

**Civil War Sesquicentennial Programs**

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

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History Remembered, Inc.

A Civil War History Partner

Press Release

CANTONMENT ANDERSON 1861

Since Grand Rapids was the commercial and social hub of western Michigan, it was only natural that it served as a focal point for those men seeking to offer their services to the state militia.

Scores of men arrived in Grand Rapids from the surrounding counties throughout late April and early May in order to enlist; they arrived on horseback, by stage, train, and boat or on foot. The first men to arrive in Grand Rapids were originally sworn in and enlisted as ninety-day men, under the first call for troops by President Lincoln. This was quickly modified in mid-May, however, to a three years' enlistment. Consequently, by the time the Third Michigan was mustered into state service on May 23, the men had all been sworn in for three years.

At first new arrivals seeking to enlist were initially put up in local hotels until other arrangements could be made. But on the afternoon of May 4, 1861, the buildings of the Kent County Agricultural Fairgrounds were occupied by the four companies organized in the city so far: Company A, B, C, and D.

Located along the Kalamazoo Plank Road (present-day Division Avenue) about a mile and a half south of the business center of the city, the fairgrounds contained thirty-five to forty acres and were enclosed by a board fence. The area was dubbed "**Cantonment Anderson**" in apparent homage to Major Robert Anderson, the former commander of Fort Sumter.

"A more delightful spot," wrote a correspondent for the Detroit Daily Advertiser, "for the purposes of a military display could not well be found near us, there being a high and substantial board fence around the enclosure, while within, is a fine parade ground, a one mile race track, a large grove of thrifty trees, plenty of the very best of water, and several commodious structures which are occupied as barracks. What was wanting, however, in the way of buildings, when the regiment took up its quarters here, was speedily furnished, when the Captains of the four companies who first entered, asked the joiners, and artisans of the hammer, plane, trowel, and saw, to step forward -- and a score or more obeyed the call, and were soon on the ground and at work..."

Cantonment Anderson - A Memorial Boulder 1911

The fairgrounds were located between what is today Division and Jefferson streets to the west and east respectively and bordered on the north by Hall Street. Once the site of South High School and today the home of the Gerald R. Ford Job Corps the grounds are marked by a boulder commemorating those regiments that organized at Cantonment Anderson.

That boulder was dedicated 50 years after the 3rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry regiment left Cantonment Anderson and Grand Rapids for Washington by the Sophie de Marsac Campau Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Cantonment Anderson - A New Historical Tablet 2011

Cantonment Anderson Rededication/Dedication

June 11, 2011 11:00 AM

Gerald R. Ford Job Corps

110 Hall St. SE

Grand Rapids, MI 49507

Bruce B. Butgereit, Executive Director, History Remembered

616.827.3369

or

Gretchen Lahaie, Community Liaison, G. R. Ford Job Corps

616. 243.6877

Please join us as the Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States and the Gen. John A. Logan Camp No. 1, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War rededicate the original boulder and

dedicate a new historic tablet to the memory of Cantonment Anderson.

Speaking will be Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell and a representative of the City of Kentwood (originally Paris Township in which Cantonment Anderson was located). Also speaking will be historian Mr. David Britten (author of *Courage without Fear* – The Story of the Grand Rapids Guard) and representatives of the Gerald R. Ford Job Corps.

This date of this event is two days shy of the 150th anniversary of when the Third Michigan Infantry Regiment (Grand Rapids' "pet" regiment) left for the front.

History Remembered, Inc.

"...we are the voices of those no longer with us..."

Bruce B. Butgereit has given presentations on the Civil War since 1976 and Marcia, his wife, has shared her knowledge nearly an equal amount of time. Since 2000, the couple has worked tirelessly to not only educate others about the the Civil War but to help restore and preserve numerous Civil War monuments.

In 2009, as their interests broadened to include other historical eras and landmarks, they created the not-for-profit corporation History Remembered, Inc. to encourage the preservation and education of local history.

Marcia, working with Michael DeRuiter of Crop Marks Printing, did the layout and design for the Cantonment Anderson tablet.

The purpose of History Remembered is to -

Create community awareness through educational programs

*Assist local governments and community groups
in the preservation of historical objects*

*Raise funds to restore, repair and preserve items
related to our historic past.*

Civil War History Partners

History Remembered is proud to be a History Partner of the Michigan Historical Commission Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee.



Please visit the [History Partners](#) website

For more on the Civil War Sesquicentennial in Michigan, please visit:

<http://seekingmichigan.org/civil-war>

Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners:

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