

<b>Subject:</b>	Michigan CWS Circular September 2014
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<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, September 23, 2014 9:01 PM



## History Remembered, Inc.

*A Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial  
History Partner*

September 2014

Volume 5, Issue 4

# Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Circular

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History Partners

**Michigan Remembers the Civil War -**

Michigan Commandery,

Military Order of the Loyal  
Legion of the United States

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

History Remembered, Inc.

*Historic Fort Wayne, Inc.*

iMichigan Productions

### **Partners Leadership**

**Keith Harrison**

*Chair*

History Partners website

If you are wondering if you missed any issue of this circular since March, you haven't. It has been an eventful five months wherein my wife Marcia lost her father in May and my mother passed away in July. I am also making steady improvement in a health related issue going back to May.

Writer's block. We've all been there. Sitting in front of the keyboard, fingers poised, staring at that blank page – yet somehow the words just don't come. For myself, I've found that writer's block is often caused by a number of factors, such as fatigue, distractions, anxiety, or even hunger, (snack break anyone?) These things can often contribute to depletion or exhaustion of the imagination, which in turn, can cause that "stuck" feeling when sitting down to write.

It can take up to five hours to publish one circular and most of that time has been spent searching for historical information that may be of interest to you. This was easy for some months but other times it took some digging. So maybe I didn't have writer's block but just unlucky in my research?

In this issue, you'll find a couple of events that should interest you.

Here in Grand Rapids, I have been working with the Caledonia Historical Society to identify the final resting place of Captain Christopher C. Bruton, Co. C, 22nd NY Cavalry, a Medal of Honor recipient. While he has a family marker with his name and a small stone that states Captain on his grave, nothing

mentions his Medal of Honor.

This project made me think of how and when black soldiers were awarded the MOH and I've included a couple of links to some great articles on the subject.

I'm not certain whether I'll continue with a monthly circular or every other month. The offer for you to submit events and other stories still stands and I welcome your input.

Thank you for your continued efforts to commemorate Michigan in the Civil War.

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



### **Michigan Remembers Gettysburg -**

Sometimes a delay can be a good thing. Over the past several months, we have uncovered more information for the commemorative program - some things which only a few people have viewed in the last 50-plus years and some items which probably haven't been seen in at least 100 years.



It is our goal to have the program available by the Gettysburg Remembrance Day event on Saturday, November 15, 2014.

For those who were present at the 150th event in 2013, you will be able to receive

your copy in Gettysburg if you are attending the event this year. For those present last year but unable to attend this year, yours will be mailed to you.

For those wishing to purchase additional copies, an order form will be in the November circular.

### **Retiring Michigan's Gettysburg grave flags -**

Every November around the 19th, on a Saturday called Remembrance Day, residents from Michigan gather at 8 AM to place small U.S. and State of Michigan flags on the graves of Michigan men buried in the National Cemetery. The flags are removed the Monday following. This practice has been taking place since 1998. Each State flag bears the name of the soldier (including regiment and grave row and number).

Following the 150 anniversary ceremony conducted by the Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Woman's Relief Corps, it was determined that the flags needed to be retired. Although maintained by the WRC, the flags were showing the effects of the weather - wind, rain, and sometimes snow.

Because the cost to replace these flags is quite expensive - nylon 8"x12" State of Michigan flags cost around \$7 each - the WRC suggested the flags be retired by allowing people to purchase the flags to help raise the funds necessary.

Each purchase will include a U.S. and State of Michigan flag that has flown over the grave of a Michigan soldier killed at Gettysburg. In addition, each purchase will receive a small tin that bears a special label identifying the soldier and that carried some soil from Michigan to his grave for our ceremony in 2013.

**Your help is needed!!**

Click the [link](#) below to open (and download) an order form.

## HELP RETIRE THE MICHIGAN GETTYSBURG FLAGS



### Upcoming events -

The website now has 130 events for 2014 posted on our website. Is your event one of them?

The website is: [www.micw150.us](http://www.micw150.us)

Your events are posted at NO CHARGE. Please send an email with all of the details and contact information to Keith Harrison at [pcinc@prodigy.net](mailto:pcinc@prodigy.net)

Want your event advertised in this circular? Send an email with details and contact information to Bruce B. Butgereit at [civil-war@comcast.net](mailto:civil-war@comcast.net)

**MICHIGAN HISTORICAL  
CENTER & MUSEUM**  
702 W. Kalamazoo St.  
Lansing, MI 48915

**NEW!!**

**CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL  
EXHIBIT**

To kick off the Civil War Sesquicentennial in 2011, the Michigan Historical Center created an exhibit titled, *From Plowshares into Swords*.

As part of that opening, the Michigan Historical Center and the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners coordinated an opportunity for historical, genealogical and heritage organizations to

set up table displays in the rotunda. The attendance at that opening was one of the largest days experienced at the MHC and twenty different organizations were able to share information about their Civil War collections and research capabilities.

So mark your calendars for -

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2014**

and the opening of the new exhibit

## ***CONCEIVED IN LIBERTY***

As in 2011, up to twenty (20) organizations will have the opportunity to set up a table display in the rotunda. Two chairs will be available per table.

Rules of participation -

1. Send an email request to Bruce B. Butgereit at [civil-war@comcast.net](mailto:civil-war@comcast.net) stating your organizations name and what you have that is related to the Civil War or the Grand Army of the Republic, etc.
2. All requests will be honored on a First Come, First Served basis.
3. Only 5 organizations may have two tables.
4. No, I respectfully repeat, no organization may sell anything or request donations during this event. You may distribute handouts with membership information.
5. You may start setting up your display at

8:30am.

## The agenda for the day -

Come celebrate the opening of the new special exhibit *Conceived in Liberty* with a fun-filled day of live music, hands-on activities, and Civil War reenactors and costumed interpreters. Discover what life was like in the Civil War-era, play games popular in the 1860s, including a live game of cricket, and test your tactical skills with puzzles, engineering challenges, and table top war games! While you're here, don't forget to snap a "selfie" while dressed up in a Civil War costume.

The 5th Michigan Regimental Band will provide inspiring musical entertainment throughout the day.

Activities will run from 9am to 4pm.

## **MICHIGAN'S FIFTH ANNUAL CIVIL WAR SESQUICENTENNIAL REENACTOR CONFERENCE**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2014**  
10am - 4 pm

at the  
**Michigan Historical Center**  
702 W. Kalamazoo St.  
Lansing, MI 48915

As with the previous annual conferences, the purpose of the reenactor conference is to help promote Michigan Civil War events and Civil War events of significance to Michigan. Individuals, organizations, and

communities sponsoring and/or hosting reenactments, living histories, programs, presentations, and/or commemorations are encouraged to bring their fliers and other promotional items about their 2015 event to the conference.

In addition to being an official partner in the state's Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration and being able to use two Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial logos in your event's advertisements, the conference results in your event's publication in an established state-wide distributed web-based calendar of events and on Facebook. In 2011, 169, in 2012, 180, in 2013, 173 Civil War Sesquicentennial events have been promoted. The conference and subsequent state-wide calendar have proven to be effective tools in helping to avoid event date conflicts and in bringing in additional notice, participants, and public to your events. Finally, all events published on this calendar will become a permanent record in the Library of Congress documenting what Michigan did for the Civil War Sesquicentennial.

The event is again being sponsored and hosted by the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners, Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission, Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, Michigan Department of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Friends of Michigan History, Inc., Michigan Historical Center, Historic Fort Wayne Coalition, and History Remembered, Inc. Refreshments will be served. Contact Keith Harrison at [pcinc@prodigy.net](mailto:pcinc@prodigy.net)



## The Detroit Grand Army of the Republic Building -

Work continues on the restoration/renovation of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Memorial Building at the corner of Cass and Grand River Avenue in Detroit. Commonly called the G.A.R. Building or simply as "The Castle," this building opened in 1900 and was the meeting location of multiple post-Civil War fraternal organizations.

Why do I regularly share updates on this building? The answer is simple, There is no other G.A.R. hall in Michigan as impressive as this one. I also have assisted in providing historical information about the G.A.R. and the building to the team restoring the building. I am also the commander of the Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States and our organization once met on the 2nd floor of that building.

For more history on the building, visit this website:

<http://historicdetroit.org/building/grand-army-of-the-republic-building/>

For some great images of the restoration and other cool finds in the building, please visit: <http://gardetroit.org/>

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