



The Sharpshooter



Official Newsletter of the
Robert Finch Camp No. 14 – Traverse City
Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

August 2014
Vol. 1 Issue 3

Camp Officers 2014

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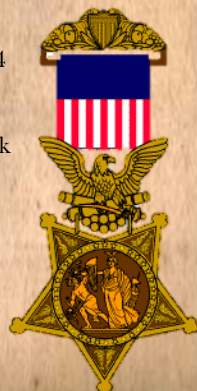
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One Battle – One Company – Two MoH Winners

The flash of muskets and the roar of artillery were well represented in the Heavens above Kalkaska's Evergreen Cemetery. As if it was a victorious destiny, the lightning, thunder, and heavy rain gave way to glimpses of sun and blue skies allowing for commencement of Camp No. 14's largest ceremony of the year – honoring two Medal of Honor winners together. July 26th, 2014 was the chosen date as the closest anniversary to the sesquicentennial of First Sergeant Charles Deputy and Private Charles Thatcher each earning a Medal of Honor for separate actions of heroism at the Battle of the Crater. Both Deputy and Thatcher were members of Company B, 1st Michigan Sharpshooters (note: the same Company as Sgt. Robert Finch). Both men received their Medals of Honor in July of 1896, some 32 years after their heroic stands in the face of great odds. Deputy's citation reads: *"Being an old artilleryist, aided General Bartlett in working the guns of the dismantled fort."* Thatcher's citation reads: *"Instead of retreating or surrendering when the works were captured, regardless of his personal safety continued to return the enemy's fire until he was captured."*



Brothers & Sisters participating from Robert Finch Camp No. 14 & Frances Finch Aux. No. 9 - Kneeling: Ted Mattis & John Lantzer; Front Row: Dorothy Roush, Mary Rose, Jan Davis, Skip Bryant, Lisa Smith, Darlene Hinkley, Debra Downey; Back Row: H.G. Smith, Dale Aurand, Don Hinkley, David Smith, Bill Skillman, Ben Farrier, Doug Hulbert, Chris Czopek (Curtenius Guard Camp No. 17), Thomas Duvernay, Bill Hanusik, George Goodrich, and Christopher Skillman.



Kalkaska Dual MoH continued on Page 3

Camp Officers 2014
continued

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2014 Camp 14 Meeting and Event Schedule

July 26

Dual Medal of Honor Grave Rededications
Kalkaska, Michigan

August 8 - 9

Port Oneida Days - Sleeping Bear National Park

August 12 - 16

National Encampment
Marietta, GA

September 13

Camp Meeting
Traverse City Elks Lodge

October 10

3rd Annual Camp No. 14 Banquet
Traverse City St. Francis Family Center

November 08

Camp Meeting - Election of Officers
Traverse City Elks Lodge

Additional dates to be announced.

The Sharpshooter

Official Newsletter of the Oldest Camp in the Department of Michigan.

Robert Finch Camp No. 14 Represented at the Department of Michigan Encampment

Robert Finch Camp No. 14 was well represented at the Department of Michigan's Encampment in Lansing on May 9 & 10. Brothers from the Camp in attendance included: CC Skip Bryant, SVC Dave Smith, DSVC Dale Aurand, PCC Robert Clark, and Camp Bard Jim Ribby.

During the business portion of the Encampment, CC Skip Bryant was asked to serve on the Resolutions Committee by Department Commander Davis. DSVC Dale Aurand was reelected to Department Senior Vice Commander for the 2014-2015 year. SVC Dave Smith was appointed as Department Guide for the 2014-2015 year.

Camp Bard Jim Ribby was hailed as the "Department Bard", and for very good reason. Brother Jim's talent was on display at the Encampment not once, but twice. Brother Jim performed an inspiring recital of the poem: "When the Boys in Blue are Gone". Later in the day, Brother Jim recited the Walt Whitman poem: "A Dirge for Two Veterans." All in attendance thoroughly enjoyed his renditions. Job well done Brother Ribby!



Above: Brother Ribby reciting "A Dirge for Two Veterans" (photo courtesy of Dept. of Michigan ASUVCW)

One Battle – One Company – Two MoH Winners (cont'd)

Before the ceremony began, the Brothers of Camp No. 14 gathered around the Altar for the initiation of our newest member, Thomas Duvernay. Brother Duvernay is a Professor in South Korea that spends time in the summer visiting his family in the Harbor Springs area. Brother Duvernay derives his right to hereditary membership from his Great-

Grandfather, John Duvernay (a.k.a. John Kedgnal), Company B, 1st Michigan Sharpshooters (note: the same regiment as our two MoH honorees, and Robert Finch).

A Community Supports

The Kalkaska community was well represented at the special event. In addition to a great crowd counted at over one hundred attendees braving the ever-changing weather, several organizations came out to fully support the ceremony.

One organization supporting the event was the Girl Scouts Michigan Shore to Shore, Kalkaska County Service Unit. The Girl Scouts had a great number attending, as well as providing two wonderful works with Girl Scout Riley performing “Amazing Grace” on the bagpipes, and Girl Scout Jori reading the poem, “The Crater”.

Veterans honoring veterans was another aspect of the event that came from the Kalkaska VFW in the form of an honor guard, as well as attending members of the local American Legion – a special tribute indeed.

Camp 14 was also honored to have SUVCW Department of Michigan Commander Paul Davis in attendance.

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The initiation of Thomas Duvernay – from L-to-R: Chaplain John Lantzer, SVC David Smith (serving as Guide), Thomas Duvernay, and CC Skip Bryant



Master of Ceremonies and Brothers of Camp 14: from L-to-R: Chaplain J. Lantzer, Bill Hanusik, MC D. Aurand PCC, CC S. Bryant, Ben Farrier, and Camp Guard D. Hulbert.



Honor Guard and Rifle Detail: from L-to-R: Ben Farrier, Doug Hulbert, Bill Hanusik, George Goodrich PCC, and Christopher Skillman

Honoring Manistee's MoH Winner – John Hyland, USN



In one of the more rare of ceremonies in northern Michigan, a Civil War Sailor was honored for his award of the Medal of Honor during the Red River Campaign. On the sesquicentennial date of Assistant Gunner John Hyland earning the Medal of Honor - May 5th - a contingent of Brothers from Robert Finch Camp No. 14 made the trip to the Oak Grove Cemetery in Manistee.



Hyland's citation reads: *Served as seaman on board the U.S.S. Signal which was attacked by field batteries and sharpshooters and destroyed in Red River, 5 May 1864. Proceeding up the Red River, the U.S.S. Signal engaged a large force of enemy field batteries and sharpshooters, returning their fire until the ship was totally disabled, at which time the white flag was raised. Although wounded, Hyland courageously went in full view of several hundred sharpshooters and let go the anchor, and again to slip the cable, when he was again wounded by the raking enemy fire.*

The piercing notes from a bosun's whistle opened Assistant Gunner Hyland's dedication service. The symbols of service were comprised of a Navy cutlass and an USN cap. SVC D. Smith paid the 3 Brothers tribute while PCC G. Goodrich and A. Bonecutter served as guards; DSVC D. Aurand was Commander and MC, with J. Lantzer, Chaplain. PCC B. Skillman played 'Taps' to close the ceremony.

Above: From left to right, Anthony Bonecutter, George Goodrich, Dale Aurand, John Lantzer, and Bill Skillman. Not pictured, Dave Smith

Camp 14 Mourns a Past Brother



Brother, Friend, Patriot

Camp 14 experienced a loss of a loyal friend and Brother in Jim Slis. Jim passed away on 07 July 2014 while enjoying one of his greatest passions - gardening at his home on Sweet Lake.

Brother Slis joined Camp 14 in October 1999 and was active until 2012. He was a true asset to the Camp, always willing to lend a hand. Jim did a considerable amount of Graves Registration work in Leelanau County.

Memorial Contributions may be directed to the Lake Ann Lions Club or to the James F. Slis Scholarship Foundation through the Eggleston Scholarship Foundation, c/o Gloria Ehrler, 7770 Phillips Drive, Algonac, MI 48001





Commander's Corner Skip Bryant, CC

Greetings Brothers of Camp 14,

With a glance back at the event schedule in the Centennial year of Camp 14 we've had several great Camp opportunities to serve the Order, but lots of empty calendar space glares back at us.

I have a saying for young workers on my company's jobs in construction. After giving them a short list of things to tackle, they often come back, feeling accomplished of all that they have done. I remind them the list is long and we need to consider not just what we have done, but all that we have yet to do.

Two goals for the remainder of 2014 is to see where we can still get some work done, and especially, look hard at what to commit to for 2015 - the last year of the Sesquicentennial. In our "business" of keeping green the memory and teaching the next generation, we often miss opportunities because they slip by before we're ready. To help avoid missed opportunities, if you have an idea or two - no matter how big or small - contact me anytime.

We need now more than ever to have a few Brothers take positions that are open at the start of next year. There are several changes in store for how we plan to divide up the Camp's work. We will be spending a good deal of time in the September meeting on this discussion. Please try to attend this meeting so you can learn about the direction we're heading, which is to divide and share some of the positions among several brothers, making the commitment and workload much lighter for all. We value your input on this.

Looking ahead, where do you want to fit in and make a difference? The options are many to serve the Order.

Commander Bryant



The Banquet is Back!

The 3rd Annual Robert Finch Camp No. 14 Banquet will be held on Friday, 10 October 2014. The event will be held at St. Francis Church Family Center, 1025 S. Union, in Traverse City. The Social begins at 6:00PM with Dinner at 6:30PM.

Tickets are \$15.00 each and need to be purchased by 01 October.

Make checks payable to: Robert Finch Camp 14

Mail to: Dale Aurand, 321 W. 9th Street, Traverse City, MI 49684

Questions: Dale Aurand, 231.941.1817

One Battle – One Company – Two MoH Winners (cont'd)

Vernacular of the Civil War:

jewelry attached – A prisoner having an iron ball and chain attached to a leg or having been “double-ironed,” with both legs so confined.

gobble talk – A derisive reference to soldiers from Louisiana.

cracker outfits – The wagons of sutlers.

open the ball – To initiate a battle.

sheet iron crackers – One of several nicknames for hardtack.

affair – An engagement of minor size and consequences.

terreplein – Any level surface suitable for the placement of artillery.

wet goods – Slang for whiskey.

fleche – A V-shaped earthwork.

Confederate Beef – Mule meat.

The Ceremony

The dual MoH ceremony was a more unique event in that two veterans were honored simultaneously. With the two graves being located nearly one hundred yards apart, two Guards of Honor were placed at each grave as well as Brothers for the Symbols of the Soldier. Additionally, each veteran's grave was attended to by two Sisters in black as ladies in mourning. Camp 14 Brothers filled out the rest of the positions as the Color Bearers, the Rifle Detail, Officer of the Day, Master of Ceremonies, Chaplain, Narrator, and Commander.

The traditional rededication was modified to honor both heroes. Additional features included poems being read by the President of the Auxiliary and one of the Girl Scouts, as well as an amazing rendition of “Amazing Grace” by another Girl Scout.

On behalf of the Brothers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14, and the Sisters of Francis Finch Auxiliary No. 9 – To First Sergeant Depuy and Private Thatcher, we can never thank you enough for your sacrifice and unwavering heroism in the face of great adversity, to a grateful nation. We hope this ceremony serves as a small token of our everlasting admiration and appreciation. Rest in Peace Comrades.

Camp 14 represented at Log Cabin Day on Old Mission Peninsula

Taking a step back to the ways of our forefathers, several Brothers of Camp 14 participated at the 28th Annual Log Cabin Day in Michigan at Hessler Cabin on Old Mission Peninsula.

Log Cabin Day is now celebrated the last Sunday in June in hundreds of communities. Honoring Civil War era veterans is a perfect match for the festival. Members of Robert Finch Camp No. 14 have been doing living history for several years at Log Cabin Day.

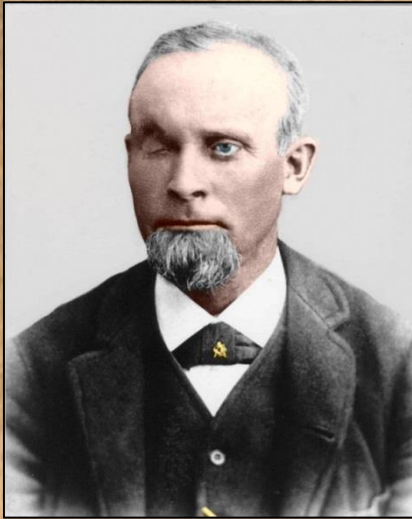
This year Brother Jim Ribby performed his Civil War Bard poetry routine for visitors while Brother Skip Bryant held a soldier's gear display and teaching time. Also interacting with the crowd at their surgical tent were surgical nurse reenactors of the 26th Michigan – Sister Debra Downey and Sue Klinger. The event was held on the Sunday, 29 June from 11 to 3.



From Left to Right: CC Skip Bryant, Sue Klinger, Sister Debra Downey, and Brother Jim Ribby

Colorizing the Past

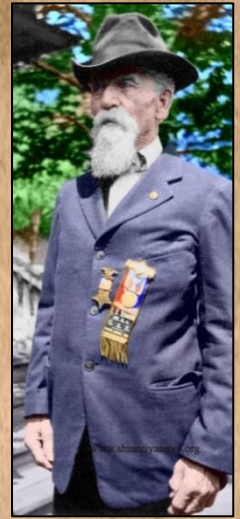
Sharing one of his many talents, Camp No. 14's newest member Brother Thomas Duvernay creates colorizations of various historical black and white pictures. Included on these pages are several examples of Brother Duvernay's fine work. More colorizations may be included in future issues.



Sgt. Robert Finch in later life.



Washington Seminary Hospital



Frederick Main, 100th NY Vols. in later life - T. Duvernay's G-G Uncle



1st Michigan Sharpshooters, Co. K

A Brother's Last Gift to Two Communities

As one of his final marks left to this World, our departed Brother Chuck Heffer left substantial gifts of just over \$400,000 to each of the libraries in Kalkaska and Elk Rapids. Additionally, Brother Heffer left a monetary gift to Acme's Music House Museum.

Brother Chuck passed away on 27 May 2013 at the age of 89. He was raised in Buffalo, NY and was an Eagle Scout. Brother Heffer was a World War II United States Army Veteran. He went on to become an Engineer working at 3M, retiring to northern Michigan.

The generosity of Brother Heffer will be experienced by many future generations. His example serves as a guide to others of long lasting kindness and Charity.

Civil War Ancestor Spotlight

Russell S. Peck was born in New York State, 25 November 1830, and left this Earth on 15 April 1900. He was married to Elizabeth Down.

Russell enlisted on 05 September 1861, in Company D, 9th Michigan Infantry. He was listed as a Prisoner of War on 13 July 1862. Private Peck re-enlisted on 21 March 1864, in Company C, 2nd Michigan Infantry.

Private Peck was later transferred to the Veteran Reserve Corps, 49th Company, 2nd Battalion on 27 December 1864. He was later hospitalized on 23 May 1865 at Harper Hospital, Detroit, Michigan. He was discharged from the 49th Company, 2nd Battalion on 05 August 1865.

The 9th Michigan Infantry participated in the following actions: Battle of Lebanon, First Battle of Murfreesboro, Battle of Stone's River, Battle of Chickmauga, Battle of Resaca, Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Siege of Atlanta, and the Battle of Jonesboro.

During Private Peck's service in the 2nd Michigan Infantry the regiment engaged in the Battle of the Wilderness, the Battle of Cold Harbor, and the Siege of Petersburg.

The biographical information for this Veteran was provided by Bill Hanusik, G-G Nephew of Russell Peck.

"I confess, without shame, that I am sick and tired of fighting - its glory is all moonshine; even success the most brilliant is over dead and mangled bodies, with the anguish and lamentations of distant families, appealing to me for sons, husbands, and fathers...it is only those who have never heard a shot, never heard the shriek and groans of the wounded and lacerated...that cry aloud for more blood, more vengeance, more desolation."

- William Tecumseh Sherman

Ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic

6

THE RITUAL

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Opening Ceremonies.
2. Adjutant's Report.
3. Quartermaster's Report.
4. Reading of Orders.
5. Is any comrade of this Post sick or in distress? Has any comrade died since our last meeting? Has any comrade knowledge of deserving soldiers or sailors, or families of those deceased, living within our limits who need our assistance?
[Comrades having knowledge of any such cases will state them, and they will be properly referred, or otherwise disposed of.]
6. Reports of Committees on Applications for Membership.
7. Ballot on Recruits.
8. Muster-in.
9. Reading and Reference of new applications for Membership.
10. Reports of Committees.
11. Unfinished Business.
12. New Business.
13. Closing Ceremonies.

From time to time, The Sharpshooter will highlight a topic on the ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic. In this edition, is the Officer Stations of the GAR Post. To the left is the Order of Business as prescribed by the 01 April 1921 edition of the Ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic. Compare this Order of Business to the current SUVCW one.





Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9

The Sisters of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 had a most productive Department Encampment in Lansing. Representing Frances Finch Aux. No. 9 were Sisters Jan Davis and Lisa Smith. Jan Davis was elected to the Department Council, and Lisa Smith was selected as Department Patriotic Instructor.

Several Sisters are now serving in new Auxiliary No. 9 officer positions. They are as follows: Dorothy Roush is President, Jan Davis is Vice President and Lisa Smith is acting Secretary in addition to Auxiliary PI.



From Left to Right: Dept. of Michigan Patriotic Instructor Lisa Smith, ASUVCW National President Diane Mellor, Dept. of Michigan Counsel Jan Davis, and ASUVCW Dept. of Michigan President Karen Hamann

Camp No. 14 Centennial Challenge Coins Still Available

Camp No. 14 Centennial Challenge Coins are still available for purchase from the Camp No. 14 Centennial Committee. The cost is \$10 per coin. The coins shown on the left are excellent mementos of Camp's 100th year and of the highest quality. Please see DSVC Dale Aurand to purchase coins as there is a limited quantity available.





**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Robert Finch Camp No. 14 – Traverse City
Department of Michigan
www.robertfinch14.org
Skip Bryant, Commander**



**Robert Finch No. 14
Michigan's Oldest Camp
Celebrating a Century
1914 - 2014**