



News from History Remembered, Inc.

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History Remembered, Inc.

A Civil War History Partner

Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Circular

May 2012

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History Partners

[Keith Harrison](#)
Chair

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

Sons of

Michigan Remembers the Civil War -

I would wager that most of you probably would not connect Mexico and France to the American Civil War. Mention *Cinco de Mayo* and you might think of advertisements on TV encouraging you to celebrate the event with your favorite alcoholic beverage or at the local *On the Border* restaurant.

In this issue, I've included news about an event where Michigan residents will be participants in a special parade and ceremony in Mexico.

The baseball season is young and Comerica Park is filled for most games. The average ticket price is \$31. More historical information is included in the baseball section of this circular.

The weather has been interesting to say the least and most damaging to farmers and growers. Who knows? There may be an opportunity to

*Union Veterans
of the Civil War,
Department of Michigan*

[Tom Berlucchi](#)
Chair

Reenactors

[John Gibney](#)
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Museums & Roundtables

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reenact or conduct an event in the snow. Whatever the weather, please be sure to post your events on our website. The NEW address is:

www.micw150.us/

I've included some websites that you may find of interest. With the study of the Civil War upon many schools, educators may find the link to the Civil War Trust helpful.

Thank you for your support in commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

Respectfully,
Bruce B. Butgereit, Executive Director
History Remembered, Inc.
Grand Rapids, MI

Cinco de Mayo -

From the website of the *Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States* (MOLLUS):

Members of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS), Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) and its Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR), and reenactors from the 7th Michigan and 5th Texas (marching as Union) reenacting organizations have been invited by the Government of the State of Puebla and the Mexican Federal Government to participate in its



[the Civil War](#)

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Productions](#)

[Restoration:
Detroit GAR
Building](#)

Sesquicentennial of Cinco de Mayo celebration and commemoration in Puebla, Mexico on May 5, 2012.

Ten of the 17-person delegation will be marching in full Civil War gear along with the Mexican Army in the parade that will take place on May 5th in Puebla. To say the least, we are all excited to participate on behalf of our organizations and our country in the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Puebla, Mexico. The MOLLUS delegation is headed by Jeffry Burden, MOLLUS Commander-in-Chief; Waldron Post MOLLUS Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief; James Simmons, MOLLUS Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief; and Eric Rojo, MOLLUS Chancellor-in-Chief.

The individuals that will be marching will be:

Keith G. Harrison, PCinC MOLLUS & SUVCW, Past Commanding Officer SVR, 7th Michigan

Adam Gaines, JVC Michigan Commandery MOLLUS, MAL SUVCW, 7th Michigan

Eugene Mortorff, National Secretary SUVCW

Jamin Gjerman, Dept. of CA & Pacific SUVCW

Mace Gjerman, Dept. of CA & Pacific SUVCW

Linn Malaznik, Dept. of CA & Pacific SUVCW

Thomas Helmantoler, Chaplain, Dept. of CA & Pacific SUVCW

Lee Stone, 1st Lt, Insp Gen, 2nd Mil Dist. SVR

William Tisch, Commander, Capt. 6th Mil Dist. SVR

John Fross Jr, Co E, 4th Texas Volunteer Infantry, CSA

Tony Cobb, Co E, 4th Texas Volunteer Infantry, CSA

Few people realize that the battle of Puebla,

Mexico had a significant impact on our American Civil War. Some historians have argued that France's real goal was to help break up the American Union, at the time in the midst of a civil war, by helping the southern Confederacy: "The Mexicans had won a great victory that kept Napoleon III from supplying the confederate rebels for another year, allowing the United States to build the greatest army the world had ever seen. This grand army smashed the Confederates at Gettysburg just 14 months after the battle of Puebla." The consequence of Cinco de Mayo to the United States has been thus recognized: "The defeat of the French army had consequences for America as well...the French defeat denied Napoleon III the opportunity to resupply the Confederate rebels for another year."

Another historian, Donald W. Miles, states, "At the time, there were fears in the United States that the French would use Mexico as a base to back the Confederacy, so President Lincoln and his Secretary of State went out of their way to appear 'neutral' in the Mexican situation. They did not want to take on the French and the Confederates at the same time." Dr. Miles goes on to explain that "Napoleon III had hesitated to take on the United States directly, but now the news of the Civil War changed everything." It meant that the Americans would be occupied with their conflict between North and South for some time. Upon hearing the Spaniards and the British had sailed off to grab the customs house in Veracruz to start collecting their duties, Napoleon decided he would not only send the French navy, but would also start looking for someone to place as emperor in Mexico. He would then use Mexico as a base to help the Confederates win their war against the United States. Napoleon saw this as an opportunity not to be missed. Dr. Miles then concludes, "The Emperor of France ordered his

generals to spend a few months taking on Mexico and then - using Mexico as a 'base' - help the Confederates win their war against the United States. What if they had succeeded? The United States would never become the significant world power it is today...the Mexicans not only took their nation back, but influenced the outcome of the U.S. Civil War."

Historian Justo Sierra has written in his Political Evolution of the Mexican People that had Mexico not defeated the French in Puebla on May 5, 1862, France would have gone to the aid of the South in the U.S. Civil War and the United States' destiny could have been very different.

Baseball -

On May 15, 1862, the Union Grounds in Brooklyn, New York was opened as the first enclosed baseball field in the United States.

Find more history, click on [Ball Park](#)

The price of a ticket to a non-All-Star game was 10 cents; first charged on April 18, 1869. Previously, the teams were charged a fee to play.

Scheduled Events -

May 12 - 13: Historic Walker Tavern Civil War Muster (13220 M-50 at US -12). Step back in time. Hear the roar of cannons. Smell the smoke. Over 200 reenactors will recreate the sights and sounds of the Civil War May 12 and 13 at Walker Tavern Historic Site.

See the Confederate and Union forces exchange musket fire and clash in battles both Saturday and Sunday. Visit the civilian and military camps and stroll through the village to experience what life was like in the 1860s Shop the Sutler's row to purchase items that would have been found in 19th century shops. Play period games. History will come alive for you and your family.

Sponsored by the 5th Texas Company E, the USS Michigan Marine Guard, and Walker Tavern Historic Site which is a part of the Michigan Historical Museum System and the Department of Natural Resources.

Cost: Daily admission charge is \$3 for adults, \$1 for children 6-12, free for children 5 and under.

Website: www.michigan.gov/walkertavern

To date there are 114 events scheduled for 2012. Be sure to share with us the details of your event so it can be posted on our webpage.

[History Partners Website](#)

Interesting Websites -

Civil War Trust:

[Civil War Education](#)

U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center:

[Understanding War Through Imagery](#)

You will see this section pop up as the image on the Home Page changes.

Name that Battlefield (Civil War Trust):

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