

MARCHING ALONG

21st Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. H

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**from the President,
Jim Cary**

Aaaaaahhhh...The Dog Days of Summer!

I don't know what kind of heat we will have for August, but after a "rather warm" July, maybe it will cool down a bit!

Port Sanilac Civil War days is this weekend, the 4th and 5th (you can set up on Friday if you choose). This is OUR event. Wouldn't it be AWESOME if we had 40-50 21st members there?? (Okay, I know that's wishful thinking, but a man can dream can't he?) Seriously, please try to be there. MILITARY especially, let's see if we can form a company of more than the 8-10 we had last year. Not only is it our event, it is one of the favorite events for the Cary family! We like it and I think YOU will too!

We have also been invited to join the 15th Michigan at their Chesterfield event. (See article on page 6.) I know there are some hard feelings toward certain members of the 15th, but personally, I would rather see us "bury the hatchet" and move on. When you hold bitterness toward others, it's like taking poison and expecting the other person to get sick. (Okay, I'll get off my soapbox now.)

At the end of the month (24-25) is the Jackson event. I probably don't need to dwell on that one, since it is one of the better attended events. But, still, I do hope to see most of you there.

Looking ahead, don't forget the PERRYVILLE event!! Oct. 4-7 are the dates. We will camp on the same ground as the boys of the original 21st Michigan, and fight on the same battleground where their eyes were opened to the horrors of war. As of now, I have two spots left in my "carriage". Would anyone like to ride with me and the corporal???

'Til next time,

Jim Cary,
President

President - Jim Cary
Secretary - Carrie Graber
Treasurer - Mike Gillett

Military Commander - JR Schroeder
Civilian Coordinator - Ken Giorlando
Newsletter Editor - Jim Cary

Port Sanilac Civil War Days

Sponsored by: the 21st Michigan

August 4-5

~Military Needed~

by Candy Cary

Are you coming to Port Sanilac? I hope your answer is a big **YES**. I have gone to the Port Sanilac Historical Society event since it started 4 years ago.

The first year was very small, but the host/organizer was willing to take advice and has improved on it every year. I like this event because it is small and quaint. It is easy to get involved in the various activities. You feel like you are a part of all that is going on.

Some of these activities are:

- A shotgun wedding. We got to be the townfolk seeing the drama unfold.
- A cemetery walk. One of our own represented a soldier from Port Sanilac.
- The battle is up close. The civilians have gotten involved in the battle. Two years ago some young ladies were “in town” when the battle began and they got caught in the crossfire. Two escaped, but one young lady wasn’t so lucky. As she lay on the ground, her mother ran to her screaming “Melody! Melody!”. The mother knelt over the lifeless body of her daughter and cried. Yes, I was the crying mother and my daughter Melody was the poor young lady!
- A fashion show. Emceed by a member of the 21st Michigan.
- A ball on Saturday evening. It is held on the front lawn of the museum, where we have seen folks who were driving by, stop to watch. The public is welcome to participate and some of us have encouraged them by asking them to dance.
- Lastly, there seems to be more closeness between reenactors at small events.

So, if you haven’t decided to come yet, I hope this article has encouraged you to come on out and enjoy the weekend.

Highlights of the 2011 Port Sanilac Civil War Days include:

- Union and Confederate military encampments and demonstrations, including the staging of skirmishes and the firing of cannons!*
- Exhibits and displays of all types, including weapons, tools, and methods of the period.*
- Educational talks from experts in many fields, all of whom appeared as personalities in appropriate dress. Honored guests included **President & Mrs. Abraham Lincoln** (the Priebe’s) and Michigan Governor & Mrs. Austin Blair.*
- Participatory activities, including children’s games. In keeping with the times, we even attempted to recruit some young people to serve in the Army!*
- Musical performances throughout the day, culminating in a Grand Ball Saturday evening.*
- A “shotgun” wedding at the museum church on Saturday, and a period church service on Sunday morning.*
- A period fashion show and a rousing Punch & Judy show.*



Civilian Corner

by Ken Giorlando

In case you hadn't noticed, it's been HOT! Temperatures have been in the 90's more than the 80's, and we've reached triple digits a few times as well.

Ahhh...but you are nice and cool in your air-conditioning, aren't you?

Now that's something our ancestors knew nothing of – they dealt with the heat like... well...kind of like Patty and I do, for we have no a/c either.

And you're surprised?

The heat, however, wasn't all our ancestors had to worry about. Besides the high temps, our ancestors suffered with flies and mosquitoes with far greater difficulty than we do in our modern day. Summertime brought an invasion of the flying (and crawling) insects from which there was little defense. Garbage and human waste all highly contributed to the factor of an over-abundance of these pests, as did the large number of horses and other livestock that were so prevalent in nearly all walks of life at the time.

In 1857, Caroline Barrett White complained that "The mosquitoes are so plenty. I counted one hundred in Julia's parlor tonight."

Martha Forman wrote in 1820 that her walls were covered with the vile blood-suckers "as plenty as bees in a hive."

The heat of summer only added greatly to the discomfort of those who lived back then, and one was compelled to keep their doors and windows shut tight to make the attempt to keep these winged pests out. This only made the heat of a summer night even more unbearable, therefore making sleep nearly non-existent. The extinguishing of any light from oil lamps and candles proved to be necessary as well, "for if you do not, you will find yourself eaten up by mosquitoes."

But, if you preferred to have some light, be prepared; Mary Almy wrote on a hot August night in 1778, "frightful dreams and broken slumbers, listening to the noise of a fly or mosquito as they hummed around a candle."

Can you think of a way to add the above information to your presentation? I certainly

did; I was the 'owner' of a beautiful Victorian house at the Fort Wayne event, a home that did not have any sort of air-conditioning. Instead of complaining, I took this opportunity and turned it into a social history lesson, explaining to the visitors my life during the heat of summer and incorporated the above information (and more) into my speech.

Lemonade from lemons, right?

Speaking of **Fort Wayne**...thanks to the members who came out to participate. While there, did you get a chance to hear Sandy Krueger's presentation? She did a fine, fine job! Senator Howard and I were able to procure homes to help flesh out the past. Next year I'm hoping to give others in our unit that opportunity. More on that when the time comes. *Hey! Military! Where were you? I only saw three of our men there. We could have used you.*



Continued...

Charlton Park: This event in Hastings, Michigan, has got to be one of the best out there anywhere! I'm not just whistling "Dixie" here. Authentic and accurate (except for the few I caught drinking from plastic water bottles: tsk tsk!).

A few of us enjoyed a wonderful picnic lunch under the shade of a tree and had our supper in a very Victorian manner in the kitchen of "my" home – the Sixberry house.

I also have to say that I've never seen a more authentic and intense battle as I saw here. We civilians portrayed southerners so we had to cheer on our Rebel sons as they pushed the invading Yankees out of our town. The battle scenario was as good as I've ever seen, and most of the deaths were very good deaths (not as much sitting up to watch the battle as I've seen elsewhere). After the Yankees skeedaddled, the ladies of our town moved about the wounded, dying, and dead to see if they could find their loved ones amongst the many bodies lying upon the ground.

Hey! Military! Where were you? I only saw one of our men there. We could have used you.

The Glorious 4th: Sometimes one just can't get enough of visiting the past, and what better day to enjoy American History than on the 4th of July? And what better place locally

to celebrate this wonderful American holiday than at Greenfield Village?

Yes, a few of us donned our period clothing and ventured to the Village and had one of the best times ever. We spent much of our time with the kind folks of Firestone Farm (where 21st Michigan member Larissa Fleishman also works), sitting upon the porch and chatting away as we watched the presenters make homemade ice cream.



We also took the time to enjoy a picnic under a weeping willow tree near the covered bridge.

And we did all of this with temperatures reaching 101 degrees! Our ancestors would have been proud!

To be honest, it was one of the best, most glorious 4th of July's I've ever spent!

Civilians of the 21st Michigan: Hurrah to you all! We have been attending in force nearly every event this entire season so far. I expected a good showing at Greenfield, but

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we've been having great attendance at nearly *every event* – that shows me that we very much enjoy this hobby and want to get the most out of it.

So, will I see you all at Port Sanilac this coming weekend (August 5 & 6)? I certainly hope so. This is a 21st Michigan sponsored event and all hands (and body's to go with the hands) are needed. Except for the Ionia special event in September, this is the single most important one that we have. If you make it to nothing else, Port Sanilac is where you are needed.

Military – are you going to step up to the plate this time? Your presence is needed.

Another betrothal: Congratulations to my son Tom for his engagement to his girlfriend Samantha. It's hard to believe that by this time next year I will have a daughter-in-law! (I like the way that sounds!)

Well friends, it's time to close until next month. Besides Port Sanilac we also have Jackson coming during the last weekend of August.

See you at both! 

Civil War REENACTOR



21ST. MICHIGAN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY CO. H

CHESTERFIELD CIVIL WAR DAYS

August 11th & 12th

Sponsored by the 15th Michigan Volunteer Infantry,
the 8th Arkansas and
the Chesterfield Historical Society

Suggested Donation - \$1.00 Adult OR \$2.00 per family requested by the
Chesterfield Historical Society

Featuring:

Living history encampments and battle skirmishes

Special appearances by the Michigan Cavalry Brigade

Camp setup Friday, August 10th

Event schedule:

Saturday and Sunday

9:00 a.m. Marching & Drilling on grounds

9:30 a.m. Living history encampments

10:30 a.m. Cannon firing demonstration - 12 lb. Mountain Howitzer

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Marching & Drilling in the Park

1:30 p.m. Living history encampments

2:00 p.m. Battle skirmishes in the Park (including Artillery and Cavalry)

4:00 p.m. Marching & Drilling in the Park

6:30 p.m. Living history encampments

Where:

Chesterfield Historical Village Park

Adjacent to the Chesterfield Twp. offices

47275 Sugarbush Rd. (between 21 Mile & Cotton Rds.)



Rules for Teachers in 1872

- 1. Teachers each day will fill lamps and clean chimneys.*
- 2. Each teacher will bring a bucket and a scuttle of coal for the day's session.*
- 3. Make your pens carefully. (goose quills) You may whittle nibs to the individual taste of pupils.*
- 4. Men teachers may take an evening each week for courting purposes, or 2 evenings a week, if they go to church regularly.*
- 5. After 10 hours in school, the teacher may spend the remaining time reading the Bible or good books.*
- 6. Woman teachers who marry or engage in unseemly conduct will be dismissed.*
- 7. Every teacher should lay aside from each pay, a goodly sum of earnings for his benefit during declining years, so that he will not become a burden on society.*
- 8. Any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool or public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop, will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty.*
- 9. The teacher who performs his labor faithfully and without fault for 5 years, will be given an increase of 25 cents per week in his pay, providing the Board of Education approves.*