



# 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

Special Edition 2018  
Vol. 5 Issue 2

Camp Officers 2018

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## The Oakwood 11

On 19 May 2018, Robert Finch Camp No. 14, Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9, along with various local, state, and federal organizations and community members from the greater Grand Traverse Area assembled in Traverse City's Oakwood Cemetery under weeping skies to honor the memory of 11 Union Veterans that had been long forgotten over a century in time. These men have come to be collectively known as "The Oakwood 11". They now have their grave markers as a tribute to their lives and service. This special edition of The Sharpshooter serves as a pictorial documentation of that special day. - Ed.



- Caleb Bennett** – Company I, 5th Michigan Cavalry
- Edmund Beavis** – Company H, 1st Michigan Light Artillery
- John Crotty** – Company D, 3rd Michigan Cavalry
- Charles Elmer Devall** – Company F, 3rd Michigan Cavalry
- William H. Earls** – Company F, 76th New York Infantry & Company G, 147th New York Infantry
- Henry H. Ferguson** – Company K, 101st Indiana Infantry
- Cornelius Jordan** – Company C, 37th Illinois Infantry
- George H. Reeves** – Company D, 3rd New York Light Artillery
- Stephen F. Smith** – Company B, 11th Pennsylvania Infantry
- Daniel F. Stamp** – Company E, 13th Michigan Infantry
- Mortimer VanHyning** – Company G, 29th Ohio Infantry



Where not denoted within, pictures courtesy of Ms. Peggy Zinn

Above: Plot 241, Oakwood Cemetery – pre-ceremony (picture by Suzann Lanstra)



# 2018 Camp 14 Meeting and Event Schedule

Camp Officers 2017  
continued

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May 19	Oakwood Cemetery Ceremony - 10AM Traverse City, MI
June 13	Social Meeting 6 - 8PM, Incredible Mo's
July 14	Camp Picnic & Meeting, Kaleva VFW Post 6333 12 - 5PM
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

## Camp 14 Memorial Day Events - Pg. 3

### Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City Opens the Oakwood 11 Ceremony



CGAS Traverse City was highly involved with the Oakwood 11 Ceremony. Despite the low cloud ceiling, the USCG provided a MH-60T helicopter to flare up and over at the cemetery to signal the beginning of the ceremony.

Additionally, the USCG provided an honor guard for the event on site.

**Left:** An MH-60T Jayhawk helicopter from Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City flares up and over at the beginning of the Oakwood 11 Ceremony. Picture by Peggy Zinn.



# 2018 Memorial Day Events

Camp No. 14 and Auxiliary No. 9 members attended various Memorial Day ceremonies throughout their geographical area. Several pictures are included of a few of the events as submitted to the Editor.



**Above L-R** – PAP Mary Rose, AP Lisa Smith, Sr Lorraine Jones, CC Ted Mattis, PDC David Smith, Chaplain Joseph Conger, Sr Debra Downey, and PAP Dorothy Rongey at the Grand Traverse Area Veterans Memorial in Traverse City



**Above L-R** – AP Lisa Smith, PDC Dale Aurand, CC Ted Mattis, and PAP Dorothy Rongey at the annual Linwood Cemetery Memorial Ceremony in Long Lake Township on the Friday prior to Memorial Day observed.



**Above** – MVAO Calvin Murphy (also VFW Post 6333 Commander) at the Kaleva Memorial Day Ceremonies, with Brother Rick Schafer (also of VFW Post 6333) looking on.



**Above L-R** – Radio Personality & Master of Ceremonies Jack O'Malley, MVAO Calvin Murphy, PDC Dale Aurand, and PCC George Goodrich.



**Far Left L-R** – Michigan State Police Trooper Sgt. Scott McManus and Retired Deputy Sheriff and CWMO Scott Schwander

**Near Left L-R** – Michigan State Police Trooper Sgt. Scott McManus, MVAO Calvin Murphy, and Michigan State Police Trooper Dave Skorki



# Local Montessori School Aids Camp No. 14 with Cemetery Preparations and Participates in the Oakwood 11 Ceremony

*Pictures by Peggy Zinn*

The Children's House Montessori School in Traverse City provided aid on various days prior to the ceremony performing clean-up activities and placing US flags along the roadways and at Veterans' graves throughout Oakwood Cemetery. Additionally, a student choir from The Children's House performed a wonderful rendition of America the Beautiful at the ceremony.



**Right:** PAP Dorothy Rongey and Teacher Tree Sturman placing US flags at the GAR Plot 241.

**Below:** CWMO Schwander and Brother Ribby lead students in placing US flags.

**Above:** AP Lisa Smith, Br. Jim Ribby, and CWMO Scott Schwander with students of The Children's House Montessori School placing US flags before the weekend of the ceremony.



**Right:** GAR Plot 155 after US flags were placed at each Veteran's gravesite.

**Below:** PDC Davis taking pictures of the students and teacher Tree Sturman along with Brother Ribby placing US flags at the GAR Plot 241.



**Above:** Brother Walker Schwander with students of The Children's House Montessori School placing US flags before the weekend of the ceremony.



# Setting the Stones and the Documentary

Oakwood Cemetery Sexton Branden Morgan and his crew spent considerable time setting the new VA headstones for 10 of the 11 Veterans, while moving the 11<sup>th</sup> Veteran's headstone to the correct location. Seen here is the setting of one of the 10 stones by Sexton Branden Morgan and his work crew, along with Documentary Filmmaker David Schock and his team (Thom Bell - Photography & Jay Round - Audio) that were in attendance. Mr. Schock known for his excellent documentary viewed on PBS "The Road to Andersonville" is in the process of developing a documentary on the Oakwood 11 and the journey to its culmination at the 19 May 2018 ceremony.



**Top Left :** Sexton Branden Morgan and crew begin to dig for setting the headstone of Comrade VanHyning along with CWMO Schwander, GRO Sawyer, Eagletown American Legion Post 120 Neal Horning, and Cherryland VFW Post 2780 Commander Bill Volkening.

**Top Right:** CWMO Scott Schwander being interviewed by Documentary Filmmaker David Schock.

**Middle Left:** Sexton Branden Morgan and crew setting Mortimer VanHyning's headstone into the ground.

**Middle Right:** Mortimer VanHyning's new VA headstone.

**Left:** CWMO Schwander cleaning headstones in preparation for the big day.

**Right:** AP Photojournalist John Russell talking with Sexton Branden Morgan.



# Setting the Stones and the Documentary cont'd



**Top Left :** Sexton Branden Morgan and crew relocating Comrade Stamp's headstone to its correct gravesite.

**Top Right :** Sexton Branden Morgan and crew begin to open the ground to place Stamp's headstone with PDC Aurand looking on and David Schock's team filming.

**Middle Left:** David Schock interviewing CWMO Schwander.

**Middle Right:** David Schock played TAPS for everyone.

**Left:** Photojournalist John Russell taking pictures of the process of resetting Comrade Stamp's headstone in the correct location by Sexton Branden Sexton and his crew.



# Fire Departments Show Their Support



Traverse City Fire Department and Grand Traverse Metro Fire Department showed their respects to the Oakwood 11 by attending the ceremony and providing first responders in support. Their continued service to this community and patriotism to our Nation is greatly appreciated. Many thanks to TCFD Chief Tuller and GTMFD Chief Parker.

**Far Left:** TCFD Ladder 1 with the ladder raised near vertical and the US Flag in front of TCFD Station No. 2 directly across from Oakwood Cemetery

**Left:** TCFD Ladder 1 with the ladder raised over 8<sup>th</sup> Street pointing to the entrance of Oakwood Cemetery.

Pictures by Tina Schwander

## U.S. Army Reserve 182<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Company



**Above:** 182<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Company, U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers stand watch at the Oakwood 11 Ceremony (picture courtesy of Lisa Plamondon)

**Left:** A 182<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Company, U.S. Army Reserve HMMWV approaching the ceremony area in Oakwood Cemetery on 19 May 2018, Michigan State Police can be seen in the distance. (picture courtesy of Tina Schwander)





# Marching in to “Scotland the Brave”



**Top Left:** PDC & OOD Davis leads the Honor Guards in while Grand Traverse Pipes & Drums play “Scotland the Brave”.

**Top Right:** Grand Traverse Pipes & Drums play the Honor Guards in

**Middle Right:** CGAS Traverse City’s Honor Guard marches in.

**Lower Right:** Sons of Veterans Reserve, Camp 14 Guard, and Camp Friends (Dam Wambaugh and Bugles Across America Bugler Thelma Paul) file in.

**Middle Left:** TCPD & GTSD Honor Guard marches in. TCPD Chief O’Brien was also in attendance.

**Bottom Left:** Sons of Veterans Reserve, Camp 14 Guard, and Camp Friends (Dam Wambaugh and Bugles Across America Bugler Thelma Paul) advance.



# The Oakwood 11 Ceremony Begins...



**Top Left:** Master of Ceremonies PDC David Smith welcomes the community.

**Center Left:** PDC Smith applauds the Children's House Montessori School Choir, and prepares to introduce Keynote Speaker, U.S. Representative Jack Bergman, Lt. Gen. USMC (ret.)

**Bottom Left:** PAP Dorothy Rongey reads A Psalm of Life by Longfellow, while Brothers of Camp 14 look on.

**Top Right:** The Childrens House Montessori School Choir sings America the Beautiful.

**Center Right:** Keynote Speaker, U.S. Representative Jack Bergman, Lt. Gen. USMC (ret.), giving a touching speech of tribute to the Oakwood 11 Veterans.

**Bottom Right:** The TCPD/GTCSD Honor Guard and the USCG Air Station Traverse City Honor Guard with Bugles Across America Bugler Thelma Paul.

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# Oakwood 11 Ceremony *cont'd*



**Top Left:** CWMO Schwander reading the muster roll of honor of the Oakwood 11 Veterans.

**Top Right:** Behind the McPherson GAR Post 18 Plot 241 Monument at the ceremony.

**Center Right:** Co. A, 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry, SVR; Camp 14 Guard, and Camp 14 friend Dan Wambaugh.

**Above:** Sister Debra Downey in mourning with the Grand Traverse Pipes & Drums looking on.

**Right:** Camp 14 Bard, Brother Jim Ribby giving an enthusiastic reading for the Ceremony.



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# Oakwood 11 Ceremony *cont'd*



**Top Left:** Sister Lorraine Jones with the VFW Auxiliary and the Grand Traverse Pipes & Drums.

**Top Right:** Members of the American Legion Riders.

**Center Left:** Camp Commander Ted Mattis leading the 1917 Ritual with AP Lisa Smith in mourning looking on.

**Center Right:** Coast Guard Air Station Traverse City Honor Guard NCOIC during a prayer.

**Bottom Left:** Chaplain Joseph Conger reads a prayer within the 1917 Ritual, with AP Lisa Smith in mourning, and CC Ted Mattis and SVC John Lantzer.

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# Oakwood 11 Ceremony *cont'd*



**Top Left:** CC Mattis performing the Ritual.

**Top Right:** DC and SVR 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Payne posting the Guard, PCC George Goodrich per the Ritual.



**Center Left:** DC Payne placing the Symbols of the Soldier at the base of the McPherson GAR Post 18 Plot 241 Monument.

**Center Right:** Brothers Jim Jr. and Jim Sr. saluting after placing a wreath.

**Bottom Left:** Brothers Pat Lints and Noah Lints placing a rose.

**Bottom Right:** The Symbols of the Soldier



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# Oakwood 11 Ceremony *cont'd*



**Top Left:** Volleys fired by the combined SVR and Camp 14 Rifle Detail.

**Top Right:** GRO Sawyer reads the final muster roll of honor of the Oakwood 11.



**Center Left:** Behind the ceremony.

**Center Right:** BAA Bugler Thelma Paul plays Taps.



**Bottom Left:** NMC's Devan DePauw and Oakwood Cemetery Sexton Branden Morgan are each presented with GAR flag holders for their tireless efforts in support of Camp 14 and local Civil War Veterans.

**Top Right:** Mr. DePauw and Mr. Morgan with their GAR flag holders.

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# Oakwood 11 Ceremony *cont'd*



**Above L-R:** The Rifle Detail – DC R. Payne, PDC Aurand, PCC B. Skillman, Br. C. Skillman, Br. Hantusik, PCC McInerney, PCC Shull, Br. Martin, Br. Ribby, D. Wambaugh, PCC Goodrich, and PDC Davis.



**Above L-R:** Frances Finch Aux. 9 – PAP Dorothy Rongey, PAP Mary Rose, API Deb Downey, AP Lisa Smith, and API Lorraine Jones (picture courtesy of Lisa Plamondon).

## Extensive Media Coverage

This most special event was covered extensively before, during, and after the ceremony by numerous outlets. These included coverage in television and print media, as well as by the aforementioned documentary filmmaker David Schock. In fact, this ceremony made the front page of the Detroit News on Memorial Day providing the honored Veterans, Camp 14, and the SUVCW coverage across the state of Michigan and nationally. The reader may review some of the noted coverage at the provided links below.

VIDEO OF THE ENTIRE CEREMONY (COURTESY OF PEN ULTIMATE LTD):

<https://vimeo.com/277798158>

DETROIT NEWS ARTICLE:

<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2018/05/28/civil-war-soldiers-forgotten-no-more-traverse-city/637129002/>

TV 7&4 WPBN/WTOM COVERAGE:

<http://upnorthlive.com/news/local/eleven-civil-war-vets-finally-honored-with-headstones>

RECORD EAGLE NEWSPAPER ARTICLE:

[http://www.record-eagle.com/news/local\\_news/restoring-honor/article\\_23cb22a9-5d6c-54b3-ab69-8e09bd2b0984.html](http://www.record-eagle.com/news/local_news/restoring-honor/article_23cb22a9-5d6c-54b3-ab69-8e09bd2b0984.html)

TV9&10 WWTV/WWUP COVERAGE:

<http://www.9and10news.com/2018/05/29/northern-michigan-man-gives-back-civil-war-veterans-unique-way/>

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





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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