



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

Memorial Service for Departed Brothers in May

IN MEMORIAM



Brother Bill Hanusik



PCC Neal Breagh



Brother Howard Byrne

At the 08 May meeting of Robert Finch Camp No. 14, three men that have left their earthly restraints in the past year and rest in the great bivouac of Eternity were remembered by their Brothers.

Chaplain Mattis, PCC planned and led the memorial service for Brothers Bill Hanusik, PCC Neal Breagh, and Howard Byrne. Upon completion of the ritual and prayers, the Brothers of the Camp gave testimony to these Brothers – telling of their characteristics, actions, and shared time together – that demonstrated that each one lived for “Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.” These Brothers were the epitome of a life well lived. Camp 14 will march forward with these Brothers as exemplars.

Graveside ceremonies will be conducted where the individual Brother’s family has requested Camp 14 to honor their loved one. More information will be provided as to dates and times when finalized.

Camp 14 Represented at Department Encampment

On 01 May 2021, the Michigan Department Encampment was held at the Okemos Conference Center in Okemos. This year’s Encampment was a bit smaller than usual due to state pandemic restrictions for attendance allowed. To ensure compliance, those in attendance from the Department were required to be an elected officer, an appointed officer, a committee chairman, or someone that was running for an elected office. The Encampment was conducted in a blended manner with Zoom to allow the remaining Delegates to attend as well despite being at a remote location. Commander-in-Chief Brian Pierson made the long trip to Michigan from Oklahoma to attend the Encampment.

Commander Davis, PDC and Sr. Vice Commander Smith, PDC were in attendance at the Encampment due to their duties to the Department. With the incoming administration, Commander Davis was appointed as Department Counselor, and Sr. Vice Commander Smith was appointed Department Chief of Staff. Sr. Vice Commander Smith was also reelected to the Department Council and reelected as Chairman of said Council.

Camp 14 congratulates Past Department Commander McKinch of Gov. Crapo Camp No. 145 for a successful term, and sends well wishes to newly elected Department Commander Nathan Smith of U.S. Grant Camp No. 67 for a productive and thriving upcoming term.

Camp 14 Initiates a New Brother

On 08 May 2021, Robert Finch Camp No. 14 initiated a new Brother to the Order. Brother Eric Boals of Traverse City was initiated per the ritual as led by Commander Davis and Chaplain Mattis.

Fellow Cherryland VFW Post 2780 member, Council John Milks pinned the Badge of the Order on Brother Boals. The Brothers welcomed Brother Boals with applause and congratulations, and are excited to have him join the Camp.

Brother Eric Boals retired from the United States Army after 32 years with the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4.



Above Left: Initiation - L-R: Chaplain Mattis, Brother Boals, and Commander Davis
Above Right: Council Milks pinning the Badge of the Order on Brother Boals





Commander's Message



Brothers of Robert Finch Camp 14

As we continue to cope with the mandated rules and regulations concerning COVID and our in-person meetings, I am encouraged to see that our attendance has been slowly growing. I thank those Brothers for their attendance so that we might continue with the work of the Order. I would like to acknowledge the support and personal assistance provided to me by Brothers Ted Mattis and David Smith as we move forward with the work of the Order.

During our last meeting, it was determined that we will continue to meet at the VFW Hall at least for one additional year. The VFW has welcomed us with open arms and has made considerations with regard to their food menu that I believe you will enjoy. Please help us support the VFW in respect to the kindness and accommodation they have shown us.

The Camp recently initiated one new member, Eric Boals. Welcome aboard Eric. We also have one other person considering membership. Our Ceremonies and Events Committee formed for the purpose of planning and executing the various Camp services and events has met on a couple of occasions already and we are looking at a very busy schedule in the coming months.

Each event will be chaired by one of the Committee members. These event Chairs will be calling upon the Brothers of the Camp to request your participation and help in conducting these services and events. Please respond in the affirmative if you are able to participate either as a spectator or to assist in one of the many tasks that are required to ensure our services are well-done in Keeping Green the Memory of all those Civil War Soldiers and all Veterans who have served our Nation.

I remain your most obedient servant,

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

Commander Davis can be reached at:

pdmarrcomm@aol.com

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

2021 National Encampment

The 2021 National Encampment is scheduled for 04-09 August 2021 in St. Louis. For the latest news, as well as lodging, meals, and National Encampment souvenirs information can be found at: <https://www.suvcwmo.org/2021-national-encampment.html>

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



Donations for Nursing Home Veterans

Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 is accepting items to donate to Veterans residing at Medilodge here in Traverse City. For more information on items needed and drop-off locations, contact Auxiliary President Dorothy Rongey or Chaplain Lorraine Aurand.

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



Welcome Brothers to a beautiful spring and the beginning of a busy summer. Every great event should start with a plan, especially when there is a lot to be done in a season that is already filling up with exciting events that we can all take part in. I want to encourage all of our Brothers to march to the drum beat as Robert Finch Camp swings into action. Fly high your flag for all to see.

As Chaplain and a member of the event planning committee I can tell you that the planning committee has been active in arranging our upcoming events, and I am excited with the progress we have made to date. We are off to a very good start and announcements are coming soon if not by this publication.

I don't want anyone to forget that covid is still with us and may be of great concern to many for some time. We have to respect the concerns of others and give them the space they need for their well-being. It's just good manners and good manners are reciprocated and often come back to us. It's the right thing to do and what God requires of us.

Memorial Day is fast approaching and I am hoping all of our Brothers will attend to graves of relatives and veterans especially when one is obviously in need of care as they no longer have family. Make a week of it with family and participate in local events in your neighborhood and community. Keep a few Robert Finch Camp pamphlets in your pocket so when someone asks, what are you doing and What does your uniform represent? You can introduce yourself and give them a pamphlet to help explain. The easiest way to recruit is when someone asks you a question. Just politely answer them and invite them to ask for more information.

May God be with our Brothers and their families as we go about our mission.

Ted Mattis, PCC, Chaplain



Camp 14 Upcoming Ceremonies

Currently, Camp 14's Committee for Planning and Executing Ceremonies & Services (CPECS) has been very active in planning for the extremely busy upcoming ceremony and events season. Upcoming ceremonies to be held by the Camp include:

Samuel E. Qua, Last Veteran Buried in Otsego County, Michigan and Gravestone Dedication – Gaylord's Fairview Cemetery – Saturday, 19 June 2021 at 1PM (1300)

Charles W. Beeman, Last Veteran Buried in Benzie County, Michigan and Gravestone Dedication – Lake Ann's Greenbriar Cemetery – Saturday, 10 July 2021 at 11AM (1100)

James Gear, Last Veteran Buried in Manistee County, Michigan – Arcadia Township's Conway Cemetery – Saturday, 18 September 2021 (tentative) at TBD

Additional events for the year are TBD/TBA.

Camp 14 Memorial Day Week Activities

The Memorial Day Week and Weekend (and the lead-up to it) was extremely busy for the Brothers of Camp 14 as they stretched across the large 19 county geographical area to honor the fallen in various ways. Some of the activities included, but were not limited to: headstone cleaning and cemetery visits for evaluation of gravestone and flag holder conditions, straightening and resetting of headstones, placement of US flags at the graves of Veterans, placement of flag holders at the graves of Veterans, conducting research on various Veterans, giving presentations to churches and libraries, serving on area Honor Guards for Veteran funerals, and attending Memorial Day ceremonies throughout the week and weekend.

A big thank you must be given to Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City for providing a flyover Friday of Oakwood Cemetery during the flag placement, as well as a flyover of the Long Lake Township Memorial Service (in addition to CGAS TC's Executive Officer serving as keynote speaker). The USCG's service and support to this community is extraordinary in addition to their everyday work protecting the Great Lakes.

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Northern Michigan Military Installations – Past & Present



Above: Fort Holmes (rebuilt in 2015) Overlooking the Straits of Mackinac (image source: mlive.com)

Fort Holmes

British and United States Army Installation

Mackinac Island, Mackinac County, Michigan

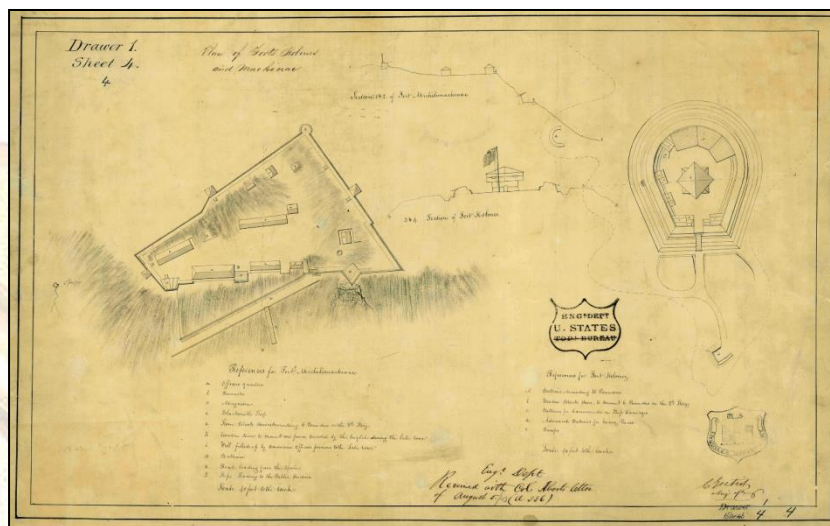
Commissioned: 1814 Abandoned: 1817

Sitting atop the highest ridge of Mackinac Island overlooking the Straits of Mackinac and the surrounding area is the site of a little known or noticed military installation. The small earthen and timber fort was constructed by the British in 1814 during the War of 1812, with the British naming it Fort George in honor of King George III. It was constructed to aid the British forces in defending Fort Mackinac from an attack by the U.S. Army. The site possessed a blockhouse, a cannon, and a magazine for powder and munitions. This fort was always an outpost of Fort Mackinac, and never an independent military installation.

During 1814, the United States attempted to retake Mackinac Island from the British to sever the fur trading alliance with the Native Americans of the Northwest. The Battle of Mackinac Island was a lopsided affair (for many reasons including the US Navy's inability to fire on Fort George due to its height above the ships – see the Battle of Mackinac Island for full details). During the battle, Major Andrew Hunter Holmes, commander of the ad hoc US regulars along with 13 other Americans were killed. The US forces retreated back to the ships, and no other attempts to regain the island were made.

After the Treaty of Ghent was signed, US forces arrived on Mackinac Island on 18 July 1815, and within 30 minutes took possession of the island and its military installations. In September of the year, Fort George was renamed Fort Holmes after Major Andrew Hunter Holmes who was killed in action during the Battle of Mackinac Island.

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Above: Forts Mackinac and Holmes as they appeared to military engineer Major Charles Gratiot in 1817 (image source: National Archives and Mackinac Parks)

Headstone Reset for Last Veteran Buried in Manistee County

Graves Registration Officer John Sawyer and Historian George Goodrich, PCC were busy at work this spring tending to the headstone of James Gear, Company D, 35th Wisconsin Infantry in Conway Cemetery, Arcadia Township.

Brothers Sawyer and Goodrich reset the headstone – finding a bottle beneath the headstone! Additionally, the Brothers cleaned the headstone with D2 solution as is standard for Camp 14.

Finally, they installed the GAR/SUVCW Last Veteran Buried in the County flag holder at Mr. Gear's gravesite.

A ceremony honoring Mr. Gear as the Last Veteran Buried in Manistee County is forthcoming later in 2021.



Above: PCC Goodrich cleaning Mr. Gear's headstone after resetting (image courtesy of GRO Sawyer)



Above: Gravesite of James Gear (image courtesy of GRO Sawyer)

General Orders No. 11

Headquarters, Grand Army of the Republic
Washington, D.C., 05 May 1868

I. The 30th day of May, 1868 is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion, and whose bodies now lie in almost every city, village, and hamlet churchyard in the land. In this observance no form or ceremony is prescribed, but posts and comrades will in their own way arrange such fitting services and testimonials of respect as circumstances may permit.

We are organized, comrades, as our regulations tell us, for the purpose, among other things, "of preserving and strengthening those kind and fraternal feelings which have bound together the soldiers, sailors and marines who united to suppress the late rebellion." What can aid more to assure this result than by cherishing tenderly the memory of our heroic dead who made their breasts a barricade between our country and its foes? Their soldier lives were the reveille of freedom to a race in chains and their deaths the tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms. We should guard their graves with sacred vigilance. All that the consecrated wealth and taste of the nation can add to their adornment and security is but a fitting tribute to the memory of her slain defenders. Let no wanton foot tread rudely on such hallowed grounds. Let pleasant paths invite the coming and going of reverent visitors and fond mourners. Let no vandalism of avarice or neglect, no ravages of time, testify to the present or to the coming generations that we have forgotten, as a people, the cost of a free and undivided republic.

If other eyes grow dull and other hands slack, and other hearts cold in the solemn trust, ours shall keep it well as long as the light and warmth of life remains in us.

Let us, then, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us as sacred charges upon the nation's gratitude—the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan.

II. It is the purpose of the commander in chief to inaugurate this observance with the hope that it will be kept up from year to year, while a survivor of the war remains to honor the memory of his departed comrades. He earnestly desires the public press to call attention to this order, and lend its friendly aid in bringing it to the notice of comrades in all parts of the country in time for simultaneous compliance therewith.

III. Department commanders will use every effort to make this order effective.

By Command of -
John A. Logan,
Commander in Chief

N.P. Chipman, Adjutant General

"Poor is the Nation that has no heroes, but shameful is the Nation that has them and forgets."

- Author Unknown

Fort Holmes, cont'd

Lieutenant Colonel Talbot Chambers, the new commander of Fort Mackinac held Fort Holmes in high regard. A great account of Chambers' opinion is taken from the Mackinac State Historic Parks website:

"The horseshoe-shaped fort was surrounded by a defensive ditch, and its earthen walls were topped with a fraise, a row of sharpened, horizontal logs. Inside the fort Chambers found a "tolerable strong" two story blockhouse capable of mounting two 12-pound cannons, as well as unfinished gun platforms for 11 artillery pieces. In addition to two bombproof shelters just outside the gate, Chambers found an advanced battery for two 24-pound guns overlooking Fort Mackinac and the harbor below. "This work we shall render strong as possible," vowed Chambers, who instructed his men to complete the gun platforms and arm Fort Holmes with two brass 12-pound guns, two howitzers, a long 24-pound gun, and two 6-pound guns placed to rake the defensive ditch. The soldiers stored ammunition in one of the underground bombproofs, using the other to hold food and other provisions. Chambers quickly incorporated Fort Holmes into his defensive scheme for the island, making it the primary American redoubt in the event of an attack. With Fort Holmes thus armed and manned, Chambers boasted that he "would not fear the best two thousand troops that Britain can send against us, even were they to be headed by a Wellington."



Above: War of 1812 era Reenactors raise the US Flag over Fort Holmes (image source Mackinac Parks)

Continued on pg. 9

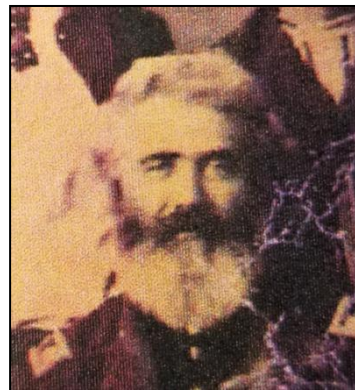
Veteran Spotlight

Major John Dalzell

McLaughlin's Squadron, Ohio Cavalry and 5th Ohio Cavalry
Comrade of McPherson GAR Post 18 – Traverse City

John Dalzell was born on 06 January 1823 to Thomas and Eliza (Cook) Dalzell in Berks County, Pennsylvania, the couple's first child. He came with his family to the town of Salem, in Goshen Township, Columbiana County, Ohio from Berks County, Pennsylvania as a small child. In 1848, Mr. Dalzell married Elizabeth C. Grove, the daughter of Henry and Marion Grove.

Mr. Dalzell enlisted as a First Sergeant on 19 November 1861 in Company B, 1st Regiment, Mc Laughlin's Squadron, Ohio Cavalry. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant on 15 September 1862, promoted to Captain effective 09 June 1863, and promoted to Major effective 19 October 1865 when he transferred to the Field and Staff of the 5th Ohio Cavalry. He mustered out of the 5th Ohio Cavalry on 30 October 1865. During his service in the Civil War, Major Dalzell served on the staff of Generals Burnside,



Above: Believed to be the Field and Staff of the 5th Ohio Cavalry, Major Dalzell is located in the second seated row, fourth from the left. (photo source: CWMO Schwander, also seen on Ancestry.com)

Cox, Hartcuff, and Schofield. He was engaged in battles fought in several Southern states.

As a result of his service, Mr. Dalzell was given a land grant in Leelanau County, Michigan where he brought his family in the spring of 1866. He cleared the land and constructed a cabin before winter set in. His son Edward recalled that his family came to Leelanau County by way of covered wagon with a team of oxen, taking six weeks of difficult travel over rough trails.

The Dalzell homestead was located in Elmwood Township at the intersection of County Roads 614 and 633. The home was a large log cabin constructed from the trees that were cleared on the land. During construction of their home, a large tree was saved to make a table and stools for an outdoor classroom. Education was highly important to Mr. and Mrs. Dalzell, and there was not a schoolhouse near their home. The Dalzells kept a family Bible, a book of Biblical stories, and a book on mathematics. They later added a history book and a book on geography.

Major Dalzell suffered from poor health due to his service in the Cavalry during the War. He was hospitalized several times for piles and dysentery,

which caused further issues later in life causing such horrible discomfort that he had to sleep sitting up in his chair for two years prior to his death. Major Dalzell passed away on 04 November 1897 at the age of 74 as a result of dropsy with complications of heart disease.

OBITUARY

THE MORNING RECORD, TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN NOVEMBER 5, 1897, Page 1

MAJOR DALZELL DEAD PROMINENT CITIZEN OF ELMWOOD, 74 YEARS OF AGE WAS A WAR VETERAN OF HONORABLE RECORD – HAD SERVED UNION STAFFS OF BURNSIDES, COX, HARTCOFF, AND SCHOFIELD – FORMERLY ACTIVE IN LOCAL AFFAIRS

Major John Dalzell died at his home, in Elmwood township, Leelanau County, yesterday morning, at the age of 74 years. Major Dalzell was born Jan 6, 1823 in Berks County, Pennsylvania. He enlisted as a private in Nov. 1861, for three years: reenlisted in 1864 and was mustered out in 1864 as Major in Dec 1865. His first enlistment was in McLaughlin's Squadron O.V.V.C. which was part of Sherman's brigade. Major Dalzell served at different times on the staff of Gens. Burnside, Hartsuff, J.D. Cox and Schofield. His military career was Highly honorable one.

In the spring of 1866 the family moved to the country, locating on the farm in Elmwood township, which has been the family home since.



Above: Final Resting Place of Major John Dalzell, Oakwood Cemetery, Traverse City, MI (photo source: FindAGrave, CWMO Schwander)

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Memorial Day Week, cont'd



Above: Members of the Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition and community members that participated at Linwood Cemetery. Camp 14 Brothers and Auxiliary 9 Sisters placed flags and flag markers for Veterans buried at Linwood Cemetery in Long Lake Township, the annual event takes place the week of Memorial Day.



Above (L-R): PDC D. Aurand, Chaplain Lorraine Aurand, PDC D. Smith, President Dorothy Ronney, PAP, Sec.-Treas. Lisa Smith, PAP, and Color Bearer J. Ribby.



Above: Long Lake Township Memorial Service on 28 May 2021. (L-R): Council Milks, PAP Smith, AP & PAP Ronney, PDC Smith, Br. Ribby, Br. Morse, Sr., and Br. Morse, Jr



Above: Council Milks serving on the Traverse Area Honor Guard during the Long Lake Township Memorial Service.



Above: CWMO Schwander (and retired Grand Traverse Co. Deputy Sheriff) and MSP Trooper Halverson placing flags at Oakwood Cemetery in TC.



Above (L-R): Mr. Benjamin, Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association Michigan Chapter, Lieutenant Commander Wolfe (a USCG pilot) of Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City, and former State Senator Jason Allen.

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

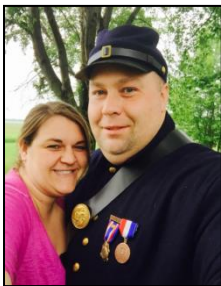
Frances Finch Aux. No. 9 Latest News

The Sisters of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 met on Saturday, 08 May 2021 at the Cherryland VFW Post 2780. Significant business was conducted, and fraternity was enjoyed by the Sisters that were able to attend.

Donations for Medilodge Veterans

Frances Finch Auxiliary is collecting items for Veterans that are currently staying at Medilodge. Some of the items that the Veterans need include:

Baseball caps	Ring bologna
National Geographic magazines	Pudding
Printed t-shirts (any size)	Motorcycle magazines
Toiletries	White socks
Large word searches	Sweat pants (any size)



Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 Celebrates the Election of Nathan Smith to the Office of Department Commander of the Department of Michigan.

Sister Kelly Smith's husband Nate was elected as Michigan Department Commander on the previous Saturday. Congratulations to Kelly and Nate!



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

Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 Gives Donation for Last Veteran Buried in the County Marker

At the 08 May 2021 meeting, the Sisters of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 donated funds towards the costs of a new Last Veteran Buried in the County flag holder/marker. Secretary-Treasurer Lisa Smith, PAP, Council Lorraine Jones, and Chaplain Lorraine Aurand presented the donation to Robert Finch Camp No. 14.

Right (L-R): Commander Davis, Chaplain Lorraine Aurand, Secretary-Treasurer Lisa Smith, PAP, and Council Lorraine Jones announcing to their Brothers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14 their donation towards the Last Veteran Buried in the County project.



Frances Finch Sisters Place Flags and Holders in Long Lake Township's Linwood Cemetery & Attend the Long Lake Township Memorial Day Weekend Ceremony

President Dorothy Rongey, PAP and Secretary-Treasurer Lisa Smith, PAP spent the afternoon of the 25th of May placing flag holders and US flags at the gravesites of Veterans buried in Linwood Cemetery in Long Lake Township, Grand Traverse County. The Sisters also represented the Auxiliary on Friday, 28 May at the Long Lake Township Memorial Day Ceremony. Both events were well attended with various Veteran organizations from the greater Grand Traverse area, including Brothers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14.



Camp 14 Brothers Giving Presentations

In efforts to share their knowledge and passion for the Civil War and Decoration Day, two Brothers of Camp 14 gave presentations during the lead up to Memorial Day/Decoration Day.

Council John Milks gave a presentation live online through the Betsie Valley District Library. He presented various artifacts along with stories. Additionally, Brother Milks being the talented musician he is, played several songs from the era and original work as well.

Assistant Secretary Rodney Welliver presented the beginnings of Decoration Day/Memorial Day to his church in Manistee. Brother Welliver's Pastor asked him to present to the church a message to the congregation both in the Sanctuary and on Facebook to bring into "Remembrance" of what Memorial Day is all about – this being extremely important in that many are confused about its true meaning and often consider it yet another holiday to kick the summer off.



Above Left: Council Milks during his presentation to the Betsie Valley District Library (screenshot courtesy of the BVDL YouTube Channel).

Above Right: Assistant Secretary Welliver giving a presentation to his church in Manistee regarding the beginnings of Decoration Day/Memorial Day and the GAR on through to the SUVCW (screenshot courtesy of NLT Manistee FB Watch page).

Fort Holmes, cont'd.

The Mackinac State Historic Parks website further describes Lieutenant Colonel Chambers thoughts on the overall situation with regards to the military installations on the island:

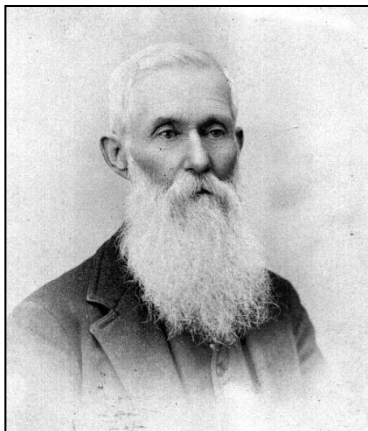
"In contrast to his appreciation of Fort Holmes' defensive potential, Chambers had nothing but scorn for Fort Mackinac's military usefulness. Although Chambers estimated that the larger fort could accommodate 300 men, and had an ample powder magazine and numerous workshops, he placed little value in the post as a fighting position: "Were we solely dependent on the resistance which fort Mackinaw would be enabled to make, our situation would indeed be deplorable." He believed that only Fort Holmes could properly defend the island, and thus issued orders requiring almost every soldier to repair to the hilltop post in an emergency. Despite Chambers' high opinion of Fort Holmes, America troops garrisoned the fort only during the summer months, and the small post was abandoned and allowed to decay at the end of 1817."

Fast forward 200 years - in 2015, the Mackinac State Historic Parks reconstructed Fort Holmes utilizing engineering drawings and information found at the National Archives, providing visitors the opportunity to view a War of 1812 redoubt towering over arguably one of the best views in Michigan.

Sources:

<http://www.stateoftheunionhistory.com/2016/11/1814-james-madison-fort-holmes-mackinac.html>
<https://www.mackinacparks.com/1815-the-americans-return-to-mackinac-island/>

Major Dalzell, cont'd



Above: Major John Dalzell at a later age. (photo source: FindAGrave and Ancestry.com)

This is the first death in the family in forty years. Mrs. Dalzell and nine children survive. They are Mary, now Mrs. Alex Mason, Will, Lizzie, now Mrs. J.M. Akers, Henry, Edward, John Jr., Fred, Frank, and Florence, all residents of Elmwood township. He leaves twenty two grandchildren and one great grandchild.

The Major has been in poor health for several years and for three years has not been able to lie down, but occupied the chair in which his father died. His trouble was dropsy, complicated by heart disease.

Major Dalzell was prominent in his township, had filled the office of supervisor, town clerk, justice of the peace and other minor positions of trust. He was an uncompromising Republican and took an active part in politics for many years.

There are many friends about here who will long bear in kindly Remembrance Major Dalzell. The funeral service will be held at the Grelickville school house, and the time will be announced later.

ARMY SERVICE

Mr. Dalzell served with Company B, McLaughlin's Squadron, Ohio Cavalry from 19 November 1861 entering as a First Sergeant, and mustered out as a Captain in 28 July 1865, when McLaughlin's Squadron was consolidated with the 5th Ohio Cavalry where he was later promoted to Major.

McLaughlin's Squadron, Ohio Cavalry

HISTORY – Organized in October, 1861, under Major William McLaughlin of Mansfield, the squadron left for the field late in November. It went to Eastern Kentucky to look after Humphrey Marshall's Rebel command in that area. It operated with Colonel Garfield and the 42nd Ohio Infantry in the battles of Middle Creek, Pikeville and Pound Gap. It was sent to Gladesville, West Virginia and burned the town and afterward surprised and captured a Rebel regiment being formed by Colonel Caudle. The unit scouted and skirmished with the enemy throughout 1862 and 1863. August 1863 found it marching to Knoxville where it performed escort and picket duty. It re-enlisted in January 1864 and furloughed in Ohio. It returned in the spring and took part in Stoneman's raid on Macon where it suffered severely in killed wounded and missing. It took part in Sherman's Atlanta campaign and the march to the sea. It rode up through the Carolinas fighting at Bentonville and Blackville. The unit was consolidated with the 5th Ohio Cavalry in July, 1865. It stayed in North Carolina until November, 1865, and was then sent to Ohio and mustered out.

FROM DYER'S COMPENDIUM :

OVERVIEW – McLaughlin's Independent Squadron Cavalry. Organized at Mansfield, Ohio, October and November, 1861. Left State for Kentucky November 29, 1861. Attached to 18th Brigade, Army Ohio, to March, 1862. District of Eastern Kentucky, Dept. Ohio, to July, 1862. 3rd Brigade, Kanawha Division, West Virginia, to November, 1862. District of Eastern Kentucky, Dept. Ohio, to June 1863. 1st Brigade, 4th Division, 23rd Army Corps, Dept. Ohio, to September, 1863. Headquarters 23rd Army Corps, Dept. Ohio, to April, 1864. 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, District of Kentucky, 5th Division, 23rd Army Corps, to June, 1864. 3rd Brigade, Cavalry Division, 23rd Army Corps, to August, 1864. Mounted Brigade, Cavalry Division, 23rd Army Corps, to September, 1864. 2nd Brigade, Cavalry Division, 23rd Army Corps, to October, 1864. 2nd Brigade, Kilpatrick's 3rd Division, Cavalry Corps, Military Division Mississippi, to July, 1865.

SERVICE.--Garfield's Campaign in Eastern Kentucky against Humphrey Marshall December 23, 1861, to January 30, 1862. Garfield's Expedition to the Big Sandy September 23-30, 1861. Advance on Paintsville December 31, 1861, to January 8, 1862. Action at Jennies January 7, 1862. Occupation of Paintsville January 8. Abbott's Hill January 9. Middle Creek January 10. Prestonburg January 11. Expedition to the Little Sandy January 24-30. Expedition to Pound Gap, Cumberland Mountains, March 14-17. Action at Pound Gap March 16. Duty at Picketown till June. Moved to Prestonburg, thence to Louisa, Ky., July 15. Duty at Louisa till December. Operations in District of Eastern Kentucky, Dept. of the Ohio, to August, 1863. Skirmishes near Louisa March 25-26, 1863. Expedition from Beaver Creek into Southwest Virginia July 3-11. Capture of Abingdon, Va., July 5. Action at Gladesville, Va., July 7. Burnside's Campaign in East Tennessee August 16-October 17. Escort and picket duty at Knoxville till January 10, 1864. Near Loudoun November 14. Siege of Knoxville, Tenn., November 17-December 5. Moved to Nicholasville, Ky. Duty there and in Kentucky till June. Moved to Join Stoneman June 13-19. Join Sherman's Army near Big Shanty, Ga., June 26. Atlanta (Ga.) Campaign June 26-September 8. Assault on Kenesaw June 27. On line of the Chattahoochee River July 5-17. Stoneman's Raid to Macon July 27-August 6. Macon and Clinton July 30. Hillsborough July 30-31. Sunshine Church August 3. Jug Tavern and Mulberry Creek August 3. Siege of Atlanta August 11-September 3. March to the sea November 15-December 10. Bear Creek Station November 16. Walnut Creek and East Macon November 20. Waynesboro November 27-28. Buckhead Creek, or Reynolds' Plantation, November 28. Rocky Creek Church December 2. Waynesboro December 4. Ebenezer Creek December 8. Siege of Savannah December 10-21. Campaign of the Carolinas January to April, 1865. Aiken and Blackville, S.C., February 11. North Edisto River February 12-13. Phillips Cross Roads, N. C., March 4. Taylor's Hole Creek, Averysboro. March 16. Bentonville March 19-21. Raleigh April 12-13. Morrisville April 13. Bennett's House April 26. Surrender of Johnston and his army. Duty at Concord, N. C., till July. Moved to Raleigh and consolidated with 5th Ohio Cavalry July 28, 1865. Squadron lost during service 1 Enlisted man killed and 49 Enlisted men by disease. Total 50.

Sources:

1. Ancestry.com Family Stories for John Dalzell
2. <http://www.ohiocivilwar.com/mclaughl.html>
3. Find A Grave page for John Dalzell



Decoration Day Cards



Body Armor in the Civil War

While body armor today is a ubiquitous part of the modern soldier's personal equipment, it seems like it would be a foreign concept to the soldier of the 1860s. Yet, that is not the case – there was body armor available to the Civil War soldier! While it wasn't issued by the Army, it was available through private purchase to the inquiring soldier via mail order or through peddlers travelling camp to camp.

The "bullet proof" vests were usually constructed of a typical "Army vest", looking every bit of the appearance of such clothing item. However, formed metal plates were inserted into the vest between the exterior and interior clothing layers. The removable metal plates being constructed of sheet iron or cast iron.

Some may question why more body armor wasn't used during the Civil War, but there were obvious drawbacks to most. These drawbacks included:

1. Excess weight for the soldier to march with or conduct battle in – especially the infantry soldier
2. Mockery – fellow soldiers often ridiculed their comrades wearing the bulky armor as being yellow – this was especially true in the South, thus, most instances of body armor were found with Northern soldiers
3. They were not inexpensive – on average the body armored vests were \$5 - \$8 (about 1/3 - 1/2 of a Private's monthly pay)
4. Often times, they caused more harm – if a projectile penetrated through the armor, it often sent fibers of the vest and more shrapnel liberated from the armor plates into the wearer causing even more damage and potential for infection

Despite the drawbacks, the body armor did provide some level of protection from lower velocity projectiles, etc. While many soldiers clad in body armor that received a projectile hit passed away or were severely wounded, there are rare cases when the wearer survived. One such case occurred with Colonel Albert Brackett of the 9th Illinois Cavalry. In June of 1862, Brackett's 9th Illinois Cavalry was involved in a skirmish with Arkansas soldiers. During the melee, Brackett was shot in the right side, but continued in the fight commanding his troops. The minie ball that struck him hit the steel plate he was wearing without leaving him with a gunshot wound. According to the Surgeon Charles Brackett (Albert's brother), the minie ball struck on the left side below the heart, and that the vest saved him. Further he noted that the ball deflected passing out through the coat carrying a his hankerchief 2/3 through the ball hole. Additionally Surgeon Brackett noted that this was the only instance he knew of a steel vest saving a life.



Above: The Soldiers' Bullet Proof Vest, "Harper's Weekly," March 15, 1862, p. 176



Above Left: Breastplate with damage from shrapnel of an artillery shell during the Battle of Malvern Hill – it is believed the wearer was killed from said shrapnel. (picture source: encyclopediavirginia.org)

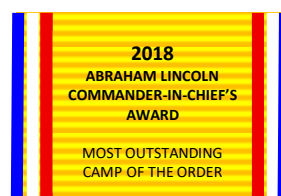
Above Right: Colonel Albert Brackett

Sources:

1. <https://americanhistory.si.edu/blog/2013/04/failed-objects-bullet-proof-vests-and-design-in-the-american-civil-war.html>
2. <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/142hpr-af39ad5b7337080/>
3. <https://emergingcivilwar.com/2019/05/13/colonel-albert-bracketts-body-armor/>



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