



# 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 & 2017 Marshall Hope Award – Most Outstanding Camp Newsletter of the Order

Christmas Edition 2017  
Vol. 4 Issue 3

Camp Officers 2017

Commander:  
Theo. Mattis  
tedmattis@charter.net

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

Jr. Vice Commander:  
Jos. Conger  
K2rider@chartermi.net

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

Treasurer:  
Pat. Lints  
patlints@yahoo.com

Patriotic Instructor:  
H.G. Smith  
docsmith99@yahoo.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:  
Mic. Kolbusz  
mkolbusz@gtchd.org

Guide:  
Christ. Skillman  
cms007@aquinas.edu

Guard:  
Walker Schwander  
kokopellschwander@yahoo.com

## 2018 Officers Elected

On 04 November 2017, the Brothers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14 elected the Camp Officers for 2018. Appointed Officers will be announced shortly by Commander Mattis. The Installation of Officers will be performed at the January 2018 meeting by Department Commander Smith.

### 2018 Robert Finch Camp No. 14 Elected Officers

Commander: Ted Mattis  
Sr. Vice Commander: John Lantzer  
Jr. Vice Commander: David Ramsey  
Secretary: Dale Aurand, PDC  
Treasurer: Patrick Lints  
Camp Council: George Goodrich, PCC  
Camp Council: William Skillman, PCC  
Camp Council: Jan White, PCC

#### In this Christmas Edition:

- Civil War Christmas Articles
- 2018 Meeting Dates
- Ancestor Spotlight
- Civil War Vernacular
- Lincoln Little Known Facts

## Wreaths Across America



Above L-R: AP Lisa Smith, DC David Smith, PDC Dale Aurand and PAP & AVP Dorothy Roush at the Grand Traverse Area Veterans Memorial Park in Traverse City on 17 December 2017.

On 17 December 2017, members of Robert Finch Camp No. 14 and Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 attended Wreaths Across America ceremonies. This has become an annual tradition, with members typically attending events in Traverse City and Petoskey.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

# 2018 Camp 14 Meeting and Event Schedule

Camp Officers 2017  
continued

Guard:  
Noah Lints  
awerdehoff@live.com

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

Signals Officer/Webmaster:  
Jan White, PCC  
stocktrac@charter.net

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

Historian:  
Geo. Goodrich, PCC  
Gc\_Goodrich@yahoo.com

Graves Registration Officer:  
Jno. Sawyer  
sawyerc@gmail.com

War Memorials Officer:  
Scott Schwander  
kokopellischwander@yahoo.com

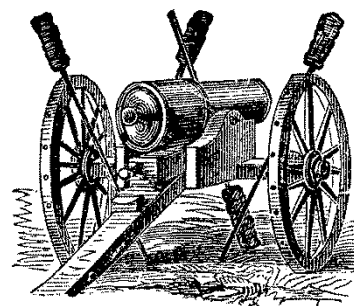
Quartermaster:  
Theo. Mattis, CC  
tedmattis@charter.net

The **Sharpshooter** Editor  
David Smith, PCC, DC  
wyattsmagnus@gmail.com

January 13	Camp Meeting Elks Lodge #323, Traverse City, MI
February 08	Social Meeting 6 - 8 PM Location: TBD
March 10	Camp Meeting Elks Lodge #323, Traverse City, MI
April 11	Social Meeting 6 - 8 PM Location: TBD
May 05	Department of Michigan Encampment Great Lakes Christian College, Lansing, MI
May 19	Camp Meeting Elks Lodge #323, Traverse City, MI
June 13	Social Meeting 6 - 8PM Location: TBD
July 14	Camp Picnic, Location: TBD
August 08	Social Meeting 6 - 8PM Location: TBD
August 09 - 12	National Encampment (hosted by Dept. of MA) Framingham, MA
September 08	Camp Meeting Elks Lodge #323, Traverse City, MI
October 10	Social Meeting 6 - 8PM Location: TBD
November 10	Camp Meeting 2018 Officer Elections Elks Lodge #323, Traverse City, MI
December 12	Social Meeting 6 - 8PM Location: TBD

## Vernacular of the Civil War

<b>All in 3 years:</b>	when something goes wrong
<b>Bombproofs:</b>	a shelter from artillery attacks
<b>Diggings:</b>	term for a soldier's camp
<b>Durance Vile:</b>	prison fowl
<b>Rio:</b>	coffee
<b>Toeing the Mark:</b>	important people
<b>Worm castle:</b>	hard tack
<b>Up the spout:</b>	all cannons are loaded and ready to fire
<b>Top rail:</b>	first class



# Christmas During the Civil War

*Submitted by: Brother Don Londo*

Christmas in 1850's America was a joyous time for families. Though it was not yet a national holiday, American families celebrated Christmas with unbounded enthusiasm. Turkey, ham and venison, oysters, squash and sweet potatoes adorned the tables. The aroma of homemade breads and pies completed the nasal delights.

Small Christmas trees on parlor tables were a part of family traditions. Decorations were usually popcorn, strings of sugared fruit, ribbons, pine cones, silver foil and spun glass ornaments. Holly, ivy, pines and mistletoe decorated the mantles and doorways.

The sounds of Christmas carols filled the churches and homes. "Silent Night", "O' Come All Ye Faithful", "Away In The Manger" and "Deck The Halls" were among the most popular. Recent American additions "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"(1850), "Jingle Bells"(1857), " We Three Kings Of Orient Are"(1857) and "Up On The Housetop"(1860) had become popular.

Once the Civil War began, Christmas would not be the same for over 1 1/2 million American families. Christmas dinners and carols continued with diminished joy. Many women spent the day sewing socks, caps and scarves for the soldiers.

The poem "The Night Before Christmas" was the initiation of the Santa Claus legend and had been a part of the American scene for over three decades.

Sarah Thetford wrote "Santa arrived here in Michigan dressed in a buffalo coat, presents fastened to his coat-tail and a corn popper on his back."

In the South, because of the shortages, mothers would tell their children that Santa could not make it through the blockade. One ingenious little girl advised Santa how avoid the blockade.

One Southern lady heard her children sobbing upstairs in their bedrooms. She gathered some fruits and a little money and put them in their stockings. On Christmas Day, the children jumped for joy. Santa had not forgotten them!

Slaves received a day or two off from their daily labors. They celebrated the days of Christmas with singing and dancing. Sometimes these celebrations included reunions with separated family members. Some also received small gifts from the master.

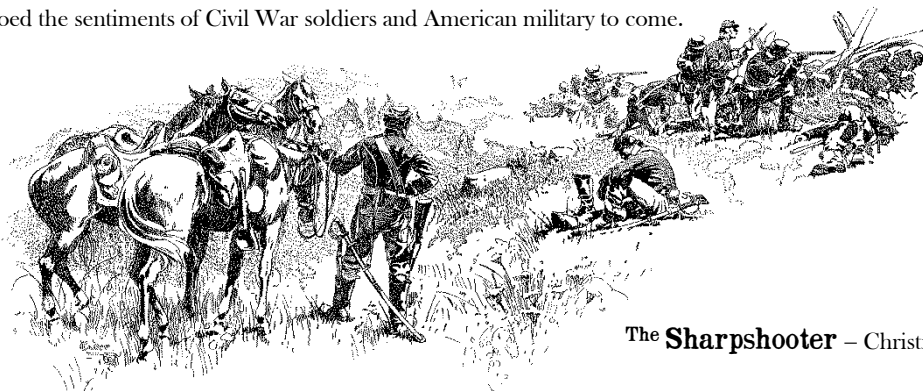
Christmas, the most solemn day of peace, furnished no rest from battles and skirmishes. During each Civil War Christmas, men fought and died.

In winter camps, soldiers began their Christmas Day with morning drills. Each took his turn at picket or guard duty. Singing carols, playing baseball, card games, and imbibing in homemade alcoholic drinks served to pass the time. On Christmas Day 1864, 90 Michigan soldiers in the city of Savannah, Georgia proved that the Civil War had not destroyed the Christmas Spirit. These young men filled several wagons with food and other supplies. They added tree branches to the mules' ears so that the animals would look like reindeer. Christmas Day they delivered their wagons of cheer to the impoverished civilians in the Georgia countryside.

The soldiers' most common Christmas activity was writing letters. These letters most eloquently described their boredom and yearnings for home as well as their prayers and hopes for our nation's future.

Corporal J.C. Williams of the 14th Vermont Infantry wrote: "This is Christmas and my mind wanders back to that home, made lonesome by my absence, while far away from the peace and quietude of civil life to undergo the hardships of the camp and maybe the battlefield. I think of the many lives that are endangered and hope that the time will come when peace with its innumerable blessings will once more restore our country to happiness and prosperity. "

Corporal Williams echoed the sentiments of Civil War soldiers and American military to come.



# A “Nasty” Man Brings Santa To Life

*Submitted by: Brother Don Londo*

1862 was a bleak year for most Northern Americans. The Civil war had just completed its second year, with no end in sight. Most of the young men in every village and town were fighting in the war. Women and children had to fend for themselves. On top of that, prices since 1861 had risen over 80%.

The country was looking for any glimpse of joy they could find. On January 3, 1863 Santa Claus made his first appearance in Harpers Weekly. It was a full page picture illustrated by a political cartoonist, Thomas Nast.

Nast, a German immigrant, attended art school in New York and began illustrating for Frank Leslie's Illustrated at age 15. Four years later he went to work for Harpers Weekly. At Harpers Weekly he began drawing political cartoons. His cartoons were opinionated and vicious. Many believe that his last name is responsible for adding the word nasty to the English language.

The illustration as it appeared in Harpers Weekly, on January 3, 1863, depicted Santa and a sleigh full of presents. There were boxes, a drum and numerous copies of Harpers Weekly. Sitting on his sleigh, Santa was passing out presents to the Union soldiers. He looked like our present day Santa except a little thinner. He was dressed in a robe made up of stars and stripes.

The soldiers' faces were full of joy. All the men had boxes. Two soldiers were opening them. One was delighted to find a stocking filled with goodies. The other was proud of his meerschaum pipe. He held it up for all the soldiers to see.

Off to the side in the foreground were two young drummer boys. One is amazed to open his box and discover a jack-in-the box. The other is so astounded by the gift that he forgets to open his box or eat his apple.

In the background are Santa's reindeer and a large evergreen arch with the words, “Welcome Santa Claus” enveloping the arch. Beside the arch are the U.S. flag and the soldiers' tents. Behind the tents the soldiers are seen at play. Some are playing football. Another group is chasing a greased pig. In the meantime dinner is being cooked on an open fire. Behind these scenes is the fort. Coming from the fort is the smoke from the soldiers' rifles, firing a salute to Santa.

Being Thomas Nast, he couldn't resist a little nastiness. In the illustration he pictured Santa holding a toy puppet caricature of Jefferson Davis with a rope around his neck. Nast saved his niceness for the next Christmas. That year his illustration featured two scenes enclosed in separate circles with Christmas Eve written over the top. On the left side was a young lady on her knees, praying beside her bed. In the background were two small children asleep in their bed. On the wall is a photo of a young soldier, the obvious subject of her prayers.

In the right circle is a lonely soldier, on a cold winter night, seated against a tree in front of a campfire. In his hands are a rifle and a photo album with pictures of his family. On the top left there is the image of Santa crawling down a chimney. The upper right shows Santa in his sleigh, being pulled by eight reindeer. The lower left corner shows a picture of soldiers marching in the snow. The lower right depicts ships being tossed in the sea. In the center is an image of the graves of men who have died in battle.

Thomas Nast has been responsible for numerous images in American History. Among his most famous are Uncle Sam, the Republican elephant and the Democratic donkey. His image of Santa Claus remains his most endearing and lovable of all. Through the years it has persevered with few changes.

The fact that this gift came from a man whose name was identified with nasty is an extraordinary part of our history.

Note: You can view the pictures at [sonofthesouth.net/Original\\_Santa\\_Claus\\_.htm](http://sonofthesouth.net/Original_Santa_Claus_.htm) and [sonofthesouth.net/Civil\\_War\\_Christmas.htm](http://sonofthesouth.net/Civil_War_Christmas.htm)

Please remember our military who are away from family and friends this Christmas.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to all of you. Thank you for following the stories. They will continue next year. See you then.



# Ancestor Spotlight

Submitted by DC David Smith, Editor

2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant & First Sergeant William Walter  
5<sup>th</sup> Indiana Cavalry, Co. M & 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana Cavalry, Co. B

William Walter is the G-G-G Grand Uncle of Department Commander David Smith. An extremely brief overview of the highlights of his service is as follows:

William Walter, Second Lieutenant - 6th Indiana Cavalry, Co. B (71st Regiment) (Commissioned by Gov. Morton on 01 July 1865 when John J. Carter was promoted to First Lieutenant); Enlisted from Fremont, IN as a Private - 5th Indiana Cavalry, Co. M (90th Regiment), promoted to Corporal in 1863; promoted to First Sergeant on 01 September 1864. Wounded by ball above right ear at Battle of Buffington Island permanently "losing the ear", in pursuit of John Hunt Morgan. Prisoner of War - captured at Maynardville, TN in Dec. 1863 - escaped March 1864 & reported to Maj Gen Crook in Wheeling, West Virginia April 1864. Was captured twice more by the Confederate Army and escaped twice - appears to be after regiment was surrendered by Gen. Stoneman. Company M, 5<sup>th</sup> Indiana Cavalry transferred to 6th Indiana Cavalry in 1865 to complete terms of enlistment.

*Continued Pg. 6*

## Veterans Day Ceremony



**Above (L-R):** PDC D. Aurand, a member of the Grand Traverse Pipes and Drums, DC D. Smith, AP L. Smith, PAP D. Roush, SAR member H. Bridges, CJVC J. Conger, Bugles Across America Bugler Thelma Paul, and Brother Jim Morse Jr. at the Veterans Day ceremony in Traverse City at the Grand Traverse Area Veterans Memorial Park. A post-ceremony celebration was hosted by Elks Lodge #323 in Traverse City.



## Ancestor Spotlight *cont'd from Pg. 5*

REGIMENTAL HISTORY: Ninetieth Indiana Regiment (5th Indiana Cavalry). — Cols., Robert R. Stewart, Felix W. Graham, Thomas H. Butler; Lieut. -Cols., Josiah Forth, Thomas H. Butler, John Woolley; Majs., Felix W. Graham, John S. Lyle, John Woolley, Joseph R. Haugh, Chauncey H. Thompson, Moses D. Leeson, Mell H. Soper. This regiment was organized at Indianapolis in 1862. Four companies were mustered in in August, five in September and three in October. Robert R. Stewart, who had been commanding colonel, declined the position and Felix W. Graham, who had been commanding major, was made colonel. Cos. C and F were sent to Carrollton, Ky., and Co. I to Rising Sun, Ind., in October, remaining until December, when they moved to Louisville, later to Munfordville and Glasgow, joining the regiment at the latter place in March, 1863. The other companies were sent in December to border counties, A and G being located at Newburg, B at Rockport, D and L at Mauckport, E and H at Cannelton, K at Mount Vernon, and M at Evansville. These companies moved to Louisville in Feb., 1863, and to Glasgow early in March. Reunited, the regiment was kept busy in scouting the country until April 17, being in several skirmishes and burning the town of Celina, Tenn. It was in heavy scouting and skirmishing until June 22, capturing many prisoners. On July 4 it started in pursuit of Morgan's raiders and finding them at Buffington island, attacked and drove them in every direction, killing and capturing many and securing 5 pieces of artillery. Returning to Glasgow, it started on Aug. 18 for East Tennessee and reached Knoxville on Sept. 1, being the first regiment of Union troops to enter that city. It was in an expedition across the Smoky mountains and on its return moved to Greeneville. It was then in an expedition to Bristol, being engaged in heavy skirmishing and the battle near Zollicoffer. It was also in an engagement near Blountsville and captured a number of prisoners. While marching toward Loudon and Bull's gap the regiment met 3,000 of the enemy near Henderson's mill and engaged in a fierce fight, holding the enemy in check in frequent hand-to-hand combats, and when nearly surrounded, cut its way through the lines and rejoined its brigade. Later, near Rheatown, it came upon the enemy's rear and engaged him again. It was in a second engagement near Blountsville, and was on outpost duty at Jonesboro until Nov. 6, when it moved to Cheek's cross-roads, thence to Tazewell, and later to Maynardville. It was in a heavy skirmish with a division of cavalry, and in heavy fighting at Walker's ford. It marched to Blain's cross-roads and Bean's station, where another fierce battle was fought, the regiment retreating towards Rutledge, and going into camp at Blain's cross-roads. On Dec. 23, it moved to Mossy creek, and remained there until Jan. 14, 1864, being constantly engaged in fighting. It participated in the battle of Dandridge, and made a charge on foot three quarters of a mile in advance of the main line of battle, driving the enemy before it. On the retreat it reached Knoxville Jan. 19, 1864, and there the horses of the regiment were turned over to the 14th Ill. cavalry. The regiment made a scout on foot to Pigeon creek, then moved to Cumberland gap, and thence to Mt. Sterling, where it was remounted. On May 1 it started for Tunnel Hill, Ga., and with Stoneman's command participated in the Atlanta campaign, being engaged in all the cavalry operations from Dalton to Decatur. Marching in a raid towards Macon in July, it took part in an attack upon the enemy and drove him 2 miles. Near Hillsboro it participated in an engagement with a body of Wheeler's cavalry and was left on the field to hold the enemy in check until the main body was entirely out of danger. Then the regiment was surrendered by Gen. Stoneman against Col. Butler's earnest protest. A part of the regiment, dismounted, had remained at Decatur and was put on guard duty with muskets until Sept. 13, when it was transferred to Kentucky, where it was rejoined by the remainder of the regiment which had been paroled and exchanged. Remounted, it marched for Pulaski, Tenn., Jan. 17, 1865, and there it remained on scouting work, capturing and dispersing bushwhackers and outlaws. It was mustered out June 16, 1865, at Pulaski. Cos. G, L and M having entered the service subsequent to Oct. 1, 1862, were not entitled to be mustered out, and, with the recruits, were transferred to the 6th cavalry, with which they served until its muster-out in September following. The original strength of the regiment was 1,242; gain by recruits, 522; total, 1,764. Loss by death, 217; desertion, 125; unaccounted for, 99.

### Prisoner of War

During William Walter's first experience as a Prisoner of War, he had one of the most exciting and challenging times of his life. By his own written words, William Walter described his escape in detail. In March of 1864, his Confederate captives placed him on a train headed for the notorious Andersonville Prison. On the trip, William was able to force open the door of the boxcar that he was riding in and leaped off the train making his escape. Another Trooper from Iowa leaped off as well, but took off in varying directions. The Confederates went into pursuit with bloodhounds for the two men. William realizing that he had to break his scent and hide his trail ran for the nearby Dan River. He ran through the 4 inches of snow on the ground and dove into the river to swim across. As he hit the water he almost immediately began coughing blood up from his lungs. He struggled to swim across the river, and once he got to the other side he had no energy left to



## Commander's Corner Ted Mattis, CC

I am finding it hard to get in the Christmas spirit as usual but it seems especially hard this year for many reasons. The older I get the more I am put off by the commercialism of Christmas and the buying of presents. When I shop I only seem to find things I like such as a new tool or gadget that wouldn't be of interest to anyone else.

As Christmas nears I finally sort through all the hoopla and glitter and focus on what's important. Then I pray I have the time and energy to get done the things I need to do. The Grandchildren will be over for Christmas Eve dinner, etc. This Year it all falls on me as Marise (Mrs. Santa) broke her ankle in late November. I am embarrassed to admit that Mrs. Santa in the past has done 80% of the Christmas Eve planning, preparation, and cleanup while I disappear to snow blow the drive, etc. A wise man knows when to disappear.

I am sure that many of you can identify with this picture and have your own stories to tell. From now on I vow to be a greater help to Mrs. Santa. In the end I am willing to do it again next year and the years to follow as many of us are. It just takes a little while to wake up the kid in us.



It is also time to reflect on the last year's progress of Robert Finch Camp 14 and think about the New Year ahead. Last year was a good year in many ways because of the things we did and participated in but also because of the initiatives we have put into place. Thanks to a lot of work by our GRO and MO Officers and others we have set the stage for a great summer of 2018. We need to plan a major rededication of Civil War shoulder's head stones (new) in Oakwood Cemetery and all that it entails. We are talking about 10 or 12 or more at one time spread across the Cemetery. We are talking about Major Commitment.

I am looking forward to 2018 with a great deal of pride and excitement with the opportunities that are open to the Robert Finch Camp and its members. I hope all of you are also.

I wish all of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year along with Good Health and Good Fortune for everyone in the year to follow.



## Ancestor Spotlight *cont'd from Pg. 6*

extract himself from the river. Fearing certain death in the icy waters, he felt someone grab a hold of him and pull him up on the river bank. It was a slave that had seen him making his escape and crossing. The slave brought him back to his cabin that he shared with his wife. The couple kept fed him and kept him near the fire in their cabin overnight. In the early morning they snuck him out to the woods and hid him with blankets to stay there until he had recovered enough to flee, bringing him provisions until he left.

After a couple of days William Walter left and proceeded to hike north for Wheeling, West Virginia. He made his way through the mountains, fully expecting to meet his maker. He managed to commandeer several Confederate horses along the way to aid in his trek. Eventually, after a month and over 400 miles of treacherous terrain, William reached Union lines and entered Wheeling, West Virginia. He marched his way directly to Major General Crook, reporting to him that he was Corporal William Walter an escaped POW, and that he wanted to immediately return to his Company M, 5<sup>th</sup> Indiana Cavalry. He was thusly selected to attend the Military School in Philadelphia and was promoted from Corporal to First Sergeant.

*Continued Pg. 11*

# In the Darkness, Light Still Shines

*Submitted by Br. Don Londo*

Instead of the usual Christmas type stories, I would like to share with you some Civil War stories. These stories are real and they occurred amidst all the fighting of the Civil War (1861-1864). They are stories which exemplify the “Spirit of Christmas” as they reveal the humanity of the soldiers during the war years.

Some people in Alpena still remember Bob Brookbank as the “Trainman”. He passed away over a decade ago. Few are aware that he was also the great-great nephew of Major Robert Anderson, the commander of Fort Sumter. This is a story that Bob told me and one which I am delighted to share with you.

The night of April 11, 1861 had a chilly breeze blowing on the city of Charleston, South Carolina. The city was alive with excitement and anticipation. The newly formed Confederacy had their guns trained on Fort Sumter. The American Civil War was about to begin.

As most of the inhabitants readied themselves for bed, two men entered the city. Their destination was a secret Masonic meeting which was to take place in Charleston. The two men were Major Robert Anderson, the commander of Fort Sumter and General P.T.G. Beauregard, commander of the Confederate artillery batteries. Anderson was Beauregard’s artillery instructor at West Point. It was not only a meeting of a former teacher and pupil but a meeting of the Masonic brothers. After the meeting the two men took a stroll through the woods. There they chatted and renewed their friendship and the good old days at West Point. For that night all was well with the world. The next morning shells would fall on Fort Sumter and their world was forever changed.

On December 30, 1863, thousands of Union and Confederate troops were lined up on either side of the Stones River in central Tennessee, preparing for the next day’s battle. The Stones River is about 200 yards wide. Both sides were within shouting distance of the other’s camp.

As dusk fell, the Union band began playing. As evening was drawing to a close, some Confederates yelled “Play some of our songs” The band picked up its instruments and honored the request. At the end, of the improvised concert the band played “Home Sweet Home”. Together 81,000 soldiers began singing. According to historian, William C. Davis, they comprised the largest chorus in the Western hemisphere. There was not a dry eye on either side of Stones River. For one night the Union and the Confederacy came together and shared their humanity.

In Fredericksburg, Virginia stands a monument to my personal hero, 19 year old Sergeant of the 2nd South Carolina Infantry, Richard Kirkland. On December 13, 1862 thousands of Union soldiers charged the Confederate troops stationed behind the wall at Marye Heights. They made numerous charges and each one failed. The next morning the ground in front of the wall was littered with dead and wounded. The wounded were crying for water all through the night and into the morning.

Finally Sergeant Kirkland ran to Gen. Kershaw’s headquarters and said “General! I can’t stand this. All night and day I have heard these men crying for water. I come to ask permission to go and give them water.” The General replied, “Kirkland, don’t you know that you would get a bullet through your head the moment you stepped over that wall.” “Yes, sir”, he said; but if you will let me, I am willing to try it.” General Kershaw despite his misgivings gave his consent.

As he was leaving, Kirkland asked if he could wave a white handkerchief. The general refused, thinking that it might give the enemy the idea that the Confederates were surrendering. Richard Kirkland gathered canteens, filled them with water and went over the wall. When the Union soldiers realized what he was doing no shots were fired. For 1 ½ hours, he ministered to enemy soldiers. When his mission of mercy was done, he returned to his position behind the wall unhurt.

To both sides he became known as the “Angel of Marye Heights”. General Kershaw wrote “ He has bequeathed to the world an example which dignifies our common humanity.”

In 1965, South Carolina, Virginia and New Jersey erected a monument at the battlefield in Richard Kirkland’s honor. It depicts him giving water to a fallen soldier. The sculptor was Felix de Welden, the same man who produced the Iwo Jima Memorial. Three times I have visited the monument and each time I felt inside me a feeling of gratitude and admiration for his courageous action on that frozen battlefield.

There are other stories too numerous to tell. In all the darkness these stories serve as inspiration to us. Despite four years of death and destruction, the Civil War failed to extinguish humanity’s light.

With that message of hope, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year!



# **“Lincoln We Hardly Knew You” – Part 1**

**(Little Known Facts About Our Greatest Leader)**

*Submitted by Br. Don Londo*

**1) What was Lincoln’s favorite sport?**

Answer- Handball He even built a wooden court in the back of his Springfield house. On the day before his nomination he spent the whole day playing handball.

**2) What sports did he play?**

Answer- He also enjoyed baseball, wrestling, track and field and bowling. A friend said that Lincoln once triple jumped 41 feet, A respectable distance even by today’s standards.

**3) What illegal act did Lincoln perform behind the White House that alarmed the soldiers?**

Answer- Lincoln, although not a hunter, enjoyed shooting firearms. It was a common practice for him to target practice in back of the White House, despite the fact that it was against the law. He justified this practice by saying that he was trying out new weapons proposed for military use.

Once, some soldiers hearing the gunfire rushed up, shouting “Stop that firing! Stop that firing!” When the unmistakable eminence of the President loomed up from the drifting smoke, historian Robert V. Bruce wrote “the astonished guardians of public tranquility beat a hasty retreat. “Well”, remarked Lincoln, ”they could have at least stayed and seen the shooting”.

**4) How did Lincoln revolutionize the Treasury Dept.?**

Answer- Abraham Lincoln was the first president to authorize the printing of paper currency. Treasury Secretary Salmon Chase asserted it was unconstitutional. The president responded with a note to Chase stating: “You take care of the Treasury and I’ll take care of the Constitution.”

**5) Lincoln was a lawyer on the 8th Circuit. What other court position did he hold?**

Answer- In the 1850’s Abraham Lincoln served as judge of the 8th Illinois Circuit in the absence of Judge David Davis. His appointment was due to both reputation for fairness and honesty as well as the esteem of his peers.

**6) Lincoln is the only president to receive a patent. What did he invent?**

Answer- On May 22, 1859 he received a patent for a device to float ships over shoals. As far I know the shipping industry did not use it.

## **Resources**

- 1) Civil War Times Illustrated- Dec. 1995 “Lincoln At Play” Gabor Boritt pg. 14
- 2) Ibid
- 3) Ibid
- 4) The Wit and Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln - Edited by Alex Ayres- Meridian Book 1992 pg. 140
- 5) Ibid pg. 107
- 6) Ibid pgs. 103-104



# Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9

## 2018 Frances Finch Officers Installed

On 04 November 2017, Frances Finch's Officers were installed per the ritual. Sister Lisa Smith was elected to serve another term as Auxiliary President. Department Commander David Smith installed the Sisters to their Offices. The remaining slate of Officers is listed at left.

### 2018 Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 Officers

President:	Lisa Smith, Dept. Council
Vice President:	Darlene Hinkley, PAP
Secretary:	Mary Rose, PAP
Treasurer:	Mary Rose, PAP
Co-Pat. Instructor:	Debra Downey
Co-Pat. Instructor:	Lorraine Jones
Council #1:	Karen Goodrich
Council #2:	Dorothy Roush, PAP
Council #3:	Darlene Hinkley
Chaplain:	Dorothy Roush
Historian:	All Sisters of Aux. No. 9
Press Corrs.:	Mary Rose, Lisa Smith
Girl Scout Comm.	Lorraine Jones, Chair
Counselor:	Dale Aurand, PDC



Above L-R: AP Lisa Smith, AVP Darlene Hinkley, DC David Smith, Sr. Karen Goodrich, PAP Dorothy Roush, PDC Dale Aurand, and PAP Mary Rose.



## Holiday Get-Together

*Submitted by Aux. President Lisa Smith*

Sisters of Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 held a holiday get-together at the residence of Sister Mary Rose on 18 December 2017. The event was well attended, and allowed the Sisters to share in camaraderie and holiday cheer. Also during the get-together the Sisters worked on updating the Auxiliary's historical picture book, placing many new pictures and other items within the book as part of the historical record of the Auxiliary's activities, ceremonies, and efforts.

## The Sharpshooter

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

# Ancestor Spotlight *cont'd from Pg. 7*

## Wounded at Battle of Buffington Island

While fighting in the Battle of Buffington Island, William Walter was shot in the head with a ball above the right ear. All witnesses to the wound or the aftermath in later life said that he "lost the ear". It is still a mystery as to whether the wound took the ear off entirely, or if it was purely his loss of hearing in that ear. After he was shot during the battle, he had his head wrapped in bandages, and continued to fight rather than fall out.

## After the War

William Walter proceeded to move north to the Pierson area from the Michigan-Indiana border where he had grown up. He pursued work and business in lumber as many were known to do during that period of time. Later he moved to the Robinson Township, Ottawa County area to farm for several years. Eventually, William Walter moved into Grand Haven, and was quite active in town and was well known as a Civil War Veteran there. He joined the Weatherwax GAR Post No. 75 holding several Offices including Chaplain and Junior Vice Commander. Comrade Walter would have definitely known Robert Finch our namesake after being in the same GAR Post.

William Walter continued to love riding horses throughout his post-Army life. He had the honor of being appointed the first rural mail carrier in Ottawa County, as well as holding RFD Route 1 in Ottawa County for 5 years when the Postal Service started rural mail delivery. He died at his home (which still stands today in downtown Grand Haven) on Fourth Street in Grand Haven in November 1913 survived by his wife and two sons.

## Today

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. William Walter is buried in Lake Forest Cemetery in Grand Haven. He is one of the featured Veterans during the Civil War Veterans Tour that has been conducted at the Cemetery and highlighted in the media ([http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/05/why\\_grand\\_haven\\_cemetery\\_tour.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/grand-rapids/index.ssf/2012/05/why_grand_haven_cemetery_tour.html)).

Mr. William Walter, who has been appointed mail carrier on the first mail route established out of this city has a war record that is replete with exciting experiences. He went to the front with an Indiana regiment and saw hard fighting. He was taken prisoner and with hundreds of others was being conveyed far into the enemy's country in a box car to be placed in a rebel prison. Mr. Walter, one day got the car door open and jumped out, making his escape through 400 miles of rebel country. On two occasions he managed to confiscate rebel horses which greatly aided him in his long journey. He had many narrow escapes from capture, but finally reached the union lines. Mr. Walter afterward participated in Stoneman's raid and was captured, but by a clever ruse escaped and was within five miles of the union lines when he was again caught. Again, however, his lucky star asserted itself and he made his third and last escape. When mustered out Mr. Walter was a first lieutenant.

## VETERAN SOLDIER ANSWERS LAST CALL

William Walter, a well known veteran of the Civil war, died early this morning at his home in this city, following a long period of ill health. Mr. Walter had been confined to his bed but three days, however. Mr. Walter had been a resident of Grand Haven for about seven years, but previous to that time he had been a resident of Robinson township, where he occupied his farm for a number of years. He had the distinction of having been the first rural mail carrier appointed in Ottawa County, when the rural free delivery service was installed in this county. For five years he held the appointment as carrier on R. F. D. No. 1.

Mr. Walter was born in Sackett's Harbor, N. Y., October 6, 1835. He moved to Fremont, Ind. with his parents when still a mere boy, and at the outbreak of the Civil war, he enlisted as a member of the Fifth Indiana Volunteer cavalry and served through the war. Mr. Walter was captured by the Confederates and spent time in both of the Southern prisons of Charlottesville and Salisbury.

It was while he was confined in the Salisbury military prison that he passed through a thrilling experience of an escape. In company with other Federal prisoners, he escaped into the mountains where he remained in hiding for many days, suffering many hardships until he could make his way into the Union lines.

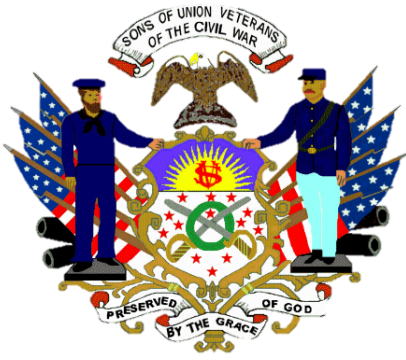
Mr. Walter enlisted in the army as a private and had attained a commission as first lieutenant when the war closed.

At the close of the war, Mr. Walter came to Michigan and engaged in the lumbering business at Pierson, Mich. From Pierson he came to Robinson township, and seven years ago he moved to Grand Haven, where he has lived ever since, and where he has made many strong and true friends. He was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and when he was able he took an active part in everything of interest to the Civil war veterans.

Mr. Walter is survived by his wife and two sons, Harry A. Walter and Arthur G. Walter. Funeral services will be held at the home on Fourth street Friday afternoon at 2:30.

Above: Grand Haven Tribune 25 May 1901  
Note: William Walter was a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant

Right: Grand Haven Tribune 04 November 1913



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Robert Finch Camp No. 14 – Traverse City  
Department of Michigan  
[www.robertfinch14.org](http://www.robertfinch14.org)  
Ted Mattis, Commander



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