



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

Christmas 2016
Vol. 3 Issue 4

Camp Officers 2016

Commander:
Dav. Smith, LM, SVDC
wyattsmagnus@gmail.com

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

Jr. Vice Commander:
Theo. Mattis
tedmattis@charter.net

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

Treasurer:
Pat. Lints
patlints@yahoo.com

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:
Doug Hulbert
dkhulbert@live.com

Guide:
Mic. Kolbusz
mkolbusz@gtchd.org

Guard:
H.G. Smith
docsmith99@yahoo.com

Christmas Edition

This volume of The Sharpshooter is a special holiday issue. In this issue, new segments will be explored, along with some unique stories, and some other fun from this past year. Enjoy!

Wreaths Across America



Above L-R: PAP Dorothy Roush, AP Lisa Smith, PDC Dale Aurand, and SVDC & CC D. Smith at the Civil War and Spanish American War monument at the Grand Traverse Area Veterans Memorial Park.

17 December saw the annual Wreaths Across America ceremonies around the area. Robert Finch Camp No. 14 and Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 members participated and contributed to the area events. The day saw frigid temperatures and icy roads that limited attendance.

SVDC & CC Smith, PDC Aurand, and Brother Byrne, along with AP Lisa Smith and PAP Dorothy Roush participated in the Traverse City event at the Grand Traverse Area Veterans Memorial Park.

Camp No. 14 contributed wreaths towards the event at Greenwood Cemetery in Petoskey.

Merry Christmas!

2017 Camp 14 Meeting and Event Schedule

Camp Officers 2016
continued

Guard:
Alan Werdehoff
awerdehoff@live.com

Military & Veteran Affairs
Officer:
Calvin Murphy
calvinm@kaltnet.net

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

Boy Scout Coordinator:
Jeff Morse, PCC
inlandfirechief@gmail.com

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

Graves Registration
Officer:
Anth. Bonecutter
anthonybonecutter45@gmail.com

Memorials Officer:
Jno. Sawyer
sawyerc@gmail.com

Welfare Committee:
Jno. Lantzer, Chairman
Theo. Mattis
Dale Aurand, DC
Pat. Lints
Calvin Murphy
Dav. Smith, CC, SVDC ex-officio

The **Sharpshooter** Editor
David Smith, CC, SVDC
wyattusmagnus@gmail.com

January 14

Camp Meeting
2017 Officer Installation
Elks Lodge #323, Traverse City, MI

March 04

Camp Meeting
Elks Lodge #323, Traverse City, MI

May 06

Department of Michigan Encampment
Great Lakes Christian College, Lansing, MI

Mid or End of July

Long Range Artillery Competition
Range 35, Camp Grayling, MI

August 10 - 13

National Encampment (hosted by Dept. of MI)
Radisson, Lansing, MI

November 04

Camp Meeting
2018 Officer Elections
Elks Lodge #323, Traverse City, MI

Note: Additional meetings for May and September are TBD. Also, note that the March and November meetings are not the second weekend of the month. More events will be announced in the future.

Christmas Bells

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then from each black accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"



A Lost Bible Comes Home

An Amazing Veteran's Family Story

Submitted by: Commander-Elect Ted Mattis

My Great Grandfather, Mathias B. Wolff joined the Wisconsin Light Artillery and fought in the Civil War. His service was mostly west of the Mississippi in the area of Kansas where he was in a number of not so famous battles. He was wounded in one of those battles and survived. After the Civil War he moved to Milwaukee and raised a family. He passed away in 1889 at the Soldiers Home in Milwaukee and is buried in nearby Jerico Cemetery.

Mathias's youngest son, Romeo, moved from Milwaukee to Northern Wisconsin and started a farm, raising three children, Alida, Frederick and Aurora, who is my mother. The family was religious and attended church on a regular basis and were a close knit family who looked forward to holidays and spending time together.

Like many young farm boys during the WW II era, Freddy went off to serve his country by joining the Navy. While in training he received, as all service men did, a pocket bible to help him on his journey. Freddy was involved in many beach landings as a Sailor of the SEABEES going in and establishing landing areas and roads as the Marines moved forward, often times while under fire from snipers and machine guns trying to halt or delay their work.

The Australian army often landed after the SEABEES to support the us troops in the invasion. While landing on the island of Pulau Morotai, Indonesia in 1942 the beach was being strafed by gunfire. A young Australian soldier, Lionel Maddock hit the dirt as they were trained. While inching forward to find cover his fingers felt this small Bible. He stuck the Bible in his pocket with the intension of giving it back to its owner, my uncle Freddy, when he found him. The Bible contained Freddy's name and address while at boot camp. His mother Mrs. R.T. Wolff, Birchwood WI. is listed as next of kin. Not much to go on in 1944 from the other side of the world.

After the war was over, Lionel made attempts to find the owner without success. Years later Lionel passed the Bible on to Tom McNabb with a request to find the owner. The Bible later came into the hands of Jordan Mancl with the same admonition, find the owner. With the aid of todays computers, progress was made. The Bible was sent to a Wolff family in Wisconsin, who was not related to Freddy. Their son had a friend in high school who he knew had Wolffs in their family tree and took an interest. My cousin's high school son filled in the gap and eventually the Bible fell into my cousin David's hands. David Lebrande is the son of Alida Wolff Lebrande who passed away years ago. David is retired from the Air Force and is a gentleman farmer in Wisconsin.

It is with great awe that I think about this chain of events and my mother Aurora's passing in the last week of October of this year at the age of 93. She and Freddy and Alida were very close and the Bible came into cousin David's hands the same week as her passing. She never knew about the Bible coming home but she was a very religious person and would have taken great pleasure in just holding it.

Cousin David brought the Bible to Mom's funeral so we could all see it with its penciled in notations in Uncle Freddy's hand and enjoy this simple yet remarkable reunion. The Bible shows wear as it should have but was in remarkable condition with all pages attached. I held the Bible in my hand and marveled at the chain of events that brought us to this time and place while saying a prayer to God thanking him for bringing Uncle Frederick to his sister Aurora's funeral.

Freddy passed away in 1948 having suffered PTSD as we call it today, as well as other problems. I know Uncle Freddy through family stories and pictures and wish I could have gotten to know him on a personal level as family stories tell of an intelligent and caring person. He is someone I can admire and be proud to address as "Uncle Freddy".

Why? – The Sharpshooter Q & A

At the request of CJVC Mattis, The Sharpshooter will be including a new feature that posts questions from Brothers on various topics within the SUVCW and/or GAR. Answers will be fielded from Brothers, and published in a subsequent issue. This feature will be included on a time-to-time basis dependent on questions submitted.

In this inaugural feature, the following question was submitted:

Question: Why does the Department of Michigan use a crescent moon and star insignia to represent itself? It is often seen on the kepis and forage caps of Brothers of the Department. Where did it come from previously?

Answer (Partial): The crescent moon and star insignia is the insignia of the 7th Corps. This has been used for many years by the SUVCW. Any Brothers that may know why the Department of Michigan chose the 7th Corps badge, please submit your answer and any relevant information to the Editor.



Above: Department of Michigan 7th Corps Patch

Did You Know?

Another new feature that will be published from time-to-time is “Did You Know?” This new feature will discuss items that are typically out of the ordinary or unknown by the vast majority of Brothers. In this issue, the discussion will be about Civil War Veteran Organizations.

Did You Know that there was a Civil War Veteran Organization that was comprised of Union AND Confederate Veterans? The organization was called the Fresno Camp, Blue and Gray Veterans, founded in Fresno, California. This group advocated that former President U. S. Grant should receive a pension for his service to the U.S. Army.

Did You Know that Christmas was not an official holiday in America until 1870 when President Ulysses S. Grant declared it a legal holiday.

Did You Know that after Sherman captured Savannah in December 1864, his men dressed mules up like reindeer by tying tree branches to their heads and delivered food and supplies to hungry families in Georgia via mule carts pulled by these new “reindeer”.

Did You Know that there is a Veteran’s organization for Union Officers and their descendants? The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States – more information can be found in this newsletter...

Did You Know that it was said that Ulysses S. Grant smoked 25 cigars a day.

Did You Know that famed Iron Brigade Lieutenant Colonel Rufus Dawes had famous ancestors AND descendants. For example, he was the great-grandson of William Dawes – one of the alarm riders along with Paul Revere to warn of the approaching British army prior to the Battles of Concord and Lexington. Also, his son Charles Gates Dawes was Vice President of the United States.

Ancestor Spotlight

Submitted by SVDC & CC David Smith, (G-G Grandson)

John Carpenter Lambert **62nd Illinois Veteran Volunteer Infantry, Company G**

John Carpenter Lambert was born (Aug. 1823) and raised in Pilot Knob (Pilot Mountain), Surry County, North Carolina. Not far from and in the same county as Mt. Airy - the home of actor Andy Griffith. He married Elizabeth Worrell from neighboring Carroll County, Virginia. The couple later migrated to Kentucky, and then on to Carlyle, Clinton County, Illinois.

John mustered into the 62nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry, Company G on 10 April 1862. He later reenlisted as a Veteran on 30 March 1864.

The Adjutant General's Report:

The Sixty-second Infantry Illinois Volunteers was organized at Camp Dubois, Anna, Ill., April 10, 1862, by Colonel James M. True.

April 22, 1862, ordered to Cairo, Ill. May 7 to Paducah. June 7, to Columbus; and thence in Colonel Ditzler's Brigade to Tenn., where it was stationed on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad near Crockett Station, with headquarters at Kenton.

December 2, 1862, moved to Jackson, Tenn., and thence, to Grand Junction and Holly Springs. 13th, at midnight, started for Jackson, leaving about 200 men sick and on duty at Holly Springs. About two miles from Jackson, found the railroad bridge on fire. Marched to Jackson, and four miles beyond, skirmishing with the enemy. 20th, followed Forrest 20 miles, and 21st, returned to Jackson. 23d, marched to Mendon Station, Denmark, and Toon's Station, on Mississippi Central Railroad, and returned to Jackson 27th.

December 20, Van Dorn captured Holly Springs, paroling 170 men of the Sixty-second, including the Major and 3 Lieutenants, and destroying all the records, papers and camp equipage of the Regiment. The Regiment moved from Jackson, in Colonel M. K. Lawler's Brigade, December 31, 1862, in pursuit of Forrest, and reached Tennessee River, opposite Clifton, January 3, 1863; but finding the enemy well posted on the opposite bank, with heavy artillery, returned to Jackson, January 8.

On the 18th of April, 1863, the Regiment was brigaded with Fiftieth Indiana, Twenty-seventh Iowa, and First West Tennessee, in Second Brigade, Third Division, Sixteenth Army Corps, Colonel James M. True commanding Brigade. On the 18th, moved to Lagrange. June 8, First West Tennessee was taken out of the Brigade, and Forty-ninth Illinois and Vaughn's Battery, Illinois Light Artillery, assigned in its place.

August 19, ordered to Memphis, and 34th, embarked for Helena, and, on the 28th, took up the line of march for Little Rock.

September 2, overtook General Steele's Army at Brownsville, and, on the 10th, met the enemy, near Little Rock, driving him back, and compelling the evacuation of the place.



Above: John Carpenter Lambert, 62nd Illinois Veteran Volunteer Infantry, Company G

Ancestor Spotlight *cont'd*

January 9, 1864, the Regiment re-enlisted, as a veteran organization. April 25, moved to Pine Bluff, where it remained until August 12, 1864.

August 12, started to Illinois, for veteran furlough. After the expiration of the veteran furlough, returned to Pine Bluff, arriving November 25, 1864.

The non-veterans of the Regiment were ordered to Illinois, for muster-out. April 10, 1865, the remaining veterans and recruits were consolidated into seven companies, and remained on duty at Pine Bluff, until July 28, 1865, when it moved, by river, to Fort Gibson, Cherokee Nation, where it was stationed as a part of Brigadier General Bussey's command, in the District of the Frontier.

Mustered out at Little Rock, Ark., March 6, 1866, and ordered to Springfield, Ill., for final pay and discharge. Regiment lost during service 3 Enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 9 Officers and 251 Enlisted men by disease. Total 263.

After the war, the family migrated to the Oakland, California area, where they resided for the rest of their lives. John was a member of the Lyon GAR Post No. 8, in Oakland. He lived until 07 April 1913 where he passed away at the Veterans Home in Berkeley, California.

John Carpenter Lambert is the Great-Great Grandfather of SVDC & CC David Smith, through his paternal Grandmother.

Right: Elizabeth Worrell Lambert, wife of John Carpenter Lambert. Note of Interest: Elizabeth's Uncles and Cousins were in the Confederate Army in various Virginia and North Carolina regiments. Her father John Anderson Worrell was a soldier in a Kentucky regiment during the Mexican War where he passed away at Palo Alto, TX. Her Grandfather and a Great-Grandfather fought for the Patriot side in the American Revolution.



On 22 December 1864

Sherman presents the city of Savannah, Georgia to President Lincoln

"I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah, with 150 heavy guns and plenty of ammunition, and also about 25,000 bales of cotton."

Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States

Submitted by MOLLUS - Michigan Commandery SVC David Smith



On April 15, 1865, as word of President Abraham Lincoln's death spread throughout the country, three Union Army officer friends met in Philadelphia to discuss the tragic news. Rumors from Washington of a conspiracy to destroy the Federal government by assassination of its leaders prompted the three officers to form an organization that could help thwart future threats to the national government.

A mass meeting of Philadelphia veterans was held on April 20, 1865 to pledge renewed allegiance to the Union and to plan for participation in the funeral arrangements for the President. The Philadelphia officers, who served as an honor guard for President Lincoln's funeral cortege, met again after the funeral was over to establish a permanent organization of officers and former officers patterned after the Society of Cincinnati established after the Revolutionary War. The name they chose, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, first appeared in a notice calling a meeting on May 31, 1865 at Independence Hall.

Continued Pg. 7

Commander's Corner
David Smith, LM, CC, SVDC



Brothers,

It is hard to believe for me, but this will be my final Commander's Corner. Time sure does fly! It has been an absolute honor and privilege to serve as your Commander. As I stated when I was installed, I hoped that I would do you proud in serving. I hope that I was able to do that. I can say without a doubt, that I am so very proud of all of you for your work and support in doing the work of the Order. Thank you so much for all that you have done, and all that you continue to do.

I am very excited for 2017, with Commander-Elect Mattis taking the reins and continuing on forward with all of the great momentum from the Camp during the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic. I am sure it will be another amazing year.

On behalf of Sister Lisa and I, we wish you a very blessed holiday season. Merry Christmas to you all, dear Brothers and Sisters.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Dave



Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States *cont'd*



Since its inception, the MOLLUS membership has included nearly 12,000 Civil War officers. At its zenith, the MOLLUS counted practically every prominent officer among its ranks. Among them were Generals Ulysses S. Grant, William T. Sherman; Lt. Generals Philip H. Sheridan, Nelson A. Miles and John M. Schofield; Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, George B. McClellan, Rutherford B. Hayes, George Armstrong Custer, David McMurtie Gregg and Grenville M. Dodge; Admiral David G. Farragut; Rear Admirals Bancroft Gherardi and George W. Melville. In addition to Ulysses S. Grant and Rutherford B. Hayes, Original Companions Chester A. Arthur, Benjamin Harrison and William McKinley served as Presidents of the United States.

With the eventual aging of the Original Companions, membership within the MOLLUS was changed to provide for Hereditary Companions; descendants of eligible officers. There are currently four categories of membership: Hereditary, Junior, Associate and Honorary. Many Original Companions of MOLLUS were also members of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). Similarly, many Hereditary Companions of MOLLUS are currently also members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the legal heir to the GAR. Associate Members are welcome if the applicant does not have an Officer ancestor.

Organizationally, the MOLLUS is composed of a National Commandery-in-Chief and individual state Commanderies. There are currently 20 Commanderies.

Above: MOLLUS Membership Badge (note: this is the same membership badge that was offered to the Civil War Officers.

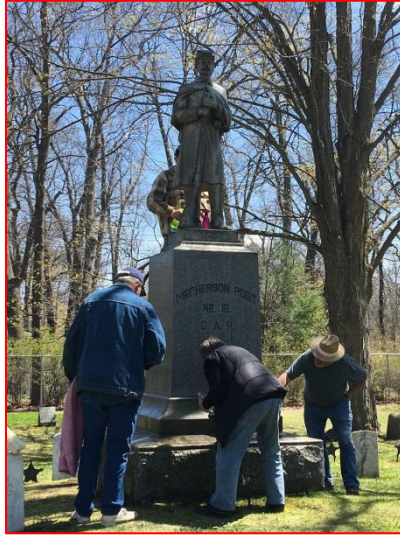
The Michigan Commandery has many Companions that are also Brothers of the SUVCW. Just in the Traverse City area, there are four Companions (three of them also members of the SUVCW). If you are interested in becoming a Companion in MOLLUS or have any questions, please feel free to contact SVDC and CC Smith (SVC of Michigan Commandery, MOLLUS).

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

2016 Year in Pictorial Review



2016 Year in Pictorial Review



GAR 150 Years





Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9

Frances Finch Auxiliary Welcomes a New Sister

On 12 Dec 2016, Department President Jan Davis initiated Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9's newest member, Kelly Smith. Her badge was pinned on by her husband Nathan Smith, CC LaValley-Heusted Camp No. 255. Welcome Kelly!

2017 Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 Officers

President:	Lisa Smith, Dept. Council
Vice President:	Dorothy Roush, PAP
Secretary:	Jan Davis, DP
Treasurer:	Mary Rose, PAP
Pat. Instructor:	Debra Downey
Council #1:	Jane Prebble
Council #2:	Dorothy Roush, PAP
Council #3:	Darlene Hinkley
Co-Chaplain:	Darlene Hinkley
Co-Chaplain:	Lorraine Jones
Historian:	Jan Davis, DP
Press Corr.:	Lisa Smith, Dept. Coun.
Girl Scout Comm.	Emily Breaugh, PAP, Chair

Sister Jan attends Remembrance Day

Department President Jan Davis attended Remembrance Day in Gettysburg with Company A, 14th Michigan Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve. Sister Jan placed National and State flags on headstones of Michigan soldiers at the Gettysburg Cemetery. The ceremony included reading of the names of the men interred there.

After the Remembrance Day parade, Sister Jan participated in the memorial service at the 3rd Michigan Infantry monument. She was one of the Auxiliary members to read the names in honor of the men from the 3rd Michigan that had lost their lives or were wounded at Gettysburg.



Above: CC Nathan Smith pins the ASUVCW badge on his wife, and Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9's newest member, Kelly Smith. DP Jan Davis performed the initiation per the ritual.



Above: Camp No. 255 CC Nathan Smith, Aux. No. 9 Sister Kelly Smith, and Dept. President Jan Davis

Far Left: Sister Connie Horning and DP Jan Davis at Gettysburg

Left: DP Jan Davis reading the names of the fallen



2017 National Encampment Commemorative Badge



The 2017 National Encampment is fast approaching! The Department of Michigan is hosting this year's National Encampment, which will be held in Lansing in August.

As part of the celebration of the National Encampment, the Department of Michigan is offering a Commemorative Badge. The highly detailed badge honors George Armstrong Custer and his famed Michigan Cavalry Brigade.

The badge has a few features of note that include:

- The bottom portion is taken from badges that Custer had commissioned for him and his wife (with lesser detailed versions for his troopers).
- The star in the bottom being replaced with a GAR star having the center replaced with the intertwined GAR letters from the 1914 Detroit National Encampment delegate badge.
- The guidons include the national colors and Custer's personal guidon.

The badges are \$25 each (more if mailed) with the profits from the sales being used for costs of hosting the 2017 National Encampment in Lansing.

If you are interested in a badge, please contact DP Jan Davis, jandavis915@aol.com or SVDC David Smith, wyattsmagnus@gmail.com.

Dept. of Mich. 150th Anniversary of the GAR Lapel Pins for Sale

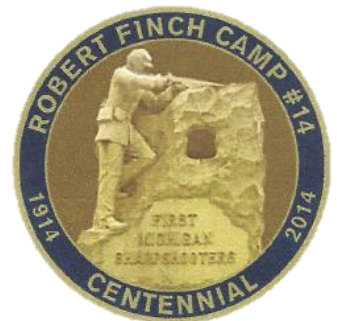


A lapel pin styled from the very first Grand Army of the Republic membership badges was created by the Department of Michigan Allied Orders of the GAR to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the GAR. The pins are approximately 1.5 inches x 1.5 inches with the blue being translucent, and the metal finish in antique silver color.

The pins are \$10 each and the profits from the sales is being used for costs of hosting the 2017 National Encampment in Lansing. A limited few remain for sale. If you would like a pin, please contact SVDC David Smith, wyattsmagnus@gmail.com

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 PDC 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
David Smith, Commander



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

Find us on 

www.facebook.com/robertfinchcamp/