



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

December 2015
Vol. 2 Issue 4

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

Dr. Cousins' Wait is Over

While it took over 107 years, Dr. David Wilson Cousins no longer has to wait for the Veteran gravestone that he so justly deserves.

To the surprise of everyone, the gravestone was received by Downs Cemetery Sexton Jim Zenner during the week of 07 December. Mr. Zenner quickly set the stone early in the week with no delay.

Brother Scott Schwander went out immediately and paid respects to Dr. Cousins and captured pictures of the newly set government gravestone.

A grave dedication ceremony will be held in 2016 by Camp 14. More information to come in future meetings and this publication.

Many thanks to all that have worked so diligently at ensuring that Dr. Cousins received the gravestone that he has been missing for over a century.



Above: Pvt. David W. Cousins, MD, Co. H, 102nd USCI, US Army

2016 Officers Elected

Robert Finch Camp No. 14 held elections at the 14 November meeting. These Officers will be installed at the 09 January 2016 meeting. The 2016 Camp Officers are as follows:

Commander:	David Smith, LM, DJVC
Senior Vice Commander:	John Lantzer
Junior Vice Commander:	Ted Mattis
Secretary:	Dale Aurand, LM, DC
Treasurer:	Patrick Lints
Council:	George Goodrich
Council:	William Skillman
Council:	Jan White

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

2016 Camp 14 Meeting and Event Schedule

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
wyattsmagnus@gmail.com

January 09	Camp Meeting & Officer Installation Traverse City Elks Lodge #323
March 05	Camp Meeting Traverse City Elks Lodge #323
April 16	Lincoln Tomb Ceremony Springfield, IL
April 29-30	Department Encampment Lansing, MI
May 14	Camp Meeting Traverse City Elks Lodge #323
August 11-14	National Encampment Springfield, IL
September 17	Camp Meeting Traverse City Elks Lodge #323
November 12	Camp Meeting - Officer Elections Traverse City Elks Lodge #323
November 19	Remembrance Day Gettysburg, PA

Additional dates will be announced in early 2016. Note the March and September date changes from the traditional second Saturday of the month (scheduling conflicts at the Elks Lodge). The Elks have been very gracious in meeting our needs, and their hospitality is highly appreciated.

Membership Dues Reminder

If you have not paid your dues for 2016, please send a check for \$45 payable to Robert Finch Camp #14 to the Treasurer at:

Treasurer Ted Mattis
2387 Orion Pl.
Traverse City, MI 49686



An Empty Chair

Another Brother has been lost with the unexpected passing of Brother Daniel “Dutch” Herringa on 27 November 2015. Brother Dutch’s warm smile, camaraderie, and friendly conversations will be deeply missed. A noble son of a noble ancestor has fallen.

Daniel “Dan” Francis Herringa, 79, of Lake Ann, passed away Friday, November 27, 2015 at Munson Medical Center, surrounded by his loving family.

Dan was born on January 28, 1936 to the late Louis and Mabel (Champagne) Herringa. He married Janice “Jan” Marie Squires on June 23, 1962 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Traverse City.

Honorably, Dan served our Country in the United States Navy. He graduated from Michigan Tech with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration and later he continued his schooling to become a Respiratory Therapist. Dan, also known as “Dutch”, worked for many dedicated years as a respiratory therapist at Paul Oliver Memorial Hospital, Mercy Hospital of Cadillac and Munson Medical Center in Traverse City.



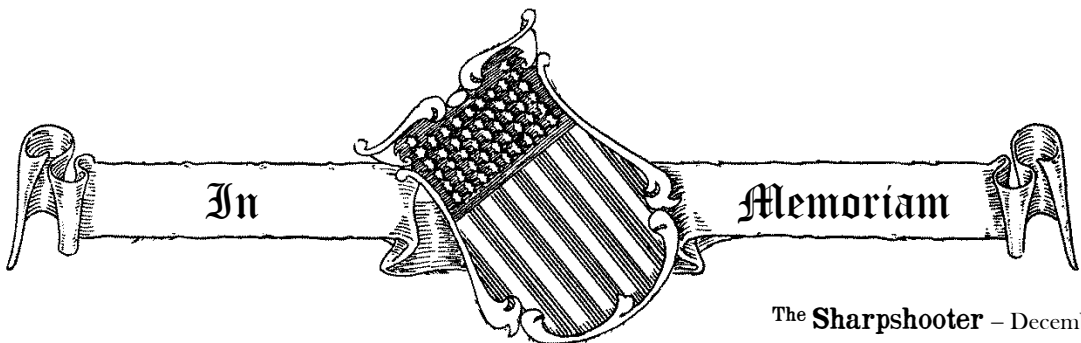
In his spare time, Dan enjoyed the outdoors. He loved running and competed in three marathons. He took pride in his home and property in Lake Ann. He was dedicated to the Village of Lake Ann. He proudly served on the Village Council, was a volunteer Fire Fighter, acted as the Street Administrator and was a member of the Sons of the Union Army. He was also an integral part of planning and opening the Almira Township Lakefront Park. He enjoyed spending time at the park with his family, watching them swim and enjoy the beach.

Family was very important to Dan. He took pride in attending sporting and music events for his children and grandchildren. He truly loved and cherished all of them. His smile and helpful personality will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him.

Surviving Dan is his wife Jan of 53 wonderful years; children, Amy (Don) Elkins, Tara (Craig) Bruins, Adam (Becky Clore) Herringa; grandchildren, Justin, Rachelle, Billy, Joy, Maddy and Lily; mother-in-law Phena Squires, siblings, John Herringa, Sarah (Bob) Maddox, Judy (Pete) Crow, Dianna Herringa, Carol (Tim) Bradley, Mike (Jenny) Herringa, Patrick (Judi) Herringa, sister-in-law’s Debbie (Barney) Hunter, Kay (Dave) Squires-Taylor, and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Dan was preceded in death by his parents, sister Kate Post, father-in-law William Squires and brother-in-law Ronald Squires.

Visitation for Dan will be held on Monday, November 30, 2015 from 4pm - 7pm at the Lake Ann United Methodist Church, where he attended for many years. Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 11am, also at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be directed to the Lake Ann United Methodist Food Pantry. Kindly share your thoughts and memories with Dan’s family at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.



Brother Murphy Initiated in November



Above: Chaplain Lantzer and Commander Bryant administer the Ritual during the initiation of Brother Calvin Murphy. From L-R: Commander Bryant, Brother Murphy, Chaplain Lantzer, and acting Guide PCC Goodrich

Left: 2015 Veteran of the Year Award, Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition

At the November meeting, Brother Calvin Murphy was initiated and welcomed into the Order by the Brothers of Camp 14. Brother Murphy proudly wore his grandfather's GAR Post ribbon/badge. The ritual was conducted by Commander Bryant and Chaplain Lantzer with PCC Goodrich serving as Guide. Gold Star Mother Starla Owens was Brother Murphy's guest and pinned the Badge of the Order on him during the initiation. Welcome Brother Murphy!

GTAVC Veteran of the Year

On Veterans Day, several Brothers of Camp 14 were on hand at the Veterans celebration at the Elks Lodge to witness Br. Calvin Murphy receive the Grand Traverse Area Veterans Coalition 2015 Veteran of the Year Award.

Br. Murphy has given exemplary service on behalf of Veterans and their families for many years. His efforts are too many to list, but a few include: organizing the Gold Star Family Event at the CGAS Traverse City, serving in many roles with Rolling Thunder, Michigan Chapter #1, Bear Creek VFW Post #6333 Commander, and all of the many lives that he has touched over the many years and on a daily basis.

Congratulations!!!



Ancestor Spotlight

Submitted by Br. Mike Kolbusz



Captain Lewis W. Griffith

Captain Griffith was born June 17, 1838, in Tuscarawas County, Ohio, and came with his parents to Steuben Co., Indiana in 1848. Lewis was enrolled by Captain Charles F. Kinney at age 23, at Angola, Indiana on August 25, 1861. One week later, on September 1, 1861, before reporting for duty, he married Betsy Carpenter at the Ladue Hotel in Hamilton, Indiana. He was enlisted as a private in the 44th Indiana Regiment which was organized in Fort Wayne, on October 24, 1861, with Hugh B. Reed, as colonel, and officially mustered in on November 22, 1861.

The 44th's first engagement was at the heroic siege and capture of Fort Donelson and later at Shiloh where Colonel Reed wrote in his notes Lewis "fought valiantly". In the battle he received several slight wounds. The regiment suffered severe losses, 35 color bearers being either killed or wounded. He was promoted from sergeant to first lieutenant for gallant conduct at the battle of Stones River where he was in Crittenden's division. The 44th was under the command of General Buell, Commander, Army of the Ohio, against Confederate General Braxton Bragg. From June to December 1862, the 44th marched more than 800

miles in pursuit of the Bragg. Later, the 44th was almost annihilated at the battle of Chickamauga where he was wounded in the right hand and received a captain's commission. The 44th also was engaged in battles at Corinth, Missionary Ridge and Perryville. He and his surviving companions of the regiment were afterward put on provost duty at Chattanooga, Tennessee and were never again in battle. He was mustered out with the regiment on September 15, 1865. His army service caused a permanent disability.

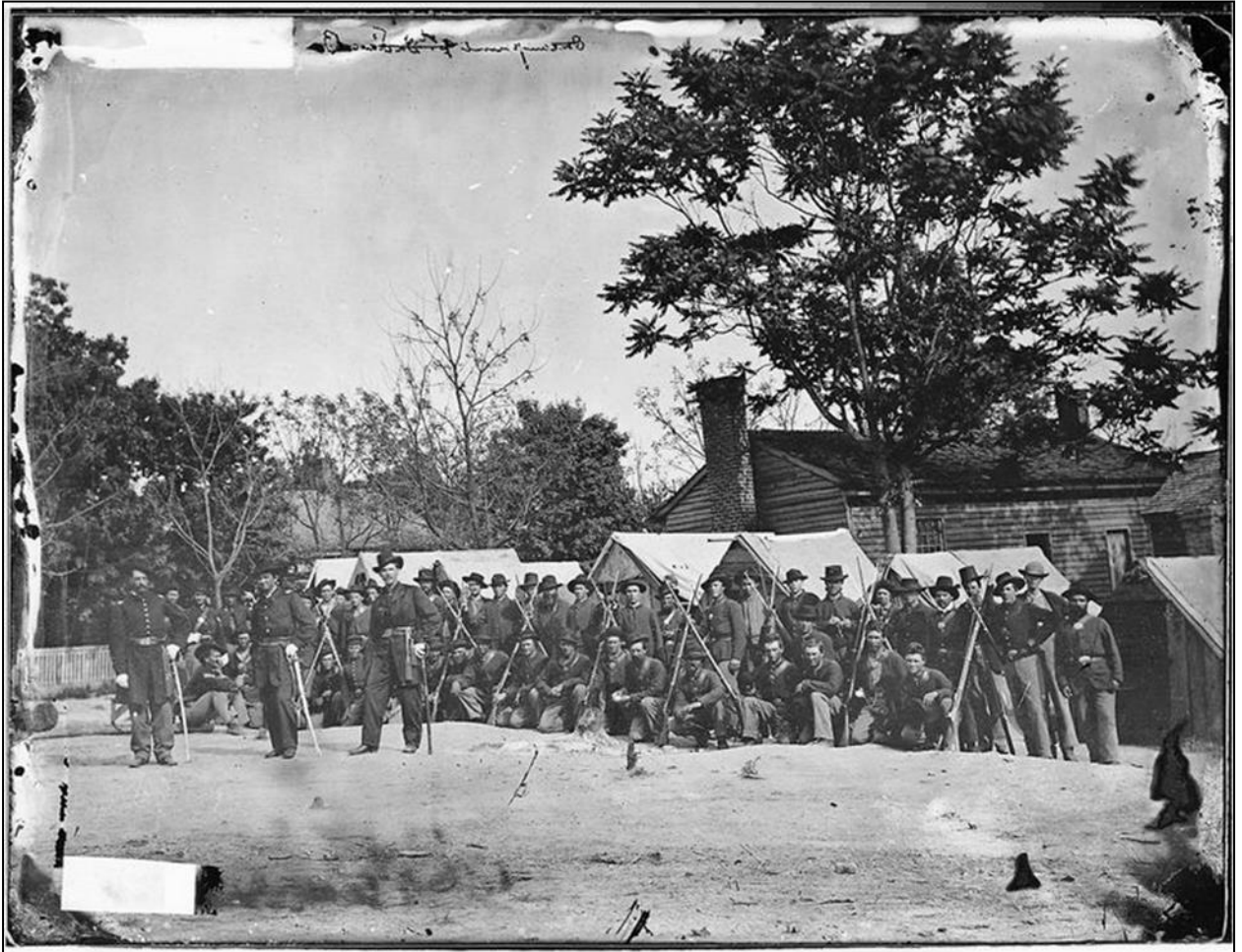
After the war, he returned home and engaged in farming and buying and shipping livestock. In 1868 he was elected Assessor, an office he acceptably filled. He served 4 years as Deputy County Auditor and had a long official record of about 25 years. He was a member, and at one time Commander, of the Leamon Griffith, Post # 387 G.A.R. The Post was named after his brother who died from a wound he received at the Battle of Chickamauga.

This brief biography was provided by Mike Kolbusz, G-G Grandson of Lewis Griffith. Margaret Hobson, author of three books about the 44th, provided additional information for this biography. Mrs. Hobson is a distant relative of Mike as well as Lewis Griffith.



Above: Meeting of the Leamon Griffith GAR Post # 387, Captain Lewis Griffith, third row, center

Ancestor Spotlight *continued*



Above: 44th Indiana Regiment, Company A, May 1865, in Chattanooga Tennessee. Captain Lewis Griffith is located in the first row, far left side of picture.

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty

by David Smith, DJVC

The kindness of Brothers from across the Order never ceases to amaze me. I know that it shouldn't because there are so many great members, but the levels to which Brothers will go to help out their fellow Brothers (especially those that they have never met) is a wonderful testament to this Order.

On our travels back from the National Encampment in Richmond, we stopped in Belpre, Ohio to pay respects to my ancestors there (several that were Union Veterans), and stop in and see Charlotte Powell at the Belpre Historical Society. Additionally, I was trying to locate two of my grandfathers' graves that we were unable to locate in our visit last year. The two grandfathers were a father and son that both served in the 60th Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Co. C.

During our visit with Charlotte at the Belpre Historical Society, we were able to pick up a wonderful guide to the Rockland Cemetery in Belpre. Charlotte had extensively walked and researched the cemetery having every single grave documented. This guide served very valuable in locating the two grandfathers. In reviewing the two gravestones, both required some help. The father, William W. Clark had a government gravestone with a GAR flag holder, but could barely be read. His son, John H. Clark, has a simple private headstone, but had no flag holder. *Continued on pg. 8*



Commander's Corner
Skip Bryant, CC

Brothers,

It has been an honor to serve in the capacity of Commander. The most noticeable thing I've observed in my two years has not been the continued steady growth in membership, but I've seen growth in the caliber and number of men willing to step up and serve in a position in the camp. I have the highest of confidence in the future of Robert Finch Camp 14. Since I first accepted the post, we have made great advances in our use of technology to further serve our Order. There has been a bit of housekeeping, and a little reorganizing that took some time, and there was probably a miscue or two on my part along the way. But we forge ahead, always looking for opportunities to better reflect the soldiers from the distant past. What has evolved is vast improvement in awareness of who our members are, and how easy it has become through the sharing of the roster to keep in touch outside of meetings, and better plan events. This was one of my highest goals that I set for my term. I believe this will encourage more creative ideas, and expand how in the future we accomplish the Order's work.

As Commander, or any in other position in the Camp, we do sometimes make minor miscalculations like my forgetting to order brothers to all wear white gloves in the first big ceremony I oversaw. But let's encourage growth in us as men, for it is through these experiences that we get better at serving. It is my hope that no Brother ever declines to accept a position that intrigues them, out of concern they need be perfect, as there was only one perfect man ever, and will be no more.

I feel excitement for my Officer Elects and anticipate a great 2016. We have such a dynamic group, with diverse, broad reaching skills, fresh ideas, and each with a strong dedication to be a part of something far bigger than we are. Thank you for trusting in me. I give you the calm seas we are now on, and ask you to give your trust to the men who will set the next course on the horizon.

In Friendship, Charity, and Loyalty,

Brother Commander Skip Bryant

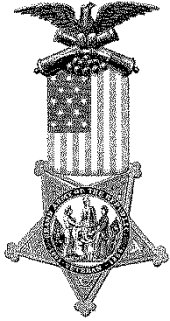


"The right of revolution is an inherent one. When people are oppressed by their government, it is a natural right they enjoy to relieve themselves of the oppression, if they are strong enough, either by withdrawal from it, or by overthrowing it and substituting a government more acceptable. But any people or part of a people who resort to this remedy, stake their lives, their property, and every claim for protection given by citizenship — on the issue. Victory, or the conditions imposed by the conqueror — must be the result."

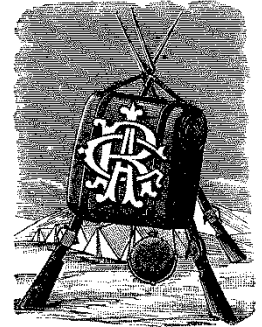
- U.S. Grant

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 Cipher Key as prescribed by the 01 April 1921 edition of the Ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic. This would have been used for deciphering encrypted communications that were used for providing a level of secrecy.



KEY TO CIPHER									
W	Q	P	I	S	K	L	X	F	L
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
J	C	I	B	E	A	V	S	M	W
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
H	Y	A	T	G	R	U	P	N	C
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
U	E	A	The	R	Post	O	I	D	Dept
32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41
Z	G	C	Nat'l						
42	43	44	45						



Try to decipher the following message:

35_ 30 16 9 25_ 27 38 15 33 36 25_ 10 5 30 31 22_ 37_ 20 16 33 25 14 30 26_ 5 19_ 14 30_ 12 17 30 28 24 27 23

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty *continued*

Thus, John H. Clark has no recognition of serving his nation.

A little later, I was able to contact the Commander of General Benjamin Fearing Camp No. 2 that serves the Washington County, Ohio area. I told him of my situation with my ancestors' graves and if I could send some money for a new GAR flag holder for J.H. Clark and anything else that would be needed, as well as sent him a list of all of my ancestors from Washington County to see if anyone in the Camp was also related. I received an e-mail in short order from Commander Paul Warren. He said that he would take a look at the graves, and he would send the ancestor list out to the Camp so they could discuss it. He contacted me the next day as he went out searching for the graves and was unable to find them (much like what happened to us last year - it is a BIG cemetery), but would go back out at some later time. In the meantime, the Fearing Camp had discussed my ancestors, and unfortunately no one shared relations with them. The Camp also voted unanimously to provide a GAR flag holder for John H. Clark with no cost. To quote Commander Warren, "it is an honor to help your Veteran ancestors". I was able to put together a quick document that better documented where my grandfathers' graves are located and sent it off to Commander Warren for his usage next year some time. Lo and behold, the next day I received text messages with before and after pictures of my grandfathers' graves. Commander Warren had cleaned up both graves (and they were in very rough shape from biological matter), and placed the GAR flag holder for J.H. Clark. I couldn't believe he did this the very next day, as I thought it would be something to tackle possibly next year. I am so happy with how they turned out, and so grateful to the Brotherly kindness of this Camp.

Additionally, I decided that I would like to hold dual membership with this great Camp in my forefathers homeland, and they have done me a great honor in voting to accept me as a dual member. I am very proud to be a dual member in General Benjamin Fearing Camp No. 2, Department of Ohio. Thank you Brothers! In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty indeed!



Left: John H. Clark after a thorough cleaning and placement of a GAR flag holder.

Right: Before and after pictures upon a thorough cleaning of William W. Clark's gravestone.





Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9

On 14 November, the Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 elected and installed Officers for 2015-2016 they are as follows:

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

President: Jan Davis, DVP
 Vice President: Dorothy Roush, PAP
 Secretary: Lisa Smith, DPI
 Treasurer: Mary Rose, PAP
 Pat. Instructor: Debra Downey
 Council #1: Jane Prebble
 Council #2: Dorothy Roush
 Council #3: Darlene Hinkley
 Chaplain: Mary Rose, PAP
 Historian: Jan Davis, DVP
 Press Corr.: Lisa Smith, DPI



Above: (L-to-R): 2016 Frances Finch No. 9 Officers: Jan Davis, Lisa Smith, Mary Rose, Deb Downey, Dorothy Roush, Jane Prebble, and Installing Officer Paul Davis, PDC.

January 2016 Celebration

Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 will be holding a celebration during their 09 January 2016 meeting. The celebration is to honor the achievements over the past year. Guests are always welcome, but are asked to please RSVP with Lisa Smith (lsgipper@gmail.com) to ensure space and food considerations.

The Sisters of Frances Finch No. 9 wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Safe New Year!



Above PAP Dorothy Roush and newly elected and installed President Jan Davis



Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9

Ancestor Spotlight

JOHN H. LOYER

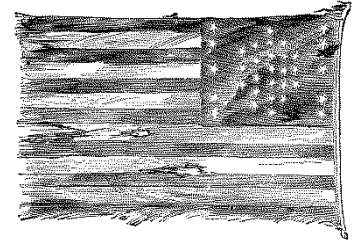
5th Michigan Infantry, Co. A

John Loyer is the ancestor of Auxiliary President Jan Davis. John was born in Franklin Township in Erie County, Pennsylvania and moved with his family to Shiawassee County Michigan in 1856. John followed his elder brother, Jacob B. Loyer into the service. Jacob enlisted in the 2nd Michigan Cavalry. John entered the service in the 5th Michigan Infantry, Company A on January 12, 1864 at Pontiac at the age of 19. John was wounded in action on May 22, 1864 at Spotsylvania Court House, having been shot in the right shoulder. He spent nine months in a hospital in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He returned to his Regiment on February 9, 1865 and mustered out at Jeffersonville, Indiana on July 5, 1865.

John returned to Shiawassee County Michigan after the war and subsequently moved to Ingersoll Township in Midland County where he filed for and received a Homestead grant for 40 acres. He died on May 20, 1903 and is buried in the Soldiers Section at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Saginaw, Michigan.

As a side note, Jan's birthday is May 21. Also, John Loyer's grave is located in line with and just a few rows over from John Edward Haug. John Haug is the ancestor of Paul Davis, Jan's husband. But wait, there is more...John's brother, Jacob enlisted in Company H, 2nd Michigan Cavalry. Another of Jan's husband's ancestors, g-g grandfather, George Gardner, was also a member of the 2nd Michigan Cavalry, In Company I.

Destiny...???, Six degrees of separation...???



Above: DVP Jan Davis, PDC Paul Davis, and the 14th Michigan Infantry, Co. A "Irish Rifles" SVR

Vernacular of the Civil War:

Acknowledge the corn - tell the truth.

Horse Collar - soldier's bedroll.

Mollygrubbing - rest or lay about.

Toad Strangler - heavy rain.

Old Scratch - the devil.

Peas on a Trencher - breakfast call.

Jonah - a person that is a jinx or brings bad luck with him.

Creeper - a frying pan.

Slumgullion - stew made with what was on hand.

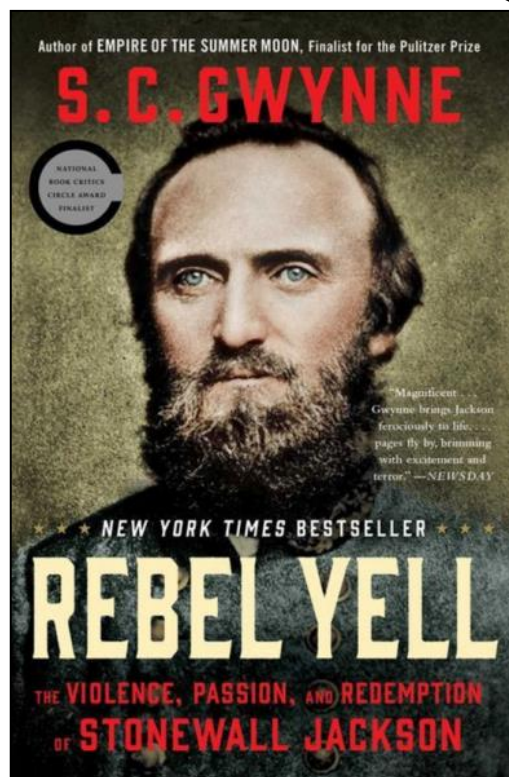
Blackleg - gambler.

Diggings - soldiers camp.

Bean - \$5 gold coin.

Cabbing - stealing.

Recommended Reading



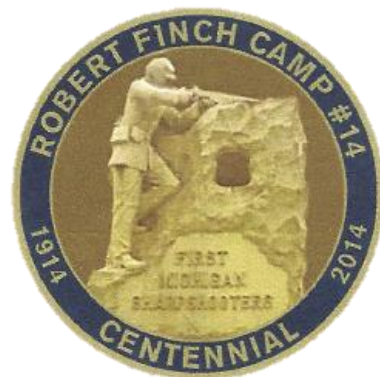
Rebel Yell
by S.C. Gwynne

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**