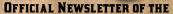
THE

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



Winter 2019 Vol. 6 Issue 1

Camp Officers 2018-19

Commander: Jno. Lantzer ajlantzer@yahoo.com

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Chaplain: Theo. Mattis tedmattis@charter.net

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Jan White, PCC stocktrac@charter.net

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

Guide: Robt. O'Hara bobrenoh@aol.com

Guard: John Milks no e-mail

Camp No. 14 Initiates New Member in January



Above (L-R): Installation: CC Jno. Lantzer, Br. Geo. Scheck, Chaplain Theo. Mattis, and Guide Robt O'Hara

At the 12 January 2019 Camp meeting, Camp 14 initiated a new Brother, George Scheck. The initiation was conducted per SUVCW rituals by Commander Lantzer, Chaplain Mattis, and Guide O'Hara.

Brother Scheck derives his right of membership from his Great-Grandfather Matthew VanAmburg of the 8th Illinois Cavalry, Co. B.

Brother Scheck has extensive experience in historical reenacting (French & Indian War, American Revolution, Civil War, and World War II). Additionally, Brother Scheck has incredible expertise in creating uniforms, equipment, and clothing from various eras, including owning a business in this area. A highlight of this work was Brother Scheck making British uniforms for the movie The Last of the Mohicans. His fine work is highly detailed and researched, and he is always glad to share his knowledge. During the summer, George gave three highly attended programs at the Traverse Area District Library hosted by the Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9. The programs covered uniforms and equipment of the Patriots of the American Revolution, the Loyalists of the American Revolution, and of the soldiers the Civil War.

Camp 14 welcomes its new Brother!

Camp Officers 2018-19 continued

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

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

Recruiting Officer: Jos. Conger K2rider@chartermi.net

BHARPSHOOTER Editor David Smith, LM, PDC wyattusmagnus@gmail.com



Richard Rizzio, Sr.

Continued on pg. 8

2019 Camp 14 Meeting and Event Schedule

March 09

Camp Meeting Elks Lodge #323, Traverse City, MI 11:30AM (1130)

More dates to be released in early 2019.

The Sharpshooter Moves to 6 Issues Annually

To better keep the Camp and Camp friends abreast of the most recent news and features of interest, The Sharpshooter is moving to 6 issues annually instead of 4. The length of each newsletter will vary with the increased amount of issues per year. The Editor reserves the right to change to more or fewer issues as necessary throughout the year.

Grand Traverse Area Battle of the Bulge Veteran Passes Away

On Sunday 23 December 2018, Traverse City, Michigan, and the Nation lost one of its noble war heroes and a wonderful man in Richard Rizzio, Sr. Mr. Rizzio known to many of us in the area as "Cupcake" was a well known figure in the area, actively engaged in patriotic causes and Veteran events.

Obituary: "Richard was born in Chicago, on March 4, 1925 to Thomas and Phyllis (Truesch) Rizzio.

In July 1943 Richard was drafted into the United States Army where he honorably served his country during WWII. He arrived in Europe the following year to serve as a radio operator with the 274th Armored Field Artillery Battalion during the Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded the Silver Star and Purple Heart. He was a member of VFW Post #2780, the American Legion, GTA Veterans Coalition, Battle of the Bulge Association, and Rolling Thunder. Richard was honorably discharged from the United States Army in 1945 and made his way back to Chicago, IL where he met his future wife, Marie Virginia Aguzino, and on August 20, 1949 the two were married.

Richard and Marie started their family of four in Crystal Lake. It was when Richard took a job selling Folgers coffee that he and Marie moved the family to Arlington Heights. The Rizzio family then found their way to Marquette where they settled and raised their family. Every Sunday morning, you could find the Rizzio family in the same pew at First United Methodist Church where they were members for years.

As Richard and Marie settled into retirement, they made the decision to move to Traverse City, where they were active members at Central United Methodist Church. Richard enjoyed hunting, fishing, and cooking as he and Marie competed in many cooking competitions together across the United States.

Richard is survived by his sons; Richard Jr. (Joanie) Rizzio, Troy, Kenneth (Barbara) Rizzio, Holland, Michael (Patti) Rizzio, Marquette, daughter, Lynn (Ted) Kirkpatrick, Gwinn, grandchildren; Kathy (Rob) Mertz, Sarah (Bernie) Garlock, Stephanie (Derek) Huizinga, Chris Kirkpatrick, Lindsey (Nathan) Lee, and Eric Rizzio. Richard is also survived by his 5 great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Richard was preceded in death by his parents, wife, Marie, brothers; Raymond, Donald, and sisters, Vivian and Jean."

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George Guild, Alpena's Forgotten Soldier

Submitted by Brother Don Londo

November 4, 1865, Catherine Guild received a chilling form letter at the Alpena Post Office. The letter was from Harewood Hospital, Washington D.C. It read:

"Madam

I have to inform you of the death of George Guild Priv. of Co. D 16th Regiment, Mich. Vols. Cause of death Gunshot wound right pectoral muscle Remarks: His grave is marked. His body may be taken home

The date of his death and all information necessary to enable you to get his pay, bounty etc. can be obtained only from the Adjutant General. I can give you no further information.

Very respectfully,

Your Obt. Servant,

L.B.M. Falls, Chaplain U.S.A."

The chaplains in the hospitals usually had a few kind words for the grieving widow. I could find no record of comfort for Catherine Guild and her teenage son, Andrew. This is strange considering the proximity of his death to President Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.

Catherine did not claim his body. Creditable evidence suggests that George Guild was buried in Virginia, just outside of Washington D.C. at Arlington National Cemetery. On his headstone is inscribed the name of William Guild.

Arlington Cemetery comprises 624 acres on the site of Robert E. Lee's pre-Civil War mansion. During the Civil War, the Union Army seized Lee's home and land. In May 1864 the U.S. Government designated Arlington as a national military cemetery.

Catherine Carroll and George Guild were married at St. Thomas Church in Ann Arbor, Michigan on November 16, 1843. George was 20 years old at the time of their marriage. The couple's only child, Andrew, was born June 25, 1850. In the late 1850's the family relocated to Alpena, Michigan, somewhere in Alpena Township.

At age 40, George traveled to Alpena and enlisted in Co. D, 16th Michigan Infantry for 3 years. His enlistment date was March 5, 1864.

At that time the Civil War was in its third year, with no end in sight. The nation was growing war-weary. Recruiting soldiers was increasingly difficult. To counter the reluctance the Federal Government instituted draft and enlistment quotas for each county. As an incentive the Federal Government offered a \$300 bonus for new enlistees. Local governments also offered incentives. However, Alpena County did not offer a bonus until June 1864, 3 months after Guild's enlistment.

Continued Pg. 4

George Guild continued

Submitted by Br. Don Londo

George Guild joined the regiment at their winter quarters in Bealton Station, Virginia. Bealton was a small town in the northeast corner of Virginia. During the Civil War, the town was the starting depot for the Orange and Alexandria Railroad leading to all points south.

At the beginning of the conflict Bealton was in Confederate hands. Eventually Union forces drove them across the Rappahannock River and into Fredericksburg. Once the Federals established control of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, they were able to transport supplies, ammunition, and troops deep into southern Virginia.

At Bealton, George Guild spent the winter performing training exercises, picket duty, and camp chores.

In May, the 16th Regiment moved out of Camp joined Grant's Army of the Potomac May 5-6 they encountered Lee's Army of Northern Virginia for the first time. This was at a place of thick underbrush and forests, appropriately called the Wilderness. For two days 61,000 Confederates and 118,000 Union troops battled ferociously amidst fires and thick underbrush. In the end, Lee lost about 8,000 men and Grant close to 18,000. The 16th Michigan lost 35 men in the battle. Despite such an obvious defeat, Grant continued his push toward Richmond.

A few days later, the Federals encountered an entrenched 50,000 rebels at Spotsylvania Courthouse about 10-15 miles southeast of the Wilderness. The Union strength was approximately 100,000 men.

Grant decided that his numerical superiority and the absence of the Wilderness underbrush would carry the day. For the next 5 days, Grant hammered away at the entrenched Rebels without success. The fighting was vicious hand-to-hand with bayonets and rifle butts. The only rest that occurred was a heavy downpour which halted the action from May 13th until the 17th.

May 18th, the ground had dried out enough for action to resume. The Union soldiers still could not break through Lee's lines. On the 19th, Grant determined that his assaults could not succeed. He then maneuvered his forces around Lee and continued to march to Richmond.

Once again the price of battle was costly for both sides. Grand lost over 18,000 men and Lee about 10,000. Even though his losses were only 55% of the Federals, Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was beginning to be decimated. He could not sustain such losses and win the war. Meanwhile, Grant continued his march toward Richmond. Once more, Grant tried attacking Lee's defenses at Cold Harbor, northeast of Richmond. There he experienced the same results as at the Wilderness and Spotsylvania. It was now time for a different approach.

Grant's plan was to shut down the Confederate railroad and supply lines from Petersburg to Richmond and the entire South. By the time the Union forces reached the outskirts of Petersburg only 14,000 Rebel troops were inside the city to oppose Grant's 80,000. The Federals did not attack, but began siege preparations. Meanwhile, this gave Robert E. Lee time to reinforce the troops within the city until the Confederates equaled about ½ the enemy outside.

The Rebels also dug trenches. The two sides then faced each other off for the next 9 months. During his time Union troops skirmished and engaged in battles to dislodge the enemy from forts near railroad junctions. Such was the case with the Battle of Peebles Farm where the enemy was dug in behind fortifications of fallen trees and bushes (abatis). The Confederates were defending the Welden Railroad and the nearby Fort Harrison. The Union objective was to extend the siege line and cut off communication and supply lines to Richmond and the rest of the South.

Technically, this was an attempted siege. A siege is when the area is surrounded and all lines of communication are cut off. Since the Confederates still controlled railroads and forts with access to the city, this was not a true siege. September 30, 1864 the V Corps, which included the 16th Michigan, arrived in the area of the Peebles Farm, just southwest of Petersburg. Their strength was nearly 30,000.

Ancestor Spotlight

Submitted by Dale Aurand, PDC

George Purdy

4th Michigan Infantry, Co. H Cousin of Dale Aurand, PDC

George was born in Marathon Township, Lapeer County, MI on November 27, 1844. His parents were Abram Purdy (1818-1903) and Elizabeth (nee Aurand) Purdy (1819-1882). He had three brother, Oscar (1842-1844), Albert (1850-1930) and Henry (1860-1866).

George worked on his father's farm in Marathon Township. He was 5'9" tall with light complexion, light hair and blue eyes. On February 10, 1863, his father was drafted to serve in the army, but George became a substitute in his father's place. On February 11, 1863, George enlisted and mustered into the Fourth Michigan Infantry.

He went to Detroit to meet up with a group of others who traveled with Colonel Harrison Jeffords to join the regiment. They arrived in Falmouth, Virginia, on March 23, 1863. In May they fought at Chancellorsyille, Virginia, where they sustained heavy losses and casualties. Then they marched through Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania, to the small town of Gettysburg, where the regiment arrived in time for the second day's battle.

George Purdy was shot and killed at Gettysburg and while fighting in the Wheatfield. Almost thirty years after George's death, in July of 1892, his father applied for and received a pension as a dependent parent.

George is buried in Row A Grave #18, in the Michigan section of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg.

NOTE: In the years after the war Civil War veterans created an organization call the Grand Army of the Republic for camaraderie and to agitate for the betterment of life for the veterans; (such as pension legislation, hospitals for veterans, and care for widows and orphans). They were organized as "Posts" which were usually named after a former comrade who died in the war. There as one named after George. The George Purdy Post No. 363 was located in Otter Lake, Michigan and operated only a short time, perhaps only a year or two.



George Purdy





Above: George Purdy's final resting place at the National Cemetery at Gettysburg.



George Guild continued

Submitted by Br. Don Londo

When the attack commenced, the 16th Michigan was stationed in the center and front of the Union forces. As they moved forward, George Guild was struck by a minie ball in the right side of the chest. The force spun him around and knocked him down. The attack continued. His comrades overran the enemy and forced them to retreat. When the fighting stopped, stretcher bearers removed George and the rest of the wounded from the battlefield and transported them to Harewood Hospital in downtown Washington D.C.

Harewood Hospital consisted mostly of wooden barracks with 63 beds and a clean dining hall per building. All structures contained sufficient heating and ventilation. Each bed was equipped with mosquito netting.

George Guild languished here for about a month. November 3, 1864 he finally succumbed to his wounds and died.

His widow, Catherine and son Andrew remained in Alpena Township in the years after his death. How they managed to survive is difficult to say. She did not apply for a pension until 1866, two years after his death.

Finally on January 4, 1869, the pension was approved. The pension was \$8.00 a month retroactive to October 1, 1864, the day after he was wounded. Her pension money was forwarded to the Alpena Post Office. This is the last public record I could find of Catherine Guild.

For almost 145 years, George Guild's memory was erased from Alpena. In the last 5 years this was changed thanks to the Alpena Veterans' Council and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Today there is a stone on the Courthouse Lawn. On the Civil War stone are engraved the names of George Guild and Charles Kniling, Alpena Civil War, veterans who have died in the service of our nation. Inside the Courthouse their names are featured on the wall near the entrance. At Alpena's Flanders Field a cross commemorates his service as Alpena's first soldier to die on the battlefield.

For the past 153 years his headstone at Arlington National Cemetery identified him as William Guild.

Thanks to Rep. John Moolenaar and Karen Dunham Aguilera, Executive Director of Arlington Cemetery, a new headstone with George Guild replaces the old one (William Guild). All Arlington recrods have been changed. A century and a half error has finally been rectified and George Guild's memory is now complete.





Harewood Hospital, Washington D.C

Above: George Guild's new headstone at Section 13, Grave 6975, Arlington National Cemetery

Above: Bird's-Eye View of Harewood Hospital in Washington D.C.



Commander's Corner

John Lantzer, CC

Well Brothers, another year has come and gone and we have flipped the page to start anew. I just love this time of the year with the cold air and the fresh blanket of snow. It really does feel like the lowest point of the season. From here there are only better days to come, so what's to do. For me this time of the year is a time to dream. The upcoming year has so much potential. I imagine that day in July when the sun is warm and the smell of the freshly mowed grass is Heaven throughout the tall maples. The marble and granite monuments call out the names of those that lay in wait. I see a new stone of one that for years went unheralded and silent to those that passed by unaware that bravery and valor lay just feet from the beaten path. The sound of arms raised, the clash of powder discharged, and the call of the bugle brings attention to one that gave so much. To make this dream a reality, now while the snow is still coming down we need to act. We need to lay the blocks that will bring success to our dreams. Take a day and go for a ride. Travel to a small, out of the way, forgotten field covered by a blanket of snow. Call the township office and find out the name of the sexton. Take the first step on that path to bring honor and recognition to a Veteran you do not yet know.





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

MVAO Murphy appointed VFW National Aide-de-Camp

MVAO Calvin Murphy was appointed the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) National Aidede-Camp for the past two years. Brother Murphy also recently finished up a very successful term as Post Commander of the Bear Creek VFW Post 6333 in Kaleva.

As always MVAO Murphy is a shining star in our Camp, and our community, our state, and our Nation as he continues to diligently work on behalf of Veterans and their families, as well as our Veterans that did not come home.





Battle of the Bulge Veteran Passes Away cont'd

From "Coast Guard Great Lakes" - the official blog of the 9th Coast Guard District:

"Rizzio served in the 3rd Army under Gen. George S. Patton. He served as a specialist fourth class in radio communications with the 274th Armored Field Artillery Battalion. Rizzio entered the theater of war in Europe several weeks after D-Day, landing in Saint-Lo, France with the objective of liberating France.

In France, as part of a forward observer team, Rizzio's battalion was attacked by German troops manning three 88 mm cannons. Getting out of their jeep quickly, Rizzio and the officer in the car with him, Capt. George Olson, found themselves pinned down by German troops firing cannons from a hilltop. It was during his first fire fight that Rizzio received a Purple Heart Medal.

"My captain yelled at me to duck and when I did, shrapnel from an explosion near us whizzed past my head but hit me in the hand," said Rizzio.

"Olson saved my life that day."



Rizzio and Olson were able to return fire and quell the German troops saving not only their own skins but their whole battalion. This earned them each a Silver Star Medal. The Silver Star is the third highest military decoration for valor, awarded for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States.

Being a forward observer was a dangerous job. He was responsible for monitoring German locations and communicating them back to American units.

Then came the Battle of the Bulge, a major German offensive launched on the Western Front that caught the Allied forces in France, Belgium and Luxembourg off guard. It would be the largest and bloodiest battle fought by the United States in World War II, with more than 89,000 casualties. The Battle of the Bulge began Dec. 16, 1944, and lasted until Jan. 25, 1945.

During the Battle of the Bulge, Patton's 3rd Army was part of the force which came in to relieve the 101st Airborne Division.

"Our battalion consisted of 18 105 mm howitzers, and we fired a record 1,691 rounds on Christmas Day 1944," Rizzio said.

"The 4th Armored Battalion was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, and they in turn recommended us for the award. However, it never came through before the war ended. But, it's on record that we earned it."

Rizzio had five lucky moments in the war- moments that affected his life. When he speaks to people about the war, he tells them about his moments.

The first moment was missing the D-Day invasion of Normandy, though after that he was involved in four major campaigns in Europe.

One of the moments he laughs about is when a shell fired by a German 88 mm artillery cannon landed near him and four other men but didn't explode.

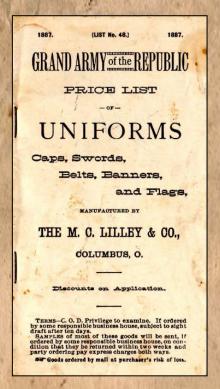
"We didn't know why it didn't blow up," he chuckles.

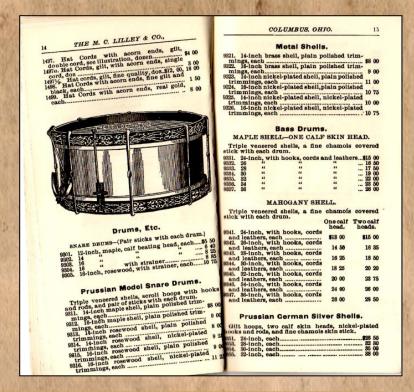
"Nor did we stay around to find out."

Another of the moments was during the Siege of Bastogne in December 1944, where he served a mile behind the front lines. This battle took the lives of 341 men, and more than 2,000 were missing or wounded.

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 third installment. Enjoy.



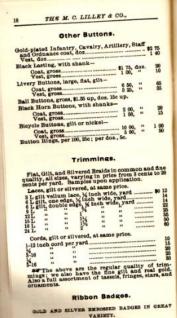


THE SHARPSHOOTER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE OLDEST CAMP IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN



COLUMBUR, OHIO.
9417. Infantry, brass, key of C, with B flat
erook, each sickel, key of C, with B flat 9417a, Infantry, nickel, key of C, with B flat crook, each
crook, each 317 9417b. Cavalry, brass, key of F, each 3 60 9417c. Cavalry, nickel, key of F, each 5 10 9418. Officers', brass, key of C, each 2 17 9418. Officers', loikel, key of C, each 2 10 9418b. Officers', copper, key of C, each 4 20 9418b. Officers', copper, key of C, each 4 75
Buttons.
We manufacture the various designs of buttons enumerated below in five qualities, as follows:
First quality, gross Coal. Vest.
Second quality gross 1 50 75
Fourth quality gross 1 00 50
Fifth quality, gross 30 1 30 275 30 30 1 30 1 30 1 30 35 15
The following designs of buttons are nearly al- ways in stock, in above qualities. In ordering please state QUALITY and DESIGN desired:
U. S. Infantry, gilt. U. S. Esgie, gilt.
U. S. Staff, glit. U. S. Staff, glit. U. S. Staff, sliver.
U. S. Artillery, gilt. Button of any State, gilt. Band, gilt.
Band, glit. Fire Department, nickel. Fire Department, gilt.
Police Department, gilt, C. P.; nickel, C. P.
Railway Mail Service sitt
G. A. R., gilt. Knights Templar, gilt. Knights Templar, silver
Anights Templar, silver. Sons of Veterans, gilt. Knights of Pythias, Uniform Bank allows
Knights of Pythias, Uniform Rank, silver. Knights of Pythias, Uniform Rank, gilt.
Fox Patent Changeable Buttons.
Can be readily changed from a G. A. R. to a willian button, or vice versa, and are really two but- us in one. Hings, eyelet holes and covers are all spensed with.
par gross





COLUMBUS OHIO.

Battle of the Bulge Veteran Passes Away cont'd

One of the moments was when he was burned when a gas heater in his radio communications vehicle exploded. His injuries from the explosion prompted his re-assignment to a service battery away from the front lines.

"Forward observers didn't live long," said Rizzio.

The last of the moments is one that lasted the whole of the war. Rizzio never fired his gun the entirety of the war. As a forward observer, he gave directions to fire at them but never had to directly kill a German soldier.

"I am really lucky," he said.

"My experience was not as intense as some of the other guys, such as the infantry, sometimes they had to experience hand to hand combat with the Germans."

When asked why he shares his moments Rizzio replied that it is not for glory but to remember those who gave their lives.

"I tell people my story because I can," said Rizzio, holding back his emotions.

"I came back in one piece, a lot of the other guys didn't come back in one piece or at all, I tell my story for them."

SOURCE: http://greatlakes.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2013/07/his-story-a-history-lesson-from-a-wwii-veteran/

On Saturday, 29 December 2018, family, friends, active Military, and area Veterans organizations (including several Brothers of Robert Finch Camp No. 14) came together to honor Richard "Cupcake" Rizzio at Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home. Many moving tributes were given to a truly great American hero.



Above: MVAO Calvin Murphy salutes his dear friend, Sgt. Richard Rizzio, Sr.



Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9

Frances Finch Auxiliary News

The annual yearbook/scrapbook party will be rescheduled to after the March meeting as weather forced the cancellation of the previous date. No further news to report at the time of this issue.

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.

Comrades of the Israel B. Richardson GAR Post 13, Harbor Springs





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



SGT. ROBERT FINCH, 1st MI SS, CO. B