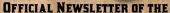
THE

SHARPSHOOTER



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

2018 Abraham Lincoln Commander-in-Chief Award — Most Outstanding Camp of the Order



Christmas 2018 Vol. 5 Issue 4

Camp Officers 2018-19

Commander: Jno. Lantzer ajlantzer@yahoo.com

Sr. Vice Commander: Dav. Ramsey daveramsey77@gmail.com

Jr. Vice Commander: Jas. Ribby jimribbyrc@gmail.com

Secretary:

Dav. Smith, LM, PDC wyattusmagnus@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Dale Aurand, LM, PDC daurand321@vahoo.com

Patriotic Instructor: H.G. Smith docsmith99@yahoo.com

Chaplain:

Theo. Mattis tedmattis@charter.net

Camp Council: Geo. Goodrich, PCC Gc_Goodrich@yahoo.com

Wm. Skillman, PCC skillmans@aol.com

Jan White, PCC stocktrac@charter.net

Color Bearer: Jan White, PCC stocktrac@charter.net

Guide:

Richard Schafer schafer_richard@yahoo.com

Guard: John Milks no e-mail

Camp No. 14 Elects & Installs 2018-2019 Officers

On 10 November 2018, Camp 14 elected a new slate of officers for the 2018-2019 term. Department Commander Rob Payne was in attendance to install the newly elected and appointed slate.

Brother John Lantzer was elected as the 56th Camp Commander of Robert Finch Camp No. 14, taking over the helm from outgoing Commander Ted Mattis.

Brother Lantzer has previously served the Camp as Chaplain, Junior Vice Commander, and Senior Vice Commander. Additionally, Brother



Above: CC John Lantzer, DC Rob Payne, and PCC Ted Mattis after Officer Installations

Continued on Page 2

Atwood Catholic Cemetery Rededicated



Above: (L-R): Chaplain Conger, Br. W. Schwander, Bishop Raica, JVC Ramsey, CWMO Schwander, GRO Sawyer, PDC Aurand, PDC Smith, and CC Mattis (missing from picture, Br. Ribby)

After extensive efforts by Banks Township in Antrim County to repair fallen gravestones and perform clean-up within the Atwood Catholic Cemetery, township officials asked Robert Finch Camp No. 14 to perform a cemetery rededication The ceremony ceremony. was held on 25 October 2018 at 4PM (1600). Ceremony Coordinator was CWMO Scott Schwander, with PDC David Smith as Master of Ceremonies, and CC Theodore Mattis in command.

Continued on Pg. 8

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Camp Officers 2018-19 continued

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

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

Boy Scout Coordinator: Jos. Conger K2rider@chartermi.net

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

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

War Memorials Officer: Scott Schwander kokopellischwander@yahoo.com

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

Recruiting Officer: Jos. Conger K2rider@chartermi.net

THE SHARPSHOOTER Editor David Smith, LM, PDC wyattusmagnus@gmail.com

2019 Camp 14 Meeting and Event Schedule

January 12

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

More dates to be released in early 2019.

Camp 14 Elects & Installs... cont'd

Lantzer served the Department of Michigan as the substitute Chaplain for the Mackinac Island Civil War Monument Dedication service in 2017, delivering the ritual with spirit and a steady booming voice of authority.

Outgoing PCC Ted Mattis has much to be proud of for his two terms in command of Camp 14. During PCC Mattis' administration Camp 14 conducted several ceremonies including the largest in Camp history. Also during PCC Mattis' term, Camp 14 received several accolades on the Department and National levels. Many of these are outlined in CC Lantzer's Commander's Corner found later in this issue. A job well done PCC Mattis!

The remaining elected and appointed officers can be found on the list of Camp Officers on the left of pages 1 & 2.

CWMO Schwander receives Community Service Award from DAR Job Winslow Chapter

On 17 November, CWMO Scott Schwander gave a presentation on headstone cleaning and the various techniques involved and Native American Veterans that he has researched to the Job Winslow DAR Chapter in Traverse City. At this meeting, Brother Schwander received the 2018 Community Service Award from the Chapter.

Below Left (L-R): Chapter Registrar Lisa Smith, CWMO Schwander, and Chapter Regent Mary Ellen Byrne.

Below Right: Brother Scott discussing Native American Veterans to the DAR Chapter.





Camp No. 14 Welcomes New Brothers



During the November meeting, two Brothers were initiated per the ritual by Commander Mattis and Chaplain Conger, with PDC Davis serving as Guide. Brothers Keith Graham and John Milks join the Camp and are both Veterans (above L-R standing before the Camp). Brother Graham is a US Army retiree and Brother Milks is a USMC Combat Veteran. Welcome Brothers!

GRO Sawyer Receives the Sharpshooter Award



During PCC Mattis' term, he conceived an annual award to be given to the most outstanding Brother of the Camp. For this, the second of such award to be given, PCC Mattis presented the Sharpshooter Award to Graves Registration Officer John Sawyer. The award was given for his performance during the 2018 term, especially in the pursuit of new gravestones and the related research needed.

Brother Sawyer's work has been tireless, and his passion to see that our noble ancestors receive their long overdue recognition at their final resting place is readily apparent to all that know him.

Congratulations GRO Sawyer on receiving the 2018 Sharpshooter Award!

Christmas During the Civil War (Reprint)

Submitted by Br. Don Londo

Christmas in 1850's America was a joyous time for families. Though it was not yet a national holiday, American families celebrate 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 spend 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 to 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 the 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 the 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.

Ancestor Spotlight

Submitted by David S. Smith, PDC

Henry Smith

148th Ohio Infantry, Co. I G-G Grandfather of David Smith, PDC

Henry Smith was born 18 May 1838 in Ohio to Paul and Elizabeth (Morgan) Smith. He was raised in the Barlow, Ohio area of Washington County along with is siblings: Sarah, David, Mary Ann, Phebe, Adaline, Aneliza, Church, and Charles. He married Tamar A. Morris in 1861. Henry passed away 26 February 1910, in Little Hocking, in the Belpre area of Ohio (Washington County).

Henry volunteered for service with the 148th Ohio Infantry, Company I, in 1864 along with his brother-in-laws William Morris and Harvey Morris. Three of his other brother-in-laws, John, Elza, and Elwood Morris had volunteered for the 77th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Elza and Elwood passed away in 1862 due to disease during their service to the Union.

Henry's younger brother David, was a trooper in the 7th Ohio Cavalry (Co. H), the "River Regiment". David was captured in eastern Tennessee, and sent to Andersonville Prison. David did not survive, and died of starvation and other effects from his imprisonment.

The 148th OVI was a 100 day regiment, and saw service at City Point, VA, where U.S. Grant's field headquarters were located during the Petersburg Campaign. The biggest adversity that the men of the 148th faced was on 09 August 1864 when a large explosion occurred on an ammunition barge docked at City Point. The explosion was the work of a time bomb placed by a member of the Confederate Secret Service. As many as 58 people lost their lives from the massive explosion.



Above: Henry & Tamar Smith in front of their home in Portersfield, Washington County, Ohio (picture courtesy of James Radabaugh)



Above: PDC David Smith at the gravesite of his G-G Grandparents, Henry and Tamar Smith in Rockland Cemetery in Belpre, Ohio.

A New York Times article from 1864 on the City Point explosion can be found at: http://www.nytimes.com/1864/08/13/news/the-explosion-at-city-point-particulars-of-the-disaster-list-of-casual-ties-c.html?pagewanted=all

A modern historical article on the explosion at City Point: https://rvanews.com/features/civil-war-sabotage-at-city-point/115973

continued on Page 6

Ancestor Spotlight cont'd

Henry was on a train located proximate to the ammunition barge at the wharf. The explosion sent his body into an open field area. He woke up several hours later in the field hospital, not knowing what had happened, but was injured significantly. Due to the state of medical knowledge at the time, the doctors' opinion was that he was not injured badly because he did not have bad wounds that punctured his flesh. However, based on descriptions throughout his pension records, he suffered considerable internal injuries from the concussive blast effects of the explosion. As time went by while he received a military pension, doctors understanding of said blast effects were improved – this can be seen from their notes as they went from being doubters in the beginning to believers of his injuries by the end.

Henry was a Comrade of A.H. Browning GAR Post No. 673 in Little Hocking, near Belpre in Washington County, OH. He served as Chaplain, and was assigned to ensure that graves were properly decorated in area cemeteries for Decoration Day. He was in Post No. 673 along with his daughter-in-law's father, grandfather, and great-uncle (that daughter-in-law is Brother Smith's great grandmother).

History of the 148th OVI

This Regiment, organized as a Ohio National Guard unit, formed for one hundred days service, May 18, 1864, under Colonel Thomas W. Moore, and left for the field May 23d, by rail, when an accident occurred to the train resulting in the death of three and the serious injury of three others. The Regiment moved to Washington via Harper's Ferry, then to White House and Bermuda Hundred, where it served in the trenches until the last of August. It returned to Ohio and was mustered out September 14, 1864.

From Dyer's Compendium

148th Regiment Infantry. Organized at Marietta, Ohio, and mustered in May 17, 1864. Left State for Harper's Ferry, W. Va., May 23; thence moved to Washington, D.C., June 1, and to White House Landing, Va., June 9. Moved to Bermuda Hundred, Va., June 11, and to City Point June 15. Attached to 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, 10th Army Corps, Army of the James. Duty at City Point till August 29. Moved to Marietta September 5, and mustered out September 14, 1864. Lost during service 2 Officers and 37 Enlisted men by disease. Total 39.

Harper's Weekly - Christmas Eve 1863



Above: "Christmas Eve" - an illustration by Thomas Nast for Harper's Weekly, 03 January 1863.



Commander's Corner John Lantzer, CC

My Fellow Brothers and Camp 14 Comrades,

With the start of a new year we close out a very successful chapter in the Camp's history. I want to take some time and say thank you and job well done to our outgoing Camp 14 Commander Ted Mattis. In remembering the last few years under Br. Mattis' leadership several events and honors come to mind. First was the gathering of the Camp up in Petoskey to perform the George Seger gravestone dedication ceremony. Another was when the Camp formed over at Camp Grayling for the annual cannon shoot. It was during the command of Br. Mathis that Camp 14 Brothers were asked to play a significant role in the Department of Michigan's dedication of a new Civil War monument on Mackinac Island, as well as at the Grand Traverse Area Veterans Memorial Park for the dedication of the Gold Star Family monument. During Br. Mattis' 2 terms, the Camp received the Department of Michigan's Gov. Austin Blair Award, the Marshall Hope Award for the Best Newsletter in the National Order, and the Abraham Lincoln Commander-in-Chief's Award for the Best Camp in the National Order.



Not only do I remember these large events and honors, but Ted has always encouraged the Camp to gather for social events. For instance, there was a book swap and previously a show and tell and demonstration at the Kingsley Sportsman's Club, a summer picnic at the VFW Post in Kaleva, and social times that Brothers just gathered together over a meal and told stories and talked about life.

As I receive the baton from PCC Mattis, I am reminded that we belong to an active Camp, a strong Camp, and an energetic Camp, and this gives me great encouragement to press forward. There are mounds of grass and open skies that still cover Civil War Soldiers today, which still have not received the proper honor that is deserving of their sacrifice. Many are here, close to the homes that we live in every day. Places like Fife Lake Cemetery, South Boardman Cemetery, and Maple Lawn Cemetery in Boyne City hold within them the final resting places of Civil War Veterans that for decades have not had anyone stand at their headstones and really contemplate the sacrifice that was given. It will be my goal as your new Commander to continually reach outside of what is comfortable and easy for the Camp and try to experience in a small way what the opening ceremony describes as "they sacrificed both their lives and fortunes".

In conclusion, I want to ask the members of Robert Finch Camp No. 14 to take a look back and remember what brought you to this Camp. What thoughts and desires caused you to want to be a Camp 14 member? To participate in the remembrance of your ancestor and those that stood shoulder to shoulder with Him? Now it is my hope that with this memory fresh in our minds we will rededicate ourselves not only to be a participant but an "active participant" over the next year.





John Lantzer Commander - Robert Finch Camp No. 14 Department of Michigan - SUVCW

Atwood Rededication cont'd

In addition to the Brothers of Camp 14, Bishop Steven Raica of the Diocese of Gaylord blessed the cemetery and performed a final benediction.

Camp Bard Jim Ribby recited Civil War literary works including the Gettysburg Address as requested by Banks Township. Grand Traverse Pipes and Drums performed Amazing Grace, while Bugles Across America played Taps and the Star Spangled Banner.

Various current and past officials from Banks Township discussed the history of the cemetery along with the background of the project. Area American Legion members served as the rifle squad. Traffic control was performed by the Antrim County Sheriff, along with the local Fire Department.

The event was well attended, and Camp 14 had a wonderful opportunity to perform a unique ceremony. Many thanks to Banks Township and Atwood residents and officials for a successful day.





Above: PDC Dale Aurand guarding the grave of a Union Veteran. **Left:** Bishop Raica blessing the cemetery.

KNOWN UNION VETERANS RESTING IN ATWOOD CATHOLIC CEMETERY:

Francis Arno, 1821-1876, Co. K, $153^{\rm rd}$ New York Infantry Peter Moblo, 1837-1895, Co. F, $2^{\rm nd}$ New Hampshire Infantry Wolford LaDue, 1845-1927 Co. I, $26^{\rm th}$ New York Cavalry

Gold Star Family Ceremony



Above (L-R): MVAO Murphy, Br. Ribby, PDC Aurand, and two Michigan ARNG Honor Guard members (missing from picture, PDC Smith).

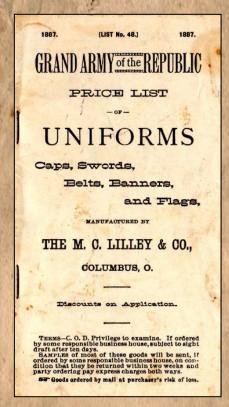


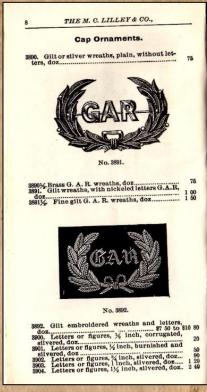
On 30 September 2018, the Grand Traverse community came together to honor our Gold Star Mothers and Families at the annual National Gold Star Mothers Day. Camp 14 members actively participated in the ceremony under the direction of MVAO Calvin Murphy along with other area Veterans organizations, the Michigan Army National Guard, and Guardsmen Coast from **CGAS** Traverse City.

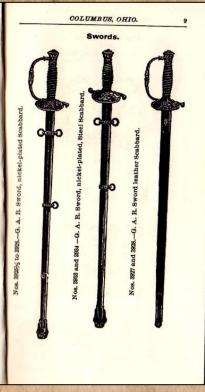
THE SHARPSHOOTER - Christmas 2018, Page 8

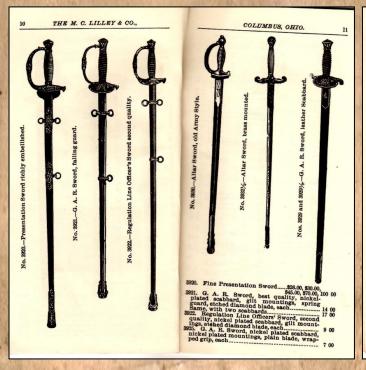
GAR Merchandise from 1887

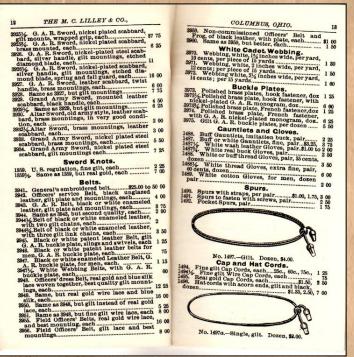
From time to time, The Sharpshooter will include pages from the 1887 catalog from The M. C. Lilley & Co., of Columbus, Ohio. This catalog was provided by Camp No. 14 friend and historian, George Scheck. This is the second installment. Enjoy.











Presidents, Civil War, and Christmas

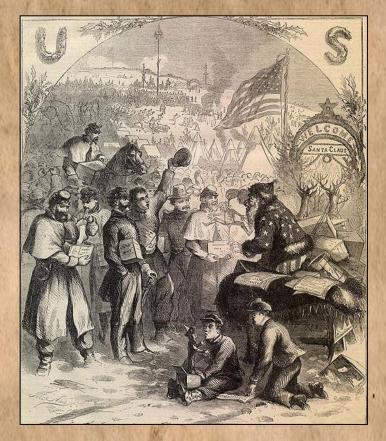
A few fun facts regarding Christmas, and Presidents that were involved in the Civil War:

Christmas was not an official holiday in the United States until President Ulysses S. Grant made it one in 1870.

On 22 December 1864, General Sherman sent President Lincoln a telegram: "I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the city of Sayannah..."

President Benjamin Harrison, a Colonel during the Civil War, was the first President to bring a Christmas tree to the White House (1889). The tree was decorated by President Harrison's family with candles and toys.

Right: The cover of Harper's Weekly in January 1863, depicted Father Christmas also known as Santa Claus. The illustration by Thomas Nast was commissioned by President Abraham Lincoln.



Grand Traverse County Deputy Sheriff's Union Donates Funds for D2



Above: Deputy Sheriff Wolf and CWMO Schwander

Just in time for Christmas, the Grand Traverse County Deputy Sheriff's Union has donated 500 dollars towards the purchase of D2 cleaning solution to use in cemeteries within Grand Traverse County for Veterans' headstones and memorials. CWMO Schwander (a retired Grand Traverse County Deputy Sheriff) received the check from Deputy Sheriff Wolf on 20 December 2018, and proceeded to travel to Holland Supply in Holland to obtain 15 gallons of D2 on the same day. Many thanks to the Deputy Sheriff's Union and CWMO Schwander!

THE SHARPSHOOTER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OLDEST CAMP IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN



Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9

Frances Finch Aux. Elects 2019 Officers

At the 10 November 2018 meeting, Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 elected and installed officers for the 2018-2019 term. The Officers are listed in the Officers

Box at left.

2018-19 Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 Officers

President: Dorothy Rongey, PAP
Vice President: Mary Rose, PAP
Secretary: Lisa Smith, PAP
Treasurer: Lisa Smith, PAP
Pat. Instructor: Debra Downey
Council #1: Darlene Hinkley
Council #2: Karen Goodrich, PAP

Council #3: Lorraine Jones Chaplain: Mary Rose, PAP

Historian: All Sisters of Aux. No. 9
Press Corrs.: Mary Rose, Lisa Smith
Girl Scout Comm. Lorraine Jones, Chair
Girl Scout Comm. Emily Breaugh, PAP
Counselor: Mary Rose, PAP

Above Right (L-R): PAP Lisa Smith, PAP Emily Breaugh, PAP Dorothy Rongey, PAP Mary Rose, Council Lorraine Jones, Pat. Instructor Debra Downey, and PAP Karen Goodrich at the November 2018 meeting.

Right: New PAP Lisa Smith and newly elected and installed Auxiliary President Dorothy Rongey, PAP.

Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9 is busy in planning activities for 2019. More information to come.



Merry Christmas! from Auxiliary No. 9





GAR Posts in Grand Traverse County

McPherson Post 18 - Traverse City Organized: 1881 Disbanded: 1929 Frank Fowler Post 286 - Fife Lake Organized: 1884 Disbanded: 1912 James Wadsworth 297 - Kingsley Organized: 1885 Disbanded: 1896 Bowen Post 338 - Cedar Run Organized: unknown Disbanded: unknown Albert Stimson Post 435 - Summit City Organized: 1897 Disbanded: 1899

GAR Posts in Leelanau County

Murray Post 168 - Maple City Organized: 1883 Disbanded: 1913 Woolsey Post 399 - Northport Organized: 1889 Disbanded: 1921





Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Robert Finch Camp No. 14 – Traverse City Department of Michigan www.robertfinch14.org John Lantzer, Commander



THE

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

Alerry Christmas from the Brothers of Robert Finch Camp Ao. 14

