



# The Volunteer



June 2007

A Publication of the 4<sup>th</sup> Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Company A

For right now, the newsletter will be pretty basic, as my intent is to get the information out to everyone in a timely manner. It is my hope that we can go back to the other format in the near future. Thank you for your patience in this matter! Lorna Mitchell, President

## From the Desk of the Vice President

Well here we are almost at the end of May, hard to believe how fast time goes by. This past weekend the Military found themselves getting much needed training. Hope everyone that attended learned some things to improve themselves. It was a very tiring weekend with all of the drill but everyone made it through it okay, a few aches and pains. But like they say no pain no gain!

With the season upon, it is time to think of the items that need to be brought to events. I would like to see us again this year doing the company dinners on Saturday like we have in the past. I hope everyone has enjoyed them, I know I did. Lets everyone get together and make the plans for the different events we have this year on who is going to bring the main course, this will change from every event. When you don't have to supply the main meal then you need to bring a dish to pass. If everyone takes a turn supplying the main meal, it makes it a lot easier on all. This doesn't mean you have to cook it, there are others that will help do this all you have to do is bring the food. So if you plan on eating at a company dinner plan on providing the main course one day at some event.

Now for the people in the Military, make sure you come to events ready for the weekend and ready for Battle. There is nothing worse then falling into line with out any rounds or caps, or water in your canteen. Be ready when you arrive for the event. And don't forget the food you will need to be eating for the weekend unless you are on some kind of a weird diet and you don't eat on the weekends. Don't count on others to feed you, because they won't, just do a little pre-planning before you go to any event, that's all it takes.

Now let's all go out and have fun, and learn, and teach the public about the Civil War.  
Steve (CoCo) Bucher

## April & May Treasury Report

April 2007                      Record No.52

### Treasury Status

<u>Balance Forward</u>	\$796.55
Gains	\$25.00
Expenses	\$0.00
<b>End Balance</b>	<b>\$821.55</b>

### Funds Status

Checking Account	\$739.05
Cash on Hand	\$82.50
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>\$821.55</b>

May 2007                      Record No. 53

Treasury Status

Balance Forward              \$931.05

Gains                              \$62.50

Expenses                         \$22.25

**End Balance**                    \$971.30

Funds Status

Checking Account               \$918.05

Cash on Hand                    \$53.25

**Total Funds**                    \$971.30

**Thank You**

**As you might have noticed in a previous newsletter the 4<sup>th</sup> Michigan Co. A donated \$100.00 to the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison. They have sent me a letter and I wish to share it with you all.**

**April 5, 2007**

**Dear David A. Fildey,**

Thank you very much for your recent gift of \$100 to the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison. Your organization's support of historic preservation allows us to remain steadfast in our goal to permanently safeguard and maintain the island for future educational, interpretative and research programs.

As you are well aware, Johnson's Island is considered one of the best-preserved examples of a Civil War prisoner-of-war facility in the United States. The prison site offers a rare opportunity for students and educators to make a direct connection to the past unlike any other. With the financial support of donors such as your organization, present and future generations will continue to discover and understand the captivation history of Johnson's Island and its role in one of the most devastating periods in American history.

**Again, Many thanks for your commitment to the Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island Civil War Prison and our mission of preserving a significant Civil War site. You have our continued gratitude and appreciation.**

**Sincerely,**

**Dr. David R. Bush**

**Chair, Friends and Descendants of Johnson's Island**

**(They also sent a newsletter and I will have it with me at future events if anyone would like to read it.)**

**Unit Contacts**

Board Members:

President: Lorna Mitchell    1-989-413-1272

V. President: Steve Bucher 1-734-320-8300

Acting Secretary: L. Mitchell 1-989-413-1272

Treasurer: Dave Fildey     1-517-589-5685

Military:

Capt: Denny Whiting        1-419-335-7212

1<sup>st</sup> Sgt: Russ Paul            1-248-515-3349

2<sup>nd</sup> Sgt: Matt Prince

Corporal: Ben Mitchell     1-989-743-3587

## **At The Double Quick**

By Captain Denny Whiting

June has arrived and the first two events of the season are over. Wildwood was a new event under a commander we have never seen before. My thought is that it was a good event all around (except for a few pesky mosquitoes). That was quite a dinner spread they provided us. And the 4<sup>th</sup> acquitted itself very well indeed. The tactical was similar to those we use to have at Hastings and we held our ground and fulfilled our orders to hold our part of the ridge line. We did so even though the units on both sides of us left the good ground and moved down into the swamp. We also executed well the commands given us in the scrimmages. We showed that we are a unit that can be counted on.

GFV was a very good time this year. The weather kept the visitors down Saturday and Sunday but it made drill and battle nicer as it was not so hot. Boys, we did die well. A number of company business cards were handed out and who knows, we may get one or two new people out of it. Every man, woman and child counts. It was also very good to see some of the old members that we haven't seen in a long time. Chris Hawley was out and fell in with us Saturday and Monday. He hasn't lost a step. Tom and Carla Patton and Brian Kennedy were making the rounds too. It was very good to see them. It was good to have Ron, now an associate member, and though he was never a member, Rich join us Sunday. It is all ways welcomed to have good soldiers on the line.

We have a lot to be proud of from both events. I may be a little prejudice but I think we have some of the best people in reenacting. How many units can boast of having the toughness of Iron Brigade and the Iron file of Steve and Chris, and the leadership of our non-Coms of Russ, Matt and Ben. Every unit needs the steadiness of someone like Dave, (and beside he is one great cook). Our fresh fish have shown great improvement too. Jeremy has grown in his confidence and is no longer as tentative. Jerry has such a desire to do it right and has shown the self-sufficiency the Civil War soldier had. Forgetting a spoon and making one out of wood. I can just envision a soldier losing or breaking a spoon and sitting in camp making one that same way. I remember at Hastings one year, we were the 4<sup>th</sup> Tenn, I had left my suspenders on my sky blues and used the twine from a straw bail to hold my pants up. Steve Tononi is quickly becoming an anchor for the unit on the left next to Matt. Rick made it and did an excellent job and Adrian helped two wounded soldier and one rifle back to safety. All in all, a unit we all should be proud of.

Now, for the month of June we have Walker Tavern. Even in hot and steamy July it has been a good event held on historic ground and in Steve and Tammy's back yard. This year it is being held in June so hopefully it will be better weather. We hope to see everyone there. Some of us will be going to Hillsdale. It is rather farby but it is an entertaining event.

'Til we meet again, Take care all

### **Company Gear**

If you need company gear for an event, please call the appropriate person below at least 5 days in advance of the event you wish to borrow for. These items are in high demand since we have many new members and new recruits.

Tents – Russ/Lorna 1-248-515-3349

Rifles – Steve Bucher 1-734-320-8300

Uniforms – Steve Tononi 1- 586-610-9882

Please make every effort to purchase your own gear as soon as possible to allow other new recruits the opportunity to use the company gear just as you did when you got started! It is much appreciated! Thanks!

## **From Our Secretary**

Dear Friends,

I love watching the Detroit Tigers. Yes, even during the bad times. Yet I never thought I'd be thrown my own set of curve balls. Because these throws often send me off balance I have to adapt to the next pitch and be ready. Therefore , after much thought, I need to resign from the position of unit secretary.

I truly care about the 4th Michigan and its members, so I believe this decision is in the best interest of all. With unexpectedly losing my job, moving and extended illness since the beginning of the year I have been unable to perform the duties of my office with efficacy and punctuality as needed by the Unit. Which in all truth, makes me nuts. So for now, I will be working at a part-time commission job and preparing to return to school in the fall and trying not to overextend myself. I won't be able to attend many functions this year (much to my chagrin). However, I will be out as much as I can. I will gladly help with anything you need, you only need to call. Think of me, as I will be thinking of all of you. Thanks so very much.

Sincerely,

Tammy Harris

## **Upcoming Events for June**

June 8 – Fraser Middle School is a one day school talk which we voted as special event status for the unit. For more information, please contact Lorna (1-989-413-1272) or Russ (1-248-515-3349). You may set up on Thursday night and be there for the students on Friday and then stay until Saturday morning with lots of activities going on throughout the day and evening.

June 9-10 - Walker Tavern, located in Brooklyn, MI, is next on our list of voted upon events. This historical stagecoach stop is a great place for an event. There will be a few sutlers available for this weekend.

## **Upcoming Events for July**

July 6-8 – Historic Fort Wayne/Detroit – This event is in place of the Fort Wayne event which is listed in August. There was a misunderstanding as to the August event which really was just for military participants and not civilians. The July event will be offered to anyone who would like to attend and it will not count against your voting privileges if you do not attend this event. This event has been a favorite in the past with plenty of activities and even a night firing of the cannon!

July 13-15 – Celery Flats, Portage, MI. This is a new event for the unit. Located in the SW corner of the state, it looks like it will be a lot of fun!

July 20 – 22 – Thistle Ridge, Fayette, OH. Hosted by the Ohio unit that Denny is also a part of, this event is a great little one to attend. I think I heard that they had a pool available for our use in the evening after the event closed for the day.... (I could be wrong on this .....So don't quote me and I'll get specific details for the July newsletter!)

## **In The Future**

The national event, September Storm, which takes place the first weekend after Labor Day is fast approaching. The deadline for having your registration money to the Unit to register you for this event is past, however, you may still register for this event on your own. Please contact Steve Bucher for the details.