



The Sharpshooter



Official Newsletter of the
Robert Finch Camp No. 14 – Traverse City
Department of Michigan
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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Camp Officers 2014

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Centennial Celebration: "One for the Ages"

How does a Camp honor being the oldest Camp in the Department, and also its Centennial? Robert Finch Camp No. 14 decided to recognize not only its history, but also its future. On Saturday, 29 March 2014, the Brothers of Camp No. 14, honored guests, Sisters of Frances Finch No. 9 Auxiliary, and spouses met at the Elks Lodge in Traverse City for a grand centennial celebration. The packed event saw honors bestowed upon the living Past Camp Commanders of Camp No. 14, the first Sgt. Robert Finch Award bestowed upon PCC Neal Breaugh, awards of appreciation to Past Commander-in-Chiefs Harrison and Pahl for their help in moving the Camp to Traverse City, and the installment of the Camp's newest and youngest Brother, Ben Farrier.



In another nod to our history, a special quilt was masterfully created by the husband and wife team of Br. John Dyle and his lovely wife Julie. The design was created by PCC Bill Skillman, and inspired by the 1st Michigan Sharpshooters' battle flag. (cont'd page 3)

Above:
The Future: Ben Farrier is installed in front of the Centennial Celebration crowd (from left to right): Guide John Dyle, Chaplain John Lantzer, Commander Skip Bryant, and newest Brother Ben Farrier.



The History: Commander Bryant honors Past Camp Commanders (from left to right): Dan Bennett, Jan White, Bill Skillman, Neal Breaugh, Robert Clark, Jeff Morse, Dale Aurand, and George Goodrich.

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

Camp Officers 2014
continued

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2014 Camp 14 Meeting and Event Schedule

May 1	Author John Mitchell at Elk Rapids Historical Society 26 th Michigan Infantry Talk
May 5	John Hyland, USN - Medal of Honor Program Manistee, Michigan
May 10	Department Encampment Lansing, Michigan
May 26	Elk Rapids Memorial Day Parade
June 14	Elks Flag Day - Elks Lodge
July 26	Medal of Honor Grave Rededications Kalkaska, Michigan
August 8 - 9	Port Oneida Days - Sleeping Bear National Park
August 12 - 16	National Encampment Marietta, GA
September 13	Camp Meeting Traverse City Elks Lodge
November 08	Camp Meeting Traverse City Elks Lodge

Additional dates to be announced.



Know Your Acronyms?

Ever wonder what some of the acronyms are after some Brothers' names? Here are a few:

PCC - Past Camp Commander

PDC - Past Department Commander

PC-in-C - Past Commander-in-Chief

LM - Life Member

CC - Camp Commander

DC - Department Commander

C-in-C - Commander-in-Chief

NC - National Counselor

Centennial Celebration, : “One for the Ages”

(cont'd) The beautiful quilt was put up for a silent auction during the celebration, and the winner of the quilt was Camp 14's very own PCC Jan White!

Camp 14 was honored by State Representative Wayne Schmidt, as well as Chuck Lerchen, Director of Veterans Services for Grand Traverse, Benzie, and Leelanau Counties - their attendance and tributes were highly appreciated by the Brothers.

It is safe to say that the Centennial Celebration was a resounding success, and a very special event that will not be forgotten by those in attendance. The Brothers of Camp 14 thank all of those that had a part in helping us celebrate a wonderful century, and for launching us into the next 100 years!



State Representative Wayne Schmidt presents Camp No. 14 with an official proclamation from Governor Rick Snyder (from left to right): PCC Neal Breaugh, Representative Schmidt, Commander Bryant, and PCC Bill Skillman.



Master artisans, Julie and Br. John Dyle stand near their Camp 14 Centennial quilt. PCC Jan White won the silent auction for the beautiful one-of-a-kind quilt.



Lively discussion is shared by PC-in-C Jim Pahl, PC-in-C Keith Harrison, DSVC Dale Aurand, PCC Jan White, and PNP Marcia Butgereit.



Inaugural Sgt. Robert Finch Award Presented

As stated on the Award itself: ...this high honor for extraordinary and meritorious service on behalf of the good of the Order... so describes the body of work that PCC Neal Breagh has provided in his past and continued service to the SUVCW, as well as the ASUVCW.

When evaluating who would receive the inaugural Sgt. Robert Finch Award – no candidate exemplified the desired virtues than Neal Breagh. Brother Neal has served as a mentor, a friend, a counselor, and a patriot to many Brothers and Sisters. He always is quick to lend a hand, or welcome a visitor or new Brother making them feel at home.

Brother Neal was instrumental in starting up Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9, and served as their Counselor, until recently. He has served in many roles within Camp No. 14 and the Department including Department SVC. Neal is easily and most often described as the heart and soul of the Camp – an agent of action that has grown Camp No. 14 into what it is today.

The Centennial Celebration was the obvious backdrop to present the inaugural Sgt. Robert Finch Award. PCC Neal Breagh enthusiastically accepted the award from PCC Skillman and PCC Aurand, two of the many Brothers that have unquestionably benefited from his service and leadership. Thank you for your continued service Neal, we are proud to have you as our Brother!



Above: PCC Bill Skillman and PCC Dale Aurand present PCC Neal Breagh with the inaugural Sgt. Robert Finch Award.
Below: PCC Neal Breagh is congratulated by State Representative Wayne Schmidt.



Through this organization the declining days of the Union Veteran will be made pleasant, his record of service to his country preserved, his memory honored, patriotism.

**- Major Augustus P. Davis,
December 1881**



Commander's Corner

Skip Bryant, CC

Greetings Brothers of Camp 14,

There will be opportunities to serve the Order that we let slip by this summer. We each try to get involved when we can, and if the schedules don't work, they don't. The spreading out of the Camp really helps this. That takes preparedness and leadership among the ranks. And just like the Volunteer Regiments, who kept busy even when they were "off" duty playing baseball and checkers, they were also readying their weapons, and training, and we too can do a number of things off the battlefield. During the weeks and weeks of time in between our Camp 14 events, we can be developing future supporters for keeping green the memory of our civil war veterans. It is doing an important part of the work of the Order when we socially interact with, and build up our circle of acquaintances in a commendable, giving, and outgoing, energized fashion.

Some people in our work or social groups occasionally want things from us to accomplish their goals. And to be honest we sometimes seek help accomplishing a task and "recruit" our co-workers or friends to help us succeed. Our larger circle of casual acquaintances is usually very diverse and ever-changing, and sometimes seems unimportant. These relationships may over time end up involving the Sons and they need to be pure-hearted and with an honorable purpose in mind. We often meet history buffs, veterans, local movers and shakers, and patriotic neighbors and these are people who we especially should give utmost respect and further develop friendship with based on a desire to both learn from and to teach the values that align with the Order. This takes patience and especially discernment.

In the past few months as your Commander, it has come as no surprise that it is some good people in my more casual relationships, some which I began over 20 years ago that are now supporting recent work of the Order. So consider building and developing these casual, but meaningful friendships by giving your gift of time, skills, knowledge, and prayers to help others achieve their goals, making your village, church, and school a better place. That the circle will come back around someday from the seeds you plant, and people in your life may later help to give new life to a bygone soldier. It's plain to see from our community supporters attending the 100th Anniversary Luncheon, that friends have been "recruited" for decades to help us get the work done.

Commander Bryant



Vernacular of the Civil War:

Wolfhounds - A reference to ragged Confederate soldiers.

grand rounds - The formal inspection of a line of sentinels by high-ranking officers.

Dolly - One of the numerous nicknames bestowed upon Gen. William T. Sherman.

butcher's bill - Slang for casualty lists.

how come you so - A home brewed alcoholic beverage.

rodomontade - Empty bluster or vain talk.

serpent's egg - Northern slang for secession.

turnspit - A useless fellow.

war horse - A veteran.

dandyfunk - A stew made of hardtack, molasses, and salt pork.

Camp 14 represented at 58th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony

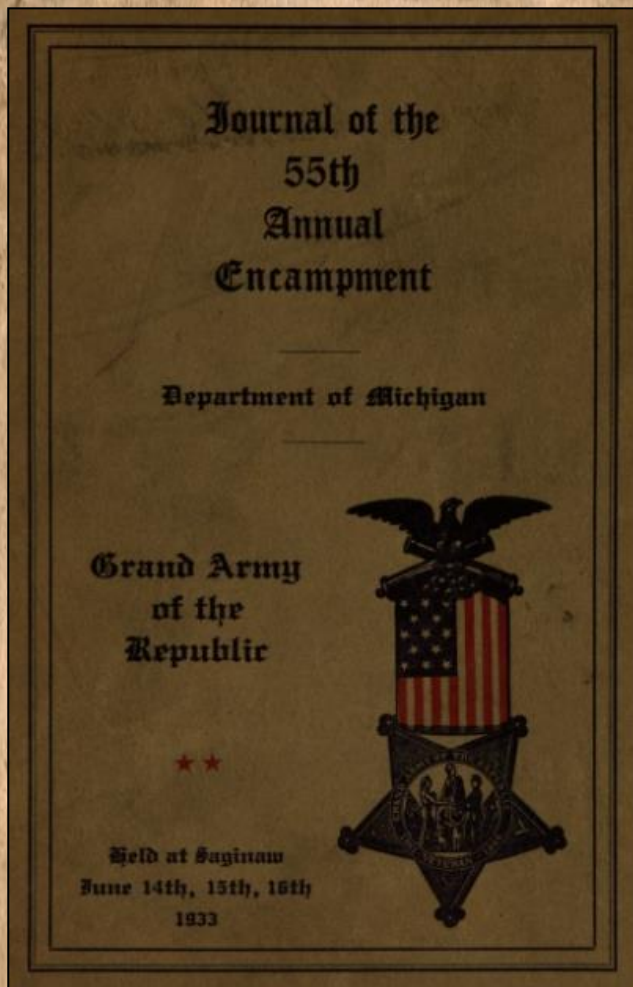
The 58th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony was held on April 11th & 12th commemorating the 149th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's death. The SUVCW and SVR were active in the ceremony, with Michigan's own, Company A, 14th Michigan Infantry, SVR "The Irish Rifles".

Robert Finch Camp No. 14 was represented by DSVC Dale Aurand, PCC, as he participated in the ceremony as a member of the SVR's "Irish Rifles".



PCC Dale Aurand presents the Camp 14 colors with the other contingent of Company A, 14th Michigan Infantry, SVR "The Irish Rifles".

Snapshots in GAR History



These two poems are from the Journal of the 55th Annual Encampment of the Department of Michigan held at Saginaw in 1933. Poems submitted by Skip Bryant, CC.

In Memoriam



"OUR HEROES"

Honor be to you forever,
Ye heroes, brave and true,
Who went forth with high endeavor,
And a heart to dare and do.
Honor be to all the number
Who may yet remain,
And to those who sweetly slumber.
Who can never come again.

Fragrant garlands we would fashion
for those who nobly fell,
Dying with a holy passion
Mid the rain of shot and shell;
And for those who, home returning,
Are among us still,
We, with hearts with fervor burning,
Would their cup of comfort fill.

And while we their mem'ries cherish
In every grateful heart,—
Lest our country's honor perish,—
We must play our needed part;
Loyal let us be and zealous
For the cause they led;
Worthy patriots and jealous
For the flag for which they bled.

FRANK LINCOLN OSBORNE.

JUST A GRAND ARMY MAN

A star of bronze, with faded striped ribbon
Pinned to a well-worn vest, a halting gait,
A few scant locks, tossed by the winds of Heaven,
A follower of the Flag, whate'er its fate.
Eyes that were ever blinded unto danger,
Ears that were sharp to hear his Country's call—
Army or Navy, Regular or Ranger,
Just a Grand Army Man—That's all.

Others there were, who sought and earned promotion;
Others there were who passed him on the road.
Why did he serve? 'Twas patriot's devotion,
Naught else he knew but this his simple code.
So now at last, before the final volleys
Or the soft Taps, the soldier's last sad call,
Pity his weakness, charity for his follies,
Just a Grand Army Man—That's all.

So, in time throughout the coming ages,
When heroes' names adorn that mighty roll—
On Fame's white scrolls, across full many pages,
Blazoned shall be those names who paid the toll.
Though much he lacked, this did he earn forever:
Honor and fame; let tears bedew his pall;
Poor? Yes, in worldly goods, but Cowards—NEVER.
Just a Grand Army Man—That's all.



Civil War Ancestor Spotlight



William Hill and grandson Floyd Perkins (circa 1900)

William Hill was born in New York State, March 1829, married Aurilla Smith in 1853 at the age of 24. Together they had 10 children, 5 boys and 5 girls. Three of the boys died in infancy.

William was a farmer, a common occupation of the time. At the age of 33 he enlisted as a Private in Co. "C" 151st New York Infantry Regiment on September 6th, 1862 at Lockport, New York. Pvt. Hill served under Captain John A. Wolcott.

In 1864 the 151st N.Y. was involved with the Overland Campaign and then rushed back to Maryland to slow the advance of Confederate General Jubal Early's invasion and give Washington a chance to fortify. At the battle of Monocacy Junction on July 9th, 1864 William was shot in the elbow crippling his arm and hand. He was mustered out of service on June 26th, 1865. William is buried at the Smith Hill Cemetery in Otisville, Michigan.

This brief biography provided by Dale Aurand, G-G Grandson of William Hill.

Ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic

From time to time, The Sharpshooter will highlight a topic on the ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic. In this edition, is the Officer Stations of the GAR Post. To the right is the Plan of the Post Room as prescribed by the 01 April 1921 edition of the Ritual of the Grand Army of the Republic. Abbreviations for the various Officers can be found below.

ABBREVIATIONS.

C.—Commander.
 S. V. C.—Senior Vice-Commander.
 J. V. C.—Junior Vice Commander.
 Adjt.—Adjutant.
 Surg.—Surgeon.
 Chap.—Chaplain.
 Q. M.—Quartermaster.
 O. D.—Officer of the Day.
 O. G.—Officer of the Guard.
 S. M.—Sergeant-Major.
 Q. M. S.—Quartermaster-Sergeant.
 G.—Guard.
 R.—Recruit.





Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9

We are pleased to award Robyn Hentschel, a 6th grader at East Middle School in Traverse City, MI, "A Good Citizenship Award" for encouraging secondary and middle school students to say the "Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America" each day in school. What extraordinary patriotism she exhibits!

Please pray for our Sister, Secretary of the Frances Finch Auxiliary, Emily Breagh. Emily has suffered a severe concussion and has experienced loss of eyesight and pain. Pray for the complete recovery to her eyesight and relief from her pain.

Thank you,

Judy Jenkins, Past President
Frances Finch Auxiliary # 9

Camp No. 14 Centennial Challenge Coins Still Available

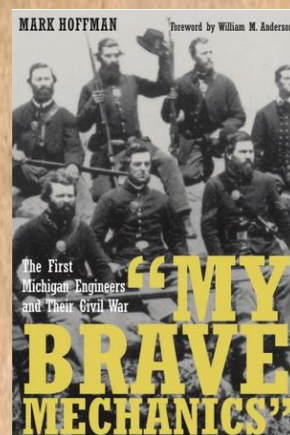
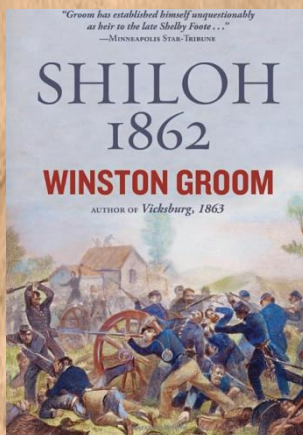


Camp No. 14 Centennial Challenge Coins are still available for purchase from the Camp No. 14 Centennial Committee. The cost is \$10 per coin. The coins shown on the left are excellent mementos of Camp's 100th year and of the highest quality. Please see DSVC Dale Aurand to purchase coins as there is a limited quantity available.

Recommended Reading

Shiloh 1862
Winston Groom

"My Brave Mechanics": The First Michigan Engineers and Their Civil War
Mark Hoffman





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



**Robert Finch No. 14
Michigan's Oldest Camp
Celebrating a Century
1914 - 2014**