



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

Winter 2017
Vol. 4 Issue 1

Camp Officers 2017

Commander:

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tedmattis@charter.net

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Jr. Vice Commander:

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Camp Council:

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Color Bearer:

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Guide:

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Guard:

Walker Schwander
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2017 Officers Installed

On 14 January 2017, the 2017 Officers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14 were installed. At the end of the meeting, Brother Ted Mattis had the Commander's badge pinned on him by his wife Marise, and outgoing and now PCC David Smith had the PCC badge pinned on him by Military & Veteran Affairs Officer Calvin Murphy. Commander Mattis took the helm and closed the meeting per ritual to kick off his term.



Above L-R: Newly installed Commander Ted Mattis, his wife Marise, and PCC Jan White

2017 Robert Finch Camp No. 14 Officers

Commander: Ted Mattis

Sr. Vice Commander: John Lantzer

Jr. Vice Commander: Joseph Conger

Secretary: Dale Aurand, PDC

Treasurer: Patrick Lints

Camp Council: George Goodrich, PCC

Camp Council: William Skillman, PCC

Camp Council: Jan White, PCC

Patriotic Instructor: H.G. Smith

Chaplain: John Lantzer

Color Bearer: Mike Kolbusz

Guide: Chris Skillman

Guard: Walker Schwander

Guard: Noah Lints

Graves Registration Officer: John Sawyer

War Memorials Officer: Scott Schwander

Historian: George Goodrich, PCC

Military & Vet Affairs Officer: Calvin Murphy

Boy Scouts Coordinator: Jeff Morse

Signals Officer/Webmaster: Jan White, PCC

Quartermaster: Ted Mattis, CC

Newsletter Editor: David Smith, PCC, SVDC

2017 Camp 14 Meeting and Event Schedule

Camp Officers 2017
continued

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The **Sharpshooter** Editor
David Smith, PCC, SVDC
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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.

Camp 14 Brother Lays Wreath at Tomb of the Unknown

On 13 October 2016, Camp 14's Military & Veteran Affairs Officer Calvin Murphy was selected to attend the Traverse City Honor Flight to Washington D.C. During the trip, he had the rare honor of placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



Vernacular of the Civil War

Irish Shanty: an outhouse
Top rail: first class
Old Scratch: the Devil
Pie Eater: a country boy
Pop Skull: cheap whiskey
Big Bugs: important people
Grab a root: eat a meal
Tight: drunk
Cascabel: Knob at a cannon's breech end
Acknowledge the corn: admit the truth

William Charette – Medal of Honor Recipient

Ludington, Michigan's own

Submitted by: Military & Veteran Affairs Officer Calvin Murphy

William "Doc" Charette was born on 29 March 1932 in Ludington, Michigan. His parents died when he was 4 years old, and he was raised by an uncle. William graduated from Ludington High in 1950, after which he took a job on a ubiquitous Lake Michigan ferry of the area. On 11 January 1951 he enlisted in the Navy at Muskegon. Upon completion of recruit training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Illinois, William attended the Hospital Corps School in Bainbridge, Maryland. After completion of field medical training at Camp Pendleton, California, he volunteered to serve in Korea. Now as a Fleet Marine Force (FMF) corpsman, he was assigned to Company F, Third Platoon, 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, which headed for South Korea on 05 February 1953.

The President of the United States in the name of The Congress takes pleasure in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR to

Hospital Corpsman Third Class William R. Charette
UNITED STATES NAVY

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty in action against enemy aggressor forces during the early morning hours of 27 March 1953. Participating in a fierce encounter with a cleverly concealed and well-entrenched enemy force occupying positions on a vital and bitterly contested outpost far in advance of the main line of resistance, HM3 Charette repeatedly and unhesitatingly moved about through a murderous barrage of hostile small-arms and mortar fire to render assistance to his wounded comrades. When an enemy grenade landed within a few feet of a marine he was attending, he immediately threw himself upon the stricken man and absorbed the entire concussion of the deadly missile with his body. Although sustaining painful facial wounds, and undergoing shock from the intensity of the blast which ripped the helmet and medical aid kit from his person, HM3 Charette resourcefully improvised emergency bandages by tearing off part of his clothing, and gallantly continued to administer medical aid to the wounded in his own unit and to those in adjacent platoon areas as well. Observing a seriously wounded comrade whose armored vest had been torn from his body by the blast from an exploding shell, he selflessly removed his own battle vest and placed it upon the helpless man although fully aware of the added jeopardy to himself. Moving to the side of another casualty who was suffering excruciating pain from a serious leg wound, HM3. CHARETTE stood upright in the trench line and exposed himself to a deadly hail of enemy fire in order to lend more effective aid to the victim and to alleviate his anguish while being removed to a position of safety. By his indomitable courage and inspiring efforts in behalf of his wounded comrades, HM3 Charette was directly responsible for saving many lives. His great personal valor reflects the highest credit upon himself and enhances the finest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service."

Dwight D. Eisenhower

Charette was presented the Medal of Honor from President Dwight D. Eisenhower during a ceremony at the White House in Washington D.C. on 12 January 1954. Charette continued serving in the Navy, training new hospital corpsmen at the Naval Hospital Corps School in Great Lakes, Illinois. In 1958, aboard the USS Canberra, he had the honor of selecting the World War II remains (one from the Pacific, and one from the European) that would be placed in the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery.

He eventually transferred to the Submarine Service, becoming one of the first hospital corpsmen to serve on a nuclear submarine. He served as an Independent Duty Corpsman (IDC) in the Navy's nuclear submarine program. He served under Captain Edward L. Beach, Jr. on the USS Triton (SSN-586) (after the Triton had completed her historic submerged circumnavigation of the Earth) and was also an IDC on the USS Sam Houston (SSBN-609) Gold crew 1962-1965. Charette's other assignments included the USS Quillback (SS-424); Fleet Ballistic Missile Training Center, Charleston, SC; USS Daniel Webster (SSBN-626); Naval Hospital, Orlando, FL; USS Simon Bolivar (SSBN-641); and at the Recruit Dispensary, Orlando, FL. Charette retired from the Navy at the rank (rate) of master chief hospital corpsman (HMCM) on 01 April 1977 after 26 years of service. HMCM Charette passed away on 18 March 2012 at his home in Florida. He was married for 57 years with 4 children.



HMCM William Charette has been honored in various locations through:

Charette Health Care Center, Naval Medical Center, Portsmouth, VA
AMVETS Post 82, Ludington, Michigan
US Naval Sea Cadet Corps HMCM William R. Charette Division
William R. Charette, Elks Lodge
Plaque at Spectrum Health Ludington Hospital
Mural in downtown Ludington that depicts his tour of duty



Sources:

<http://www.emohs.org/recipient-detail/3093/charette-william-r.php>
<http://ustranquillity.blogspot.com/2012/03/in-memoriam-hmcm-ss-william-r-charette.html>
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_R._Charette

A Sharpshooter Mystery

I.B. Richardson GAR Post 13 Plot

It seems there might be a mystery or two at Lakeview Cemetery in Harbor Springs...so, your input and knowledge is being requested....

Like many cemeteries throughout the northland, Lakeview Cemetery has a burial plot that belonged to the local GAR post. At the entrance to this plot, there is a very notable arch that welcomes visitors to this hallowed ground. While doing some research on the arch it was noticed that the current arch looks to possibly be a conglomerate of a new block structure, as well as an older portion. Going further, it was found that this isn't the original arch, but one that was reconstructed at some point (assumed due to disrepair of the original). This was also verified by Camp No. 14's own pictures within the Memorials section.

A point of discovery was made during this research that leads to a mystery. Not only on Camp No. 14's Memorials section, but also on other webpages, it states that I.B. Richardson's remains were placed in the right hand column of the arch. To further bolster this observation, a GAR flag holder is shown at the right column of the original arch and the rebuilt arch.

This spawns the question: who is I.B. Richardson? While secondly, why are his remains entombed in a column of a GAR plot's entrance arch?

It is probably safe to assume that the GAR Comrades in Harbor Springs named their Post after none other than Major General Israel B. Richardson. "Fighting Dick" was mortally wounded at the Battle of Antietam, and interred at Oak Hill Cemetery in Pontiac, Michigan in 1862. Obviously, he was not entombed in an arch that was created years after the war.

Then this leaves the question, is there another I.B. Richardson? Performing a cursory search of Union Veterans in Lakeview Cemetery, only one man with the name of Richardson is listed as being buried there. His name was George Richardson.

Another question that arises is why is someone entombed in a column of an arch? If there is someone entombed, it would stand to reason that there was either very little remains that were entombed, or the person was cremated. Being that cremation was a bit of a rarity in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (especially for northern Michigan), that is probably not an option here. In all reality, there is probably no one entombed in the right column of the arch. The confusion is probably created from those that have left a GAR flag holder at the right flank of the arch. Someone in passing probably thought, "I bet that I.B. Richardson person mentioned on the arch must be entombed in such a grand archway."

So, what say you on this mystery? Inquiring minds within the Camp would like to know, as this story needs to be corrected or confirmed....



Above L: Original I.B. Richardson GAR Post 13 Arch
Above: Reconstructed I.B. Richardson GAR Post 13 Arch
Left: Close up of the Arch

Note the GAR flag holder at the right column of the old Arch and new Arch.

The new Arch pictures provided by Civil War Memorials Officer Scott Schwander

Ancestor Spotlight

Submitted by PCC George Goodrich, (G-G Grandson)

Private Charles Patterson

1861-1862

7th Michigan Infantry

The Peninsula Campaign was a turning point in the Civil War. It was said that Gen. George McClellan brought a fine army of 110,000 strong to the Peninsula between the York and James Rivers. Trouble was he also brought himself. The army would get to within 5 miles of Richmond. So close they could see the church spires and hear the bells toll. Among those men was my great-great-grandfather, Charles Patterson. Charles was a private in the 7th Michigan Infantry. The 7th would fight in all major battles of the Army of the Potomac after 1st Bull Run. They are listed in Fox's Fighting 300 as one of the 300 best regiments in the Union Army.

My interest in the Civil War started as a young man. My father told me how my great-great-grandfather had fought in the war. They had a picture of him with ovals showing the battles he fought in. The only one he could remember was Peach Orchard, VA. My father saw the picture as a child. Unfortunately the picture did not survive. I looked in every encyclopedia and Civil War book that I could get my hands on as a youth and could not find the Battle of Peach Orchard.

The 7th Michigan Infantry was in the 2nd Corp, 2nd Division, 3rd Brigade of the Army of the Potomac. Second Corp Commander Edwin (Bull) Sumner got his nickname in the Mexican War when a bullet glanced off his head. It was said his head was as hard as a bull's. A professional soldier since 1818 he would die in 1863 of old age.



The 7th Michigan would be engaged from Yorktown to Williamsburg, then to the Battle of Seven Pines-Fair Oaks. This was the first true bloodbath in the east with over 11,000 casualties. About a month later, the Seven Days battles for Richmond would begin. The Battle of Mechanicsville would produce 1,475 Confederate casualties. The Federals lost but 361. Just 5 hours after the fighting had ended McClellan determined that he must retreat from Richmond. The 2nd Corp was chosen to fight a rearguard action at Savage's Station to allow the rest of the army to retreat. McClellan ordered Sumner to continue the retreat. Sumner said, "I never leave a victorious field. If I had 20,000 more men I would crush this rebellion".

From Yorktown to Malvern Hill the Federals lost 23,000 on the peninsula, the Confederates lost 30,000. The campaign would make George McClellan a scapegoat. It would make Robert E. Lee a hero because Richmond was saved. Certainly a turning point in the Civil War.

Continued on Page 6

Ancestor Spotlight *cont'd*

I always wanted to go to Virginia and follow in my great-great-grandfather's footsteps to see the battlefields where he was engaged. In 2001 I finally did this. I started at Fortress Monroe on the Atlantic, then on to Yorktown and Williamsburg. From there I visited the Seven Pines-Fair Oaks Battlefield. Then I proceeded on to all the Seven Days battlefields and ended the trip at Harrison's Landing. I did find the Peach Orchard which was located on Dr. Allen's farm just outside Savage's Station.



Charles was injured at Savage's Station and sent to the hospital at Harrison's Landing. While he was there Gen. Dan Butterfield wrote "Taps". Charles was present when "Taps" was played for the first time. He would be discharged for rheumatism and the effects of his injury in October of 1862. The only picture I have of him shows him proudly displaying his GAR badge. He died in 1902 and was buried in Avondale Cemetery in Flint.





Commander's Corner
Ted Mattis, CC

Greetings fellow members and friends of Camp 14,

We have been blessed with an on and off again winter that is slowly giving way as we trudge onward through the snow. The March meeting is creeping up on us quickly as sure as we can smell maple syrup season in the near future. It is a welcome time to start planning spring gardens of flowers and vegetables or some of each. It will soon be a time of opening buds and spring blossoms with all the fragrance we expect.

Camp 14 has to make plans for the rest of 2017 and there is plenty to do for everyone. We are working on a plaque installation and dedication for the Cadillac GAR plot around the end of May as well as a fund drive to cover expenses. We are also looking at several gravestone dedications and ordering several stones for graves where none presently exist.

Spring is also a time for cleaning of monuments and head stones with the wonderful "D-2" which we have had very good success with along with helpers. Many hands make small work.

At the March meeting I will have a calendar laid out for the year to pass out listing as many dates and times as possible. Those members not at the meeting will get the schedule sent to them so they can join in when they are able.

I am excited about the coming year and hope you are also. I hope to see all of you at our next meeting in March at the Elks Lodge.



The Chief's Speech to the Indians of the 1st Mich. SS

Submitted by CWMO Scott Schwander

From the Hillsdale Standard, Page 2, 21 July 1863:

Speech of a Loyal Indian to the Indians of the 1st Michigan Sharpshooters.
Dearbornville, July 11, 1863.
From the Detroit Advertiser.
The following speech of *Nock-ks-chick-jaw-me*, Chief of the Chippewas, was delivered to the *Indian Company* of the 1st Michigan Sharpshooters at Dearbornville, on Saturday, by his special interpreter, Rev. H. Jackson, who has been interpreter for the Government.
The *Company* was called together and the old Chief arose, his red children seated around him under the shade trees in the arsenal grounds, and said:
My Children!—I have come a long way from the home of your fathers to see and counsel you; to see you on parade and in camp, and learn if you behave like *true sons and noble braves*.
Listen to my words and I will advise you. You must obey the officers set over you; discharge every duty to our country; be loyal to our great father, the President of the United States. I desire you to abandon evil of all kinds, and throw away the "*fire-water*;" it makes you weak and cowardly. If you drink you will not be faithful to the country who is your friend, nor the army who is our protection; you will disgrace yourselves, fathers, brothers and chiefs.

Your great father, the President, pays you for your services; be diligent and retive; rise early in the morning; work while the sun shines, and leave nothing undone at evening.
Save your money. Your fathers are growing old. They are left behind and will need it—remember them in gratitude for the care and instruction given you. They would be sad to have you disdemean yourselves, for they respect the brave and valiant heroes who fight for their country and the right. Do not turn your backs on the foes of this Government. Meet them face to face and drive them away. Then will the President, our great Father, reward you, and the Great Spirit, if you die, welcome you to the land that is beyond.
My children! you are young and inexperienced. I desire you to reflect on your duty. Do not trifle. Understand for what you are fighting; be not boys, but brave and good men. You know but little of the history of our tribe. We are descendants of braves, who united with our younger brothers, the Ottawas, drove the powerful tribes now beyond the "*great river*" from these *our once beautiful hunting grounds!* The young men fitted themselves for warriors by the severest training and fasting, and confidence in the *Great Spirit*. They listened to the words of their Chiefs and obeyed them.

I desire you, my children, to listen to the instruction of your officers; learn your duty and do it, and, like your ancestors, you will be heroic and brave. Have confidence in the *Great Spirit*, and when you die your forefathers will welcome you to the spirit land as brave sons.
Our Great Father the President calls you;—you may go! Go for your country, homes and friends! If the South conquers you will be *slaves, dogs*. There will be no protection for us; we shall be driven from our homes, our lands, and the graves of our friends.
As I sat in my wigwam I thought of you—I love you—I am full of joy and gratitude for this privilege of talking to you. Other Chiefs are indifferent. They do not talk to their young men, but I shall visit you and instruct you; and, if necessary, go South to watch and care for you. Do not desert. It will disgrace your people and bring punishment on your hands. Be faithful to your country, brave and valiant, and the *Great Spirit* will reward you.
The interpreter made some strong patriotic remarks, exhorting the men to be true and honest. At the close the Indians cheered lustily for their Chief. They are learning the duties of soldiers, and by their conduct have removed much of the prejudice against them, proving that native Americans make good soldiers. The company is nearly full. W.



Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9

Sister Jan elected as DOLLUS National Junior Vice President

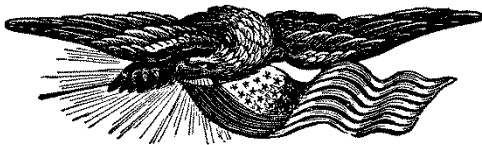
On 11 February 2017, Frances Finch's own Department President Jan Davis was installed as the National Junior Vice President of the Dames of the Loyal Legion of the United States (DOLLUS) in Washington D.C. at the Mid-Winter Meeting held in the aforementioned city. Congrats Sister Jan!

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



Above L-R: Dames Nat. Recorder Cathy Harris, NJVP Jan Davis, NP Ellen Higgins, and Lynne Bury PNP at the Lincoln Birthday Celebration on 12 February 2017 in Washington D.C.



2017 Frances Finch Auxiliary Initiatives

Submitted by Aux. President Lisa Smith

In continuing on their efforts in support of Veterans, Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 has identified several initiatives for 2017. They include:

- Continue to collect donations for Veterans with special focus on Veterans in area nursing homes
- Have Sisters make social visits to Veterans at area nursing homes
- If Brothers would like to attend also, please contact President Lisa Smith
- Theme for donations at each meeting through the year. In March Frances Finch Auxiliary will be collecting mouth care items such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, floss. Please bring along any to the meeting, and the Auxiliary will make sure they get to the Veterans
- Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 is looking into the possibility of adopting a Veteran family for the 2017 holiday season. Sister Deb Downey is spearheading this effort.

If anyone has any additional ideas to aid our Veterans, or wants to learn how to support the Auxiliary's efforts, please contact President Lisa Smith at lsgipper@gmail.com

The Sharpshooter

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

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, wyattusmagnus@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, wyattusmagnus@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
Ted Mattis, Commander



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www.robertfinch14.org

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