



News from History Remembered, Inc.

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History Remembered, Inc.

A Civil War History Partner

Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Circular

June 2012

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History Partners

[Keith Harrison](#)
Chair

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

Michigan Remembers the Civil War -

I subscribe to a number of historical groups in which members can share information or ask questions about a variety of topics. Sometimes a member will post a topic that draws a variety of responses, some of which demonstrate the Civil War still evokes strong opinions.

I know some reenactors who will not wear the coat of the "other" side when there is an insufficient number of Blue or Gray to present a quality event. Other friends in heritage groups such as the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War or the Sons of Confederate Veterans often have ancestry that fought on either side and are a member of both organizations.

Topics of recent postings asked -

Why are Union related organizations less popular than Confederate?

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

[Tom Berlucchi](#)
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Why is there a social stigma for men joining a Confederate group but not necessarily for a woman?

The "Lost Cause" - who's right?

For some, maybe the War will never be over.

All of this is interesting when you think of how the old veterans of the Civil War and members of the GAR, the UCV, and the MOLLUS were able to move on after the War and often jointly participated in events. Here in Grand Rapids, veterans in Gray helped dedicate the Kent County Civil War monument in 1885.

On Sunday, June 10, 2012 there will be a ceremony to honor **Post Civil War Michigan Resident Thomas Ryan, former Confederate Civil War Soldier.** (Easton Church of Christ Cemetery, 3477 Easton Road, Owosso, Michigan). **Noon.**

The United Daughters of the Confederacy, Thomas Ryan 2689 Chapter is conducting a memorial service for their namesake, Thomas Ryan. Ryan served in the Virginia Light Artillery, Co. A, 13th Battalion. Following the war, Ryan moved to Farmington, Ohio where he married and started his family. In 1876, Ryan moved to New Haven Township, Shiawassee County, Michigan where he lived out his life as a farmer. Ryan was a member of the Easton Church of Christ.

The day will begin with a church service at 10 am in Ryan's small Easton Church where he worshiped. The Memorial service will begin at 12 noon, with color guard there will be members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and Sons of Confederate Veterans and Civil War reenactors and representing both Union and

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[Restoration:
Detroit GAR
Building](#)

Confederate troops. Instrumental will be provided by Gloria Lynn Campbell member and local gospel recording star. During the ceremony, the Iron Cross will be presented to the Ryan family. There will be several Ryan descendants that will be in attendance for the memorial service; which Thomas Ryans second grandson, Fred Ward helped with the planning and genealogy of the service and has been taking care of the family plot for years.

I, as Commander of the Michigan Commandery, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, will bring greetings from Max Waldrop, Commander General of the Military Order of the Stars & Bars.

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

Father's Day -

June 17, 2012, will be the 102nd anniversary of the first Father's Day commemoration.

It all started in 1910 when Sonora Smart Dodd of Spokane, Washington, organized the first Father's Day celebration on June 19, her own father's birthday. The mayor of Spokane and the governor of Washington state officially support the event. Dodd's father, a farmer and Civil War veteran, had been a single father to six young children after the death of his wife.

William Smart served in the 1st Arkansas United States Light Artillery. For more on Sonora Smart Dodd and Father's Day, please click [here](#).

Professor Lowe -

Thaddeus Sobieski Coulincourt Lowe (August 20, 1832 - January 16, 1913), also known as Professor T. S. C. Lowe, was an American Civil War aeronaut, scientist and inventor, mostly self-educated in the fields of chemistry, meteorology, and aeronautics, and the father of military aerial reconnaissance in the United States. By the late 1850s he was well known for his advanced theories in the meteorological sciences as well as his balloon building. Among his aspirations were plans for a transatlantic flight.

Lowe's scientific endeavors were cut short by the onset of the American Civil War. He recognized his patriotic duty in offering his services as an aeronaut for the purposes of performing aerial reconnaissance on the Confederate troops on behalf of the Union Army. In July 1861 Lowe was appointed Chief Aeronaut of the Union Army Balloon Corps by President. Though his work was generally successful, it was not fully appreciated by all members of the military, and disputes over his operations and pay scale forced him to resign in 1863. Lowe returned to the

private sector and continued his scientific exploration of hydrogen gas manufacturing. He invented the water gas process by which large amounts of hydrogen gas could be produced from steam and charcoal. His inventions and patents on this process and ice making machines made him a millionaire.



Thaddeus Lowe in 1865

In 1887 he moved to Los Angeles, California, and eventually built a 24,000 sq. ft. home in Pasadena. He opened several ice making plants and founded Citizen's Bank of Los Angeles. Lowe was introduced to David J. Macpherson, a civil engineer, who had drawn up plans for a scenic mountain railroad. In 1891 they incorporated the Pasadena & Mount Wilson Railroad Co. and began the construction of what would become the Mount Lowe Railway into the hills above Altadena. The railway opened on July 4, 1893 and was met with quick interest and success. Lowe continued construction toward Oak Mountain, renamed Mount Lowe, at an exhaustive rate, both physically and financially. By 1899 Lowe had gone into receivership and eventually lost the railway to Jared S. Torrance. Lowe's fortunes had been all but lost, and he lived out his remaining days at his daughter's home in Pasadena where he died at age 80.

- Courtesy of Wikipedia

Looking Into Richmond -

Nearly 150 years ago, on June 14, 1862, Professor Lowe was able to provide an aerial report of the City of Richmond, VA. For a look at the map, click [here](#).

For more on Professor Lowe and the Balloon Corps, click [here](#).



The *Intrepid* at the Battle of Fair Oaks (1862)

Michigan at Antietam -

On August 24-27, 2012 (Friday - Monday), a tour bus will depart from Michigan for a trip to Antietam (Sharpsburg, MD).

For more information including a registration form, please click [here](#).

Scheduled Events -

The Three Oaks Flag Day parade offers a great opportunity to celebrate Father's Day and Flag Day in one! Having previously participated in

this parade, I can attest I've never seen so much Red, White, and Blue in one place.

June 17 (Sunday) 60th Annual Harbor County Flag Day Parade (Three Oaks, Michigan) 3:00 PM. Largest Flag Day Parade in the United States. Frederick H. Hackeman Camp #85, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Contact: Theodore Chamberlain tjc41@mac.com.

July 7-8 (Saturday & Sunday) Civil War Days (Historic Fort Wayne 6325 West Jefferson, Detroit, Michigan). [Website](#).

Contacts: Doris Julian at Juliandoris2@aol.com or by Telephone at 810-793-6739, or Tom Berlucchi at Tberlucchi@yahoo.com or by Telephone at 248-840-5234.

July 7 (Saturday) Glory, Valor & Sacrifice: Civil War Remembrance Bus Tour: Metro Detroit (The Park Shelton, 15 E. Kirby, Detroit, Michigan). 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Metro Detroit Civil War Tour* features Civil War sites of interest including Fort Wayne, historic Elmwood and Woodmere Cemeteries, the final resting places for hundreds of Civil War soldiers including several famous generals and medal of honor recipients as well as prominent politicians of this era including Senator Jacob Merritt Howard, who co-authored the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution; Belle Isle, where a statue pays tribute to one of Michigan's most esteemed Civil War generals and his horse Plug Ugly; Campus Martius Park, the center of several Civil War gatherings and current home of the Soldiers and Sailors monument and historical marker dedicated to the famous Michigan Iron Brigade, site once occupied by Camp Ward, training ground of the First Michigan Colored Infantry, sites significant to the Underground Railroad, and

much more! \$40 Adult / \$25.00 Youth. Advance registration required. Contact: Website: <http://hometownhistorytours.com>. Karin Risko at k_risko@yahoo.com or telephone at 734.642.5712.

[History Partners Website](#)

Interesting Websites -

Civil War Newspapers:

[*The News 1860s Style*](#)

Follow the Restoration of the Detroit G.A.R. Memorial Hall:

[*Detroit G.A.R. Building*](#)

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