



THE SHARPSHOOTER

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



2015 Marshall Hope Award - Most Outstanding Camp Newsletter of the Order

September 2015
Vol. 2 Issue 3

Camp Officers 2015

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Marshall Hope Award - Most Outstanding Camp Newsletter of the Order

After just six issues since its launch, The Sharpshooter has received the Marshall Hope Award for the Most Outstanding Camp Newsletter of the Order. To say it was a surprise is an understatement - to say it was an honor is just too simple.

The newsletter is a constant evolving work in progress, that is the product of many Brothers providing their stories and the activities they are involved in (our Sisters too), doing the good work of the Order. Without the stories of our common man heroic ancestors, the updates on the latest graves registration activities, the volunteer work on behalf of Veterans, and the notifications of the attendance of the many events that have great meaning to our Order - there wouldn't be a newsletter.

For all of your efforts that proudly made this happen - many many thanks. - Ed.

2015 National Encampment - Richmond

Robert Finch Camp No. 14 was well represented at the 2015 National Encampment in Richmond, Virginia by DC Dale Aurand, CC Skip Bryant, and DJVC David Smith. The Department of Michigan was quite successful with Sister Linda Kronberg being elected to ASUVCW National President, PDC Don Shaw being re-elected to the Council of Administration, the Department website winning the Horace Greeley Award for Most Outstanding Website of the Order (kudos Dept. Signals Officer Chris Skillman and the Technology Committee, and Camp No. 14 winning the Marshall Hope Award for the Most Outstanding Camp Newsletter of the Order. Congratulations to all!



Dept. of Michigan Delegation- Front (L-to-R): CC Skip Bryant, PDC Paul Davis, and PDC Don Shaw, Back (L-to-R): DSVC L. Dean Lamphere, DC Dale Aurand, DJVC David Smith, DPI Gary Granger, PCinC James Pahl

2015 Camp 14 Meeting and Event Schedule

Camp Officers 2015
continued

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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.



The First Korean War



Camp No. 14 has the honor of having the preeminent expert in the world on the Korean-US conflict of 1871 - Brother Thom Duvernay, Ph.D. Camp 14 welcomed Brother Tom Duvernay during an informal 'July meeting' at the Ruby Tuesday restaurant on July 16th. Tom presented an in-depth study of the actions between the United States and kingdom of Korea in 1871. Using satellite photos of the battlefields, findings from numerous archeological digs and accounts written by U.S. Navy and Marines and Korean participants, Tom kept the 22 guests riveted. Sadly, Tom reports the area of the original battlefields is now starting to undergo economic development and portions of the field have been lost.

Ancestor Spotlight

Submitted by Br. Scott Schwander



Above: Marcus Otto, Co. K, 1st Michigan Sharpshooters
Brothers Scott and Walker Schwander are direct descendants

MARCUS OTTO -

AKA: Marcus Ke-Ne-We-WeGo-Shik

B. 1844 Mt. Pleasant, Isabella County MI

D. 26 Mar 1904, Mt. Pleasant, Isabella County, MI

Marcus Otto of Weidman served in the Civil War, 1st Regiment, Michigan Sharpshooters, Company K.

He enlisted in 1861 and was honorably discharged in 1864.

Marcus lost his right arm in the "Battle of the Wilderness" on or about May 15th 1864.

The original photo on the left was taken from a tintype about 1865.

Marcus and his brother Solomon Otto enlisted in the Army together. Brother Solomon was injured in the Battle of Peebles Farm. It has been handed down through the family that Solomon was in Harpers Hospital in Detroit where he was told that he was ill and was going to die. He asked to leave the hospital and wished to pass away at home in Weidman where the Otto farm was located. Solomon boarded a train for Mt. Pleasant but he never arrived. It has been a family mystery which someday could be solved. However, to date, no additional information exists about Solomon. There is no photo of Solomon known to exist.

Loomis Battery Cannon Rededicaton

A contingent of Robert Finch Camp 14 and Frances Finch Auxiliary 9 Brothers and Sisters made the trek to Lansing for the rededication of the Loomis Battery Cannons at the Capitol Building.

The Michigan Capitol was originally designed as a tribute and memorial to the sacrifice that our state made in the Civil War. To help commemorate that war and to pay tribute to the fallen, there were two Civil War cannon on the grounds of the east lawn, flanking the entryways. These cannon were a part of the Civil War six-gun Loomis Battery. Sadly, it is believed that these cannon were contributed to a scrap metal drive during WWII. It is now with great pride that two replicas of these famous guns have been produced, through the generous support of numerous donors, were returned to their rightful place of honor on the State Capital lawn.



L to R: DPI Lisa Smith, DVP Jan Davis, DC Dale Aurand, CJVC John Lantzer, & DJVC David Smith

Dr. and Mrs. Cousins Gravesite

Submitted by Skip Bryant, CC & Br. Scott Schwander



L to R: Br. S. Schwander, Br. B. Burgess, Br. C. Murphy, Mary Rose, W. Schwander, K. Farley, M. Griggs



The Gravesites of Dr. Cousins and Mrs. Cousins in Mayfield

Progress on the Dr. Cousins project continues. Grave markers were made by CC Bryant and painted by Brother Bill Burgess. On July 12th Brothers Scott and Walker Schwander, Bill Burgess, Calvin Murphy with members of the Grand Traverse Genealogical Society (Mary Rose, Kathi Farley and Mary Griggs) held a quiet vigil at the graves of Dr. David Wilson Cousins and his wife Mary Louisa at the Downs Cemetery. New Brother Murphy is a descendent of Dr. Cousins. We are waiting for the VA to process the submitted paperwork for Dr. Cousins to finally receive a headstone after 107 years.

GAR Flag Holders Presented



At Left: DC Aurand presented C-in-C Tad Campbell with a personalized GAR flag holder and stand at the National Encampment for his outstanding service to the National organization. **At Right:** Robert Finch Camp No. 14 presented PDC Paul Davis a GAR flag holder and stand for his outstanding service as Department Commander.

Loomis Battery Artillery Competition - Camp Grayling

DC Aurand, DJVC Smith and Brother Bill Hanusik attended the Loomis Battery Artillery Competition at Camp Grayling on 18 July. Brother Hanusik was a participant in the competition. There was consensus among the Brothers that this would be a fun event for the Camp to attend in 2016 and beyond.



Grayling Loomis Battery Competition (note projectile at forefront of smoke plume exiting the barrel)



Commander's Corner
Skip Bryant, CC

So the Camp is growing, and that is a great trend, simply the result of a little bit of networking and friendly sharing what Robert Finch Camp 14 is about. To be better versed myself in recruiting, I downloaded from the SUVCW.org website a document called Recruitment Guide, found here <http://suvchw.org/ftp/recruitment.pdf> Among the strongest words written in any official documents of the Sons is on page 2 in very bold print 4 times the size of the rest of the page "RECRUITING IS EVERY BROTHER'S JOB". Nearly all of the dozen new members to Camp 14 in the past couple years were introduced to the SUVCW by Officers. We want you to know that all the Officers in this Camp are standing at the ready to help all the brothers with questions about membership applications, and how it's done. So honorable our purpose is, you don't need to "sell" what we do, just share it.

The National SUVCW.org website contains a great deal of information, and it is growing, as is the Department of Michigan's. We all need to visit these websites often, and become well versed in all they share. There are hours and hours of hard work involved in managing these websites, and we should show our respect by spending time there (and it is our duty to know how to navigate the sites). To emphasize this I'll share an amazing thing that happened in the waiting room of a car repair last winter. A couple who lived in Kalkaska for all of their 80 years shared about their CW ancestor. They didn't know where in the country he was buried. In under two minutes with my phone I found on the Grave Registration Database that he was actually in their town all along, I shared the cemetery location and precise plot info because a brother had done so good a job filling in that. She was completely overcome with joy, writing down the information.

In the trip to the National Encampment we learned just how well Camp 14 and the Department are adjusting to the electronic age. With Michigan being honored for having the "Best Department Website", and our little Camp 14 newsletter, The Sharpshooter earned Best Camp Newsletter in the nation out of 200 plus camps. Kudos to Brothers Department Webmaster Chris Skillman and DJVC and Editor David Smith. Dave quickly related to me that the newsletter takes the effort of a lot of people. Contributions from Brothers about their activities in the service to the Camp and the submission of ancestor stories are truly the core of the quality of the Sharpshooter. Please continue to share activities and content with the Editor.

As we move to the Fall, remember that soon the Michigan cemeteries will soon be under a white blanket, unlike in our warmer states. If you've had a hankering to go check a grave for any reason, now is a much better time. Our GRO program is in a state of change. We are planning a GRO Committee Winter meeting information sharing/training day partly to get feedback. Among you who have declared to serve the GRO Committee, we need you to be the eyes and ears in your communities. As a last act of the season we hope to be sure no stone has suffered damage from this Summer's awful storm. I've perhaps only walked four or five cemeteries, first checking the McPherson GAR plot at Oakwood the morning after the storm, where several private family headstones were hit by quite a large number of fallen trees, but McPherson was unscathed.

As always, proud to be your Commander, but if y'all can do a little more for the team, I can arrange to be prouder still.



"I hate newspapermen. They come into camp and pick up their camp rumors and print them as facts. I regard them as spies, which, in truth, they are. If I killed them all there would be news from Hell before breakfast."

- William Tecumseh Sherman

New Brothers Initiated & Memorial Service



Above (L-to-R): Patrick Lints, Michael Kolbusz, Harry Olson, and Noah Lints, Chaplain Lantzer, and Acting Guide PCC Skillman



Above (L-to-R): Acting Guide PCC Skillman, Noah Lints, Harry Olson, Michael Kolbusz and Patrick Lints, DJVC/CSVC D. Smith (acting CC)

On 12 September, Robert Finch Camp No. 14 had the honor of initiating our newest Brothers while paying tribute to two of our departed Brothers.

Per the Ritual, Chaplain Lantzer and CSVC Smith initiated four new Brothers into the Camp. The new Brothers include father and son, Pat and Noah Lints, Michael Kolbusz, and Korean War Veteran Harry Olson. The Camp gave our new Brothers with a hearty welcome.

At the end of the meeting, SVC Smith called the Camp to order to perform the Memorial Service per the Ritual for our departed Brothers Al Pifer PCC and Jim Johnson. Sisters of Frances Finch were in attendance of the Service. We were extremely honored that Jim's widow Jane was able to attend.



SUVCW Badge Familiarization

In addition to the Badge of the Order that each Brother receives upon Initiation, there are a whole myriad of badges that are worn by Brothers for various purposes, honors, and identifications. It can often be heard during Department and National Encampments, the questions of unfamiliarity with the different badges that are worn at these events. Thus, in this installment of The Sharpshooter, several badges are identified for reference. - Ed.

Past Camp Commander



Past Department Commander



Past Commander-in-Chief



War Medal



Military Service Medal



Camp Commander



Department Commander



Commander-in-Chief





Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9

The following items have been sent regarding past and upcoming activities from the Auxiliary:

The next Auxiliary meeting is November 14th and will start at 10 AM (instead of 11 AM). We will be electing officers, doing installations, filling out year end forms, planning for next year, and covering a lot of additional material. We decided there is so much to do that we needed to start early.

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

WELCOME & THANK YOU - MICHIGAN VIETNAM ERA VETERANS

Thursday 08 October 2015 Noon until 3

<http://www.michigansaysthanks.com/>

- 1) If you are a Vietnam Veteran, RSVP at the above web site to be formally recognized.
 - 2) Attend the event to support the Veterans.
 - 3) Help man our "station" (booth) with other Brothers and Sisters. The station assigned to our groups is geared towards Women Veterans. We will also be collecting donations for #5.
 - 4) Donate materials for our "station" display such as pictures of Female Veterans from the Revolutionary War to Present.
 - 5) Donate to the Michigan VA Medical Center. Suggested donations are: \$\$, Gift Cards, socks, personal hygiene items, lap robes, blankets, stationary, cards, puzzle books, arts & crafts supplies, magazines, slippers, coffee and drink packets, etc.
- Local contact: Lisa Smith, LSGIPPER@GMAIL.COM (231) 640-2406
Aux./Sons Chair: Karen Hamann, Bopeep3_99@yahoo.com, (517) 759-8633

Funds raised at the 12 September meeting for VA Medical Center (#5 above) \$72 from the Sons and \$42 plus gift cards and additional items from the Aux. Lisa Smith is willing to pick up additional donations in the greater Traverse City / Elk Rapids / Empire / Cadillac area until 08 October.



The Auxiliary Patriot Instructor for the Department of Michigan is looking for donations, both as materials and monetary, to support her project. The project is to create Civil War education displays for libraries and schools. The purpose of these displays is to keep the memory of the Civil War Veterans alive and Civil War education. The intention is to rotate these displays throughout the state where ever volunteers from the Auxiliary and Sons would help set up the displays. Phase I of the project is to create a total of 3 displays with the following themes "Civil War (generic)", "Michigan in the Civil War", & "Women in the Civil War" or some combination of the 3 as donations allow. Since the Department Patriotic Instructor is located in Traverse City, the program would be most likely piloted in the greater Traverse City area the first year. Assuming success, additional displays would be created for Phase II with additional themes such as a specific regiments i.e. "The 23rd Michigan Infantry" or "1st Michigan Sharpshooters", "Native Americans in the Civil War", "Musicians in the Civil War", "Nurses in the Civil War", "Battle Flags of the Civil War", etc. Each display is expected to cost approximately \$50. If you are interested in donating Civil War materials, funds, or your time (Note: wood worker needed), please contact Lisa Smith, LSGIPPER@GMAIL.COM (231) 640-2406.



Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9

Ancestor Spotlight

CHARLES HOSEA SPENCER

44th Massachusetts Infantry (Militia), Co. D

Born: 01 June 1838, Cambridge, MA

Died: 16 August 1912, Cambridge, MA

Married: Clarisa Palmer on 19 January 1864

Private Spencer served with the 44th Massachusetts Infantry (Militia), mustering in at Readville, MA on 12 September 1862 and mustering out at Boston, MA on 18 June 1863.

SERVICE: Expedition from Newberne November 2-12, 1862. Action at Rawle's Mills November 2. Demonstration on Newberne November 11. Foster's Expedition to Goldsboro December 11-20. Kinston December 14. Whitehall December 16. Goldsboro December 17. At Newberne till February 10, 1863. Moved to Plymouth, N. C., February 10, and duty there till March 15. (Cos. "B" and "F" detached on outpost duty at Batchelor's Creek February 10 to May 1.) Skirmishes Deep Gully, Newberne, March 13-14 (2 Cos.). Regiment moved to Washington March 15. Siege of Washington March 30-April 20. Skirmish at Washington March 30 (Cos. "A" and "G"). Skirmishes at Washington April 3 and 15. Expedition from Newberne to relief of Little Washington April 7-10 (2 Cos.). Regiment moved to Newberne April 22-24, and duty there till June 6. Expedition toward Kinston April 27-May 1. Dover Road April 28. Moved to Boston, Mass., June 6-10. Mustered out June 18, 1863.

After the war Mr. Spencer went on to work at T.E. Moseley in 1874, where he rose from Clerk, to Partner and President, working there for 38 years.

Mr. Spencer was also a Comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic, more specifically a member of the Edward W. Kinsley GAR Post 113 in Boston, MA.

Private Spencer is the Great-Grandfather of Sister Emily Breaugh (Charles Winthrop Spencer pictured at right with his father is Emily's Grandfather)



Above: Private Charles Hosea Spencer with his son Charles Winthrop Spencer

2016 National Encampment

Sisters Jan Davis and Sister Lisa Smith attended the 2016 National Encampment in Richmond. The Sisters had the opportunity to be on hand for Michigan's own Past Department President Linda Kronberg ascending to the highest position within the National organization - National President. Congratulations Sister Linda from all of the Sisters of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9!

Vernacular of the Civil War:

French Leave - AWOL.

I.W. - in the war.

Irish Shanty - outhouse.

Red Badge of Courage - wounded.

Top Rail - first class.

Worm Castle - hard tack.

Apple Lady - hard cider.

By Jingo! - a mild oath.

Rio - coffee.

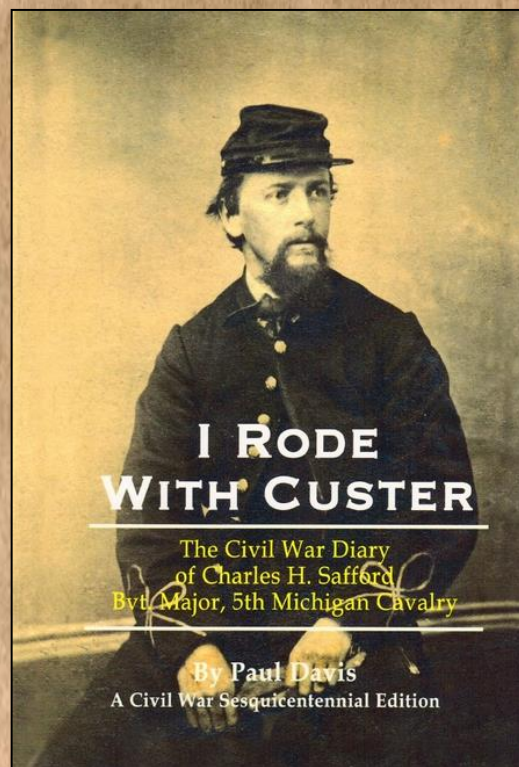
Tight - drunk, intoxicated.

Patent Bureau - knapsack.

Shakes - malaria.

Mustered out - killed in action.

Recommended Reading



I Rode with Custer, The Civil War Diary
of Charles H. Safford, Bvt. Major, 5th
Michigan Cavalry
by Paul Davis, PDC

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



THE SHARPSHOOTER can be found online at:
www.robertfinch14.org