



THE SHARPSHOOTER



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

June/July 2015
Vol. 2 Issue 2

Camp Officers 2015

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Michigan to Host 2017 National Encampment

Michigan has been selected to host the 2017 Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic National Encampment. The National Encampment will be held at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing. The Executive Committee for the 2017 National Encampment are:

Don Shaw, PDC – Chair
James Pahl, PC-in-C
Paul Davis, PDC
Keith Harrison, PC-in-C

Bruce Gosling – Dept. Treasurer
Karen Hamman, ASUVCW Dept of MI President
Judy Rock, LGAR President
Dale Aurand, DC

More information will be forthcoming.

New Brother Initiated

The 16 May 2015 meeting saw Camp No. 14 initiate and welcome our newest Brother, Walker Schwander. Brother Schwander is the descendant of Marcus and Solomon Otto, both soldiers serving in Company K, 1st Michigan Sharpshooters. Brother Walker is the son of Brother Scott Schwander.

Commander Skip Bryant and Chaplain John Lantzer conducted the ritual with PCC Bill Skillman acting as Guide. Proud Dad Brother Scott pinned the Badge of the Order on Walker during the ceremony.



Brother Walker Schwander's Initiation– Above (L-to-R): CC Skip Bryant, Acting Guide PCC Bill Skillman, Br. Scott Schwander, Br. Walker Schwander, and Chaplain & JVC John Lantzer

Camp Officers 2015
continued

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2015 Camp 14 Meeting and Event Schedule

August 19 - 23

National Encampment
Richmond, VA

September 12

Camp Meeting
Traverse City Elks Lodge

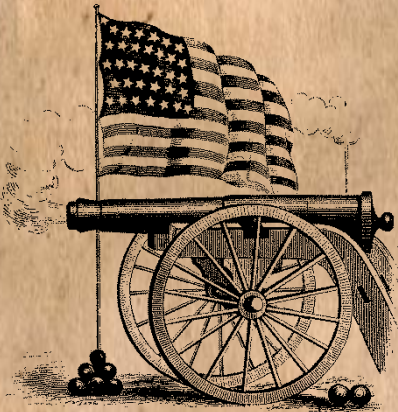
November 14

Camp Meeting - Officer Elections
Traverse City Elks Lodge

November 20-21

Remembrance Day
Gettysburg, PA

Additional dates to be announced.



Celebrating Brother Walker's Initiation (L-to-R): Brother Scott Schwander, Brother Walker Schwander, and Brother Bob Winnie

News from Our Overseas Brothers

Submitted by PCC Wm. Skillman, Signals Officer

Camp No. 14 has heard from our overseas Brothers, Andrew Hopkinson (England) and Dr. Thom Duvernay (South Korea). Andrew created an exhibit at his local library featuring books, photos and articles about America's Civil War, the GAR and the SUVCW. Thom will return to his family's home in Petoskey this summer and has invited Brothers to share his research on the US-Korea military action of 1871.

More information on Brother Thom's presentation will be forthcoming.

In Memoriam



The Brothers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14 mourn the passing of Jim Johnson. Brother Johnson passed away after a courageous battle with cancer on 03 June 2015. Brother Jim was a main fixture of the Camp. His love for genealogy and history was very evident to all that knew him well, or those that had just met him. Brother Jim will be deeply missed by the Brothers of the Camp, and our hearts and prayers go out to his wife Jane and their family.

Brother James "Jim" Johnson's Obituary

Johnson, James 6/6/1945 - 6/3/2015 Traverse City, MI James "Jim" Philip Johnson, 69, of Traverse City, passed away on June 3, 2015. Jim was born in Marshall, MN on August 06, 1945 to Reynold and Lillian (Fest) Johnson. Jim graduated from Mankato State University, magna cum laude, in December 1967. He moved to Michigan to begin his 30-year teaching career and met his future wife, Jane Susan Durham, during that first week in the state. They were married on June 7, 1969 in Flushing, MI where they had both accepted teaching positions in the Flushing Community Schools. They were blessed with a son Bryan, born in 1974, and daughter Krista, born in 1976. Jim was an avid woodcarver, who loved carving Santas and ducks and giving them to family and friends. In 1997, he and Jane retired to Traverse City where he enjoyed life, making new friends in the various activities he joined. One of his proudest accomplishments was his work on family genealogy. He leaves behind his wife, Jane, of 46 years; son Bryan (Christina Nordstrom) Johnson; daughter Krista (Sean) Frame; granddaughters, Dorothea and Liliana Johnson, Keelie and McCauley Frame; brothers, Clarence (Constance) Johnson, Thomas (Marilyn) Johnson, John (Patricia) Johnson; sister, Ellen (Peter) Kincanon; sister-in-law and brother-in-law Mary Beth and John Schauer and many friends. James was preceded in death by his parents; Reynold and Lillian Johnson and sister, Carol Johnson. Visitation will be at St. Francis Catholic Church, Friday, June 5, 2015 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. with a rosary prayed at 7 :00 p.m. A funeral mass will be celebrated at the church on Saturday, June 6, at 11:00 a.m. with visitation held one hour prior. Memorial contributions may be made in Jim's name to the Father Fred Foundation and Munson Hospice House. Kindly share your memories with Jim's family by way of his online guestbook at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.



Ancestor Spotlight

Submitted by Skip Bryant, CC

Here is a short biography of Private Alison Libby Bryant of Co. G, 23rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry to give a glimpse of him in the hope that we gain better understanding of the lifestyle and culture of our soldiers, both pre war and post war. His middle name came from his grandmother Charlotte Libby Bryant, of Maine, who was a cousin of Captain Luther Libby, the Maine native and owner of the shipping business in Richmond at the outbreak of the war. He was given just 48 hours to vacate and left his Libby & Sons sign on the building which caused the future prison to be named after him.

Knowing more about Alison will also gain us a better understanding of the kind of characters who made up the early Department of Michigan. He was among the most active GAR men in our state's history. Taken in total, there are hundreds of name references for duties and positions he held, including quotes in his own words as well as his wife and WRC leader Marion's actual quotes archived within the minutes of State and National Encampments.

What is most interesting to Camp No. 14 is he shared Department Color-Sergeant duty with Robert Finch himself, whom is eternally resting with Francis Finch, just ten strides away from Alison and Marion at Oakhill North Cemetery in Kent County, Michigan. Interestingly, Black Monument Company made nearly identical granite designs for their headstones, which also was the exact style and stone used in the First MI Sharpshooter monument that is on the Capitol lawn. Finch was on that monument committee, and Black Monument was also the maker. Robert Finch's office in Grand Rapids was just a few floors below Alison's son H.W. Bryant's law firm in the Trust Building, the largest, most luxurious building on the west half of the state.

Alison was born in 1845 in Kirtland, Ohio. His grandfather Joseph Bryant, War of 1812 Lieutenant of the 33rd US Infantry lived on a farm on the same road. Surely through Joseph, as we was growing up, Alison had learned of grandpas' service, as well as his gt grandfather Jerahmeel Bryant's service in the Massachusetts Militia at Dorchester, and in the Continental Army at Bunker Hill. Alison surely was influenced by his ancestor's record of military service which dates back to Stephen Bryant serving with Captain Myles Standish in the Duxbury MA militia in 1643.

His early life was blessed with a few interesting endeavors. While his older family members served in the Western Reserve Teacher's Seminary at the former Kirtland Mormon Temple near where Alison was born, they were not Mormons. Rather, the



Allison Libby Bryant, Company G, 23rd Michigan Infantry
Great-Grandfather of Camp Commander Skip Bryant



RES. OF A. L. BRYANT, MAYVILLE, FREMONT TOWNSHIP.

A.L. Bryant residence in Mayville, circa 1883

Ancestor Spotlight *continued*

Continued from Page 4

Bryants were among a group that rented the temple grounds to start a church and a school, after running the Mormons out of town for a banking scandal. The Mormon-owned bank called the Kirtland Safety Society spent all but a fraction of the money they had taken in, and the townspeople and the state government took action against the directors.

At just thirteen, Alison rode with family friend and future congressman Robert Maynard Murray and his brother on horseback 500 miles over the Alleghenies delivering a herd of 1000 sheep. Upon arriving at a store in Bedford Springs in upper Pennsylvania, he was accosted by a man sitting in a rocker on the porch, who said, "son do you know who I am?" That was President James Buchanan, who was regularly at Bedford Springs, PA, which he called his "Summer White House". In his biography, Alison's son W. Devere Bryant wrote that during his early years in Ohio he knew the Garfields well, and Alison's Uncle Demas Bryant of the 7th O.V.I. knew Garfield because both were trustees of nearby colleges. In 1860, he and his father were with James Garfield shucking corn, when Abraham Lincoln stepped out of a carriage at the Garfield's for a short visit while on his way by train to Washington.

Alison's family moved to Fremont Township, now Mayville, Michigan in 1862, where he then at 16, joined the Saginaw enlistment of the 23rd Volunteer Infantry Co. G in August of that same year. His honorable service as a soldier was through to the end, mustering out 2 months after the rest of the 23rd Michigan, because he and a chum, Alfred Ludlum, were charged with bringing government horses back to Knoxville. Tragically he had lost his older brother, Joseph Lonson Bryant in the assault at Camp Creek, in the Battle of Resaca, Ga. He later honored him founding in 1884 the first Mayville, MI GAR post, the Lonson Post #255.

A.L. Bryant served the GAR for 50 years. He was National Color Bearer at the 1914 48th National Encampment at Detroit, serving also as an attaché assigned to help visiting Commander-in-Chief Congressman Washington Gardner. Their encampment headquarters was in the Hotel Pontchartrain. I believe his last encampment was 1925 in Grand Rapids. It appears his highest title was as Assistant Quartermaster General of the Department of Michigan. The last documented action for him in the GAR was recorded in the 1932 Minutes of the 55th Annual Dept of Michigan Encampment, held in the Bancroft Hotel, Saginaw, where as Department Senior Aide, and Delegate to the next National Encampment, he was also appointed as Chairman of the Executive Committee at age 87 he had to sign off on approval of the annual budget and treasury report.

He apparently had a head for numbers and was township treasurer and ran several successful businesses. He was responsible for bringing the railroad through his area of Tuscola County, becoming ¼ owner of the line. In 1882 He personally wired the town of Mayville supplying electrical power from a Westinghouse Electric steam driven generator known as the "Dynamo" which he installed in his own sawmill. He owned the power company for 9 years until it broke down and the village issued a bond and built their own power supply. He later sold the equipment to power the city of Mancelona, Michigan.

Alison sold his businesses and "retired" in 1911 to Lansing after my grandfather and namesake, Harold Wynn Bryant Sr. went off to college. In "retirement" he was Sergeant-at-Arms in the Senate Chamber and was in charge of the Civil War collection housed first in the basement of the Capitol in what was then officially called the "War Museum" and later in the old State Building where, horribly, some records were lost in the 1951 fire, at that time estimated at 4 million dollars damage. Over 250 items in the collection were his own. He served and led many state parades. He probably used his own flag when serving as National Color Bearer.

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Commander's Corner
Skip Bryant, CC

It is approaching the time of year when we have the Allied Orders of the GAR National Encampment. The 2014 in Marietta was my first National Encampment ever. I was filled with anticipation for a number of reasons. My great grandfather's obituary stated that he went to every single GAR National Encampment thru 1925 in Grand Rapids. This includes taking trains from Michigan as far as the 1918 Portland, Oregon, and the 1917 Boston, MA Encampments. I personally am not planning on being at a high level officer position in the SUVCW; yet going to Marietta last year opened my eyes so wide to far better understand both the Sons and the GAR. Attending a National, brought before me many current meeting procedures, practices, and visual images that I witnessed to compare to what I'd read all these years on paper in the archived "minutes" of the old encampments. It was so "historically" satisfying, and numerous friendships were made and furthered there. SUVCW business really does get done there, lots of it. Just as importantly, traditions are carried on. As your Commander, I feel it is paramount that I impress upon the Brothers and Sisters, how important our role is as representatives of the great state of Michigan. That we put together the best Allied Orders National Encampment we possibly can, coming quickly in just two years, August 2017. I implore any brothers and sisters who can possibly get to Richmond August 19-23 this year or next year August 10-15 2016 to Springfield Illinois. These encampments are actually training grounds for us to hone our skills as hosts. Two important things will happen, I promise you; first you will have fun, and it will be interesting, second - you will be far more valuable to the Department of Michigan in 2017, possibly working just a few hours in advance planning or maybe on site for the whole week helping run part of our one shot at the National Encampment. If anyone has questions about these great historic trips, ask away.



“They do not know what they say. If it came to a conflict of arms, the war will last at least four years. Northern politicians will not appreciate the determination and pluck of the South, and Southern politicians do not appreciate the numbers, resources, and patient perseverance of the North. Both sides forget that we are all Americans. I foresee that our country will pass through a terrible ordeal, a necessary expiation, perhaps, for our national sins.”

- Robert E. Lee

Ancestor Spotlight *continued*



Above: Allison Bryant in GAR attire with his Grandson's Dick and John in 1925

On a sad note, remembering vaguely that I played with his own sword as a young child, we regretfully lost track of it in 1970 when we moved. Only now, as an SUV member and author of our Bryant Family History, do I grasp the magnitude of this loss. I have faith that someday I'll be able to touch an artifact of his that was among those that were in museums. I would deeply appreciate any help from my brothers who put forth effort to search out just a piece of what was once part of A.L. Bryant's vast collection.

To see a bit of his sense of humor one only needs to view online his Ingham County 1920 Census where, in the column for occupation he listed, "Elevator Man" State Building.



Above (L-to-R): DC Dale Aurand and DJVC Dave Smith at Three Pines Burial Ground, Swartz Creek, MI

On 13 June, DC Aurand and DJVC Smith attended a grave dedication ceremony to honor Madison Fisher, Co. D, 23rd Michigan Infantry at the Three Pines Burial Ground in Swartz Creek. The event was hosted by Gov. Crapo Camp No. 145 and Lt. Edwin T. Carrington Chapter, National Society Daughters of the Union 1861-1865, with support from Company A, 14th Michigan Infantry, Sons of Veteran Reserve.

C-in-C General Order No. 26, Series 2014-2015



GENERAL ORDER NO. 26 SERIES 2014-2015 SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Display of the Confederate Battle Flag

By the authority vested in me as Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the National Constitution and Regulations, and National Policies, it is hereby ordered as follows:

Section 1: Recently many individual Brothers, Camps, Departments and the National Organization have been contacted regarding the position of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) on the display of the Confederate Battle Flag.

Section 2: The SUVCW already has an official position on file regarding this issue, as adopted by the 119th National Encampment. As the National Encampment is the supreme governing body of the SUVCW, and as no subsequent National Encampment has revisited this issue, the SUVCW's official position remains the same. Neither the Commander-in-Chief nor the Council of Administration has the authority to amend the position.

Section 3: For clarity, the official position of the SUVCW regarding the display of the Confederate Battle Flag is included in this order, as follows:

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT DISPLAY OF BATTLE FLAGS OF THE CONFEDERACY 119TH NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT OF THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR LANSING, MICHIGAN AUGUST 19, 2000

A resolution in support of the display of the Confederate Battle Flag.

WHEREAS, we, the members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, condemn the use of the confederate battle flag, as well as the flag of the United States, by any and all hate groups; and

WHEREAS, we, the members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, support the flying of the Confederate battle flag as a historical piece of this nation's history; and

WHEREAS, we, the members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, oppose the removal of any Confederate monuments or markers to those gallant soldiers in the former Confederate States, and strongly oppose the removal of ANY reminders of this nation's bloodiest war on the grounds of it being "politically correct;" and

WHEREAS, we, as the descendants of Union soldiers and sailors who as members of the Grand Army of the Republic met in joint reunions with the Confederate veterans under both flags in those bonds of Fraternal Friendship, pledge our support and admiration for those gallant soldiers and of their respective flags;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we, the members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in 119th Annual National Encampment, hereby adopt this resolution.

Dated in Lansing, Michigan, on this nineteenth day of August, in the year of our Lord Two thousand.

Section 3: Individual Brothers, Camps and Departments shall be mindful of the official position of the SUVCW when addressing issues involving the Confederate battle flag. It is recommended that inquiries about the SUVCW's official position be directed, without further comment or elaboration, to the Order's website (<http://suvchw.org/flagres.htm>) where it can be read in its entirety.

The foregoing General Order is proclaimed this 25th day of June in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred thirty-ninth, in the City of Gilroy, County of Santa Clara, State of California.

ATTEST:
By: /s/ Alan L. Russ, PDC
National Secretary

/s/ Tad D. Campbell, PDC
Commander-in-Chief

Many Brothers have been receiving questions from friends, family, colleagues and acquaintances on what the position of the SUVCW is regarding the display of the Confederate Battle Flag. Thus, it was deemed beneficial and necessary to include in this issue of the newsletter, C-in-C General Order No. 26, Series 2014-2015 regarding this matter.

Please carefully review General Order 26, with emphasis on Section 3 when handling inquiries.



Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9

The Sisters of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 have been quite busy over the past several months participating in various events around Michigan.

For Memorial Day, President Dorothy Roush and Secretary Lisa Smith attended ceremonies in Traverse City at the Veterans Memorial Park.

Vice President Jan Davis attended numerous events throughout May and the Memorial Day (observed and traditional) including:

Andrew Bee Ceremony, Allegan, Michigan. Bee was believed to be the first man to actually lay hands on Jefferson Davis during his capture. Vice President Davis attended to assist the SVR and served as photographer.

Rick Greene, Past Department Commander Memorial Service. Sister Jan read the Chaplain's part of the ceremony.

Bay City Soldiers Rest Cemetery, GAR Section, Dedication Ceremony for Luther Ellison and his descendants were present. Sister Jan assisted U.S. Grant Camp No. 67 with the ceremony.

Forest Lawn Cemetery in Saginaw, Vice President Davis cleaned stones for John Haug and John Loyer, both from the 5th Michigan Infantry. Conducted ceremony for John Haug, Paul Davis' g-g-Grandfather and John Loyer, Jan Davis' g-g-uncle.

Memorial Service, Aventine Cemetery, Flint, Michigan. Sister Jan did a reading for The Blue and The Gray.

Honor Guard Salute for Colonel Roger Donlon, first Vietnam Medal of Honor recipient held at and aboard the USS Edson, Bay City, Michigan. Sister Jan supported U.S. Grant Camp and the SVR.

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

Below: Vice President Jan Davis, PDC Paul Davis, PDC Don Shaw, DC Dale Aurand, DSVC Dean Lamphere and the Co. A, 14th Michigan Infantry, SVR standing at the graveside of John Loyer, 5th Michigan Infantry (Vice President Davis' G-Grand Uncle)



On Saturday, 13 June, Vice President Jan Davis and Secretary Lisa Smith (Sister Lisa serving as a lady in mourning) attended the Gov. Crapo Camp No. 145 Grave Rededication held at the Three Pines Burial Ground in Swartz Creek.





Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9

Please submit additional
Auxiliary information to the
Editor at:
wyattusmagnus@gmail.com



Above: Vice President Jan Davis at the grave site of PDC Rick Greene



Above: Sister June Lloyd, Sister Liz Lloyd, Sister Connie Horning, (all of Austin Blair Auxiliary) and Sister Lisa Smith at the Madison Fisher ceremony in Swartz Creek.



Above: Secretary Lisa Smith, President Dorothy Roush, and DJVC David Smith at the Memorial Day services at the Traverse City Veterans Memorial Park

Vernacular of the Civil War:

Wallpapered - drunk.

Spondulix - money.

Ask no odds - ask no favor.

Grapevine - telegraph wire.

Lead pills - bullets.

Knuck - thief.

Pumpkin Rinds - gold Lieutenant's bars.

Tree frogs - US Sharpshooters.

John Barleycorn - beer.

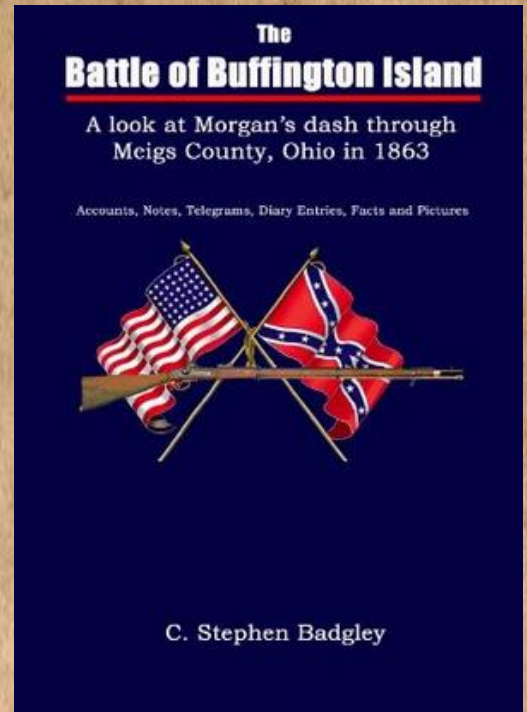
Black Flag - no quarter.

Air-up - confess, admit.

Sinkers - biscuits.

Worm castles - hardtack.

Recommended Reading



The Battle of Buffington Island
by C. Stephen Badgley

The Sharpshooter

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

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



**Happy Independence Day - USAF Thunderbirds
2015 National Cherry Festival - Traverse City**