

# 145TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

## Marching



*"Thank God for Michigan!"*

## Along



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### 1912 Dedication of 21st Michigan Monument, Ionia, Michigan



"Thank God for Michigan" and thank God for the men of the 21<sup>st</sup> Michigan Volunteer Infantry.

This month we pause to remember the men of the State of Michigan that left their farms, businesses, families, and their way of life to "March off to War." On September 4<sup>th</sup> 1862 over 1000 officers and men mustered into federal service at **Camp Siegal in Ionia Michigan**. Eight days later they left Ionia for Detroit. Less than one month later, they would "see the elephant" just outside a small Kentucky farming community – Perryville. Please take the time to read or re-read the following pages.

This issue of Marching Along is dedicated to these brave men and the families they left behind.



21st Michigan Reenactors 2007  
Eastponte, Michigan

# HISTORY OF THE 21ST MICHIGAN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY 1862 -1865

Condensed History of the 21st Michigan by Ron Webb with input from Lowell White.

The glorious colors that daub Michigan's countryside in the early fall must have just begun to show as the 1,000 or so officers and men of the newly-formed 21st Michigan assembled in Ionia halfway between Grand Rapids and Lansing on September 12, 1862. The ladies of Ionia, undoubtedly with suitable pomp and circumstance, presented the new regiment with its state colors, and it marched off to war in the western theater, bound for Louisville, Kentucky. These men were somewhat different from the Michigan regiments that began recruiting earlier. Some regiments from further downstate took nearly five months to fill the ranks, but recruiting for the 21st had begun in mid-July, and the ranks were filled by late August. These men came from the northern counties, many of whom could be called pioneers in the classical sense. The toughness characteristic of pioneers would be needed because these men would face death in 13 separate battles over the next 32 months, seeing some of the sternest tests of human courage ever provided by the Civil War.

The first test was not long in coming. Barely four weeks after boarding the railroad cars in Ionia, the regiment joined the Army of the Cumberland and was bloodied at Perrysville, Kentucky. For almost totally green troops they acquitted themselves well, winning individual praise from their commanding general, one of the North's toughest warriors, Phil Sheridan. Two more battles followed, and then on the banks of the Stone River, December 31, 1862 - January 3, 1863, the regiment's mettle was tested to the maximum. Sheridan's men bore the brunt of the furious Rebel assault on the Union right. Time and again the Rebels surged forward, and time and again the 21st emptied their cartridges boxes. The Union line bent back at right angles to their original position, but they didn't break. Bragg's troops did, however, and he retreated. After four battles in less than three months, the troops were exhausted and were relatively inactive the rest of the winter. However, that winter was a tough one on the troops.

Their mostly rural, pioneer backgrounds may have prepared them to give the Rebels all they could handle and more in battle, but it did not give them a defense from the greatest threat of the Civil War, disease. The record for that winter shows man after man succumbing to illnesses that today are easily cured in one trip to the family doctor. Dozens perished. The summer of 1863 must have brought welcome relief, but it also meant a renewed campaign.

However, when Rosecrans led the Army of the Cumberland south toward Chattanooga, he did it so skillfully that the Army's triumph was comparatively bloodless. But that success did not hint at what awaited the 21st Michigan in the early fall. October 6 would see one of the war's

140<sup>th</sup> Perryville, 5-6 October 2002

most horrendous fights along Chickamauga Creek. That battle was a terrible defeat for the Union, but the sacrifice of the 21st Michigan probably enabled General George Thomas to prevent a total collapse. The 21st was the last regiment on the far right of the Union line when Longstreet's screaming troops came pouring through a huge hole left by poor communications. The fighting around the Widow Glenn's cabin was furious all day long, some of it hand-to-hand with the bayonet, clubbed muskets, and even rocks. To be sure, the 21st gave ground, but they didn't break, they didn't run. They held, giving Thomas



just enough time to solidify his position and prevent the dissolution of the entire Army of the Cumberland. Only 100 or so of the 300 men of the 21st Michigan who went into that battle were able to rally to the colors that evening, but the Army of the Cumberland had survived. The 21st Michigan's sacrifice had been worth it.

That winter in Chattanooga was a repetition of the first the regiment had spent in the war. but with the threat of starvation added to that of disease. However, vigorous recruiting back home brought the regiment back to something like fighting strength by the time the siege of Chattanooga was lifted and Bragg was sent running from Missionary Ridge.

The 21st Michigan was next given the task of running down Nathan Bedford Forrest. The 21st Michigan missed almost all of Sherman's relentless pursuit of Joe Johnston, which finally ended with the capture of Atlanta. However, they rejoined Sherman's army for the famous sweep through Georgia to Savannah. Only two more battles remained, but the veteran's of the 21st Michigan set their teeth and plunged ahead in the battles of Aversboro and finally, Bentonville, North Carolina, March 19. In that last contest, out of 230 men, all of whom must have known the end of the war could not be far off, the 21st lost 92 officers and men, 40 percent of their strength. The strength provided by their backgrounds had enabled them to stick it out to the end of the very last bitter fight.

After Johnson's surrender, the long march up through Richmond to Washington, D.C. must have been sweet indeed after nearly three years of the ravages of combat, disease and punishing marches in the southern sun. The regiment participated in the grand parade on May 24, and then was mustered out on June 8, 1865. They returned to Detroit on June 13, and were finally paid off and disbanded on June 21, 1865.

During the many engagements the 21st participated in, many soldiers were captured. Several of these were sent to Andersonville Prison. A list of 21st Michigan soldiers held at Andersonville is available on the 21<sup>st</sup> Michigan website.



## From the Desk of the Secretary

Welcome to our recent additions to the unit.

**Tony Pirolli**  
**Mark Bonekowski**

Too all a heartfelt welcome. We look forward to seeing each of you around the campfire at our next event. If you ever need anything, please give me a call (586-413-5608) or e-mail me at [mi21stinf@wideopenwest.com](mailto:mi21stinf@wideopenwest.com)

## New Secretary Needed!

As many of you may recall from our last annual meeting I stated that this would be my last year as secretary. I've served 4 years as secretary and 2 years before that as your Treasurer so it's time for me to explore other opportunities to continue our ongoing growth and improve path for the 21<sup>st</sup> Michigan. **If you are interested in the Secretary position, please let me know** so I can discuss the requirements with you before our next annual meeting.

The following was in the remarks of the muster rolls of Company F. The writer is unknown but may have been the First Sergeant. It shows the movements of the 21st from Ionia to Murfreesboro.

September 12, 1862: Left Ionia for Detroit and left for Toledo by train.  
September 13: Arrived at Toledo at daylight-proceeded to Cin Ohio by train.  
September 14: Arrived at Cin at 8am. At 1pm started for Camp Covington.  
September 15: Pitched tents and arranged camp.  
September 16: Drilling.  
September 17: Quiet  
September 18: Struck tents and proceeded down Ohio River on transports.  
September 19: On Ohio River.  
September 20: Arrived at Louisville & bivouacked abt 4 mi from city.  
September 21: In camp.  
September 23: Moved camp to SW of city.  
September 24: In camp.  
October 1: Moved forward marched SW abt 12 mi.  
October 2 : On march.  
October 3 : On march.  
October 4: Crossed Salt River by wading 10 miles E of Shepherdstown.  
Bad Roads. Camped 4 miles from Bardstown Ky.  
October 5: Marched through Bardstown KY and 9 miles beyond towards Springfield.  
October 6: Moved abt 1 mile to left to guard baggage train.  
October 7: Proceeded on the march about 1am. Marched beyond Springfield. Did not stop until 11pm.  
October 8: Marched 4 Miles. Engaged in Battle Of Perryville KY. 26 in our regt wounded- picket at night.  
October 9: Under arms all day.  
October 10: Remained on battlefield.  
October 11: Remained under arms until 4pm. Moved N toward Dansville KY abt 5 miles.  
October 12: Marched 10 miles toward Harrodsburg Ky.  
October 13: Marched at daylight 3 miles toward Dansville.  
October 14: Marched abt 20 miles.  
October 15: Went through Lancaster Ky. Encamped near Crab Orchard.  
October 16-19: Quietly in camp.  
October 20-21: Marched.  
October 22-24: at Rolling Farms.  
October 25: Marched 12 miles to New Market.  
October 26: In Bivouac. Snow 4 inches deep.  
October 27: Marched toward Bowling Green Ky.  
October 28: On the march.  
October 30: Remained in camp. Had Inspection.  
October 31: On the March.  
November 1: Reached Bowling Green. Three officers and 61 men present for duty including 1 drummer.  
November 2: In camp. Tents arrived.  
November 4: Proceed on the march for Nashville TN, marched 16 miles.  
November 5: Marched 17 miles, arrived at Mitchellville TN & detached for guard post.  
November 6-7: In camp. Col. Stevens in command of post.  
November 8: At 3pm moved 5 miles.  
November 9: Marched 20 Miles.  
November 10: Marching again.  
November 11: Arrived at Edgefield TN and remained until the 21st.  
November 21: Moved to camp near Mill Creek about 7 mi S of Nashville. We remained in this vicinity until  
December 26: Left camp & marched for Noblesville TN. Skirmishing.  
December 27: Marched on. Skirmishing all day.  
December 28: Stayed in camp all day.  
December 29: Continued on the march. Lt. Eben Ellenwood taken prisoner. Also Henry Michaels (may be Henry Nichols ed).  
December 30: Continued on the march. Arrived on battleground.  
December 31: Engaged in Battle of Stone River TN, Co F losing 1 killed, 3 wounded and 2 missing. Names as follows: Pvt Christensen Johnson killed, Lt John Loase, Pvts F Eiler & Wm Campbell wounded, Samuel Chase (drummer) and Nathan Stevens taken prisoner.  
January 1, 1863: Remained in vicinity of battlefield through the 5th in camp.  
January 6, 1863: Moved forward today moving through Murfreesboro camping 2 miles beyond.



General Ambrose Stevens,  
21st Michigan Regimental Commander

## 21<sup>st</sup> Michigan field, staff and line officers at organization :

Colonel, Ambrose A. Stevens, Saranac.  
Lieutenant Colonel, William L. Whipple, Detroit.  
Major, Isaac Hunting, Grand Haven.  
Surgeon, William B. Thomas, Ionia.  
Assistant Surgeon, John Avery, Otisco.  
Second Assistant Surgeon, Charles R. Perry, Lowell.  
Adjutant, Morris B. Wells, Ionia.  
Quartermaster, Martin P. Follett, Fair Plains.  
Chaplain, Theodore Pillsbury, Hastings.

A. Captain, Francis P. Minier, Tonia. First Lieutenant, Allyn W. Kim-ball, Ionia.  
Second Lieutenant, John Morton, Ionia.  
B. Captain, James Cavanaugh, Grand Rapids. First Lieutenant, Benton D.  
Fox, Lowell. Second Lieutenant, Albert G. Barr. Grand Rapids.  
C. Captain, Leonard O. Fitzgerald, Hastings. First Lieutenant, Perry Chance,  
Hastings. Second Lieutenant, Marion C. Russell, Hastings.  
D. Captain, Jacob Ferris, Ionia. First Lieutenant, James B. Roberts. Ionia.  
Second Lieutenant, James A. Knight, Greenville.  
E. Captain, Alfred B. Turner, Grand Rapids. First Lieutenant, Edward  
'Dunham. Grand Rapids. Second Lieutenant, Selden E. Turner, Hastings.  
F. Captain, Elijah H. Crowell, Greenville. First Lieutenant, Robert Mooney,  
Greenville. Second Lieutenant, Eben R. Ellenwood, Greenville.  
G. Captain, Harry C. Albee, Grand Haven. First Lieutenant, Edgar W. Smith.  
Grand Haven, Second Lieutenant, George V. Woodward, Wright.  
H. Captain, Seynour Chase. Cannonsburg. First Lieutenant, Loomis K. Bishop.  
Cannonsburg. Second Lieutenant, Robert B. Robinson. Grand Rapids.  
I. Captain, John A. Ellsworth, Saranac. First Lieutenant, Herman Hunt,  
Hastings. Second Lieutenant, James H. Truax. Hastings.  
K. Captain. Herman Baroth, Ionia. First Lieutenant, Albert G. Rus-sell,  
Hubbardston Second Lieutenant, Eli E. Burritt, Ionia.

Buildings Built and Used as Headquarters by the 21st Michigan. Photo by Mathew Brady



General Sheridan in specially mentioning by name various brigade, regimental, and battery commanders of his division, - one of whom was Lieutenant Colonel W. B. McCreery, 21st Michigan, - says:

"I refer with pride to the splendid conduct, bravery, and efficiency of the following regimental commanders and the officers and men of their respective commands."

## Commanders of the 21<sup>st</sup> Michigan

Bvt. Brigadier General Ambrose Stevens

Colonel William B. McCreery

Colonel Loomis K. Bishop

Bvt. Major Arthur C. Prince

From Michigan In the War, compiled by John Robertson, Adjutant General; W. S. George & Co., Lansing, 1882; pp. 412-419

From Record of Service of Michigan Volunteers in the Civil War, Volume 21

### Men of the 21<sup>st</sup> Michigan

1,477 officers and men

Losses:

- 1 Officer and 40 men killed in action
- 2 officers and 31 men died of wounds
- 3 officers and 291 men died of disease

### Men of the 21<sup>st</sup> Michigan

1,515 officers and men

Losses:

- 1 Killed on steamer Sultana
- 43 Killed in action
- 29 Died of wounds
- 4 Died in confederate prisons
- 279 Died of diseases
- 198 discharged for disability (wounds and disease)

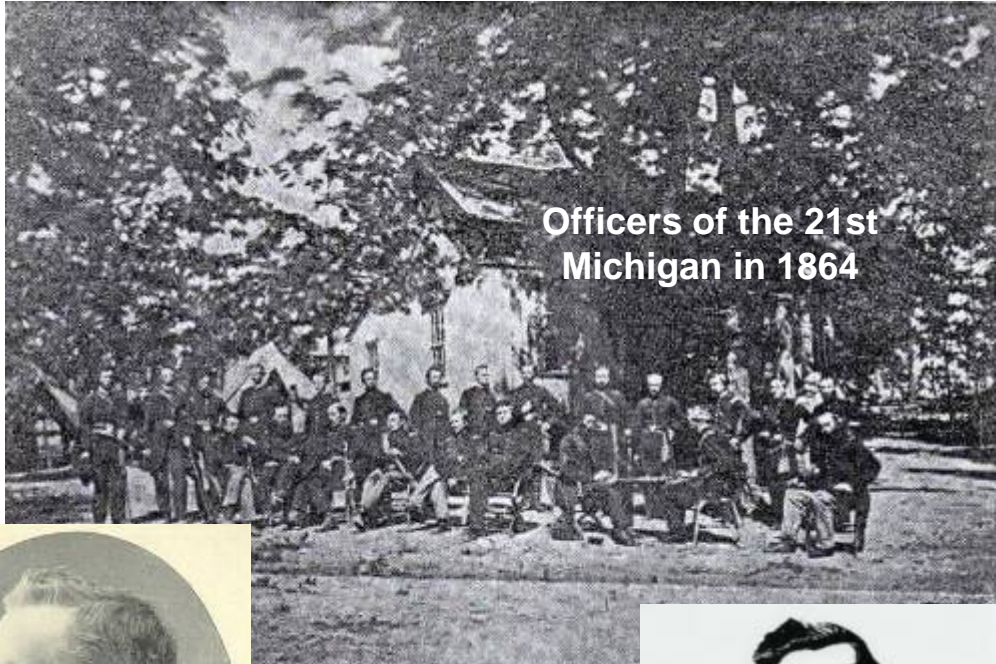


## 21ST MICHIGAN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY MAJOR ENGAGEMENTS

Pursuit of Bragg to Crab Orchard, KY	October 1 - 16, 1862
Battle, Perryville, KY	October 8, 1862
March to Nashville, TN	October 17 - November 2, 1862
Advance on Murfreesboro, TN & Battle of Stone River	December 26 - 30, 1862 December 31, 1862 - January 3, 1863
Campaign in Middle Tennessee (Tullahoma Campaign)	June 23 - July 7, 1863
Occupation of Middle Tennessee, Passage of the Cumberland Mountains, and Chickamauga, GA campaign	August 16 - September 22, 1863
Battle, Chickamauga, GA	September 19 - 20, 1863
Siege, Chattanooga, TN	November 23 - 27, 1863
Expedition to Florence, AL	September 28 - October 11, 1864
Campaign against Savannah, GA (Sherman's March to the Sea)	November 15 - December 10, 1864
Siege, Savannah, GA	December 10 - 21, 1864
Campaign of the Carolinas	January 30 - April 26, 1865
(Battle, Averasboro, NC (Taylor's Hole Creek, Smithville, Smiths Ferry, Black River)	March 16, 1865
Battle, Bentonville, NC	March 19 -21, 1865
Occupation, Goldsborough, NC	March 24, 1865
Advance on Raleigh, NC	April 10 - 14, 1865
Occupation, Raleigh, NC	April 14, 1865
Surrender, Bennett's House, Durham Station, NC	April 26, 1865



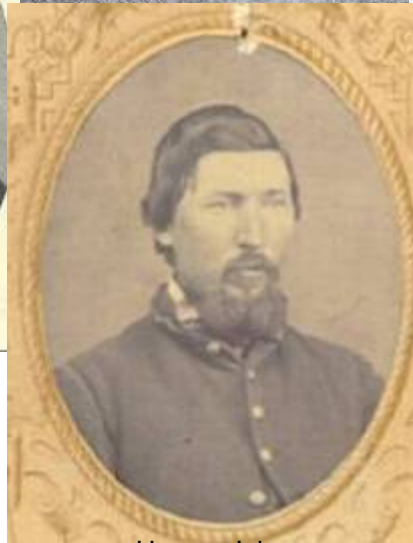
Captain Charles E. Belknap,  
Commander Company H



Officers of the 21st  
Michigan in 1864



First Lt. & Adjt.,  
Allen Benton Morse



Horace Johnson  
Company I



1st Sergeant Horace T. Perkins,  
Company D



Surgeon John Avery



*John Ball & wife*

John Ball and Wife  
Company G



Joseph H. Canfield  
Company D



*Seymour Chase*  
Major Seymour Chase  
Company H



Milo Baxter  
Company I

More images available on the 21<sup>st</sup> Michigan Website.



## Michigan in 1862 from michiganhistorymagazine.com and other sources

**January 9, 1862** Battery F, First Michigan Light Artillery, is mustered into federal service at Coldwater.

**January 13, 1862** Governor Austin Blair approves a joint resolution asking Michigan's congressional delegation to use their influence to assist the exchange of prisoners of war. The legislative request was focused on obtaining the release of Colonel Orlando B. Willcox, who had languished in a southern prison since his capture on July 21, 1861, at the Battle of First Bull Run. Commander of the First Michigan Infantry Regiment, Willcox was finally exchanged on August 19, 1862. The following day, he was promoted to brigadier general. Years after the war, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism at First Bull Run.

**January 17, 1862** Battery G, First Michigan Light Artillery, is mustered into federal service at Kalamazoo.

**July 26, 1862** The Quincy Mining Company located near Hancock, Michigan issues its first dividends to shareholders.

**August 5, 1862** John R. Williams's son is killed. The son of Detroit's antebellum mayor John R. Williams, Thomas Williams was killed repulsing an attack by Confederate forces at Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Thomas Williams, an 1833 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, had seen action in the Mexican War where he received two brevets for gallantry. At the outbreak of the Civil War he was a major in the Fifth U.S. Artillery.

**September 4, 1862** The 21st Michigan goes to war. The 21st Michigan Infantry, recruited in western and northern Michigan, was mustered into federal service at Ionia. It left for Cincinnati on September 12 with an enrollment of 1,008 officers and enlisted men. The regiment saw heavy action at the Battle of Chickamauga and participated in William T. Sherman's famed March to the Sea.

**September 12, 1862** Conscription comes to Michigan. State officials determined that more than 95,000 males between the age of eighteen and forty-five were eligible for the nation's first draft. Conscription became a controversial issue in the North, especially in New York City where opposition led to one of the nation's worst draft riots during the summer of 1863.

**September 17, 1862** Michiganians fight at Antietam. Hundreds of Michigan troops fought near Sharpsburg, Maryland, in what became the bloodiest day in American history. More than 350 Michiganians were left killed or wounded at the Battle of Antietam. This number includes Major General Israel Richardson of Pontiac who was mortally wounded leading his division in severe fighting near a sunken road, later called Bloody Lane.

**October 8, 1862** Michigan soldiers fight at Perryville, Kentucky. In central Kentucky, Union forces stopped the northern advance of a Confederate army. Among the units engaged in one of Kentucky's biggest battles are four Michigan regiments and Battery A, First Michigan Artillery. In a hard day of fighting, Battery A, better known as Loomis's Battery, repulsed at least five enemy charges, leaving at least 1,500 killed and wounded Rebels in front of its position.

**October 13, 1862** The Sixth Michigan Cavalry is organized.

**November 4, 1862** The first Polish man is elected. Ludwik Wesolowski was elected surveyor in Macomb County. According to one noted authority, Wesolowski was the first person of Polish ancestry elected to any office anywhere in the United States.

**December 31, 1862** Michiganians fight at the Battle of Stones River, Tennessee. In the opening day of the three-day Battle of Stones River, Michigan troops performed admirably. Most notably, Battery A, Michigan Light Artillery, under the command of Captain Cyrus O. Loomis, held a key position on the field and suffered more than 20 percent casualties.

Vernors ginger ale was created in Detroit and became the first soda pop made in the United States. In 1862, pharmacist James Vernor was trying to create a new beverage when he was called away to serve our country in the Civil War. When he returned, 4 years later, the drink he had stored in an oak case had acquired a delicious gingery flavor.

The Frankenmuth Brewery was first built in 1862. It was one of Michigan's largest breweries until it was destroyed by a tornado in 1996.

Detroit in 1862: The population of Detroit in 1862 was around 50,000. Most of the roads were dirt or gravel. Public transportation consisted of horse-drawn cabs and horse buses.

As the new 21<sup>st</sup> Michigan recruited in the 4<sup>th</sup> congressional district during the summer of 1862, news was circulating in March that General McClellan was relieved of command of the Army and given command of the Army of the Potomac. In April, news arrived that the Union Army under General Ulysses Grant had beaten back the confederate forces at Shiloh. Casualties were very heavy with over 13,000 out of the 63,000 Union soldiers dead and 11,000 of the 40,000 confederate soldiers killed. Throughout the summer of 1862 men from western Michigan were reading of General McClellan's exploits in Virginia – the Peninsular Campaign.



2002 Rededication 21st Michigan Monument, Ionia, MI  
September 21, 2002



2000 Rededication of the 21st Michigan Monument, Ionia, MI



There is nothing finer in history than Thomas at Chickamauga.  
- Henry M. Cist, *The Army of the Cumberland*

# *President's Report*

## Of Bayonets and Bonnets

by Mike Gillett

I have always had a fertile - and inquisitive - imagination. And while it might be true that it has gotten me into trouble on more than one occasion, it also had provided me with many hours of enjoyment.

At rest stops and in airports, I cannot help but wonder where this person is going or where that person is coming from. Is this an enjoyable trip for them? Who are they? What is their story? While I drive through the countryside, at night, on the freeway, I cannot help but think about the people who live in the farmhouse and whose lights I can see across the field. How was their day? What are they talking about? Who are they? What is their story?

And this really isn't anything new. The filaments of my imagination have always glowed brightly (if unfocused). Left-brained, closed-box concepts like math or science in school eluded me.

English rules (who, might I ask, has ever been called upon to diagram a sentence?) were confining and confusing. Literature, albeit better, didn't tell me enough. What happened next? Why didn't so-and-so do thus-and-such? Only art (or more specifically, cartooning), allowed me to create my own little world (where everyone knew me and I knew them and their story). And history was but a drop of cold water on my dry tongue on a hellaciously hot day. A good start. But I was left thirsty for more. I didn't care so much when something happened as much as what were they thinking when it happened to them. Again, who are they? What is their story?

As a kid, we would frequently visit the old homestead where my dad spent most of his Depression-era childhood. It was (then and now it still stands - Chaela and I sprung Pop from the nursing home shortly before he died, took him to the Sportsmate for lunch and then on a drive in the country to see the old place) a tumbledown, weather beaten, schoolhouse that was home for Gramps, Grams, Pop and his sister and four brothers. One brother, Charles, died there as an infant, of tuberculosis.

Growing up, our family, aunts and uncles and cousins would all go out and check on the homestead. Then hike to the nearby, abandoned stone quarry for a picnic lunch and make a day of it. We had to go through the woods and hills to get there. It seemed to my short, chubby legs like it was miles. I am sure that it wasn't nearly that long!

Although my now long and still chubby legs would likely beg to differ.

In the middle of the woods, there was this small, very old cemetery. I imagine that when it was first begun, the trees hadn't yet encroached into the cemetery. I suppose it was once a burying ground for a farm family, in the middle of a field. We'd always stop and I can recall us reading the names and dates on the simple, worn and crumbling headstones. There was this group of similar headstones. All had the same last name. A goodly sized family. Most were from, I believe, before the Civil War. The mother and all the children died within weeks of other. Many just days apart. And two or three on the same day. The father lived for, I think, another forty or fifty years. Now we stopped our picnicking when I was pretty young - the rattlesnake population in these parts grew to uncomfortable

and unsafe proportions. But I can remember trying to figure out what had happened. What there an accident? A fire? What it disease? What must it have been like to watch your family go, first one at a time and then several all together? And then when it seemed like the Angel of Death was finally sated and had moved on, he returned for the last one, leaving just the father. What must have been going through that man's mind and spirit? How did he manage? Not just to go on one more day. But for four or five more decades?

Was he a religious man and did this bring him to his knees? Or to shake his fist angrily at God and turn his back on Him? Maybe he was un-churched and this Hell drove him to the Cross and his years alone were spent in prayer and adoration? Did he throw himself into his work? Did he have peace? Or did he grow sullen and bitter? Who was he? What was his story?

Who were these people in this old cemetery? What were their stories?

I have done genealogy family history for over 35 years now. And while I can brag about this branch coming on over the Mayflower or for being able to trace that branch all the way back to 1300's, I get more excited about the details. It is always great to be able to go back yet one generation. But there is a special rush when I add personal details beyond a date or a place. Although all are dear, the Civil War Era ancestors hold a special place in my heart.

I am a very visual, very graphic fellow. I can stare for hours at genealogical charts and graphs. I fill out timelines to see who might have known their great grandparent or lived to see a great grandchild. Who was alive at this time in American history (many Civil War Era ancestors lived to see World War I, cars and planes, radio, electricity, et c.)? I can, and often happily do, lose myself in old photographs and maps. CdVs (Cartes de Visite) show me what they looked like. Detailed hand-drawn BEV (Bird's Eye View) maps of ancestral towns and countryside, allow me to imagine what their homes and days were like. I can stroll through the streets with them. I scroll through census records to see who were neighbors to my ancestors. I have one ancestor's Civil War pension applications. It is a treasure; a peek at his personality (I promise, again, sometime soon to share parts with you, as well as two of Karen's CW ancestors' pension applications). Personal effects and letters give me a more cleaner, crisper insight of who these strangers were and what they were. I enjoy visiting old family cemeteries to this day. The one place for sure that this ancestor actually walked the day he buried his father or wife. I can imagine better who they were and what at least this part of their story is.

While I cringe at General Pickett's All-You-Can-Eat Buffet (home of the Original Battlefield Fries) at Gettysburg, what bothered me the most was seeing artifacts being sold like in many shops. The ones that were most expensive (and most desirous for collectors), were those tintypes of, and swords, pistols, and so on that were documented as belonging to, say, Private John B. Haversack, Co. G, 134th MA Light Artillery. I am sorry, but I grieve that this family heirloom - belonging to the family - is being sold and traded like so many Pokemon cards or autograph glossies of Lindsay Lohan! Would that I be able to hold in my hand my great, great grandfather's kepi or to even have a just copy of his photograph!

I imagine how Jesus must have felt as he was moved to turn over the money changer's tables and cleanse the Temple.

While we reenact Civil War Era soldiers and civilians, we would be doing a poor job if we were to forget that we are portraying once living flesh-and-blood. Research on military strategy or fashion and etiquette is only the beginning. Hiding plastic water bottles and refraining from saying hello is just a start. The 21st Michigan (Co. H) is not a fictitious group. While none of us are portraying this private or that corporal or that captain, what we do is literally remembering and honoring that memory of those who for a length of this grand timeline lived and breathed and fought and perhaps died for the Union.

I wonder about them. Who was Theodore Pillsbury from Hastings, MI who served as the chaplain of the 21st for a just few months (Aug. 29 to Dec. 15, 1862) before he was honorably discharged? Why did he serve for such a brief time? How did he become the chaplain BEFORE the unit was organized and mustered in on September 4 in 1862? Who was he and what is his story?

Who was Lewis Earl of Ionia, MI who served as the 21sts chaplain from Mar. 28, 1864 to June 8, 1865? Who was he and what is his story? How about who served at chaplain between Pillsbury and Earl? Who were they and what is their story? What did they do before, during and after the war? What marks did it make upon them? Where are their people today?

I would encourage all of us, as we celebrate this 145th anniversary of the organization of the Michigan 21st Volunteer Infantry, to spend some time checking out the links on our website to all the pages dedicated to the historical 21st. Read the names of the soldiers. Find out more about their battles. Take an afternoon and read the letters and look at the photographs.

Realize that these were real people and their descendants live today! Wonder about them. And about who they left back here in Michigan. Ask yourselves, who are they and what is their story?

We, in many respects, are their descendants. And for reenactors, everyday is Memorial Day.

## Waterloo Farm Event

All -I need to get a tentative headcount very soon for the Waterloo Farm event, that I've spoken about before, on Sunday afternoon, October 14. Please, please let me know asap if you are planning on coming... so they can decide where we would all fit best. Will you set up a wedge or wall tent? Fly? Dog tent? Set up on Saturday night (camp?), set up on Sunday morn? I "happened" across the Farm earlier in the summer and was very, very impressed. I am sure with the fall foliage, the setting will be gorgeous. While the event is only an afternoon, they tell me that the public turnout is impressive and that it is a wonderful opportunity to teach and to recruit! This would be a nice last minute event to add to our empty fall calendar. Don't hesitate to get with me if you have concerns or questions. I think I've shared this in the past but here again is info from their website... (<http://www.waterloofarmmuseum.org/>) "PIONEER DAY, Sunday, October 14, 2007. 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm

The celebration of late 19th century farm life includes tours of the Farm Museum and Dewey School, live music, and demonstrations of crafts, trades, and traditional cooking methods. Now in its fifth decade, Pioneer Day is the premier event on the Waterloo Area Historical Society's calendar. The festivities include activities at both of the Society's locations: the Farm Museum, , and the Dewey School Museum.

A visit to the Farm Museum and tour includes a complex of farm buildings including the restored ten-room Farmhouse dating from 1855. In the Farmhouse kitchen you will be greeted by the delicious smells of Sunday dinner being readied for the dining room table. A docent in every room will be your guide as you tour the house set with utensils, furniture, clothing, and other household items of the time. There will demonstrations of butter making in the Spring House, hearth cooking in the Log House, brick-oven baking in the Bake House, and blacksmithing in the workshop.

Costumed demonstrators will bring history alive Demonstrations of traditional tasks like spinning, dressmaking, weaving and quilting, Exhibits of farm tools used for chores such as corn husking and shelling, cider pressing, and sauerkraut making. Try out stilt-walking or other outdoor games. Musicians playing Horse-drawn wagon rides Craftsmen demonstrating and selling their wares Farm goods, jams, preserves, apple butter and delicious snacks and treats for sale Visitors can watch the preparation of meals and if they get hungry, savor some Waterloo Bean Soup, then pick up a jar with the traditional recipe attached to try at home or give as a gift. Whether your taste runs to primitive folk art, woven goods, or wildlife art, you'll find demonstrators with their wares for sale. The Museum Gift Shop will also be open and stocked with items from bygone days, as well as books and souvenirs of the farms well as a wonderful selection of dried flowers and fall arrangements in the barn."- Mike Gillett



## Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Contact
19-21 Oct	Wolcott Mill Civil War Muster	Bruce Robere
2 Nov	21 <sup>st</sup> Michigan End of Year Event	The Schroeders

# Right on the Tip of My Thumb

By Mike Gillett

Nearly all of the comments I've heard - from those of the 21st who attended Pointe Aux Barques - dealt with the beauty of the setting, the uniqueness of the battles (both because of Lake Huron) and of it being well worth the long drive. Two dozen military and civilians attended the Lighthouse Event. Some came up just for Saturday (August 4) and some stayed the weekend (most camped, though yours truly and my esposita spent the night at a nice motel with room service - in Bad Axe!), but all seemed to enjoy the relaxing time together and the view of the lighthouse and of the lake. If there is to be downside to the event (beyond the drive), it was the few military, both blue and gray, in attendance. As you can readily imagine, much more can be done in "battle" with greater numbers and for much, much longer. And of course, that is something that we can easily remedy next year! Here are a few comments I received from the 21sters that had attended in my email-box after the weekend:

One of the most beautiful events, being on the lakeshore, I found (it) to be very relaxing. It is a long drive, but the view of the lake was spectacular and well worth the effort. I almost missed this event, I am so glad I came.

The setting is pretty unique for a reenactment, which I think adds to its allure. Getting there is a schlep but I think it is worth it for the atmosphere. The hosting unit did have a schedule set up and were pretty much good at keeping at it (yet) were good about not having us drill for hours. I think the atmosphere was more relaxed and serene than a lot of reenactments I've been at (save the battles of course)...

The battles were fun and interesting and used the coast's natural features (shoreline) well.

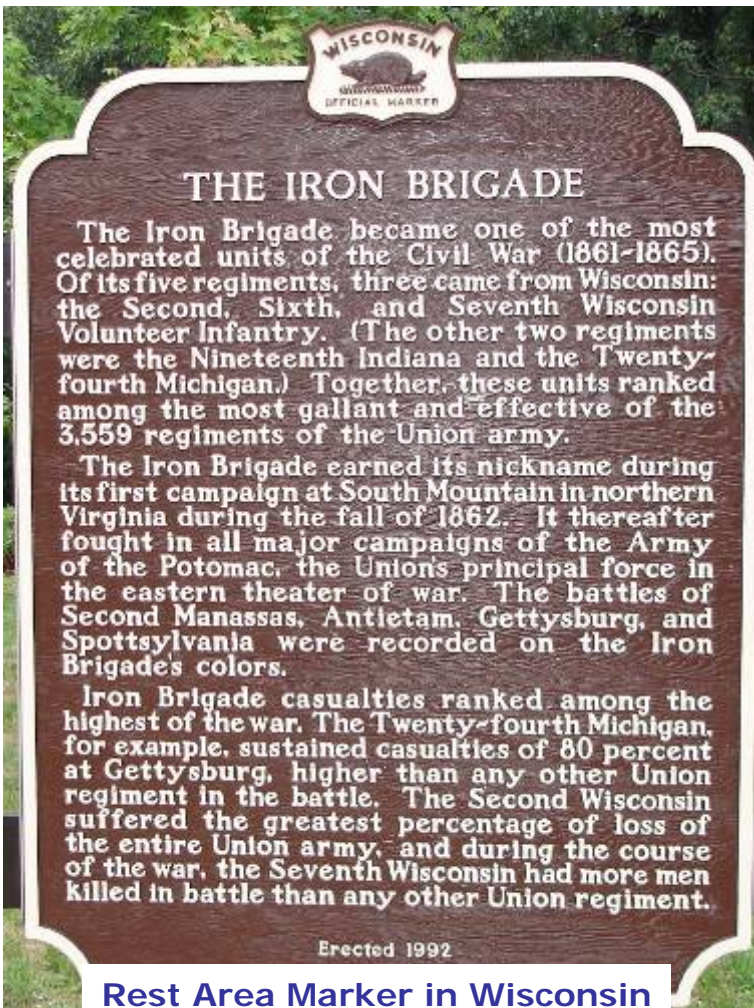
I would recommend this event to those who are willing to drive a ways to be able to partake in Michigan's natural splendor. I for one enjoyed the laid back feel of the event. I didn't always feel like I was running off to war.

I would definitely consider going back, even with the fur piece to travel.

I had a great time at the event. It was a longer drive than I am used to, but I'm glad I made the trip. It was great to see everyone. The battle only lasted about 30 minutes, but it was unique.

We thought that the park was gorgeous. The guys from the 4th MI were very welcoming to the members of the 21st. The boys from the 21st were complemented by the Sergeant for (our) uniforms being in such good order and for their drilling knowledge... I look forward to attending next year's event.

I too look forward to next year and hope to see you all there!



Rest Area Marker in Wisconsin