



THE SHARPSHOOTER



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

April 2015
Vol. 2 Issue 1

Camp Officers 2015

Commander:
Skip Bryant
bryantbuilders@torchlake.com

Sr. Vice Commander:
Dav. Smith, DJVC, LM
wyattusmagnus@gmail.com

Jr. Vice Commander:
Jno. Lantzer
john.lantzer@now.com

Secretary:
Dale Aurand, DC, LM
daurand321@yahoo.com

Treasurer:
Theo. Mattis
tedmattis@charter.net

Patriotic Instructor:
Jas. Morse
atfdjim@aol.com

Chaplain:
Jno. Lantzer
john.lantzer@nov.com

Camp Council:
Geo. Goodrich, PCC
Gc_Goodrich@yahoo.com

Wm. Skillman, PCC
skillmans@aol.com

Jan White, PCC
stocktrac@charter.net

Color Bearer:
Anth. Bonecutter

Guide:
Jno. Dyle
jddyle@hotmail.com

Guard:
Doug Hulbert
dkhulbert@live.com

A Historic Encampment for Camp No. 14

The 131st Department of Michigan Encampment was an especially proud event for the Brothers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14 as one of our own was elected and duly installed as Department Commander. Dale L. Aurand was installed by C-in-C Tad Campbell on Saturday, 28 March 2015 to serve the 2015-2016 term. DC Aurand is the first Department Commander from Camp No. 14 since the Camp relocated from Grand Rapids to Traverse City.

Camp No. 14 will be well represented this year within the Department of Michigan. In addition to Department Commander Aurand, CSVC David Smith was elected to serve as Department Junior Vice Commander, and Br. Chris Skillman was appointed to serve as Department Signals Officer.

Brothers from Robert Finch Camp attending as Delegates were: Dale Aurand, Skip Bryant, Bill Skillman, George Goodrich, David Smith, and Chris Skillman. Additional duties and activities of Camp No. 14 Brothers at the Encampment included CC Skip Bryant and CSVC David Smith serving on the Resolutions Committee, and Br. Chris Skillman giving a presentation to the Encampment on being appointed to Signals Officer and Webmaster.



Camp No. 14 Delegates – Above (L-to-R): PCC George Goodrich, DJVC David Smith, PCC Bill Skillman, DC Dale Aurand, CC Skip Bryant, and Dept. Signals Officer Chris Skillman

The Sharpshooter

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

Camp Officers 2015
continued

Signals & Recording Sec.:
Wm. Skillman, PCC
skillmans@aol.com

Boy Scout Coordinator:
Jeff Morse, PCC
jeffmorse18@hotmail.com

Historian:
Geo. Goodrich, PCC
Gc_Goodrich@yahoo.com

Graves Registration
Officer:
Anth. Bonecutter

Memorials Officer:
Anth. Bonecutter

The **Sharpshooter** Editor
David Smith, DJVC, LM
wyattusmagnus@gmail.com

2015 Camp 14 Meeting and Event Schedule

April 10 - 11

Lincoln Tomb Observance
Springfield, IL

May 16

Camp Meeting
Traverse City Elks Lodge

August 19 - 23

National Encampment
Richmond, VA

September 12

Camp Meeting
Traverse City Elks Lodge

November 14

Camp Meeting - Officer Elections
Traverse City Elks Lodge

November 20-21

Remembrance Day
Gettysburg, PA

Additional dates to be announced.



Brothers Initiated at January Meeting

Brothers Bill Burgess and Scott Schwander were initiated at the 10 January 2015 meeting by CC Skip Bryant and Chaplain & CJVC John Lantzer per the ritual.

Brother Scott and Brother Walker descend from Marcus and Solomon Otto, 1st Michigan Sharpshooters, Company K. Brother Bill descends from Joseph Waukazoo, also of the 1st Michigan Sharpshooters, Company K.

Brother Scott and family participate in the Adopt-a-Highway program for Michigan highways. They dedicated 2 miles on US-131, at M-186 in Fife Lake Twp. in Grand Traverse County to the veterans of the 1st Mich SS, Co. K.

There are currently four sets of Brothers that are fathers and sons in the Camp - the Werdehoff's, the Schwander's, the Clark's, and the Skillman's.



Above (L-to-R): Brother Walker Schwander, Brother Scott Schwander, and Brother Bill Burgess

In Memoriam



The Brothers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14 mourn the passing of PCC Allen Adair Pifer. Brother Pifer passed away on Thursday, 05 March 2015 at the age of 80. Al and his wife Sister Marge will never be forgotten and are missed tremendously. Fond memories of the Pifers are held by many of their welcoming of Brothers and Sisters of the Order to their home, inviting everyone over for summer picnics along with sharing their mutual love of history and historical relics.

Brother Al Pifer's Obituary

Allen Adair Pifer, 80 of Traverse City passed away Thursday, 05 March 2015 at home surrounded by his loving family.

Allen was born on 06 January 1935 in Ogden Township, Michigan to the late Carl and Evelyn (Bordner) Pifer. Honorably, Allen served our country in the United States Marine Corps. Following his time in the service he went on to college and earned his bachelor's degree with a major in business and a minor in history.

He entered into marriage with the late Marjorie Speers on 01 September 1956 in New Lothrop. Allen was a member of the Masons and the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Traverse City. He was a Sunday school teacher for over 35 years. Proudly he traveled all over our area to educated children on history, in particular the Revolutionary War, the

Civil War, and also Metis. In his spare time he farming, bird watching, and gardening. Going on mushroom and turkey hunts also brought great joy to Allen. Most importantly, Allen was a family man. He especially cherished his time with his children and grandchildren. All those who knew Allen will miss his knowledge of history, unique sense of humor and his jokes.

Surviving Allen are his children, Tonja (Timothy) Carlson, Todd (Joyce) Pifer, son-in-law Nathan Stevens, daughter-in-law Judy Pifer; 10 grandchildren; 8 great-grandchildren; a brother Edwin (Beverly) Pifer, and many other loving family and friends. Allen is preceded in death by his wife, Marjorie; children, Takis Pifer and Tamara Pifer; and his parents.

Memorial contributions may be directed to a charity of one's choice.



Left (L-to-R): Patriotic Instructor Jim Morse, PCC Neal Breauh, Treasurer Ted Mattis, DSVC Dale Aurand, CSVC Dave Smith, Br. Joseph Conger, CC Skip Bryant, PCC Jan White, and Br. Don Gray after the memorial service.

A Brother's Ancestral Journey of a Lifetime

By David Smith, DJVC & CSVC

This article is about our journey home from the 2014 National Encampment, and the discovery of some of my ancestors' homelands and lives. I was reluctant to write about this journey, and still am. I fear the perception of self-importance or being self-serving, and hope that it does not come across this way as it is truly not my intention. After telling this story to family, friends, and several Brothers of the Order, it was recommended that I share this journey within this newsletter. I only hope that I am able to convey even a little bit how truly remarkable this journey was to actually experience firsthand.

Pre-Encampment

In the weeks leading up to the 2014 National Encampment, I had been doing research on a 3G Grand Uncle (William Walter) from my mother's side that had served in the 5th Indiana Cavalry, Company M, as well as the 6th Indiana Cavalry, Company B at the end of the war. After the war he migrated to Michigan and ended up in Ottawa County, joining the Grand Army of the Republic's Weatherwax Post No. 75 in Grand Haven. Initial online research gave a flurry of conflicting information with regards to his rank(s) during the war, and I wanted to gain a better understanding of his service and maybe even a glimpse into the man. While not knowing a lot about my Uncle, oddly I have a small connection to him beyond genetics. I have in my possession the Bible stand that he must have seen on a regular to daily basis at his childhood home - it was brought to America from England by his parents. Wanting to know more, I sent away for his military and pension records. Unfortunately, the records did not arrive before we left for the Encampment in Georgia.

While this opening bit of information before the Encampment may seem extraneous at this point, I promise the reader that it ties into the remainder of the story as it unfolds.

continued on Page 5

2015 Camp Officers Installed

The installment of officers was conducted at the 10 January meeting, held at the Traverse City Elks Lodge. The following officers were installed for 2015:

Commander: Skip Bryant
Senior Vice Commander: David Smith
Junior Vice Commander: John Lantzer
Secretary: Dale Aurand, PCC
Treasurer: Ted Mattis
Council: Bill Skillman, PCC
Council: George Goodrich, PCC
Council: Jan White, PCC



For the 2015 year, the appointed officers are as follows:

Chaplain: John Lantzer
Patriotic Instructor: Jim Morse
Color Bearer: Anthony Bonecutter
Guide: John Dyle
Guard: Doug Hulbert

Signals & Rec. Sec.: Bill Skillman, PCC
Historian: George Goodrich, PCC
GRO: Anthony Bonecutter
Memorials Officer: Anthony Bonecutter
Boy Scout Coordinator: Jeff Morse

A Brother's Ancestral Journey of a Lifetime *continued*

Continued from Page 4

National Encampment

The 2014 Allied Orders of the GAR National Encampment was held at the Hilton Hotel and Conference Center in Marietta, Georgia - hosted by the Department of Georgia and South Carolina. The Encampment was held in Marietta to fall in line with timing close to the 150th anniversary of Sherman's Atlanta Campaign and the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. The site of the Marietta Hilton Hotel and Conference Center formerly was the Georgia Military Institute (that was burned down by Union soldiers) and was also a Union Army Corps Hospital site location.

The Department of Georgia and South Carolina were most gracious hosts, and thought of everything when it came to hosting an Encampment with a historical backdrop. The tours were excellent, and the significance of having an Encampment at a hotel that sits on the site of the former GMI and Union Army Corps Hospital made it extra special for the delegates of the various Allied Orders.

After completion of the tours of the Kennesaw Mountain area on Sunday, 17 August 2014, my wife Sister Lisa and I left the area for our trip back to Michigan. We decided that we were going to make it a tour of visiting relatives as we meandered home - hers were alive and mine were deceased...a strange mix of relations indeed.

Hillsville, Carroll County, VA

Being in the Southland, we figured it would be interesting to see where some of my Southern roots were located. We set our sights for the border region of Surrey County, North Carolina and Carroll County, Virginia. Carroll County is set in the heart of the big beautiful rolling hills of the Blue Ridge Plateau region. This border region was home to a long line of antecedents of my Grandma Smith's family. The primary families of concern within the area were the Worrells and the Chenaults. Several Worrells and Chenaults were married over the years, and I am a descendant of both families.

The Chenaults (and many various derived spellings of the surname) descend from a French Huguenot Estienne Cheneau (anglicized to Stephen Chenault I) who arrived in America near 1700/01. Lieutenant General Claire Chennault founder and leader of the Flying Tigers in World War II is a descendant. There were several Chenaults and Shinaults that fought in the Civil War on both sides, including my 2nd Cousin, 4 times removed (2C4R) Colonel David Waller Chenault, CSA, Commander of the 11th Kentucky Cavalry "Chenault's Cavalry" that took part in the infamous Morgan's Raid in 1863.

The Worrells first arrived in the Hillsville area in 1790 via James Worrell (a militia soldier from Pennsylvania that fought in the American Revolution) and his immediate family. The Worrell family has continued to reside in the region ever since. Doing some cursory research over the past couple of years, I learned that the Worrell family has proudly served their nation in every war since the American Revolution in significant numbers, including laying down their lives. During the Civil War, the Worrells joined the Confederate Army in large numbers to serve their homeland. No less than 29 Worrells wore the Gray from Carroll County - all Uncles and Cousins of mine.

We had a limited amount of time to stay in the area based on our schedule. Thus, we drove around the area to get an idea of where my ancestors had resided so many years ago, and where many of my distant cousins still live. After our brief drive, we decided to park and walk the streets of Hillsville as we made our way to the old Carroll County Courthouse (home of the Carroll County Historical Society & Museum). The historic 1873 courthouse was the site of what was coined the Hillsville Massacre, where in March of 1912, 5 people were killed and 7 were wounded in a large gun battle after a prominent citizen was sentenced to 1 year imprisonment for interfering with an officer of the law. This story remained at the top of the national headlines for several weeks until the sinking of the RMS Titanic in April.

continued on Page 7



Commander's Corner Skip Bryant, CC

In the Sons there seems to be a pattern, where our most exciting time of year is Spring. We have installed new officers, fulfilled our Camp's financial obligation, and our year has begun taking shape. We are continuing unfinished work, accomplishing new projects at hand, and planting seeds for long-term refinement in the function of Camp 14. It struck me the other day when I realized that of course the early GAR men all rode horses just a few miles to their meetings. My, how far we have come. Last week I shared information with a Brother in S. Korea about his northern Michigan hometown and another correspondence to a Brother in Virginia to encourage him to reach out to visit still another Brother, a young Airman on active duty there.

The job of the Commander is to simply guide a vision. Yet he needs to hear the voice of every man, as well as that of the ladies of our Auxiliary during the Spring planning process. It is through the power of numbers that we achieve our goals, as it should be how we set them. English poet and cleric John Donne's famous 1624 quote "No man is an island" speaks so perfectly to this. Camp 14 Brothers and Auxiliary Sisters are connected forever by our common thread of devotion to the veteran's cause. Everything we do in the Order impacts and shapes the whole. Even when we venture off alone to do the work, we carry the spirit of the entire membership. Camp 14 is physically spread out from Europe to Asia, though amazingly through the electronic age we can keep abreast of things and be a support to each other from afar. Camp 14 Officers do want to hear from the entire Camp, more than just in our meetings, to learn what your vision is. If an opportunity shows itself, waste no time in sharing it with another brother or two. How often it is that great things begin as a small seed.

Among the long term goals I have as your Commander is for greater work to be accomplished through the use of electronic resources, databases, and online libraries. Recognizing a shift toward electronic resources in how I learn history, there seems to be abundant untapped potential there both in learning, as well as teaching our public. Briefly, a case in point is what I discovered in writing the Civil War veteran chapter in my township's upcoming 2015 Sesquicentennial Book. By simply using the 1894 Veteran's Census and the SUVCW national grave registration database, along with Ancestry, Fold3, and numerous other websites, we were able to greatly enhance the township's knowledge of the men. An unexpected benefit of researching online public family trees, soldier biographies, and photographs, was learning who many of the other current historians for my area are, as well as meeting a few soldiers' living descendants. Instead of feeling like our job is getting more difficult, because of changes in our culture, I believe our duty to "Keep green the memory," has never been easier.



"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."

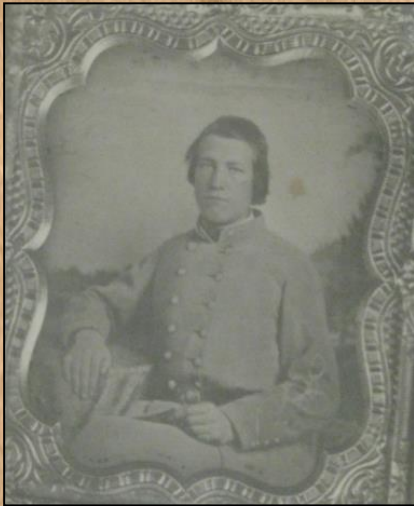
- William Tecumseh Sherman

A Brother's Ancestral Journey of a Lifetime *continued*

When arriving at the 1873 courthouse, it can be said that the building is most assuredly a prominent architectural fixture of Hillsville's Main Street. The building's large columns in white set against its brick walls sets a striking posture on the knoll that it sits. Another notable feature in the front of the building is the Confederate monument that is located on the front-right side of the building. It formerly resided in the middle of Main Street from 1907 until 1929, at the exact location that Carroll County men formed their companies and went off to war, and the same location where the surviving veterans returned.

As we strolled into the museum we were met by whom I believe was the museum manager. We had to stick out like a sore thumb - especially with our northern accents and the fact I was wearing a Detroit Tigers shirt was a dead giveaway. She asked us what brought us in that day, and we mentioned that we were in the area to see where some of my ancestors resided. She asked what family name or names I was looking for during our visit. I mentioned that we were looking for the Worrell family and the Chenault family, but more so for the Worrells as it appeared there were more of them in the Hillsville area. The lady smiled, and said something along the lines of, "yes, there are a lot of Worrells in the area. You're probably related to most of the county." I got a good laugh out of that, thinking: "these are my Southern people!"

Continued on Page 8



Left: 2nd Lieutenant Joshua Worrell, 50th Virginia Infantry, Co. I, & 30th Virginia Sharpshooters (my 1C4R)

Right: 1st Lieutenant Christopher Columbus Worrell, 45th Virginia Infantry, Co. I (my 2C4R), father of Dr. Thomas Hendricks Worrell

A Brother Initiated in March



Above (L-to-R): DSVVC Dale Aurand, CC Skip Bryant, Br. Chris Skillman, PCC Bill Skillman, and DC Paul Davis.

Brother Chris Skillman was initiated at the 14 March 2015 meeting by CC Skip Bryant and Chaplain & CJVC John Lantzer per the ritual.

Proud Dad PCC Bill Skillman pinned the badge of the Order on Chris during the ceremony.

As mentioned earlier, there are currently four sets of Brothers that are fathers and sons in the Camp - the Werdehoff's, the Schwander's, the Clark's, and the Skillman's.

A Brother's Ancestral Journey of a Lifetime *continued*

We walked the museum and looked at the various artifacts from the area's history - a very nice collection that would be the envy of any historian. There were several photographs of cousins of mine that were officers in the 45th and 50th Virginia Infantry. Then as we came across a couple of artifacts that were under glass for protection, I noticed one that was an old medical bag. The bag belonged to a Doctor Thomas Hendricks Worrell that had practiced in the region and particularly in Mt. Airy, N.C. across the border. Dr. Worrell was the physician that delivered one Andy Griffith. This was quite the find (and connection to Mayberry) during our visit at the museum.

On our way out we stopped in and looked at the books that were available on the area's history, as well as spoke with the museum manager a bit more. She printed out some genealogical information for me on the Worrell family to check against my data. While we were waiting for the print outs, Lisa noticed a large family tree that was printed out and hung on the wall. The museum manager mentioned that it was the family tree of one of the most beloved teachers from the town. Lisa asked if I might be related to anyone in her family tree, and of course I was. The teacher was a Worrell descendant as well. We bid the museum adieu and examined the Confederate monument in front before heading back to the truck.

We left this beautiful area and began our next leg of the trek to southeastern Ohio...



Above: Confederate Monument in front of the historic Carroll County Courthouse in Hillsville, Virginia

Belpre, Washington County, OH

After traveling through the beautiful Appalachians in Virginia and West Virginia, we finally reached Parkersburg, WV and crossed over the Ohio River into Belpre, OH (Washington County). The greater Belpre area is where many of my Grandpa Smith's side of the family migrated to from Pennsylvania and northern Virginia in the early 1800s. From these ancestors came many Union soldiers from the region. Belpre was the second United States settlement in the Northwest Territory, and was the home of the first library within the Territory.

Our first stop in the Belpre area was the Belpre Historical Society. Lisa and I were welcomed by the ladies of the Society, and we proceeded to walk through the museum looking at relics of Belpre's past. As we were moving towards the front, the museum curator, Ms. Charlotte Powell approached us to see if there was anything she could help us with during our visit. I mentioned to her that I was curious if the museum still had the records for the A.H. Browning GAR Post No. 673 in Little Hocking. I stated that my 2nd Great Grandfather, Henry Smith was a member of the Post, and that I may have other relatives that were members of the Post as well. She told me to wait there and went into her office. Upon returning, Charlotte had a three-ring binder that she handed to me. I looked at the cover and it was the Post

Adjutant's records - it appeared to be transcribed records rather than copies of the original. As I opened the cover, the first page was a transcribed bylaws signature sheet for the Post. Charlotte asked me if I recognized any names, and I responded in the affirmative. I proceeded to point to names and state: "that's my 2nd Great Grandfather, that's my 2nd Great Grandfather, that's my 3rd Great Grandfather, and that's my 3rd Great Grand Uncle." She was really surprised, and probably just as happy as I was. I did not know that I had so many relatives within this particular Post.

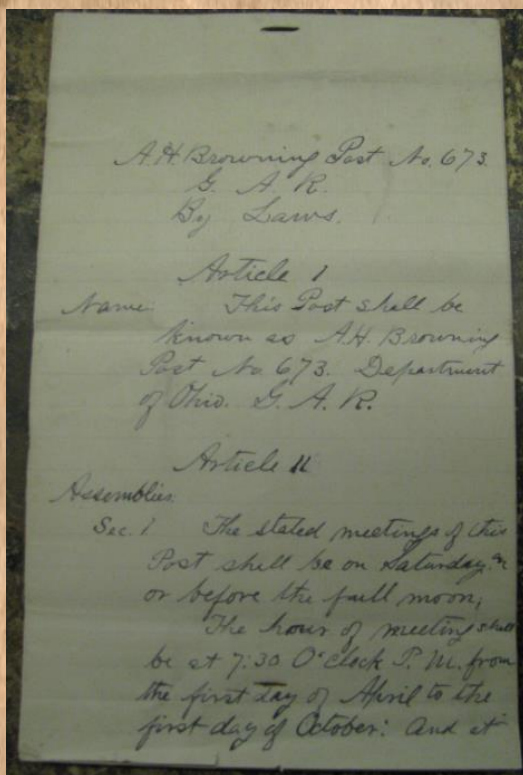
As I continued to turn the pages I had the opportunity to read how each of my grandfathers were investigated, and then initiated into the Post. I also learned that my 3rd Great Grand Uncle was the Post Commander and subsequently the Post Adjutant (for many years). Therefore, the written records that I was reading were written by my Uncle. It was amazing to read about what the Comrades of the Post felt about certain issues such as the Sons of Veterans on a local level. Note: this Post was in favor of allowing the Sons of Veterans to merge or join the GAR. The record book also gave me insight into how various committees and duties were handled within the Post, as well as how they were able to raise money for events, etc.

A Brother's Ancestral Journey of a Lifetime *continued*

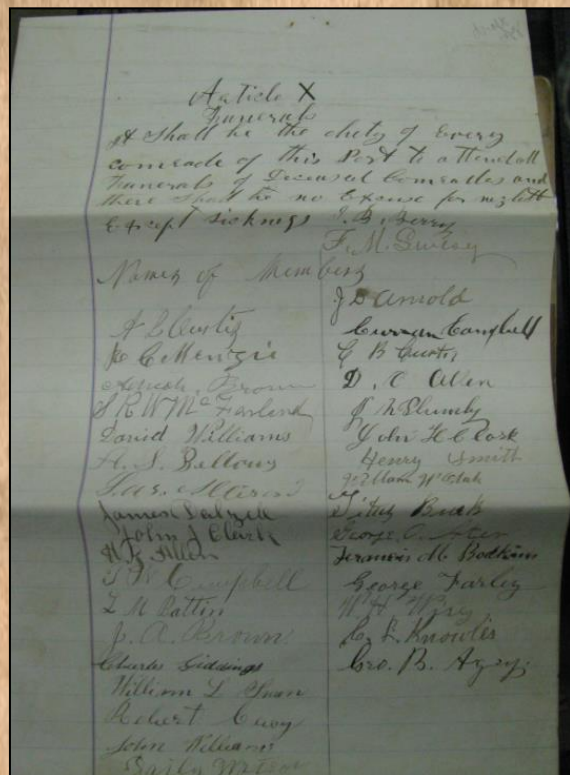
As I continued to read the transcribed three-ring binder, Charlotte Powell told me to wait there, and she returned back to her office. When she returned she handed me a very old notebook that had a very faded label that had the GAR member badge and said "Grand Army of the Republic" in a very old font. Charlotte said that it was discovered in the attic of a house, and brought into the Historical Society when it was found. She told me that she never shows the actual book to anyone because of its rarity, fragile state, and historical importance, but because I had so many veteran ancestors that belonged to the Post - she felt that I should get to see and look at the actual Post record book. Needless to say, I felt beyond honored and very humbled. As I opened the actual Post record book, there was a page that was tucked in it just before the first page. It was the aforementioned Post bylaws signature sheet. The sheet was filled with signatures from each and every Comrade of the Post. In my hands I was holding the very paper that three of my Grandfathers and one of my Uncles had held in their hands and signed. I had a little chill that accompanies goose bumps, and then the warmth from a massive sense of connection to these men, my blood. To say it was surreal would be an incredible understatement.

After going through the Post record book, Charlotte asked if there were any pages that I wanted copied. My simple reply was "all of them". I told her that I could no sooner pick one page versus another. Not only did this have importance to me from the organization that I belong, but from the fact that this was a significant piece of my family's history. She agreed to copy off the records and mail them to me (I did receive them and she even called to make sure that I got them - a truly wonderful lady). Reluctantly I closed the GAR post record book, and returned it. We had several hours of daylight left, and several cemeteries to visit. Thus, we bid the Belpre Historical Society adieu.

Right: First page of the Bylaws of the A.H. Browning Post No. 673 in Little Hocking, Ohio.



Far Right: The signatures of the A.H. Browning Post's Comrades. Included in those signatures are: John J. Clark (3G Grand Uncle) Post Commander & Adjutant, William W. Clark (3G Grandfather), John H. Clark (2G Grandfather), and Henry Smith (2G Grandfather).



Our first cemetery visit was the Rockland Cemetery in Belpre. I knew that the very ancestors who belonged to the A.H. Browning Post No. 673 rested here along with many other relatives of mine. The cemetery is quite large, with many very old gravestones amongst more recent ones. Lisa and I searched most of the cemetery and found that they had reassigned section letters - making it very difficult to find my relatives. Eventually, Lisa found my 2G Grandpa (A.H. Browning Post member) and 2G Grandma Smith, and then we proceeded to find my 3G Grand Uncle that served as Post Commander and Adjutant along with his wife. We never did find his brother and nephew (fellow A.H. Browning Post members) that were my 2G and 3G Grandfathers. One wonderful thing we did find was the SUVCW monument in honor of all Washington County, Ohio Civil War veterans dedicated by the General Benjamin D. Fearing Camp No. 2 of Marietta. My hat's off to our fellow Brothers of the Fearing Camp. They did a nice job with the monument, as well as keeping up GAR flag holders at the cemeteries. Since the sun was lowering on the horizon, and we wanted to stop at one final cemetery before we departed the area.

A Brother's Ancestral Journey of a Lifetime *continued*



Above: Brother Smith at the gravesite of his 3G Grand Uncle John J. Clark, 92nd OVI, A.H. Browning Post No. 673 Commander & Adjutant

Holland, MI

The long journey back to Michigan finally came to an end that Thursday evening. We were glad to be home, but knew that we had much to do in our preparation of selling the house to complete our move to Traverse City. As we unloaded the vehicle, we decided to check the mailbox for mail despite having put a hold on it with the Post Office. Lo and behold, there was mail...a lot of mail...so much for putting a hold on it! Lisa started going through it and asked if I was expecting anything from the National Archives. Indeed I was, but what I had ordered should have arrived in Traverse City, not Holland. This really made no sense to me, as the initial items from my National Archives order were received in Traverse City.

After getting everything in the house I sat down to open this large package from the National Archives. It was the remaining portion of my order - the pension records of my 3G Grand Uncle William Walter. I began reading the pages and was amazed at how much detailed information was included - especially how much of his war service was in there from his own words. Through these records and others I learned how he was captured three times by the Confederates and escaped three times. One of his escapes was from a boxcar that he was aboard that was heading to the much dreaded Andersonville Prison. This escape had him swimming across the Dan River with 4 inches of snow on the ground, being pulled from the river by a slave and nursed back to some semblance of health (by the slave and his wife, risking everything for my Uncle), and then traveling through the mountains for days on end to arrive somewhere near Wheeling, West Virginia and reporting directly to General Crook as an escaped POW.

Our next stop before the sun went down was the historic Watertown Cemetery near Watertown. The cemetery surrounds the United Presbyterian Church. It is a beautiful cemetery and church, and rather old. There are quite a few gravesites that date back to the early 1800s (including many Revolutionary War and Civil War veterans). I knew that many of my Great-Great Grandma Smith's family members were buried there, including all of her brothers that served in the Civil War. Lisa and I roamed the grounds and found all of the various uncles and their wives (one of their wives was actually my Great-Great Grandpa Smith's sister). One of the uncles is the veteran that I chose to derive my right to join the SUVCW. It was good to be able to pay respect to him and all of his brothers. I also was able to pay respect to those uncles' parents and grandparents (my 3G and 4G Grandparents). While there it was amazing to visit the Presbyterian Church where my family attended through good times and bad. The current church was built around 1871, and the previous church at that site was established in 1831. Twilight was falling, and it was time for us to travel a bit further down the road to get a bit closer to Michigan. With much satisfaction, we left Washington County, and I felt a greater sense of connection to my Grandpa Smith's roots.



Above: Watertown Cemetery and United Presbyterian Church. The veterans at the foreground are twin brothers Elza and Elwood Morris, 77th OVI (my 2G Grand Uncles), both passed away within a month of each other during the Civil War. The Brothers were veterans of the Battle of Shiloh along with their older Brother John. Buried behind them are their parents and grandparents.

A Brother's Ancestral Journey of a Lifetime *continued*

I also learned that he took part in the pursuit of Morgan's Raiders (coincidentally near the Washington County, OH area that my Grandpa Smith's side of the family resided), and was shot in the head during the Battle of Buffington Island. My 3G Grand Uncle survived the wound and carried on, although he lost hearing in one of his ears and several witnesses remarked that he lost the ear (whether this was that he lost the ear itself or just the hearing remains to speculation) . The man was beyond tough, there is no doubt about it. In reading we also found that the Army thought well enough of him as he rose from Private to Corporal quite quickly, and was sent to the Military School in Philadelphia after his aforementioned escape and mountain trek where he was promoted directly to First Sergeant. By the war's end, he was given a commission as a Second Lieutenant (from which I derive my right as a Hereditary Companion in MOLLUS).

While all of this information was an amazing find within his pension records, there was one piece of information that left me speechless. During his time in the Atlanta Campaign, he lists that he turned himself into the Army Corps Hospital at Marietta, GA for medical issues that he was having. The date he entered the Hospital was 18 August 1864. If you remember from our time of the Encampment, we left the Hilton in Marietta (which happens to be the very grounds of the Army Corps Hospital) on the afternoon of 17 August 2014. We were on the same site that my 3G Grand Uncle William Walter was within hours of being 150 years to the very day....

The coincidences...are simply unbelievable. We arrived home from such an incredible once-in-a-lifetime journey home, and the final gift waiting for me in the mailbox (when the mail should have been held, and wasn't...and the National Archives package was supposed to go to Traverse City, and did not) is all of this wonderful information on an amazing veteran relative that just so happened to be on the same exact piece of Georgia soil that we stayed at within hours of being 150 years to the day. To say that I am astonished would be an understatement. These things aren't just happenstance, they are real, they are for a reason, and they are part of something so much bigger than one can ever hope to understand. I am humbled, I am honored, and I am blessed - I know that I will probably never have another experience like this.



Above: Final resting place of 2nd Lt William Walter in Lake Forest Cemetery, Grand Haven, Mich.



Above: , Holland, MI, Belpre, OH, Hillsville, VA, and Marietta, GA - the Journey



Ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic

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 Badge Presentation as prescribed by the 01 April 1921 edition of the Ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic. Compare this closing ritual to the current SUVCW one.

BADGE PRESENTATION

In accordance with the authority conferred on the Commander-in-Chief, the following form for the presentation of a Grand Army badge to the recruit at muster-in is approved for the use of such Posts as desire it.

After the recruits have been instructed in the unwritten work of the Order, and before they are conducted from the altar to sign the roll, the O.D. turns and salutes the C., who calls up the Post by giving three raps, and after giving the command: Parade, REST! takes position in front of the altar, and facing the recruits, pronounces the following:

COMRADES: In the days of ancient chivalry the candidate for the honors of knighthood was examined in the exercise of arms, in his record of military service; and if duly qualified, was given a shield without device, and charged to show such a brave and gracious manliness before God and man that he might win an emblazonry for it.

In these days the members of the Grand Army of the Republic do not need to win any device to designate their chivalrous spirit. They have shown on land and on sea, in war and in peace, the best qualities of genuine knighthood. They uphold, as you have been instructed, three important principles—Fraternity, Charity, Loyalty.

As the emblem of those principles, the Grand Army of the Republic has adopted this badge. It is more honorable than any shield. It is emblazoned with a heroism that was patriotic and with a patriotism that was heroic.

It is made out of cannon captured in a war that seriously affected the financial and industrial prosperity of the country at home and abroad; that cost four hundred thousand loyal lives; that made three hundred thousand Union soldiers and sailors cripples for life; and that left more than a million devoted mothers, widows, sisters and orphans to mourn for their loved ones who did not return.

Your services in the past have been such that you are deemed worthy to receive it. As the representative of the Post, I give it to you.

The Commander steps forward and pins the badges upon the left breasts of the recruits.

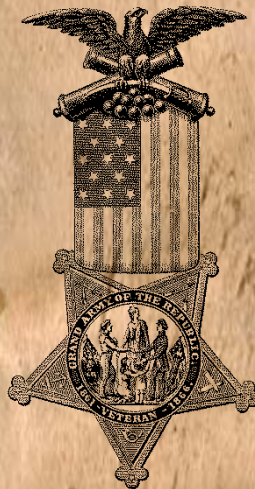
My comrades wear it over hearts so loyal, patriotic, so vigilant, and so brave that it shall be to others an incentive to the most unselfish patriotism; and to yourselves a guard against everything that can disgrace the past you helped to make honorable and our dead have made sacred, or that can bring shame upon the Grand Army of the Republic.

To your honor as men, as patriots, and as comrades, I intrust it.

COMMANDER: The comrades will now proceed to the Adjutant's desk, sign the Rules and Regulations and By-Laws, and take their seats in full membership in this Post.

The C. resumes his station, commands: ATTENTION! and gives one rap.

The O.D. will conduct the recruits to the Adjutant's desk.





Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9

The Sisters of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 sent three delegates to the Department of Michigan Encampment in Lansing on 28 March 2015. The delegation consisted of Vice President Jan Davis and Secretary Lisa Smith. The Sisters welcomed ASUVCW National President Rachelle Campbell to the Great Lake State, and conducted a great deal of business during the Encampment.

Vice President Jan Davis was elected Department Vice President and the Department Council, while Secretary Lisa Smith was re-elected to Department Patriotic Instructor. During the Encampment, Sister Lisa was also presented with her certificate and ribbon bar as a Life Member of the Order by National President Rachelle Campbell, PDP.

2015 Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 Officers

President: Dorothy Roush
 Vice President: Jan Davis
 Secretary: Lisa Smith
 Treasurer: Karen Goodrich
 Pat. Instructor: Debra Downey
 Council #1: Jane Prebble
 Council #2: Jan Davis
 Council #3: Debra Downey
 Chaplain: Mary Rose
 Historian: Jan Davis
 Press Corr.: Lisa Smith



Above: 2015 Department of Michigan ASUVCW 2015 Bridget Award Winners - from left to right: ASUVCW National President Rachelle Campbell, ASUVCW National Vice President Linda Kronberg, Bridget Award winner June Lloyd, Bridget Award winner Vicki Weiss, and Department of Michigan Vice President Jan Davis.

Left: ASUVCW National President Rachelle Campbell presents Department of Michigan Patriotic Instructor Lisa Smith with her Life Member certificate.



Frances Finch Auxiliary Mourns a Sister

Sister Barbara Ann Ross, passed away peacefully at her home on February 5th.

Barbara was the daughter of John Levandoski and Thelma Terice, born 27 May 1935. Civil War ancestor was Private James O. Jenkins, Co. I, 45th Illinois Infantry thru her mother's line. She was a school teacher, married and divorced, and had no children of her own, but many nephews and nieces. Cremation took place with Jonkhoff Reynolds Funeral Home and burial in the Bentley Twp. Cemetery, Gladwin Co. Michigan.

Sister Barbara will greatly be missed by the Sisters of the Auxiliary and the Brothers of the Camp.

Vernacular of the Civil War:

Skillygallee - fried pork fat with crumbled hardtack - a favorite meal of Union soldiers.

Barrel Shirt - a barrel worn as a shirt by thieves as a form of punishment.

Tar Water - liquor.

Bragg's Bodyguard - body lice, named after General Braxton Bragg, CSA.

Jawings - talking.

Robber's Row - Sutler's area.

Patent Bureau - knapsack.

Zu-Zu - Zouaves.

Salt Horse - preserved beef.

Pie Eater - man from a rural area.

Jonah - a person who is bad luck.

Blue Mass - men on sick call

Sinks - camp latrines

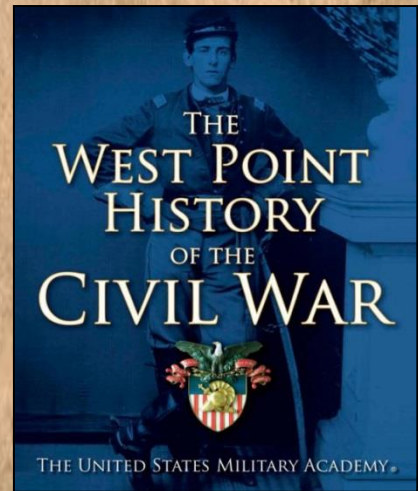
Camp Canard - false report believed by many in camp.

Chicken Guts - officer's gold braiding on his cuff

Mustered Out - killed in action.



Recommended Reading



The West Point History of the Civil War
by The United States Military Academy

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 right are excellent mementos of Camp's 100th year and of the highest quality. Please see DC 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



**CONGRATULATIONS DEPT. COMMANDER AURAND!
WE ARE PROUD OF YOU!**

From your Brothers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14

