony Wayne in the Northwest Indian War, was a Colonel in War of 1812, and later fought in the Black Hawk War. He later rose to the rank of Brevet Major General.

The presence of the US Army stabilized the region and successfully counteracted the British influence there, along with protecting the US border from British incursion. Regular troops were garrisoned there until the Mexican War, and were withdrawn at that time. The 1st Michigan Volunteers garrisoned at the fort until regular troops returned in 1849. The regular troops withdrew from the fort to Fort Snelling, Minnesota in 1857. The fort was abandoned and not regarrisoned with US Army regulars until 1866.

Alexander French Camp 28 Brother Earns Eagle Scout Award



Far Left: Brother Dalten Sible is aided by his Mother in putting on the Eagle Scout scarf. (photo courtesy of CC Brent Sible of Camp 28)

Near Left: Brothers Ted Johnson and Gerald Lintemuth also of Camp 28 present Brother Sible with the SUVCW Eagle Scout Certificate.

Camp 28 is proud to announce that our Brother Dalten Sible has completed his Eagle Scout Board of Review on 20 May 2020. Brother Dalten is a member of BSA Troop 74 of Reed City. Brother Dalten Eagle Scout Project consisted of rebuilding the Tustin AYSO Soccer Fields sign. The original sign at the soccer fields was painted 15 years ago, and the sign needed to be rebuilt. Brother Dalten and his parents are involved with AYSO, so the need for restoring the sign was very well known by him. Brother Dalten recruited and oversaw 5 Scouts and 8 others to work on the project along with him.

Upon obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout, Brothers Ted Johnson and Gerald Lintemuth of Camp 28 presented Brother Sible with the SUVCW Eagle Scout Certificate. Brother Dalten also received awards and celebratory letters from the Sons of the American Revolution, Governor Whitmer, President Carter, President Bush, President Clinton, former State Representative Potvin, and Congressman Amash.

Congratulations Brother Dalten Sible on a job well done!

Article submitted by Camp Commander Brent Sible, Alexander French Camp No. 28

Our New Meeting Home – Cherryland VFW Post 2780

Robert Finch Camp No. 14 Finds a New Home Amongst Veteran Friends



Robert Finch Camp No. 14 is highly honored to now call the Cherryland VFW Post 2780 home. Post 2780 offered Camp 14 and Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 to meet there for meetings with the Camp being a fellow local Veterans organization. The Camp Council voted to secure the location as the current home of the Camp. Brother and SUVCW Life Member John Milks was instrumental in aiding the Camp in this effort. His efforts cannot be emphasized enough, and a big thank you to Brother Milks. Brother Milks serves as the liaison between the Camp and the Post, as he is the current Junior Vice Commander of Post 2780.

Samuel Phillips, Last Veteran Honored, cont'd

MILITARY SERVICE

At age 18, [born 24 March 1846, at Medina, Medina, Ohio] Enlistment 1 Mar 1865, Hastings, Michigan; Rank Private; Muster in 3 Mar 1865, Muster Regiment: Company E, Michigan 3rd Infantry Regiment, Muster Out: 1 Mar 1866, San Antonio, Texas.

OBITUARY

Last Civil War Veteran Dead September 6, 1934, Missaukee Republican, Lake City, Missaukee County, Michigan

Samuel A. Phillips, 88, the last Civil War veteran of Missaukee county, died at his home here last night.

Mr. Phillips came to Missaukee county many years ago and settled at Cutcheon where he improved a large farm.

A few years ago he sold the farm to one of his sons and moved to Lake City. The last few months he has been in poor health and has been quite sick for several weeks. Old age was the cause of failing health.

He is survived by his wife, three daughters and four sons.

Mr. and Mrs. Phillips have been married nearly sixty years and their golden wedding anniversary was celebrated at the home her in Lake City when their children were all home several years ago.

Mr. Phillips was a farmer until old age caused him to retire from active work, but above all he was a good citizen, a good husband and father and will be missed by his many relatives and friends.

Funeral arrangements have not been completed at this time.

Source:
Findagrave.com (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/125099247/samuel-amandus-phillips>)



Left: Gravesite of Samuel and Lucy Phillips
Right: Asst. Secretary Welliver posted as Guard
(photos courtesy of RO Conger, Br. Jones, and PDC Smith)



Above: American Legion Post 300 Honor Guard
(photos courtesy of RO Conger, Br. Jones, and PDC Smith)



Above: JVC Ribby Reciting a Poem at the Ceremony
(photos courtesy of RO Conger, Br. Jones, and PDC Smith)

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
02 May 2020 ROBERT & FRANCES FINCH BANQUET	Elks Lodge #323, Traverse City POSTPONED TO 2021
13 June 2020	South Boardman, Kalkaska Co.
11 July 2020	Cherryland VFW Post 2780, Traverse City
12 September 2020	Cherryland VFW Post 2780, Traverse City
07 November 2020	Cherryland VFW Post 2780, Traverse City

All meetings begin at 11:30AM (1130)



Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9

Frances Finch Aux. No. 9 Latest News

These days for the Sisters of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 have been bittersweet. The Sisters have mourned the tremendous losses of Sister Marian Solem and Brother Neal Breaugh – both being pillars to the Allied Orders and Frances Finch No. 9. ASUVCW Memorial Rites were conducted by AP Rongey, PAP, Sec.-Treas. Smith, PAP, and AVP Rose, PAP for PAP Marian at graveside. Several Camp 14 Brothers were in attendance for support and respect.

The 12 September meeting saw the initiation of 2 new Sisters to Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9. Welcome to Sister Valerie Jones and Sister Lorraine Aurand!



Above: Sister Jones' and Sister Aurand's Initiation with Council #3 Lorraine Jones looking on.
(photos courtesy of PAP Lisa Smith)

The Auxiliary's new meeting place is the Cherryland VFW Post 2780. Elections will be in November.

The "Finch" Banquet is being moved to 2021 because of the current public health situation. Intention is that it will still be held at the Elks Lodge No. 323 in Traverse City. More info to come.



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

In Memoriam – PAP Marian Werdehoff Solem

PAP Marian Solem was a Charter Member of the reformation of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9. From the beginning, she was a leader and devoted Sister to keeping the Memory Green of the Boys in Blue.

Sister Solem derived her right of membership from her Great-Uncle Francis W. Weaver of the 24th New York

Infantry Regiment, Co. A. Private Weaver passed away at the hospital in Middletown, MD as a result of a gunshot wound suffered at the Battle of South Mountain.

Sister Solem was a member of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 since 02 April 2004, recommended for membership by PAP Mary Rose and PCC Neal Breaugh.



OBITUARY

Marian Elizabeth Solem (Werdehoff), 89 of Traverse City (formerly Birmingham) passed away Aug. 14, 2020.

Marian was born in Lake Orion, July 28, 1931, daughter to Albert and Mabel Werdehoff. She was the youngest of eight children.

She attended and graduated from Central High School in Detroit. In 1951 she married Donald Solem, they went on to have two children, Diane and David. Marian and Donald raised their family in Birmingham.

Marian worked as a library technician at the Baldwin Public Library of Birmingham. Following retirement, she moved to Traverse City.

Marian was a gifted knitter and quilter. She was active in numerous clubs and organizations in the Traverse City Area such as the Daughters of the American Revolution Job Winslow Chapter, Frances Finch ASUVCW #9 and the Methodist Women-Elisabeth Circle.

Marian leaves behind her beloved children Diane and David Solem, and her little white dog named Teddy.

A private family service was held. There may be future plans for a public service. Marian will be laid to rest in Traverse City's Oakwood Cemetery. Those wishing to make donations in Marian's honor may do so to the Cherryland Humane Society.



Ancestor Spotlight

Submitted by Br. Arthur Wakeley



Above: Crawford County Sheriff Thomas Wakeley, taken in 1893 (note Sheriff's badge and Odd Fellows lapel pin)

Thomas Wakeley (a.k.a. Thomas Wakely)

Co. F, 14th Ohio Infantry and Co. B, 8th Michigan Cavalry
Marvin GAR Post 240, Grayling, MI (mustered in 30 June 1887)
Great-Grandfather of Brother Arthur Wakeley

Thomas Wakeley joined Captain Chase's Company, 14th Ohio Infantry for 3 years from Bedford, Michigan on 28 August 1861. Private Wakeley mustered in at Camp Connell, Kentucky on 28 October 1861 where the Company became Company F. He was discharged from the Army on 24 April 1862 due to disability. He later reentered the war and mustered into Co. B, 8th Michigan Cavalry in March 1864 as a Corporal.

From Br. Art Wakeley: In 1879 one-armed Tom Wakeley came to the Grayling area driving a wagon team looking to reinvent himself. He'd escaped physical injury in the Civil War, but came away from an 1876 coon hunting accident near Ottawa Lake in Monroe County minus his dominant right arm. This incident was detailed in an issue of "The North Woods Call" highlighting exploits of various Crawford County pioneers. The following is an excerpt from an article that was published October 14, 1964. "Tom Wakeley had held that bleeding arm while he walked three miles to the nearest house. There a neighbor drove a horse at breakneck speed across the Ohio line to Toledo, explained the terrible condition of the hunter,

and the doctor said there was no use in his going. The man would be dead by the time he got there. Tom Wakeley fought against the odds. Another neighbor got out a horse and rode back to Toledo. That time the doctor came (but believing he'd find a dead man, brought no chloroform) and amputated the arm above the elbow."

That hardship had reduced this man of action, oil driller and deputy sheriff into becoming a storekeeper and bartender at Ottawa Lake in Monroe County. His survival was a strong announcement of what was to come. Three years after surviving that ordeal, a lumbering boom began in northern Michigan. The area was being billed as a "promised land." He sold his store and saloon and brought his family north for a new life.

Tom Wakeley found a fellow willing to trade him a log cabin and four acres of land for a shotgun. This was about 12 miles east of Grayling, where a bridge crossed the AuSable River. The bridge would later be known as Wakeley Bridge. During the years that followed, Tom acquired and honed additional skills. He could work single-handed with an axe alongside other men possessed of both arms in one of his logging camps. He prospered as a lumberman, trapper, guide, farmer, and lawman, serving as a two-term county sheriff from 1890-94. In 1895 he owned several tracts of land and was a township supervisor as well as a company rep for a harness firm.

Old Tom could hunt and fish. His grandson, my late father, Junior Wakeley, told me, "My granddad took six bears in five days in the oaks south of Wakeley Lake way back years ago....He'd go early in the morning when bear were eatin' on acorns, and he'd listen for the breaking of branches to locate the bears." "He built a nice two-story house and started to keep fishermen and hunters that were flocking to the area. The Beeman brothers, of chewing gum fame, used to stay there. Grandmother used to feed travelers who stopped to rest and water their teams as they went from the town of Cheney to the towns further north and east, like Lovells and Luzerne. There was a grist mill in Luzerne where folks took their grain to be ground into flour."

"He used to hunt with local legend Chief [David] Shoppenagon. Used to hunt deer. The chief would come to our house in the night. We'd wake in the morning and find him sleeping on the kitchen floor. Then, they'd go as far as Lewiston and camp out for a week at a time."

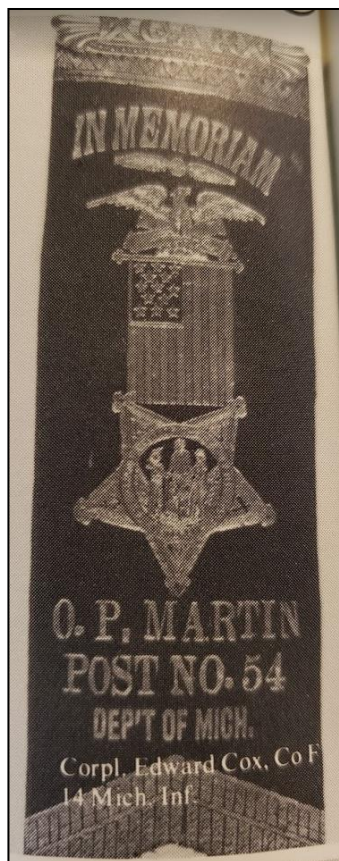
A March 15, 1890, account from the local newspaper, the Crawford County Avalanche stated, "Supervisor WAKELEY came into town, Monday, with six big wildcat heads. He is a mighty hunter, and gets there just the same as though he had two arms." And another item from the same newspaper on August 16, 1894, "Sheriff WAKELEY caught a rainbow trout last Friday that weighted 5 1/2 pounds."



Above: Tintype photo of Tom Wakeley family circa 1877. What appears to be Tom Wakeley's right hand is actually his left (note the wedding ring). Tom and Sarepta hold Seeley on their lap (Seeley's twin died). Eldest child, Amanda is standing in the rear and Arthur E. Wakeley stands with his hand on Sarepta's shoulder. (Photo Courtesy of Br. Arthur Wakeley)

continued p. 10

O.P. Morton GAR Post 54, Manton, MI



Above: Mourning Ribbon of the O.P. Morton GAR Post No. 54 in Manton belonging to Comrade Edward Cox.

In February of 1882, a meeting was called to take the necessary steps to organize a post of the Grand Army of the Republic. Frank Weaver was elected Chairman and H.C. McFarlan, Secretary. George Moore, Abram Woodward, and T.J. Thorpe were appointed a committee on correspondence. On April 26, 1882, the post was mustered in and designated the O.P. Morton Post No. 54, Department of Michigan. Officers elected in 1884 were: Commander, A. Woodard (same as Abram Woodward?); Senior Vice Commander, E.W. Closson; Junior Vice Commander, H.S. Hudson; Quartermaster, C. A. Lamb; Surgeon, J.L. Duston; Officer of the Day, George S. Moore; Officer of the Guard, William W. Lewis; Delegates to Department Encampment, H.C. McFarlan; Alternate, E.W. Closson.

Besides those pictured here, some of the other Veterans settling in this area were: John Wolford, Andrew Marcellus, Isaac Lamphere, John Henderson, John Dowell, Cyril Tyler, David Hutzler, Andrew J. Bennett, H. Hilliker, Felix White, Nathan DeLong (Step-G-G-G Grandfather of Sister Lisa Smith), A.J. Steward, Henry Newton, F.A. Swan, Enoch Olney, Samuel Rust, John H. Hall, Joseph Crofoot, Abyron L. Toms, Isaac Byers, Asa Sadler, Caleb Falkinburg, Stephen Dassance, Z.W. Ellsworth, D.M. Henderson, J.H. Chivvis, and Wm. B. VanBuskirk.

Notable GAR Men of Manton

Dr. Edward Morgan – The first war involving the Manton area is the Civil War. According to a newspaper account, untitled and undated, “Michigan furnished many regiments of soldiers for service in the Civil War, but the men for the most part came from the southern part of the state. Wexford County furnished but one soldier, and that one lone Veteran was Dr. Edward Morgan.

When the war broke out, Edward Morgan was a young man living in New York. He volunteered, and spent two years in the Army, seeing much service. Then he was hurt and was mustered out. After going home and getting on his feet physically, he left for Michigan and came to Wexford County, then in its infancy. He took up a homestead near where Manton now stands. A call came for volunteers, the war being then more than a year to run. Morgan responded and went to the front again, this time with a Michigan regiment – Co. M, 10th Michigan Cavalry. He fought to the end.

Following the close of the war, Morgan went to New York, studied medicine, graduated from Bellevue Hospital college, and returned to Michigan where he practiced medicine for nearly 50 years. He was also the first medical man in Wexford County.

Ezra Harger – Another GAR member of distinction as Ezra Harger who, with George Manton, founded Manton.

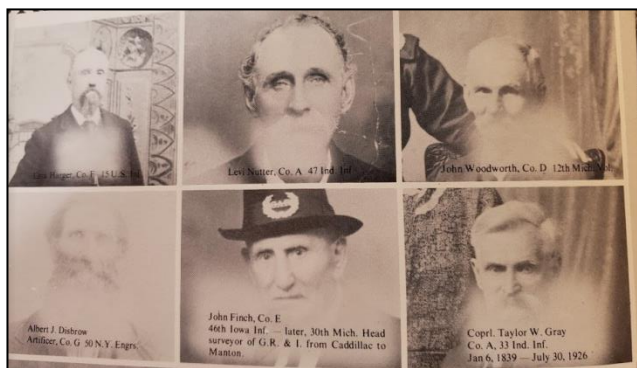
Born in Kent, Ohio, he moved with his parents to Pennsylvania, New York, and in 1852 to Lapeer County in Michigan. In April of 1861, while visiting a sister in Fulton County, Ohio, he enlisted in Co. F, 14th Ohio Infantry for a three-month term. In August following his discharge, he came to Lapeer and in October 1861 enlisted in the 15th U.S. Infantry serving in the western Army until February 1864. Re-enlisting for three years, he was promoted to Sergeant by Colonel Shepherd, August 8, 1865. In 1867 he was discharged, and in August of that same year he came to the Manton area.

Source (photos and text): Manton Centennial 1872-1972 Book



Above: Women's Relief Corps, Auxiliary for the O.P. Morton GAR Post

After the Grand Army of the Republic was dissolved, the Women's Relief Corps continued to carry on Memorial Day ceremonies in Manton. Pictured in the photograph above in 1952 is standing from left to right: Katie Toms, Martha Ashbay, Lottie Tiffany, Cora Hower, Emma Bostick, Ida Winegarden, Flora Lange, Mary McDaniel, Esther Denzel, Katherine Fountain, Lillie O'Dell, Emily Salmon, Jennie Judd, Stella Tidey, and kneeling in front: Evonne Ashbay.



Above: Various Comrades of the O.P. Morton GAR Post 54 in Manton



Ancestor Spotlight cont'd

Submitted by Br. Arthur Wakeley

Old Tom also hunted bees. My father said his granddad told him that he always kept bees near his garden and orchard and “fall was the time to hunt bees.” Old Tom said he went out in the fall of the year and marked the trees that held the bees. “Then, when it got cold, I'd bring the bees in.”

In 1910, Old Tom Wakeley, a widower now, sold his land at the original Wakeley Bridge to Consumers Power Company. Consumers had plans of putting in a dam at the downstream end of his place. The dam was never built. Old Tom moved in with his son Arthur's family in a hewn-log home he had helped build by slabbing and squaring those logs, one-handed of course, with a broad-axe.

Dad recalled of Old Tom, “He'd take his dog 'Old Dick' and go rabbit hunting in the winter. He'd stay out most of the day and come staggering home with 10 to 15 rabbits. He used to carry a drag rope to string them on, with a big loop to go over his shoulder and across his chest. That left his one hand free to carry his gun. I would see him coming sometimes and go to meet him and take over the drag, then skin and dress them out. My mother had a way of fixing them in a dripping pan in our wood cookstove oven with plenty of onions and a dark brown gravy – real good!”



Above: Chief David Shoppenagon



Above: Thomas Wakeley's Home on the AuSable in 1897

My father continued his reminiscence of Old Tom. “He helped cut wood and he worked the garden. He'd chop trees down with that one arm, every spring and fall, and they'd be piled in heaps and burned so more land could be plowed. In summer he had a hoe in his hand from morning 'til night. He read and read. Studied the almanac and the Sears catalog in the winter. He liked summer. He'd get up at dawn, take his hoe, work in the garden and rest in the shade of the porch roof when the sun got too hot. Our cellar under the house would be full of potatoes, carrots etcetera from that garden he worked. The shelves would be filled with canned tomatoes, huckleberries, peaches, maybe some pears and apple sauce.”

Old Tom did some market hunting in the 1880s. Selling Michigan venison out of state was legislated away in 1881, but it remained legal to sell within Michigan for many years. The DNR's historical summary of deer management -- citing data collected from hunters, railroads and restaurants -- reported in 1880 that 70,000 deer were killed in Michigan. Sportsmen took a reported 4,000, compared to 66,000 by market hunters. My dad told me that Old Tom, with his single arm, said he had personally killed 125 deer in one winter.



Above: Thomas Wakeley's GAR Membership Badge

The Cape Gun – No one had seen anything quite like this hunting combination in the region. A “handicapped” one-armed man comes into the northern wilderness and brings with him a unique firearm: a 12 gauge double-barreled Richards shotgun with a .40-82 rifle barrel inserted into the left hand barrel. Old Tom “smithed” it himself, and he was very efficient in its use, despite the single arm. Break-open shotguns of two side-by-side barrels with both a rifled and smooth-bore barrel are known as “Cape Guns.” These have a long history in Europe and Africa, but they were a rarity in early Michigan. The advantage of having a single gun that could fire both a rifle and shotgun cartridge was not lost on Old Tom. He used it to hunt a variety of game, from game birds to rabbits to predators to deer, choosing the appropriate barrel in a split second. He told his grandson that he would raise the shotgun up the foreleg of a deer and fire when the front bead reached the animal's shoulder. He rarely missed.

At the Clements Library at the University of Michigan, there is a letter written by Thomas Wakeley during the Civil War to his niece Josephine Wakeley (Joe). Joe was 6 years younger than Thomas, and the daughter of his brother Hiram (Hiram was 23 years older than Ol' Tom). A copy of the letter was retrieved by Brother Art Wakeley and transcribed for ease of reading.

continued p. 11

Ancestor Spotlight cont'd

Sunday May 29th, 1864
Nicholasville, KY

Well Joe,

I just seat [ed] myself to try & write a few lines to you. You must excuse my neglecting to answer your letter so long. I haven't any excuse only that I failed to answer it through neglect - Perhaps the same way you did mine but if you answer this I will try to answer yours as soon as I get it. It has been so long since you wrote to me that I almost forgot what you wrote~~

But you wanted to know if I remained just the same in regard to my spirit and condition as I did when I left home. Well Joe I am not the same kind of man that I was. I try to keep from swearing as much as possible and do right as much as possible. And if I ever come back you can see that I am a different man than I used to be.

I am thought to be all right in this company. I was put in for Corporal and now I am a Corporal & stand the first right for Sergeant's berth and I am up to my duty.

Were a time that I had one duty to perform that I never done before - that was to tie up a man to a tree but I was detailed to do it and so I done it.

He was a man that had swore by all that was great and good that he would never be tied up but I did tie him and he did not get mad at me and the rest of the corporals and sergeants was astonished at it. But you see there is a right way to get along with men here.

I took and told him if he did not come to terms I would make him. Now sez I, take your choice. Be tied willingly or I will force you. He sez Well Tom I guess you will do it anyway so go to work. He thinks more of me than any man in the company.

Joe - Sarepta told me one thing in her letter that I was glad to hear. I hope it is true and I don't know that I have any reason to doubt it. She said she thought you was the best friend she had in Michigan. That pleased me you had better believe it did.

Joe I hope you will remain a friend of hers for Joe I tell you I had rather she would go with you than any other girl in that part of the country. If she goes with you I want her to get things suitable.

Tell me if you go to stay with her every night. If you do I will never feel sorry nor say I am sorry that I gave you that 20 dollars. So you see I have full confidence that you will do right with her.

Joe you can let her read this. You try & make her think it is not best to build a house at present but take good care of her money. Then in some future day it will come in play.

You please write soon and tell me all the news if you please. Then perhaps I will have more news to tell you.

So goodbye for it is inspection now and I must go.

1 Corporal Co. B
T. Wakeley
8th Mich Cav
near Nicholasville Ky
if moved please forward

The Northern Michigan and Crawford County legend, Thomas Wakeley left this Earth on 26 July 1917 at the age of 78 years old.

A very special thanks to Brother Arthur Wakeley for submitting this story.



Above (L-R): Envelope from the letter sent by Thomas Wakeley to his niece Josephine Wakeley. (photo courtesy of Art Wakeley)

Last Veteran Buried in the County Markers



Graves Registration Officer Sawyer has been placing several of the Last Veteran Buried in the County markers at gravesites prior to the ceremonies this Fall and next year. During his placement, he has been installing a concrete base to keep the marker more secure, as well as better aligned vertically. A couple of examples are provided at right with Joshua Moe, Last Veteran Buried in Grand Traverse County, and John Mayberry, Last Veteran Buried in Wexford County.

(photos courtesy of GRO Sawyer)

Labor Day & US Flags



Above (L-R): JVC Ribby and RO Conger on Front Street in Traverse City on Labor Day. (photo courtesy of RO Conger)

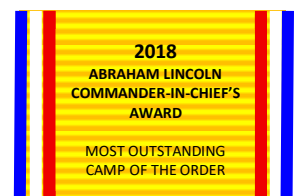
RO Joseph Conger and JVC Jim Ribby donned their Union Army uniforms and spent part of Labor Day flying the American and Michigan flags on Front Street in Traverse City.

The two Brothers passed out 150 miniature US flags to passersby during their hour-and-a-half on the corner of the street.

They had a great time, answered questions, and recommended that this become an annual event to connect with the community on Labor Day.



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



2019-2020 Officers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14

Commander: John Lantzer
ajlantzer@yahoo.com

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

Sr. Vice Commander: OPEN
open

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: HOLD

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
skillmans@aol.com

Recruiting Officer: Joseph Conger
K2rider@chartermi.net

Council: Ted Mattis, PCC
tedmattis@charter.net

Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator: Joseph Conger
K2rider@chartermi.net

Chaplain: George Goodrich, PCC
Gc_Goodrich@yahoo.com

Signals Officer: Jan White, PCC
stocktrac@charter.net

Patriotic Instructor: H.G. Smith
docsmith99@yahoo.com

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

Historian: George Goodrich, PCC
Gc_Goodrich@yahoo.com

The Sharpshooter Editor: David Smith, LM, PCC, PDC
wyattusmagnus@gmail.com

Asst. Secretary: Rodney Welliver
eagle1977@charter.net