



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

Community Connections – A Special Visit



Above: Capt. Charles Webb Discussing Operations with CWMO Schwander at
CGAS Traverse City
(photo courtesy of: Scott & Tina Schwander)

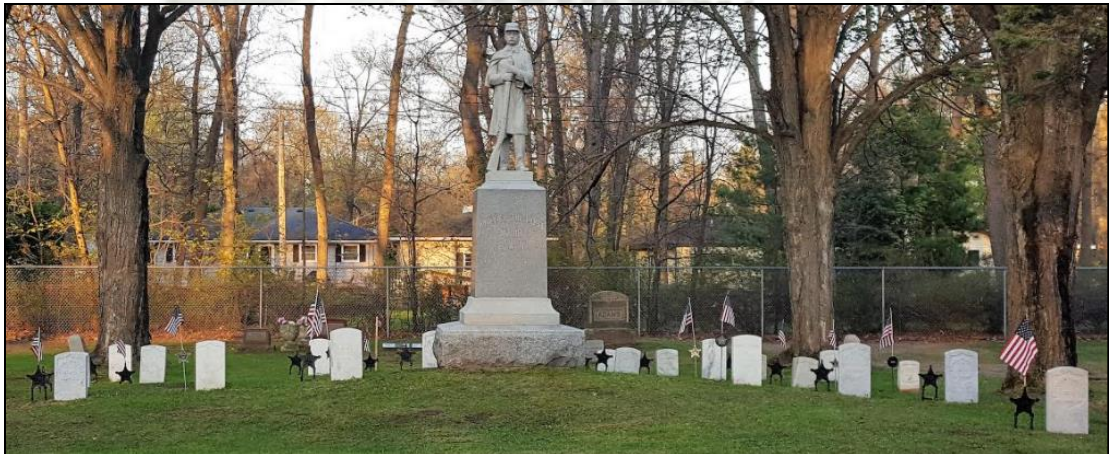
On 18 March 2021, Captain Charles Webb, Commander of CGAS Traverse City hosted CWMO Schwander and his wife Tina for lunch, and then a tour of the Air Station grounds and hangar. CWMO Schwander serves as Camp 14's representative to the Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition, and has gained many great friendships in the Veteran community with the various members including Captain Webb.

Brother Schwander often discusses the unique historical bonds between the United States Coast Guard and the Grand Army of the Republic, and in turn the SUVCW. The U.S. Revenue Cutter Service fought along side the Navy in the Civil War, and fired the first shots in the maritime part of the great national conflict. Note, a story later in this newsletter mentions one such action involving the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service in action at the Battle of Drewry's Bluff. As many know, the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service was combined with the U.S. Life Saving Service to form the United States Coast Guard by act of Congress on 28 January 1915.

Tina and CWMO Schwander wrote the following to share with everyone: *"We want to thank Captain Chuck Webb for the invite to tour the Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City. We had a wonderful lunch & great visit with this wonderful, compassionate and caring gentleman that goes above and beyond for others. The staff there is amazing at what they do. We look forward to another visit. Please take the time to thank these men & women as well as all veterans when you see them out and about. They deserve our love and support!"*

U.S. Flag Placement in Oakwood Cemetery

On Friday, 28 May 2021 at 10:00AM (1000), the American Legion Post 35 will be placing U.S. flags at Veteran's graves throughout Oakwood Cemetery in Traverse City. The meeting place will be at the main entrance off 8th Street near the mausoleum. The Michigan State Police District 7 will be sending Troopers to assist. Also, Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City will be sending Coast Guardsmen to also help out in the effort. CWMO Schwander will lead the Camp 14 contingency. Any Brothers and Sisters that would like to help up are encouraged to meet at the specified time and date, or to contact Brother Schwander for additional information.





Commander's Message



Brothers Of Robert Finch Camp 14

I wish to acknowledge and extend my appreciation to the Brothers who have individually and largely on their own initiative performed many acts of service and kindness to Keep Green The Memory of all those who have served.

We are looking forward to those days yet to come when we can perform such Services and Memorials as a Camp effort. Until that time we will continue to do the work of the Order as best we can and remain compliant with state mandated COVID restrictions. We continue to monitor the situation with the goal of returning to business as usual. Our last meeting on March 13 was well attended and still within State guidelines.

The Camp Committee For Planning and Executing Ceremonies and Services was formed to plan and execute Memorial Services and other Camp Celebratory Events. Earlier the Committee members were defined only by the various officer positions serving on that Committee. For clarification, the Committee members are as follows: Camp Commander: Paul Davis, SVC: David Smith, GRO: John Sawyer, CMO: Scott Schwander, Camp Chaplain: Ted Mattis, Counselor and Advisor to the Camp Commander: David Smith.



As many of you are aware we had to scramble to find a meeting place as the Elk's Lodge was no longer able to accommodate us. We have been graciously welcomed by the VFW who has provided us with a meeting place. At our May meeting we will need to make a decision to remain at the VFW Post or find another meeting location. Please give this decision your full and complete consideration.

I remain your most obedient servant,

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

Commander Davis can be reached at:

pdmarmcomm@aol.com

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

2021 Department Encampment

The 2021 Michigan Department Encampment is tentatively scheduled for 30 April & 01 May 2021 in Okemos. For up-to-date news, as well as lodging and meals information can be found at: <https://suvcwmi.org/DeptEncampment/DEindex-137.php>

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 Fall 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 the Fall of 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.



Chaplain's Call



I am looking forward to this year's Easter season as an opportunity to get my life in order as never before. We have all suffered the ravages of covid if not the virus, then the restrictions on our lives as a preventive measure. The impact on our daily lives and social behaviors are having a long term effect which will be realized in many ways over the years to come. Our children have had 2 years of their education disrupted and many will just slip through the cracks by the interruptions not to mention careers put on hold for who knows how long. That is what has happened but what will tomorrow bring?



We need to take advantage of the Easter Season to restore ourselves and renew our courage and zest for life. The 40 days of lent is meant to cleanse our hearts and minds and restore our souls followed by Easter. Easter is the gateway to spring, April showers, green grass, and flowers in bloom. The promise of warmth and sunshine to warm our hearts and inspire our activity is yours to embrace.

We need to leave the old covid stresses behind and renew our purpose in life making the best of what is in front of us as we move forward. Surely we will face obstacles and hurdles in front of us taking these things in stride not seeing these restrictions as barriers but obstacles to overcome. Life goes on and we are part of it and should not be taking a back seat but going forward as leaders of men.

I have prepared myself through lent asking forgiveness for my sins and the shortcomings in my life and will be attending Easter services at a local church. I want to encourage all of you to do the same or to recognize Easter in your customary way with family and friends.

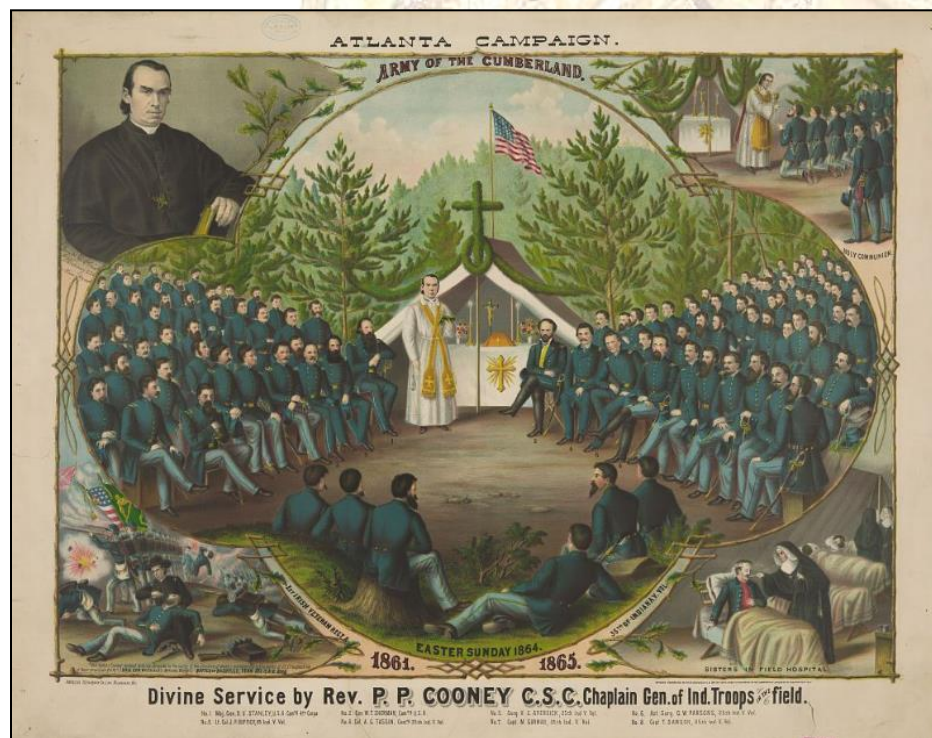
Our Ancestors faced their problems that we can read about but we can only experience our own stresses such as covid. They overcame the obstacles before them and we will too with courage, fraternity, and faith in God.

Let's all vow to renew our faith and courage as we face the future because yesterday is behind us while tomorrow is a new day waiting to be embraced.

I wish all my brothers and their families
A very Joyous Easter,

Ted Mattis, PCC, Chaplain

Easter Sunday 1864 - Atlanta Campaign



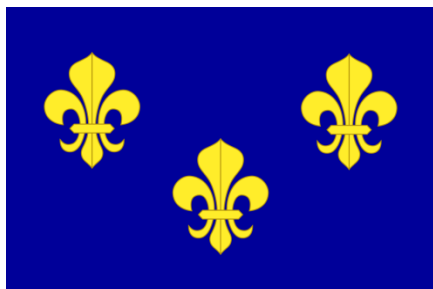
This wonderful image was submitted by CWMO Schwander for the Easter season. The image can be found at the website of the Library of Congress at: <https://www.loc.gov/resource/pgs.00020/>

The image includes: Soldiers in a church service in the field, a portrait of Rev. P.P. Cooney, soldiers receiving holy communion, a battle scene, and sisters in a field hospital.

The image can also be found with a quick online search on many different websites with varying qualities.

For more on Father P.P. Cooney, C.S.C. turn to Page 6.

Northern Michigan Military Installations – Past & Present



Above: The Bourbon Flag, most commonly flown in New France (image source: en.wikipedia.org)

Fort de Buade

French Military & Trading Post
St. Ignace, Mackinac County, Michigan
Commissioned: 1683, Abandoned: 1696 (estimated)

Fort de Buade was a French fort located at the settlement of St. Ignace. The fort was named after the governor of New France, Louis de Buade Comte de Frontenac. The fort was constructed to establish a strategic presence at the Jesuit mission and the associated lucrative fur trade that centered there, as well as the beginning of war between France and England in 1689. Fort de Buade was the most important outpost west of Montreal until Detroit was founded in 1701. The fort's commandant was in charge of all other French forts in the west. The fort was also known as Fort Michilimackinac, before the fort at Mackinaw City was so named.

Fort de Buade was an important site for staging war against the Seneca and the various battles and skirmishes of the Iroquois Wars during the 17th Century in North America. One of the fort's commanders has a well known name to anyone in Michigan, and nationally for that matter. In 1694, Governor Louis de Buade de Frontenac sent a protégé by the name of Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac to serve as Commander of the post. Cadillac is the namesake of Cadillac, Michigan within Camp 14's geographical area. Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac is the namesake of the General Motors brand Cadillac, and his family's coat of arms is used in the Cadillac emblem. Cadillac is also the founder of Detroit, Michigan.

Despite its major importance of westward European expansion in North America, Fort de Buade is an enigma as to what it may have looked like, where its ruins are, or when it ceased to exist. There are conflicting reports to all of these important items that frustrates the historian or archaeologist. It is believed that the fort was built as a wooden stockade similar to Fort Michilimackinac built on the south side of the Straits, and that it probably was located somewhere within the current city of St. Ignace. There are two locations where the fort may have been located in St. Ignace, logically speaking. The first is on a hill that overlooks East Moran Bay, which is called Fort Hill by locals. The second is directly on the waterfront itself with easy access to the various watercraft approaching the settlement. As for when the fort was abandoned, it appears that 1696 is the year that the French garrison left. The French would not garrison the Straits of Mackinac until several years later upon the completion of Fort Michilimackinac located adjacent to present day Mackinaw City.

Battle of Drewry's Bluff – USMC vs. CSMC

The Battle of Drewry's Bluff saw the one and only time that the United States Marine Corps had to directly fight against a force of their fellow American Marines. Little is often discussed about the United States Marine Corps and their actions during the Civil War, and discussed even less are the actions of the Confederate States Marine Corps. Much of the CSMC was created by former USMC officers, and modeled after the USMC. Both the USMC and the CSMC had very limited manpower in comparison to their respective nation's armies.

The Battle of Drewry's Bluff occurred on 15 May 1862 during the Peninsula Campaign. Four US Navy warships and a US Revenue Cutter warship steamed up the James River to test the Confederate defenses approaching and at Richmond, Virginia. The five warships encountered many obstructions at the river's tight bend and deadly fire that rained down from Fort Darling that was situated on Drewry's Bluff.

The Confederate Marines (200 of them) were well distributed on each side of the river's bend at Drewry's Bluff in rifle pits serving as sharpshooters along with other CS soldiers in that area. This was in addition to the guns placed along the river (some originally from the CSS Virginia, along with that warship's crew manning them), and the guns from Fort Darling high above. As the flagship USS Galena took the lead into the bend under the command of Commander John Rodgers to engage the enemy (getting within 600 yards of the fort), a rain of fire was sent at the Galena with two rounds hitting immediately. Over the three hours of the battle, the Galena suffered 45 major hits and suffered 14 dead or mortally wounded with another 10 injured. The famed USS Monitor suffered many hits, but withstood them due to the ironclad's heavy armored design. The USRC Naugatuck underwent less damage due to its semi-submersed design, but experienced a catastrophic burst failure of its Parrott rifle, it continued firing



Above: Confederate States Marine Corps Flag (image source: en.wikipedia.org)



Above: United States Marine Corps Flag used at the First Battle of Bull Run (image source: FB page of National Museum of the Marine Corps)

its 12 lb. howitzers with canister and shell, and withdrew. The USS Aroostook and USS Port Royal both being wood steam gunships had to retreat when faced with the heavy fire or face sure suicide. Around 11:30AM, Rodgers ordered the five ships to withdraw back to City Point, as the Galena had exhausted its ammunition despite being heavily damaged.

The damage inflicted upon the Galena was horrific. The thinner armor of the ironclad could not prevent the onslaught of Confederate rounds from penetrating it. The ship's Assistant Surgeon stated that inside it was the scene of a perfect slaughterhouse. Further description is given as to the horrors encountered, but will not be described here. In addition to the artillery rounds hitting the ship, the sustained heavy fire from Confederate Marine sharpshooters was just as deadly and intense. The CSMC sharpshooters shot anyone that was exposed, including through gun ports. The intensity of fire severed the arm of a Union sailor attempting to

1905 Department of Michigan Encampment in Traverse City

VETERANS OF WAR

Held State Encampment at Traverse City This Week, Had Good Time And Elected Officers.

LADIES OF G.A.R. ALSO MEET

Ladies Relief Corps and Sons of Veterans, Too, in Annual Session on Same Days.

TRAVERSE CITY, June 21. - One of the most successful departments of the G.A.R. Encampments held in recent years closed tonight with a campfire at which Congressman Washington Gardner was the principal speaker.

At the annual business session the following officers were chosen: Department Commander - Ellery C. Cannon, Ewart. Senior Vice Commander - M.D. Morgan, Traverse City. Junior Vice Commander - S.M. Kent, Grand Rapids. Medical Director - Dr. W.W. Root, Mason. Chaplain - William Putnam, Lansing. Chaplain Putnam has been elected to that office five times in succession. This year's election was memorable to him as it came on his eighty-second birthday.

The Woman's Relief Corps elected the following officers: President - Mrs. Eva A. Gray, Grand Rapids. Senior Vice-President - Mrs. Anna M. Soule, Traverse City. Junior Vice-President - Amanda Burbank, Iron Mountain. Treasurer - Mrs. Louise Stein, Grand Rapids. Chaplain - Mrs. Gertrude W. Welker, Ionia.

The Ladies of the G.A.R. elected the following officers: President - Mrs. Mary A. Jameson, Marine City. Senior Vice-President - Mrs. Sarah Birdsey, St. Joseph. Junior Vice-President Mrs. Godfrey, Benton Harbor. Treasurer - Mrs. M. Celia Barbour, Caseville. Secretary - Mrs. Mary E. Randall, Detroit. The delegates of the Ladies of the G.A.R. to the National convention are: Matilda Smith, Grayling; Florence Cochran, Caseville; Julia Kingsley, Detroit. Alternates - Ella W. Stevens, St. Joseph; Mrs. John Lane, St. Joseph; Mrs. Lydia Lee, Benton Harbor. The Council of Administration is: Mrs. Anna M. Ear, Detroit; Kathleen Oliver, Reed City; Mrs. Lydia Lee, Benton Harbor.

The Sons of Veterans elected the following officers today: Commander - J.F. Kellogg, Battle Creek, re-elected. Senior Vice Commander - I.B. Gilbert, Traverse City. Junior Vice Commander - James A. Dana, Williamston. Division Council - F.D. Eddy, Grand Rapids; H.E. Cowdin, Rockford; F.C. Stilson, Battle Creek.

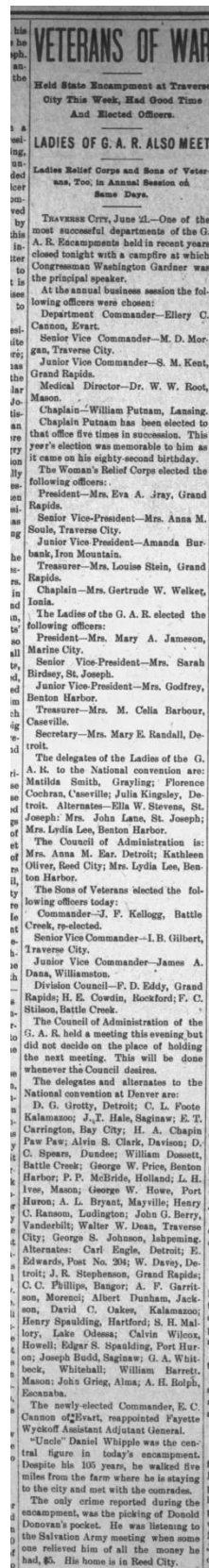
The Council of Administration of the G.A.R. held a meeting this evening, but did not decide on the place of holding the next meeting. This will be done whenever the Council desires.

The delegates and alternates to the National convention at Denver are: D.G. Grotty, Detroit; C.L. Foote, Kalamazoo; J.T. Hale, Saginaw; E.T. Carrington, Bay City; H.A. Chapin, Paw Paw; Alvin S. Clark, Davison; D. C. Spears, Dundee; William Dossett, Battle Creek; George W. Price, Benton Harbor; P.P. McBride, Holland; L.H. Ives, Mason; George W. Howe, Port Huron; A.L. Bryant, Mayville; Henry C. Ransom, Ludington; John G. Berry, Vanderbilt; Walter W. Dean, Traverse City; George S. Johnson, Ishpeming. Alternates: Carl Engle, Detroit; E. Edwards Post No. 204; W. Davey, Detroit; J.R. Stephenson, Grand Rapids; C.C. Phillips, Bangor; A.F. Garrington, Morenci; Albert Dunham, Jackson; David C. Oakes, Kalamazoo; Henry Spaulding, Hartford; S.H. Mallory, Lake Odessa; Calvin Wilcox, Howell; Edgar S. Spaulding, Port Huron; Joseph Budd, Saginaw; G.A. Whitbeck, Whitehall; William Barrett, Mason; John Grieg, Alma; A. H. Rolph, Escanaba.

The newly-elected Commander E.C. Cannon of Ewart, reappointed Fayette Wyckoff Assistant Adjutant General.

"Uncle" Daniel Whipple was the central figure in today's encampment. Despite his 105 years, he walked five miles from the farm where he is staying to the city and met with comrades.

The only crime reported during the encampment, was the picking of Donald Donovan's pocket. He was listening to the Salvation Army meeting when some one relieved him of all the money he had, \$5. His home is in Reed City.



Father Patrick Paul Cooney C.S.C.

Who Was Father Patrick Paul Cooney?

Patrick Paul Cooney was born in County Roscommon, Ireland in 1822. His family migrated to the United States when he was a young child, and settled in Monroe, Michigan, attending local schools and grew to be a man. Home was Michigan for Patrick Paul Cooney.

Cooney eventually made his way to the University of Notre Dame in 1850 at the ripe age of 28. Upon graduating, he taught at a country school. After some time, he decided to return to Notre Dame to enter the Priesthood. He was ordained in 1859. Father Cooney's first appointment was in the Chicago area at the University of St. Mary's of the Lake. He had intended to join with other Priests in performing mission work, but that was abruptly halted with the onset of the Civil War.

Indiana Governor Morton sought Priests to serve as Chaplains in the growing amount of regiments sent into action from the state. Father Cooney was ready and willing to serve, and in October 1861 he was appointed the Chaplain of the 35th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, which was also known as the "1st Indiana Irish" regiment.

Father Cooney served the 35th Indiana for four years, until he was instructed to report back to Notre Dame in 1865. He had ministered to many young men, tending to their spiritual needs in camp, and on the field of battle, and in their last moments on Earth, in addition to everything else that he did to serve his flock. The 35th Indiana was heavily engaged throughout the war in the following engagements: Battle of Stones River, Tullahoma Campaign, Battle of Hoover's Gap, Battle of Chickamauga, First Battle of Chattanooga, Third Battle of Chattanooga, Battle of Ringgold Gap, Atlanta Campaign, Battle of Rocky Face Ridge, Battle of Resaca, Battle of New Hope Church, Battle of Dallas, Battle of Marietta, Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Battle of Atlanta, Battle of Jonesboro, Franklin-Nashville Campaign, Battle of Columbia, Battle of Franklin, and the Battle of Nashville.

To say that Father Cooney was well respected within the 35th Indiana - 1st Indiana Irish, would be a major understatement. The following are just a few of many examples of how they really felt:

From a letter at the Indiana Historical Society:

"The flutter of the "Green Flag", or the sweet strains of "Patrick's Day," or "Garryowen," arouses his Irish blood, and for a moment he forgets he is a Priest and thinks himself a soldier. ... He knows human nature thoroughly, looks leniently upon the frailties of mankind, mildly censuring the misconduct of the men, and zealously urging them to a faithful performance of their duty to God and country. To say that he is much respected by the men of the regiment, is saying too little; He is loved by them."

From the official report of Colonel Bernhard Mullen after the Battle of Stones River:

"To Father Cooney, our chaplain, too much praise cannot be given. Indifferent as to himself, he was deeply solicitous for the temporal comfort and spiritual welfare of us all. On the field he was cool and indifferent to danger, and in the name of the regiment I thank him for his kindness and laborious attention to the dead and dying."

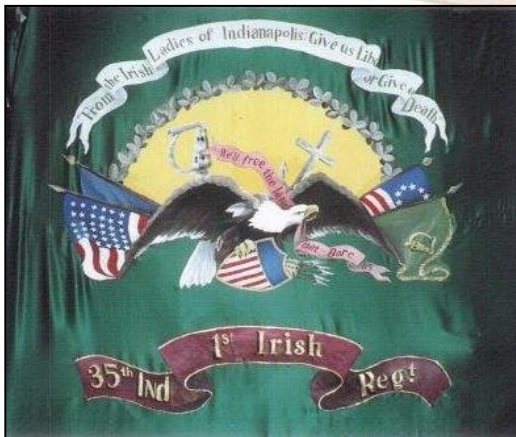
On the day before Father Cooney mustered out, his regiment gave him \$1,000 to buy new vestments and a chalice. He waited until the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the Priesthood to use the money to have a special chalice made that depicted scenes of his service, as well as Catholic Sisters tending to the wounded in Army hospitals. Father Cooney explained to a friend that "The chalice and its ornaments will be a synopsis of the ministrations or services of the Catholic Church in the Army, during the War of the Rebellion." To see this beautiful chalice, visit the website: <https://www.wkurtz.com/blog/father-cooney-civil-war-chalice/>

A Mass was held to honor Father Cooney for his 40th anniversary in the Priesthood by Notre Dame President, Father Morrissey, C.S.C. In attendance were many of his fellow comrades of the 35th Indiana, GAR comrades, and fellow Priests. He fittingly wore new vestments and used the chalice that were purchased from the regiment's gift back in 1865.

On 07 May 1905, Father Cooney passed away after protracted illness and severe deafness that affected him in his last stages of life. Father Cooney was given the



Above: Father Cooney During the War
(photo source: The Wild Geese website)



Above: 35th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regimental Colors
(photo source: FB page of Co. A, 15th Regiment, Alabama Vol. Inf.)

USMC vs. CSMC, cont'd.

quickly free a jammed gun port cover. Under this extreme concentration of firepower by the Confederate Marines and the other Confederate forces amassed at the river's tight bend, the United States Marines held tough keeping the Galena in the fight with their 14 man detachment aboard. The U.S. Marines aboard the Galena fired from the deck, as well as through gun ports at their counterparts of the C.S. Marine Corps entrenched on each side of the river. In the finest hour of the USMC detachment aboard the Galena, John Mackie and his fellow Marines removed the wounded, made several inoperable heavy guns operable once again, and proceeded to knock out a Confederate casement and dismounted a Confederate gun that was imperiling the Galena with its damaging fire. They manned the heavy guns until the ammunition was nearly spent, and Commander Rodgers gave the order for withdrawal.

On 08 July 1862, President Lincoln visited Harrison's Landing on the James River to tour the USS Galena as it was moored there. After boarding the ship, Lincoln was shocked and horrified at the damage that was inflicted on to the ironclad. He remarked to the crowd assembled that "I cannot understand how any of you escaped alive."

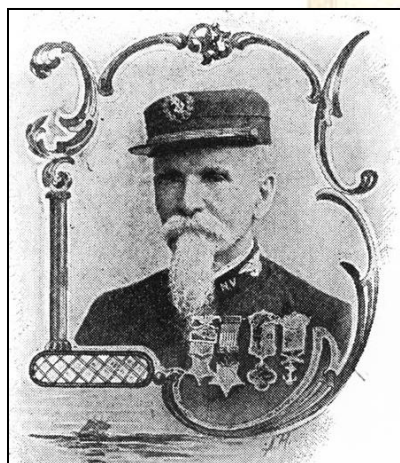
Commander Rodgers singled out three of the crew members for their heroic service that day. He called for them to step forward in front of the President. The three he called out were Marine Corporal John F. Mackie, Quartermaster Jeremiah Regan, and First-Class Fireman Charles Kenyon. Rodgers told Lincoln: "Mr. President, these are the young heroes of the Fort Darling battle." President Lincoln shook each of their hands and thanked them for their gallantry. Then Lincoln turned to his Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Welles and ordered that each man receive the Medal of Honor and be given a promotion.

This was a historical moment in United States military history, as well as United States Marine Corps history. This was the first and only time that a President of the United States recommended a member or in this case three members of the military to receive the Medal of Honor. It was also historical in that Corporal John Mackie was the very first United States Marine to ever receive the Medal of Honor.

While the USMC and the CSMC would continue to fight in other battles and actions of the war, this would be the only time that they fought each other directly. American Marines fighting American Marines, head on.

Sources:

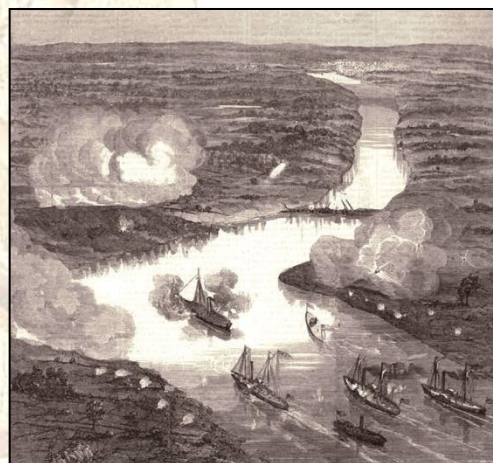
- <https://www.usni.org/magazines/naval-history-magazine/2009/june/marines-fighting-marines-battle-drewrys-bluff>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Drewry%27s_Bluff
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_F._Mackie



Above: Orderly Sgt. John F. Mackie
 (photo source: Naval Historical Center Online Library and wikipedia.org)



Above: Corporal John F. Mackie on the USS Galena at the Battle of Drewry's Bluff
 (photo source: USMC Historical Division and wikipedia.org)



Above: Engraving of the Battle of Drewry's Bluff
 (photo source: Harper's Weekly and wikipedia.org)



Camp No. 14 2020 Meeting Schedule

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|---------------------|---|
| 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)





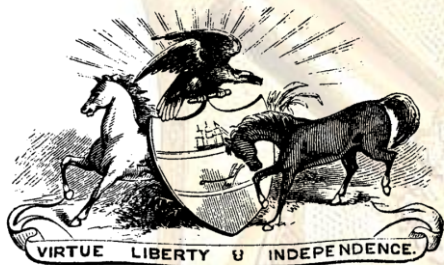
Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9

Frances Finch Aux. No. 9 Latest News

The Sisters of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 met on Saturday, 13 March 2021 at the Cherryland VFW Post 2780. A fair amount of business was conducted, and fraternity was enjoyed by the Sisters that were able to attend.

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. Currently, the Finch Banquet is anticipated to occur in the Fall of 2021, and to be held at the Elks Lodge #323. More information on the banquet will be provided as finalized.

The next meeting of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 is tentatively planned for Saturday, 08 May 2021 at 11AM at the Cherryland VFW Post 2780. Depending on the current restrictions, time and location (or virtual, or blended virtual/in-person) may change as the date of the meeting approaches.



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

A Banquet in Honor of GAR Comrades Dell Smith and Robert McElroy Submitted by AGRO & Guard Kenny Jones

Published in the Crawford County Avalanche 16 Apr 1908

Last Saturday evening the Ladies of the G. A. R. gave a banquet in honor of Robert McElroy and Delevan Smith, who were prisoners during the war of rebellion and were exchanged from the hell of Andersonville in April 1865. Comrade McElroy was captured at the battle of Bristoe Station, VA, 1863 and served in Libby, Belle Island, Savannah, Milan, and Andersonville until the time of his exchange, and came out a living skeleton, rotting with scurvy and dying of starvation. He seldom talks of the terrible scenes and suffering thoroughly which he passed, but when he does it fairly chills the blood of his hearers and they do not wonder that he is now a bent and broken man, though then he was but a boy, just entering into the ranks of manhood. He belonged to Co. B. 108th N. Y. Infantry, and served in field and prison three years and three months.

In August 1862, Delevan Smith was sixteen years of age, but strong and active and beyond his years realized the danger pending over the Union and the menace to the old flag. His patriotism would not let him rest quietly at home and despite the opposition of family and friends he enlisted in Co. H. 17 Regiment Mich. Inf. His record as a soldier is one of which any man might well be proud, but on the terrible field of Spotsylvania he, with 109 of his comrades, was captured and taken to Andersonville where they suffered the torments of that place as did all who were there until exchanged or released by the more kindly hand of death. Of the 110 men of the 17th an even hundred were so released and their bodies buried there.

In April 1865 the ten remaining were on the exchange list and with gladly beating hearts started with a large train toward Ohio enroute for Home. They were on the ill-fated Sultana on the Mississippi, which after an explosion was burned to the water's edge, costing thousands of lives among which were nine of the ten comrades; leaving Comrade Smith the only one to at last reach Michigan. Comrade McElroy was brought up to Jefferson barracks near St. Louis on the Sultana about two weeks before the explosion.

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Banquet for Comrades Smith and McElroy *cont'd.*

It was the night of the regular meeting of Marvin Post and as the encampment was closed the post room was at once thronged by the ladies and a social time and music. The assembly was called to order by the president of the Circle, Mrs. Wm. Fairbotham, who called Mrs. Smith, the Jr. Vice President of the Department of Michigan to preside, who called attention to the reason of our meeting and gave "Our Guests" a seat of honor when "attention" was her order and to the music of a familiar march the battalion "passed in review" and gave the comrades hearty greeting, after which each gave a most graphic description of their prison life, and Comrade Smith described his almost miraculous escape from death by the expulsion of the Steamer Sultana, which was bearing him home.

More music and a pleasant and patriotic address by Comrade Chalker and others, and all adjourned to the banquet ball. And what a banquet! Tables loaded with viands that would tempt the strongest epicure, and enough to fill a regiment. More genuine enjoyment could hardly be crowded into a single evening and it will be long remembered, with the three cheers which we gave our comrades.

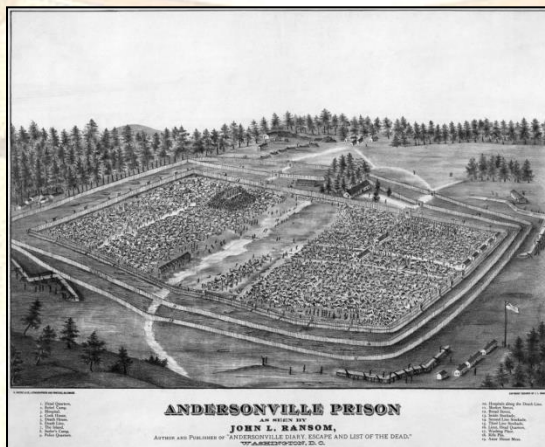
Delevan/Delivan "Dell" Smith is the Father-in-Law of Brother Jones' Great-Grand Aunt.



Left: Gravesite of Comrade Robert McElroy
(photo source: Find-A-Grave)

Right: Gravesite of Comrade Dell Smith
(photo courtesy of AGRO & Guard Kenny Jones)

Below: Andersonville POW Prison
(photo source: en.wikipedia.org)



Father Cooney, *cont'd.*

honors that were much deserved at this funeral Mass. The chalice used to celebrate the service was the very one that he had commissioned with the gift money given by the regiment with the scenes from the war. His coffin was covered with the American flag. Father Cooney's funeral Mass was attended by the GAR Post from South Bend, but also from the GAR Post that he was a member of - Notre Dame GAR Post No. 569.

The Notre Dame GAR Post No. 569 was very special. It was founded by Priests and Brothers of the Order of the Holly Cross of the University of Notre Dame that had served in the war. Because of its very unique founding and composition of Comrades, the Post instantly gained celebrity around the country - North and South alike. The first Commander was the famed Father William Corby, while the first Post Chaplain was Father P.P. Cooney.

As fitting of any Comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic, Father Patrick Paul Cooney was afforded all of the rights and the rituals of the GAR that he most definitely deserved. While he may not have been the most famous Chaplain of the Civil War, he was without a doubt one of the most important, revered, and loved.

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