



The Sharpshooter

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



SGT. ROBERT FINCH
1st MICH SS

PDC Aurand Bestowed the Sgt. Robert Finch Award



On 09 January 2021, Commander Paul Davis bestowed the Sgt. Robert Finch Award to Past Department Commander Dale Aurand for his many years of leadership and long sustained efforts to Robert Finch Camp No. 14, as well as to the Department of Michigan. He is only the 4th person to receive the award since its inception in 2014, and only the 2nd Brother of Camp 14 to be conferred it.

PDC Aurand has served two terms as Commander of Camp 14, as well as one term as Commander of the Department of Michigan. Additionally, he has served in numerous other elected and appointed offices within the Camp and Department, and also serves with Co. A, 14th Michigan Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve. Currently, PDC Aurand serves as Secretary-Treasurer, Welfare Committee member, and Quartermaster of Camp 14.

The Sgt. Robert Finch Award is presented to the select few of those that exhibit extraordinary and meritorious service on behalf of the good of the Order.

Left: PDC Aurand with Commander Davis, PDC receiving the Sgt. Robert Finch Award (picture courtesy of Guard Kenny Jones)

Council Milks Conferred the Sharpshooter Award for 2020

On 09 January 2021, Commander Paul Davis bestowed the Sharpshooter Award for 2020 to Council and SUVCW Life Member, Brother John Milks. Brother Milks was instrumental in securing a new meeting location for Camp 14, as the Camp lost its long-time home in Elks Lodge #323 in Traverse City. With all of his efforts, Camp 14 currently calls the Cherryland VFW Post 2780 in Traverse City its new home. He is the third Brother to ever receive this award.

Additionally, Brother Milks serves on the Traverse City Honor Guard where they conducted Military Honors for 65+ Veteran funerals during 2020. Brother Milks is a stalwart member of the Honor Guard. He is the Past Commander of American Legion Post 35, and is the current Junior Vice Commander of Cherryland VFW Post 2780.

The Sharpshooter Award is presented to the Most Outstanding Brother of the Camp during an administrative year.

Right: Commander Davis, PDC with Council Milks receiving the Sharpshooter Award (picture courtesy of Guard Kenny Jones)



Camp 14 Mourns the Loss of Brother Howard Byrne



Brother Howard Edmund Byrne, Jr. of Traverse City died at his home on 27 December 2020. Brother Byrne was born 30 June 1937 in Detroit. He married Mary Ellen Crusoe on 27 June 1964 in Northville. He joined Robert Finch Camp No. 14 on 25 January 2004. Brother Howard entered the Camp under the service of his Great Grand Uncle Daniel S. Severy, Co. F, 21st Michigan Infantry as a Private. Private Severy was captured at Chickamauga, GA on 20 September 1863. He was imprisoned at Andersonville, GA, and later escaped on 21 February 1865. Private Severy was promoted to Corporal on 11 May 1865, and mustered out on 08 June 1865 as a Corporal.

Brother Byrne graduated from the University of Detroit College of Commerce and Finance in 1960, as well as the Detroit College of Law in 1963. He was employed by the Jim Robbins Company in Troy as Manager of Human Resources. He later served in many senior managerial roles with the United States Postal Service in the Detroit area.

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Commander's Message



Brothers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14:

I trust you are well and safe!

As we try to conduct the business of our daily lives, we are faced with many challenges due to the COVID pandemic. These challenges and restrictions imposed upon us make it equally difficult for our Camp to operate in compliance and still conduct our business in the usual manner. We are trying our best to comply with the Federal and State Guidelines, as well as the Bylaws and Operating Guidelines of the National and Department SUVCW as well those of our own Camp.

I am encouraged by the many efforts of our individual Brothers who are continuing to do the work of the Order. They are to be commended. We are doing the best we can to maintain contact with our other organizations and supporters as well. We look forward to the time when we can do business as usual and once again enjoy the fellowship of each other at Camp meetings.

As it currently stands, we have a compliance problem with holding a regular size meeting as only 10 Brothers are allowed to be in attendance for a Camp meeting. If the essential Camp Officers attend, we have only one available vacancy for another Brother to attend. If we have a meeting without all of the essential officers we will not be able to conduct any business, other than meet in the spirit of fellowship.

As your Commander, I place your health and well-being ahead of all else. I am therefore asking your consideration and suggestions regarding future meetings until such time as restrictions are lifted. Please reply with your suggestions and ideas via e-mail to Paul Davis: pdmarcomm@aol.com and David Smith: wyattusmagnus@gmail.com.

If we do not hear from a sufficient number of Brothers and there are no viable solutions provided by the Brothers, I will move to suspend all regularly scheduled meetings until such time as restrictions are lifted and we can once again meet as usual, or at least in greater numbers. Thank you for your consideration.

I remain your most obedient servant,

Paul Davis, PDC, Commander, Robert Finch Camp No. 14



Commander Davis can be reached at:

pdmarcomm@aol.com

Paul Davis, PDC
4490 Buteo Drive
Traverse City, MI 49684

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

Nominations for Sharpshooter Award

For the 2020-2021 administrative term, if anyone would like to nominate a Brother(s) of the Camp that has provided sustained and high performance should contact Commander Paul Davis, PDC. The Sharpshooter Award is for the Most Outstanding Brother of the Camp during the period specified. See the Camp Bylaws for full details of the award.

Camp Bylaws and Operating Guidelines

Any Brother that would like the most recent issue of the Camp Bylaws and Camp Operating Guidelines via e-mail in a PDF format should contact Secretary-Treasurer Aurand, PDC, via e-mail at: daurand321@yahoo.com

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.

Brother Howard Byrne *cont'd*

This work with the USPS culminated in him being promoted to Postmaster of the Eastpointe, Michigan Post Office, and serving as the Hearing Officer for the United States Postal Service Central Region. He retired in 1997, and moved to Traverse City.

For many years, Howard was the proud owner of a 1923 Bickel International Fire Engine and enjoyed taking it to Greenfield Village with the family and participating in local parades and events.

Brother Howard volunteered at the Maritime Heritage Alliance where he helped on the reconstruction of the boat Welcome for 10 years. He then continued to work on smaller boats and then on very small boats when he opened a model shop at the Maritime Heritage Alliance.

Brother Byrne was a member and past president of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Bun Brady Division. One of the highlights of the year for Howard was St. Patrick's Day and the Hibernian Parade in Traverse City, where he was privileged to be named a Lord Mayor. He was a member of the Bun Brady Division Ancient Order of Hibernians, Robert Finch Camp No. 14 - SUVCW, The Traverse City Economics Club and a devout member of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Mapleton.

Brother Howard is survived by his wife, Mary Ellen (Crusoe) Byrne of 56 years, his daughter Virginia Marie Abramson (Joseph), son Howard Edmund Byrne III and grandson Brandon Michael Byrne. He was predeceased by his parents and is survived by a sister Laura Florence McLaughlin and a brother William Michael Byrne and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

SUVCW Past Commander Badges



Past Camp Commander (PCC)

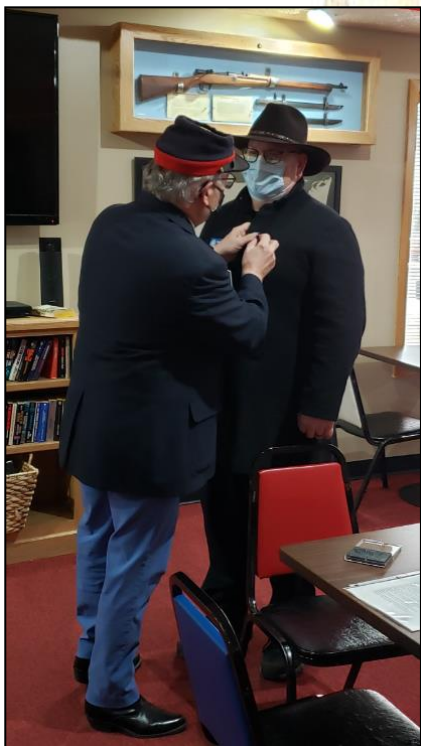


Past Department Commander (PDC)



Past Commander-in-Chief (PCinC)

PCC John Lantzer Honored and Presented with the PCC Badge



09 January 2021 also saw immediate Past Camp Commander John Lantzer finally receive his Past Camp Commander's Badge presented to him from current Camp Commander Paul Davis. Unfortunately, during the November 2020 meeting with the change of administrations, a PCC badge was not available within the Camp Quartermaster's stores. Commander Davis asked PCC Lantzer whom he would like to pin his badge on for him, and PCC Lantzer selected PCC Ted Mattis for the ritual.

PCC Lantzer served the past two administrative terms, while PCC Mattis served the two terms prior to PCC Lantzer's. The two PCCs currently serve as the Camp's Chaplains with PCC Mattis as Chaplain, and PCC Lantzer as Assistant Chaplain.

Far Left: PCC Ted Mattis pins the PCC Badge on PCC John Lantzer.

Near Left: PCC Mattis congratulates PCC Lantzer on his successful term and his much deserved PCC badge.

Northern Michigan Military Installations – Past & Present

Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center Michigan Air National Guard – United States Air Force Alpena, Alpena County, Michigan



Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC), formerly named Phelps Collins Field and the Phelps Collins Air National Guard Base, has a long interesting history beginning in the early 1900's. Before that date the area had a reputation for yielding blueberries in abundance to local Indians and early settlers in the area. In the early 1900's the area was known as the "Seven Mile Plains" named because the flat open area stretching from the Seven Mile Dam to M-32.

During the early part of the 20th Century, flying machines began to appear in the sky over most of the country including the Alpena area. It didn't take long for the early aeronautical risk takers to realize the flat open area was just what they needed to land and take off with their aircrafts known as Jennies. The landing area was a bit rough going, but so was the practice of flying in general during those early years.

Around the same time, local developers and land owners realized the potential of the flat area and foresaw the need for a landing strip as a result of the onset of air travel. Thus the idea of an airport was born. Harry Fletcher and his brother Philip (Nephews of Alan M. Fletcher, founder of Fletcher Paper Co.) began negotiations along with Robert Scott (then president of Scott Engineering) and James McQuarrie, who later sat on the County Board's Airport Committee. These individuals were fundamental in developing the plan and getting the state on board.

The tract of 80 acres, previously surveyed by the Army Corps of Engineers, was donated by Harry and Phillip. Several other 40 acres plots donated by Alpena Power Company set the proposed plan into action. During that same time, Works Progress Administration (WPA) crews were working on projects around the country. They were pressed into service to begin the clearing of the underbrush and leveling out the land in preparation for the first landing area, which would later become the main part of the runway now in existence.

On Aug 31st 1931, the airport was formally dedicated as Captain Phelps Collins Field in honor of Alpena's World War I hero who fought and died with the famed Lafayette Escadrille. Governor William M. Brucker flew in to formally accept the Airport and it became Michigan's first State owned airport. Phelps had spent a lot of time in Alpena as a youth shortly before he became interested in flying. There is a monument in France honoring the escadrille and his name appears on it.

Construction of the first hanger, a 40x90 foot structure built of cobblestone, began in 1935 and was completed in 1937. It could accommodate four average size aircraft of the era.

The First Pursuit Group out of Selfridge Field practiced flying maneuvers and gunnery training near Oscoda, Michigan. When they became aware of the facility at Alpena, they were eager to try it out. By the late 1930's they began to use the airfield, housing their personnel in tents at the Alpena County Fairgrounds. This marked the beginning of military personnel using the site for training maneuvers as they still do today.

In 1940, 400-500 Selfridge men trained as Phelps Collins with a compliment of 35 Seversky P-35's. With World War II looming on the horizon the training tempo increased. The next year they brought P-40 Warhawks and the first P-38's Lockheed Lightning fighters.

As a result of World War II, the demand for training facilities became crucial and so the field was taken over by the War Assets Administration. During this time, there was a \$5M project approved to increase on site capabilities. Improvements included: housing for 2,000 personnel, two mess halls, operation buildings, a hospital and three runways over a mile long and 150 feet wide. Actual construction began in 1942. This was a big project for Alpena. By this time the total acreage of the base had increased to 2,500 acres.

The planned use of the base, along with training military personnel, was to provide air defense for the Soo Locks. In addition, the base was also tasked with certifying and training a pool of new pilots resulting from the P-47 modifications for staging out aircraft to overseas bases.

When WWII ended, many of the buildings constructed in 1942 were stripped down and auctioned off and the only buildings left standing were the hospital area and big hanger built in 1943. Some of the barracks (which were very small) were sold off and moved. Some were placed in neighborhoods on Alpena's North side and were converted into private residences.

Not long after the War Assets Administration (WPA) turned over the site to Alpena County. The site was solely used as a civilian airport for a few years. During that time, the Air National Guard (ANG) had expressed an interest in the facility and in 1948 negotiations began. By



Above: Alpena CRTC, circa 2011
(photo courtesy of: alpenacrtc.ang.af.mil)

Alpena CRTC *cont'd*

Once the ANG took over the site, they completed another round of construction projects totaling \$2.5M dollars. Sixty-two concrete block buildings were built including two dining facilities and barracks to house 2,000 men. The North/South runway was extended to 8,000 feet. Most of the day to day operations were performed by the Alpena County Road Commission still occupying a few building on the base.

During the 1960's, the runway taxiways were extended and an air traffic control tower was added. Also during that decade, the Air Defense Command Detachment from Wurtsmith AFB, Oscoda, Michigan, had 60 persons permanently stationed here in Alpena until 1972/73 at which time their unit was deactivated.

The original military personnel assigned in 1953 totaled seven individuals and an additional two military and two Federal Civil Service personnel were added the following year. The next major personnel change was in 1979 when the military personnel had their status changed from Federal Civil Service Technicians to Active Guard Reservists (AGR). About that time the civilians employed on the base became Michigan State Civil Servants.

In early 1960's the Grayling Air-to-Ground Gunnery Range Negotiations began and early during the decade the range was constructed on 1,900 acres near Grayling, Michigan. Soon after, aircraft could be seen using the site to fly sorties for aircraft gunnery and bombing exercises. This added asset increased the usage and value of the base immensely.

Units from all over the United States come annually to train, with Air National Guardsman totaling in the tens of thousands.

In 1991, another significant event took place; the site was renamed the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC). This new title was more in line with the base mission of "combat training".

With the closing of Wurtsmith AFB in 1993, the need for radar approach and control was assigned to the CRTC. Equipment and personnel to operate it were added to the facility. The mission of the CRTC was increased with the additional tasking of running an ANG Medical Readiness Training School. The schoolhouse was designed to train ANG medical units for field operations. Both of these programs added personnel to the workforce and the number of employees, military and civilian, was over 100 persons.

Construction in the early 90's was ongoing, with a major emphasis on upgrading the 1950's barracks and latrines to current standards. Thus a \$3.8 million dollar dormitory upgrade project begun and office buildings and officer quarters were all remodeled.

During the period, under the command of Col Thomas G. Cuter, the base created a long range plan including a new dining facility, fire station, operations facility, squadron operations (office) buildings, a convention center, a new facility at the Grayling Range and new dormitories thus keeping the Alpena CRTC one of the premier training sites in the world.

In 1991 another tasking was added to the mission when the Air Combat Maneuver Instrumentation (ACMI) was instated. This state of the art system involves computerized communication between the aircraft and a computer satellite, providing full mission replay.

With the addition of the Fire Training Site and MOUT City in early 2000, the CRTC hosts several Fireman Schools and numerous law enforcement training courses annually.

Although the CRTC's core mission is to train ANG units, other military train here regularly. Air Force, Army, Navy SEALs, Marines, and Latvian and Italian military have trained at the site. In recent years the CRTC has opened its gate to numerous non-profit organizations. It is not uncommon to see canine training, emergency response training along with other training maneuvers running all at the same time. Youth programs have expanded from the traditional Civil Air Patrol Cadets to include ROTC, JRROTC, Boy/Girl Scouts of America, Freedom Academy Students, Michigan Youth Camp Cadets.

With the addition of 26 Traditional Guardsman positions in 2000, the number of total base personnel now is over 200 employees. AGR's, Traditional Guardsman, Michigan State Civil Service and contracted employees make up the group. Military members come from all over the United States as well as local residents. Prior to their assignment at the base, many personnel have served the Army, Air Force, Navy and Marines.

Personnel have been called to give aid for local area flooding and deployed to Hurricane Katrina relief mission. Many have volunteered and been deployed overseas in support of operations: Desert Storm, Desert Shield, Iraqi Freedom, Joint Forge, Jump Start, Enduring Freedom, Northern Watch, Northern Eagle and Deep Freeze.

Story published on 30 August 2011

Source: <https://www.alpenacrtc.ang.af.mil/Resources/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/461184/acrtc-alpena-crtc-history/>

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Above: Alpena CRTC Fire Station and Control Tower with two A-10s overhead.
(photo courtesy of: alpenacrtc.ang.af.mil)



Above: Main ramp at Alpena CRTC and Base Cantonment Area
(photo courtesy of: alpenacrtc.ang.af.mil)

Alpena CRTC cont'd

Who Was Phelps Collins?

The airfield at the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center, as well as the conference center building at the base, are named for a prominent son of Alpena who was an early American combat pilot.

William Collins, Phelps' father, was the president of the Alpena Manufacturing Company, which produced an automobile called the Alpena Flyer, from 1910-1914. The son opened a construction supply company in Alpena shortly before World War I kicked off.

Phelps Collins was among dozens of individual young Americans who sought to join the air service prior to the official U.S. entry into the war. World War I was being fought in Europe for about three years before the U.S. entered the war. Collins and many other young men, mostly from well-to-do American families, eventually found their way to Europe to fly with the French military in a force that came to be known as the Lafayette Escadrille – a French unit filled with Americans who learned how to fly at the front and quickly began to engage in aerial combat over the trenches of the front lines.

Collins was a natural pilot. He drew praise from his fellow pilots, one of whom later claimed that when Collins would take off for another combat patrol, all would gather to watch him take off as he was such a natural.

Collins scored two aerial victories – shooting down an enemy aircraft – while flying with the Lafayette Escadrille – and had three more “probable” victories, none of which could be confirmed using the victory rules of the day. Had all three of those probable been confirmed, Collins would have earned status as an “ace” – a term that was just beginning to capture the public imagination.

Some seven months after Collins began flying as a member of the Escadrille, the U.S. Army began to arrive in France in significant numbers. As it did so, U.S. flying squadrons were created and Collins and others were transferred to the U.S. units.

On March 12, 1918, the pilots of the 103rd Aero Squadron received an alert call that a flight of German bombers were headed to Paris. A flight of four 103rd pilots, including Collins, were sent out in SPAD VIII aircraft to intercept the enemy force. The 103rd pilots would search in vain for the opposing force, never finding the reported raid.

As the four American aircraft searched for the phantom German raid, Collins' aircraft peeled off on its own. Aircraft of the time were not equipped with radio, so Collins' intentions were unknown. Did he think he saw an enemy aircraft? Was there a maintenance issue?

Collins then flew in a circle for perhaps 30 minutes and then his aircraft nosedived into the ground. According to the official report, it is believed that Collins – exhausted from many months of two or more combat sorties per day – flew too high and passed out from a lack of oxygen.

With the crash, Collins became the first U.S. military pilot to die while flying a combat mission with an American unit. The news of Collins' death was big news back home Alpena, and across the nation as America mourned an early aviation hero.

In 1931, when a new public airport was opened in Alpena County, the field was named Phelps Collins Field. The field began to be used for military training in the 1930s and was put to increasing use during World War II. The field, managed by the Michigan Air National Guard, has served as a training center since World War II.

11 August 2016 – story written by Tech. Sgt. Dan Heaton, 127th Wing Public Affairs

Source: <https://www.alpenacrtc.ang.af.mil/Resources/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/1781781/acrtc-who-was-phelps-collins/>



Above: Capt. Phelps Collins, U.S. Army Air Service, while flying with the famed Lafayette Escadrille in France in late 1917 during World War I.



Chaplain's Call



The past year has been a challenge for all of us due to covid and the ripple effect on all our daily lives not to mention those who have suffered the virus and lost. Our Camp has felt the effects as has every other organization. We need to smooth out our pathway as best we can and keep moving ahead as a group dedicated to our ancestor's memories and history conservation.

The January meeting sufficed, but did little to advance our Camp activity. We all understand the need to practice safe health standards as best we can so that is understood by most people and our members. As Chaplain, I am



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Allan Pinkerton – Famous Detective & Union Spy

Many know the name Pinkerton from security guards at various locations, to the famed detective agency within many books and films. However, did you know that its famous founder, Allan Pinkerton was also a detective and spymaster for the Union during the Civil War?

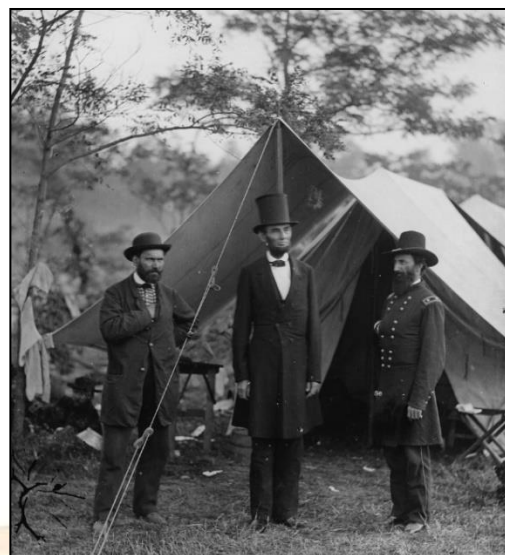
Pinkerton was born in Glasgow, Scotland on 25 August 1819. He emigrated to the United States in 1842 ending up in Illinois. He was an abolitionist, and his home in Dundee was a stop on the Underground Railroad. He became interested in detective work while working as a cooper. He was later appointed in 1849 as the first police detective in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. He eventually formed his own detective agency finding it to be a more lucrative avenue than working for a municipality. His agency excelled at solving train robberies, which brought him into contact with the Illinois Central Railroad and their Chief Engineer & Vice President, George McClellan, and the company's attorney, Abraham Lincoln.

Just before the start of the Civil War there was the Baltimore Plot, which was a alleged conspiracy to assassinate President-elect Lincoln during his journey to the inauguration in February 1861. Pinkerton was hired by the railroad to provide security for the President-elect during the trip, and investigate any suspicious activity or destruction of railroad property in the Baltimore area. He is said to have uncovered the plot and to have foiled it. While there are many details on how Pinkerton used various tactics to keep Lincoln safe, and how the journey transpired, Lincoln travelled under darkness through Baltimore unknown to any conspirators arriving in Washington D.C. safely.

While safe, Lincoln suffered much embarrassment from the public and media at that time. President Lincoln was pilloried by many news outlets and political cartoons as questioning his masculinity, and a complete coward wearing a disguise passing through Baltimore hiding in secrecy.

Allan Pinkerton was appointed Chief of Intelligence for George McClellan to form an early version of the Secret Service (Union Intelligence Service). Pinkerton went by the name Major E.J. Allen during his time as the Union spymaster. He sent his developed spies into the South to gain intelligence on the Confederate Army and the CSA Government. Additionally, he had spies infiltrate Southern sympathizing groups in the North. Pinkerton also utilized interviews of escaped slaves to gain information on the Confederacy. He also personally went into the South to gather intelligence for the Union. One fault of Pinkerton was that he was overly cautious, and often overestimated Confederate troop strength. His intelligence sources sometimes proved inaccurate. This was highlighted in the Peninsula Campaign in 1862 where Pinkerton relayed that the Confederate Army in the proximity of Richmond was twice the size than their actual numbers. McClellan took the intelligence as gospel and delayed his advance while making numerous communications for additional reinforcements despite already largely outnumbering the Confederates.

In November 1862, Lincoln removed McClellan and replaced him with General Ambrose Burnside. Upon McClellan's sacking, Pinkerton left Washington D.C. and relinquished his position as Chief of Intelligence handing it over to his successor Lafayette Baker. Pinkerton continued to work fraud cases on behalf of the government for the remainder of the Civil War.



Above (L-R): Allan Pinkerton, President Abraham Lincoln, and Major General John A. McClelland at Antietam, MD on 03 October 1862 (photo courtesy of World Digital Library : <https://www.wdl.org/en/item/1/view/1/1/>)

Sources:

- <https://www.nps.gov/people/allan-pinkerton.htm>
- <https://www.civilwaracademy.com/allan-pinkerton>
- <https://www.history.com/news/10-things-you-may-not-know-about-the-pinkertons>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allan_Pinkerton#cite_note-10
- <https://fas.org/irp/ops/ci/docs/ci1/ch2a.htm>
- <https://pinkerton.com/our-story/history>

Interesting Pinkerton Facts

- Hired the first female detective in US History (and Union spy): Kate Warne
- Pinkerton inspired the term "private eye" from his "We Never Sleep" logo
- He fundraised for John Brown the abolitionist of Harper's Ferry fame
- He also knew Frederick Douglass, attending abolitionist meetings
- Pinkerton was an atheist
- Pinkerton recruited the first African-American Union Intelligence Agent, John Scobell

Camp No. 14 2020 Meeting Schedule

09 January 2021	Cherryland VFW Post 2780, Traverse City
13 March 2021	Cherryland VFW Post 2780, Traverse City
08 May 2021	Cherryland VFW Post 2780, Traverse City
10 July 2021	Cherryland VFW Post 2780, Traverse City
11 September 2021	Cherryland VFW Post 2780, Traverse City
06/13 November 2021	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

The Sisters of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 conducted their first virtual meeting ever on 09 January 2021. The Sisters also had special guests for the meeting as the Brothers of Albert and James Lyon Camp 266 also attended. There is interest within the Upper Peninsula by ladies to possibly join the ASUVCW via Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9. The ladies are good friends and supporters of the Brothers of Camp 266. The virtual meeting was a great success, and provided an opportunity for fraternity with each other, as well as with the Brothers of Camp 266. It was expressed by both the Brothers and Sisters in attendance that it was a very productive meeting.

The Sisters completed their election and installation of Officers at the 09 January 2021 meeting as well. President Rongey requested PDC David Smith to install the newly elected Sisters to their Offices. PDC Smith completed the installation ritual, and Sister Jones assumed her office of Council #3, while Sister Aurand assumed her office of Chaplain.

The Sisters are still working on plans for the “Finch Banquet” for 2021, but with the current public health situation plans are still in flux. More information on the banquet will be provided as they are completed.

The next meeting of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 is tentatively planned for Saturday, 13 March 2021 at 11AM. Depending on the current restrictions, time and location (or virtual, or blended virtual/in-person) will be determined closer to the date.



2020-2021 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:	Lorraine Aurand
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

Civil War Winter Encampments

Camp life was often monotonous and miserable, but it became even more so with setting in of the Winter season. Hardship fell on both Union and Confederates alike during the cold season. With a divergence in comfort levels being established between the two warring sides as the years went on with the supplies, food, and transportation strongly favoring the Union Blue.

Shelters were constructed, that included log cabins, shanties, mud huts, tents, and hybrids of earth and canvas (including mud, leaves, and anything else that could be found). The overall camps were often constructed like a village with “company streets” in grids. Some camps were orderly in design, while others were haphazard and strung out with no grid or uniformity to layout or shelter design. Ancestry of the soldiers sometimes played into shelter design. Log cabins built by soldiers of Scandinavian descent typically had logs in vertical orientation. While log cabins built by soldiers of German descent usually were in horizontal orientation with corner notches to minimize the need of nails.

Disease was in full effect, aided by the trying weather and the close proximity of men within the camps. Clean water, food, and waste removal capabilities were lacking in most camps adding to their plight on average. Staying warm was an ever demanding struggle. Chimneys were constructed in many shelters to keep the small spaces warm as best as possible.

While dismal in many ways, the winter encampment allowed for camaraderie and fun for the soldiers with the long layoff from active campaigning. Drilling, policing of the grounds, mending clothes, reading, church services, letter writing, raconteurs’ tales, music, playing cards, gossiping, and even horsing around with snowball fights were part of fighting off monotony and building fraternity.

Once the Winter season concluded the soldiers gathered their belongings before marching off, and often times set about destroying what remained of their humble abodes so as not to provide their enemy with shelter later on. Other times, remnants of the camps were left remaining, and the previous occupants later saw their prior winter homes.

Civil War Winter Encampments cont'd.

A few quotes from soldiers on Winter camp:

"We then rake up dry leaves and fill the dog house about ten inches deep with the leaves, which makes us a good warm bed."

-Private John W. Stevens, 5th Texas Infantry

"Thursday Dec. 17th - Last night was very stormy - this morning no better. Our house leaks all over, and our chimney works badly, which make things rather uncomfortable."

- Lieutenant Charles Stewart 124th New York Volunteers

"...within a few hours of Washington, men are dying of scurvy because they haven't transportation enough to give us potatoes & onions. Some of my men are in a horrible state. They can press their thumb into their legs & leave the dent there exactly as if they were putty."

- Captain Henry Livermore Abbott, 20th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, January 3, 1863

"Dec. 20/64 - The weather is cold, but we keep up our drills believing it is to be better for the men."

- Elisha Hunt Rhodes, 2nd Rhode Island Volunteers

"There is a string band in the regiment, and occasionally they have a serenade around the different companies and call out the Colonel and captains to make them a speech, which is generally responded to."

- Sergeant Henry G. Orr, 12th Texas Cavalry, December 21, 1861

"The usual routine of army life was carried on day by day, with not many incidents to vary the monotony of camp life. But occasionally the soldiers would engage in a snow ball battle, in which generals, colonels, captains and privates all took part."

- Sam Watkins, Co. H., First Tennessee Regiment, Winter of 1864

"It is a bad thing for an army to remain too long at one place. The men soon become discontented and unhappy, and we had no diversion or pastime except playing poker and chuck-a-luck."

- Sam Watkins, Co. H., First Tennessee Regiment, January, 1863

"Christmas caught up with us again and came on in full sympathy of the times, boisterous and stormy. It seemed there were more fighting and drinking in camp than usual, gambling was again on the rampage."

- Dr. W. J. Worsham 19th Tennessee, December, 1863

"We bivouac on the cold and hard-frozen ground, and when we walk about, the echo of our footsteps sound like the echo of a tombstone. The earth is crusted with snow, and the wind from the northwest is piercing our bones. We can see our ragged soldiers, with the sunken cheeks and famine-glistened eyes."

- Sam Watkins, Co. H., First Tennessee Regiment, December, 1864

"When we arrived at Dalton, we had a desire to see how the old place looked; not that we cared anything about it, but we just wanted to take a last farewell look at the old place."

- Sam Watkins, Co. H., First Tennessee Regiment

Sources:

<https://ahc.armywarcollege.edu/trail/CivilWarCabins/index.cfm>

<https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/winter-encampments>

Civil War Winter Encampments Images



Above: Sketch of various winter cabins or huts
(photo courtesy of American Battlefield Trust and the Library of Congress)

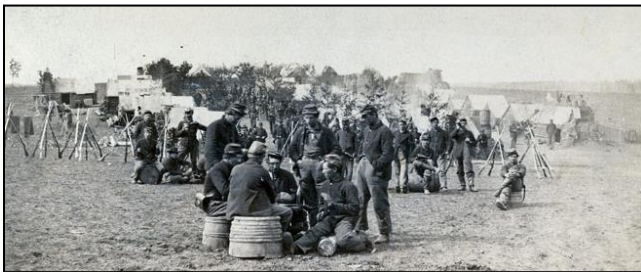
Winter Encampment Images cont'd



Above: Confederate camp at Manassas, VA. 1862
(photo courtesy of American Battlefield Trust and the Library of Congress)



Above: Commissary Dept., Army of the Potomac HQ (note bread loaves) Fairfax Courthouse, VA
(photo courtesy of U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center)



Above: Soldiers of the Army of the Potomac playing cards near their Winter cabins
(photo courtesy of U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center)



Above: Union soldiers outside Nashville, TN. Winter 1864
(photo courtesy of American Battlefield Trust and the Library of Congress)



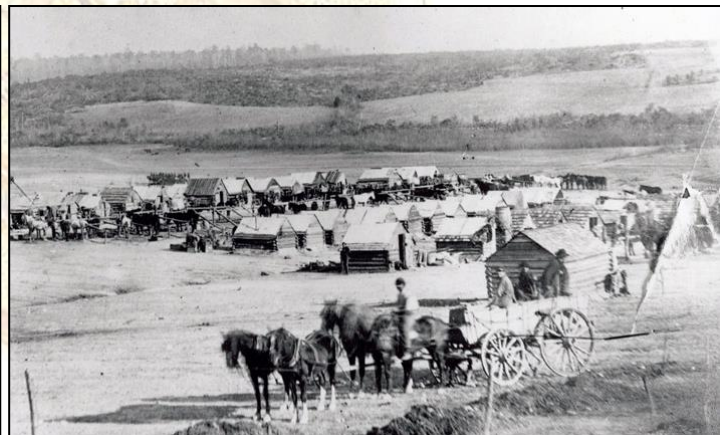
Above: Union soldiers in Winter Quarters. Winter 1863
(photo courtesy of American Battlefield Trust and the Library of Congress)



Above: Cook House for Co. H, 3rd N.H. Infantry
(photo courtesy of U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center)



Above: Cabin for Officers in Army of Potomac HQ
(photo courtesy of U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center)



Above: Union Cavalry settling into Winter camp
(photo courtesy of U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center)



Above: Union Winter Quarters at Brandy Station, VA 1864
(photo courtesy of American Battlefield Trust and the Library of Congress)

Battle of Cherbourg – 1864

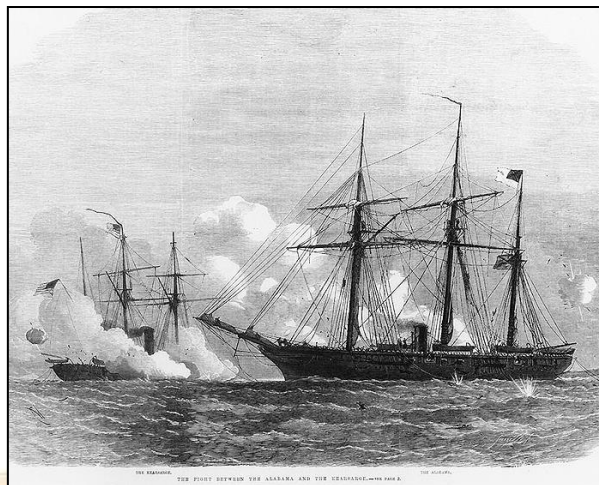
by *Naval History and Heritage Command, U.S. Navy*

After nearly two years of highly successful cruising at the expense of the United States' commercial shipping, CSS Alabama returned to European waters in early June 1864. Badly in need of a refit, she put into Cherbourg, France, on 11 June. News of her presence soon reached the USS Kearsarge, which promptly steamed to Cherbourg, arriving on the 14th. Seeing that he was blockaded, with repairs delayed and with the probability that his ship would not be able to resume her raiding activities, Alabama's Captain Raphael Semmes challenged Kearsarge's Captain John Winslow to a ship-to-ship duel. That suited Winslow very well, and he took station offshore and waited.

After four days of coaling, drill and other preparations, Alabama steamed out of Cherbourg harbor in the morning of 19 June 1864, escorted by the French ironclad Couronne, which remained in the area to ensure that the combat remained in international waters. On paper, Kearsarge and Alabama were well-matched, with the Union warship having a slight advantage in gun power and speed. As the Confederate approached, Kearsarge steamed further to sea, to ensure that Alabama could not easily return to port.

At 10:50 AM, Captain Winslow put his ship around and headed for the enemy. Alabama opened fire a few minutes later, at a distance of about a mile, and continued to fire as the range decreased. As the ships closed to about a half-mile, Kearsarge turned and began to shoot back. Both ships had their guns trained to starboard, and the engagement followed a circular course, with the ships steaming in opposite directions and turning to counter the other's attempts to gain an advantageous position. Superior Federal gunnery, and the deteriorated condition of Alabama's powder and shells, soon began to tell. Though Alabama hit her opponent several times, the projectiles caused little damage and few casualties. One shell hit Kearsarge's sternpost, failed to explode and survives today as a relic of the battle.

After about an hour's shooting, Alabama was beginning to sink, with several men killed and many others wounded. Among the injured was Semmes, who turned and tried to run back toward Cherbourg. However, when Kearsarge headed him off and the rising water stopped his engines, Semmes struck his flag. As Alabama sank, some twenty minutes after firing ceased, most of her crew were rescued by the victor and by the British yacht Deerhound. Those saved by the latter, including Semmes and most of his officers, were taken to England and thus escaped capture and imprisonment. One of the Civil War's most significant naval actions was at an end, as was the career of the Confederacy's most destructive ocean raider.



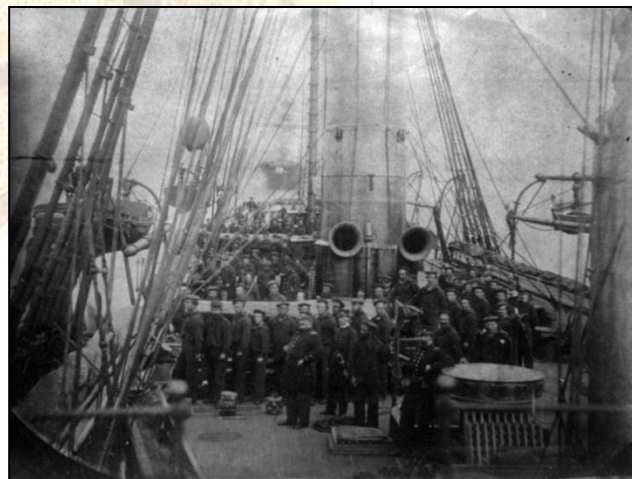
Above: USS Kearsarge vs. CSS Alabama, 19 June 1864 – Contemp. Line Engraving
(photo source: <https://www.history.navy.mil/our-collections/photography/wars-and-events/the-american-civil-war--1861-1865/the-battle-of-cherbourg.html> and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Cherbourg_\(1864\)#/media/File:CSS_Alabama_battle_with_USS_Kearsarge.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Cherbourg_(1864)#/media/File:CSS_Alabama_battle_with_USS_Kearsarge.jpg))

Source: <https://www.history.navy.mil/our-collections/photography/wars-and-events/the-american-civil-war--1861-1865/the-battle-of-cherbourg.html>



Above: Captain Raphael Semmes, Alabama's commanding officer, standing aft of the mainsail by his ship's aft 8-inch smooth bore gun during her visit to Cape Town in August 1863. His executive officer, First Lieutenant John M. Kell, is in the background, standing by the ship's wheel

(photo source: <https://www.history.navy.mil/our-collections/photography/us-people/s/rear-admiral-raphael-semmes.html>)



Above: USS Kearsarge - Ship's crew at their battle stations, shortly after her June 1864 action with CSS Alabama. View looks aft from the forecabin, showing both XI-inch Dahlgren smoothbore cannon trained to starboard, as they were during the fight. Portly officer in the center foreground appears to be Acting Master James R. Wheeler. U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command Photograph.

(photo source: <https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/nhhc/our-collections/photography/numerical-list-of-images/nhhc-series/nh-series/NH-52000/NH-52027.html>)

Chaplain's Call cont'd

concerned by the mental and physical health of our Brothers, and we need to communicate with each other. As Chairman of the Camp Welfare Committee, I am concerned with the health of the Camp. Both of these concerns overlap and often become one.

We need to get back to regular meetings where all can attend if they wish. This is sometimes not our choice to make. I would suggest that if our meetings are restricted that we go to a ZOOM meeting format or similar vehicle. That would give all members a better chance to participate if they wish. I struggle with electronic devices, but with practice I can get better and so can you. If nothing else it will be a learning experience for everyone. We can just talk about or just do it.

This I see as an ongoing problem and maybe our future, it's anybody's guess. In the meantime please contact me as Chaplain or Welfare Committee Chairman if you know of anyone that is sick or distressed, or has passed away. Please tell me of Camp difficulties and money raising ideas for the future, or what's on your mind.

Keep faith in God and Mother Nature because things eventually seem to work out over time. Keep strong, firm, and patient. YOU HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR, BUT FEAR ITSELF.

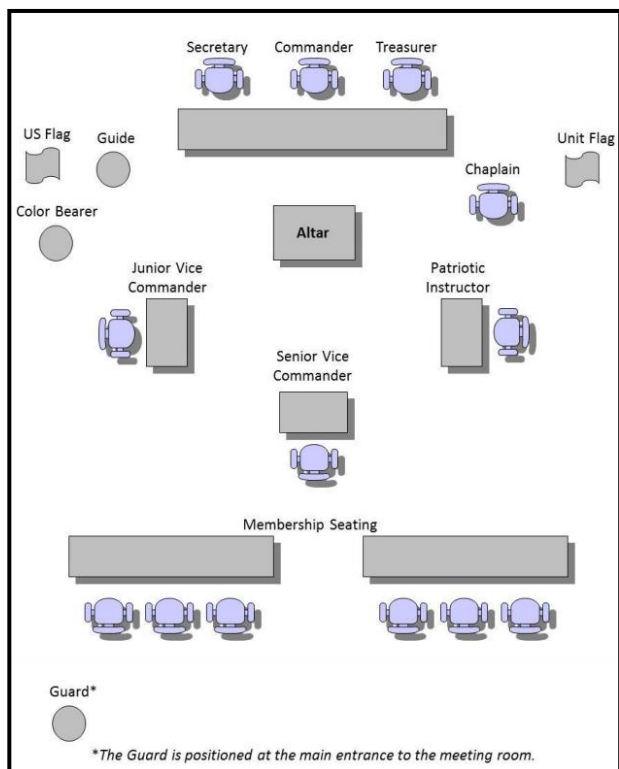
In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Ted Mattis, PCC
 Chaplain, Robert Finch Camp No. 14

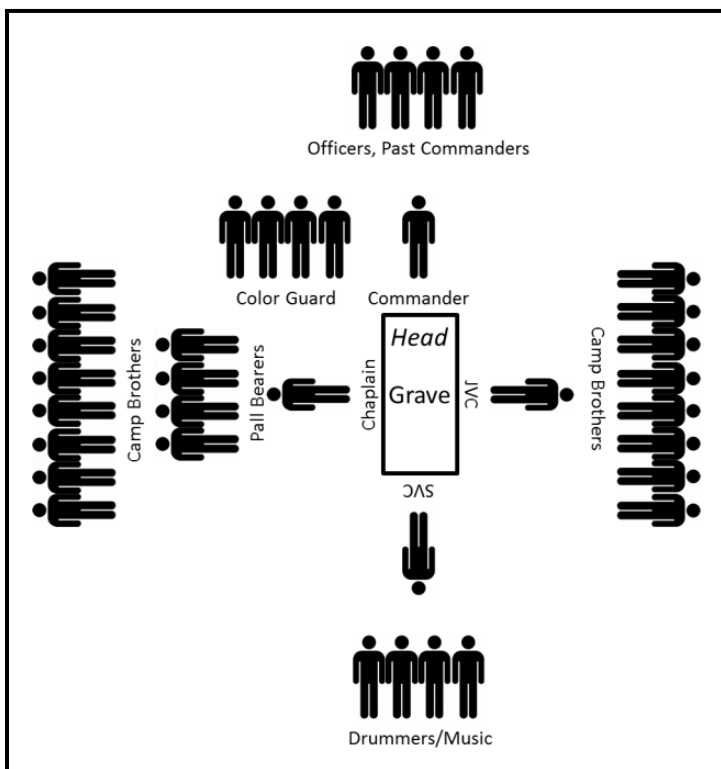
SUVCW Rituals and Ceremonies

In following the SUVCW Rituals and Ceremonies, proper set-up for the meeting or event is often of critical importance and establishes a professional presentation. Two such arrangements of proper positioning can be seen below. For more information, see the SUVCW Rituals and Ceremonies at: http://www.suvcw.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/SUVCW_Ritual_and_Ceremonials_2015.pdf

SUVCW GENERAL PLAN OF THE MEETING ROOM

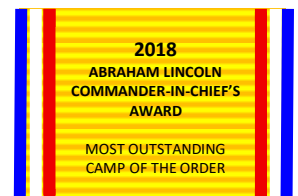


BURIAL OF THE DEAD 1890 RITUAL OF THE SUVCW Positions at the Grave





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