

**Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Circular**

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## History Remembered, Inc.

A Civil War History Partner

# Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Circular

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### Michigan Remembers the Civil War -

The first major land engagement of the Civil War for the troops from Michigan occurred on July 21, 1861 with the Battle of First Bull Run or First Manassas (Virginia). The untried Union troops under Brig. General Irvin McDowell, including the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Michigan Infantry Regiments, marched out from Washington against the Confederate army, which was drawn up behind Bull Run Creek beyond Centreville.

At the beginning of the five hour battle the Union soldiers had the Confederates on the retreat, except for one brigade commanded by General Jackson. Due to Jackson's ability to hold his ground and his stubbornness, the men saw him similar to a stone wall, hence the nickname "Stonewall" Jackson. Thanks to Jackson the Confederates were able to hold out until General Johnston showed up with 9000 reinforcements to help out Beauregard near Henry House Hill. The arrival changed the course of the battle and soon the Union soldiers were fleeing back to Washington.

The following report was made by [Captain Byron R. Pierce](#), 3rd Michigan Infantry (Grand Rapids), Co. K briefly describing the battle and retreat -

*The next was Sunday, the day of the great battle, which happened about 3 miles above us. We were kept in this position in order to engage the enemy and keep them from out-flanking the main army. We opened our batteries in the morning, but most got no reply. Getting tired of this, Captain Judd's company [A] were sent to reconnoiter the woods. When [they] got within a short distance of them, they opened up on us such a furious fire that we were obliged to fall back into a ravine. This convinced us that they were not dead yet. At 5 o'clock [pm] we were ordered to fall back on Centreville, where upon our arrival everything was in confusion; the main army had been defeated and were retreating in broken order, some stopped at Centreville, while others rushed on to Washington. At 10 o'clock [pm] we had orders to retire back to Fairfax, and our Brigade was to cover the retreat, which we did, and our Regiment was the last, and company K, of course, the very last. So you see we had the honor, if you would think it so, of covering the retreat of the Grand Army, although we do not get the credit of it through the press, we made a forced march 86 miles without stopping for food or rest, and arrived at Arlington in a drenching rain at 10 o'clock AM; and such a tired lot of soldiers I never saw before. We made out to get shelter for the night, and the next morning had our tents brought over from Camp Blair. Now we are here on a beautiful location, where I trust we may remain until the men get recruited, although we are expecting to be called out every moment.*

*Courtesy of Steve Soper,  
Historian of the Old Third Michigan*

[Third Michigan Infantry Research Project](#)

The Civil War had begun and the fact that this was not going to be decided in one battle or in a few days was realized by both sides.

To date there have been many great events to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. Have you posted anything about your upcoming event (s) or collection? If not, please do so.

Bruce B. Butgereit,  
History Remembered, Inc.  
Grand Rapids, MI

Thank you for your continued interest and support.

*The History  
Partners*

*Civil War Dinner & Film Preview*

[Keith Harrison,](#)  
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*Cantonment  
Anderson*

[Historical Tablet](#)

In Grand Rapids last Saturday, June 11, an event was held to rededicate a memorial boulder and a new historical tablet at Cantonment Anderson, the Civil War training grounds of the Third Michigan Infantry.

You are invited and encouraged to attend an authentic Civil War Dinner & Film Preview at the Westwind Flour Mill in Linden, MI.

The date is Saturday, August 6, 2011.

The film is titled:

The Michigan Experience:  
The American Civil War Years

For more information, please click [here](#)

### *A Civil War Treasure Hunt*

The commemorations we are engaged in from 2011-2015 are really nothing new...one only has to look around their community, library, historical society, schools, and more to realize that.

However, how many residents in your own community are unaware of your local Civil War memorial or collection of letters from a soldier in the war at the library? How many students just walk past bronze tablet in their high school that pays tribute to John A. Logan's Memorial Day Order No. 11 or the Gettysburg Address?

So with that in mind, and as a way to make history more fun, the Civil War History Partners is asking you to submit to us any information you might have on a Civil War memorial, a collection of books or images in your library or historical society archives - if it's Civil War, we are interested.

For more information, click this link to view the [History Partners Civil War Treasure Hunt](#) flyer.

### *Civil War History Partners Website:*

Over 140 events and growing. Share your program!

For the story and images in the Grand Rapids Press, click the link below:

[Cantonment Anderson](#)

If the link is dead, search m.live using the words Cantonment Anderson.

[The event program.](#)

How many of you have visited the History Partners or the Seeking Michigan Civil War websites? How many of you have taken advantage of the **free** opportunity for you to advertise your events?

Please take some time to visit these sites.

[Seeking Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Website](#)

[Historic Commission Sesquicentennial Logo Use Policy](#)

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.



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