


**Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Circular**

Saturday, April 9, 2011 4:05 AM

**From:** "History Remembered, Inc." <civil-war@comcast.net>

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## History Remembered, Inc.

A Civil War History Partner

# Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Circular

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## THE DAILY EAGLE

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1861

# BOMBARDMENT OF FORT SUMTER!!!

## ATTACKED at 4:27 A.M. APRIL 12

# Proclamation of War!

## President Lincoln Calls Forth 75,000

...The response was prompt, and the rush to arms instantaneous. A war meeting was held at Luce's Hall, April 15, 1861, which was addressed by Col. A. T. McReynolds and others. The hall was filled to overflowing, and a spirit of intense patriotism was manifested. The pervading sentiment was to the effect that the Union must be preserved at all hazards and that the people of this county and valley would come to the front to a man, if need be, armed and equipped, for the support of the National Government...

These headlines from a Grand Rapids newspaper, and probably like countless others across the State of Michigan, signaled the beginning of the Civil War. In four days, we will have an opportunity to begin a four year commemoration of that war.

I encourage you, whether individually or as a group or organization, to look beyond the battles, dates and places of the Civil War - most of that information can be found in the many books published about the war. I believe history is about people and so, as Michigan remembers the Civil War, look for ways to share the stories, letters, deeds and lives of the over 90,000 men who served in the Civil War from Michigan. Be sure to highlight those of your community who stayed at home and did their part to support the war effort too.

Sincerely,

Bruce Butgereit, Executive Director  
History Remembered, Inc.

### *The History Partners*

[Keith Harrison](#),  
Chair

The Military Order  
of the Loyal Legion  
of the United States,  
Michigan Commandery

The Sons of  
Union Veterans  
of the Civil War,  
Department of Michigan

[Tom Berlucchi](#),  
Chair

Reenactors

[John Gibney](#),  
Chair

Museums & Roundtables

[Bruce Butgereit](#),  
Chair

Libraries, Historical &  
Genealogical Societies

[Donna Ullrich](#)

### *Civil War Sesquicentennial Opening Ceremony*

The **Michigan Historical Center**, located at 702 West Kalamazoo Ave., Lansing, MI, 48915, will be the site of the opening ceremony of the Civil War Sesquicentennial on **Saturday, April 16, 2011**.

There will be activities both inside and outside of the museum. **All events are open to the public between the hours of 9 AM to 4 PM.**

**NOTE: The Michigan Historical Center has made arrangements to have a food vendor onsite near the living history camp outside for the purchase of food and beverages.**

**Outside**, in the green space to the west of the museum, reenactors and living historians will have both Union and Confederate camps set up. (Camp set up will begin on Friday (April 15, 2011) after 3:00 in the afternoon.)

The schedule is:

7:00	Breakfast served to the Troops
9:00	Reveille

Publicity

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- 9:15 Morning Parade  
Flag Raising Ceremony  
Cannon Salute  
Brass Band Concert
- 9:30 Infantry Drill & Firing Demonstrations
- 10:00 Artillery Drill & Firing Demonstrations
- 10:00 Cooking Demonstrations (until noontime)
- 10:30 President Lincoln's Speech
- 11:00 Infantry Drill & Firing Demonstrations
- 11:30 Small Arms of the Civil War Lecture
- 12:00 Dinner served to the Troops and Civilians  
Brass Band Concert
- 12:30 Artillery Drill & Firing Demonstrations
- 1:00 Infantry Drill & Firing Demonstrations
- 1:30 Governor Austin Blair Speech
- 2:00 Civilian Fashion Show
- 2:30 Artillery/Infantry Tactics Demonstrations
- 3:15 Bugle Calls Demonstration & Lecture
- 4:00 Retreat  
Flag Lowering Ceremony  
Cannon Salute

**Inside**, you will be able to view the new Civil War exhibit, *Plowshares Into Swords* and how the telegraph brought news of battles and other events. Meet Annie Etheridge, Civil War nurse from Michigan as portrayed by Bernadette Butgereit. Hare battle scenes come to life through the poetry of bard Jim Ribby.

Looking to find where your Civil War ancestor is buried in Michigan or want to share where he is buried? Visit the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Graves Registration table and check out their database with over 60,000 names of soldiers buried in Michigan. Display tables will have information available for upcoming Civil War events and/or collections sponsored by other historical groups.

If you are a reenactor/unit or living historian and you wish to participate, please contact [Tom Emerick](#) of the 7th Michigan Infantry, Co. B for more information.

If you are a museum, library, or other organization and you wish to have your literature available inside the museum, please contact [Bruce Butgereit](#) for more information.

**PLEASE NOTE: All tables have been spoken for. There will be a place for brochures and flyers.**

*Civil War History Partner: MOLLUS*

Founded on April 15, 1865, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States is the oldest Civil War hereditary organization in existence. The [Michigan Commandery](#) was formed February 4, 1885 in Detroit.



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*Civil War History Partners Website:*

Other information includes -

[Michigan's 2011 Civil War Sesquicentennial Events](#)

Over 80 events and growing.  
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[State Civil War Sesquicentennial Website](#)

[State Sesquicentennial Logo Use Policy](#)

### State Civil War Sesquicentennial Kick-off Event

Have a Civil War presentation or character you portray? You can have your contact information listed in our Speakers Bureau. This Sesquicentennial commemoration provides us a great opportunity to reach a whole new generation of people (youth) who may not know much about the Civil War and Michigan's role in that war.

Please be sure to [post your event](#) on the *Seeking Michigan* site as well.

### *Of Special Interest*

#### *Michigan's only known True Son*

Did you know that there are children of Civil War soldiers still living today? In the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, they are known as True or Real Sons. Women in the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic are equally known as True or Real Daughters.



Living in Rockford, MI, Mr. Harold Becker is the 93-year-old True Son of Civil War soldier Charles Conrad Becker who served in the 128th Indiana Infantry as a seventeen year old soldier.

If you are thinking this cannot be possible, the math doesn't lie. When Harold was born on October 30, 1917, his father was 70-years-old and his mother 40. Charles would live another eighteen years and would serve as Commander of Lyon GAR Post No. 9 in Chicago before moving to Montague to retire.



Harold will, Lord willing, attend the Opening Ceremonies on April 16 from 10 AM to 2 PM. You'll find him wearing a Stetson hat in honor of his father who wore one as a member of the GAR. Shaking Harold's hand is as close to the Civil War as any of us will probably

ever get.

Currently, there are only 39 known children remaining of Union Civil War soldiers; 16 of them are True Sons.

*The Michigan Experience*  
*iMichigan Productions*

[iMichigan Productions](#) is one of the Civil War History Partners for the Sesquicentennial. By [clicking here](#), you will find a great opportunity to support their efforts in getting their work into schools and more.

*Thank you.*

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