

Historical Society of Greater Lansing Historical Society of Greater Lansing Historical Society of Greater Lansing Historical Society of Greater Lansing

January 2002

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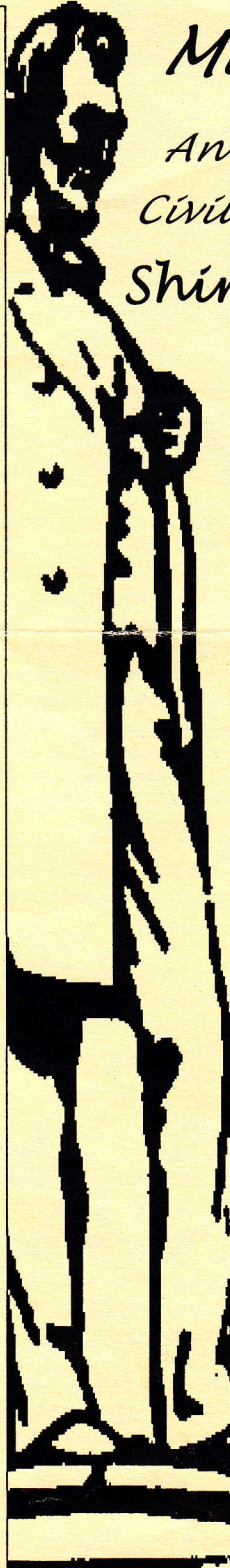
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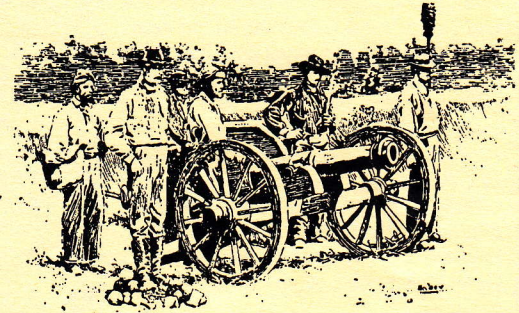
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This newsletter is published during the months of September to May. Articles and news of historical interest are always welcome.

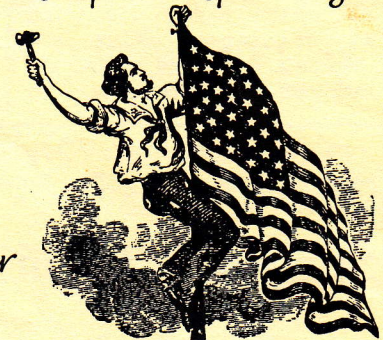


Michigan & the Civil War

*An evening with
Civil War historian
Shirley Hodges*



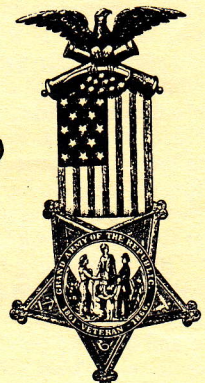
Our guest speaker will discuss the role and importance of Michigan in the American Civil War, 1861-1865. She will talk about the famous and not so famous Michiganders who lived and served during this period. Special emphasis will be on some of the battles the Michigan men participated in, as well as the tragedy of the Sultana, a ship transporting survivors from Andersonville Prison and other places in the South back home. The Sultana exploded, killing most of its passengers. To honor our Civil War ancestors means more than recounting the battles and the bullets. We must search for their letters and diaries to tell their stories, including how they were missed on the home front.



Join Us . . .
January 16, 2002
7:00 P.M.

Friends Auditorium

Capital Area District Library
401 S. Capitol, Lansing



President's Message

Craig A. Whitford

John Whitford. When he died in 1911, from complications by being dragged by his horse running away and becoming entangled in lines, the local press eulogized him as "An Old Soldier, Christian And Loyal Citizen, Husband and Father."

I ordered copies of all of his Civil War military and pension records that were available. A copy of his death certificate was part of the documentation. I learned that John enlisted August 24, 1863 at the age of 28. He was a farmer in Gratiot County. He had blue eyes, fair complexion, light hair and stood 5 foot 3 1/2 inches. He served the United States as a Private in Company G of the 23rd Michigan Infantry and was honorably discharged on June 5, 1866. More important to me was the fact that he served on behalf of the great state of Michigan!

This past summer heading home from a brief vacation with my family, we took one of those side trips that would become an unforgettable memory for us. With only the knowledge, I did not have my records with me, that my grandfather was buried in the town of Marion, we set out with daylight fading. Inquiries at the local gas station led us to a cemetery in a neighboring county - not the one we were looking for. Another stop, more directions, and we were on our way to Greenwood Cemetery. We started towards the back portion of the cemetery. With

My great great grandfathers headstone reads " J. WHITFORD, 1835-1911, Co. G 23 MICH. VOL."

During the past two years I had been compiling what documentation I could on my great great grandfather

seven of us scouting the tombstones, hopefully it wouldn't be long, if in fact he were laid to rest here. Within what seemed like a short time, our son Daniel called out that he found him! What news!

During my childhood, we never visited this cemetery - the sign of a forgotten relative. His headstone, along with that of his second wife Emma, who died 1930, were both in fine condition. John's headstone was accompanied by an American flag waving in the evening breeze being held in a Grand Army of the Republic flag holder - the sign of a veteran remembered by his community and country.



RALLY ROUND

THE UNION FOR EVER

THE FLAG BOYS!

100 MEN WANTED!!

For the 23rd Mich. Infantry.

Enlist before April 1st, secure the Government Bounty of \$300.00

AND "KEEP OUT OF THE DRAFT!"

Government Bounty, \$300; State Bounty, \$100; Tywa Bounty, \$100.

Apply to Wm. SICKELS, St. J. Ave. or
O. L. SPAULDING,
Lieut. Col. 23rd Mich. Infantry, Corvallis,
March - 1864.

Part of the Whitford Family, l. to r., Jessica, Lisa, Bethany, Daniel and Tim with the markers of their great, great, great grandparents.

preserve our freedom shall not be forgotten. Please join us on Wednesday, January 16, 2002, to honor and remember and learn about those that served and died defending our freedom. Historic artifacts and memorabilia will also be on display including a military commission of a Michigan patriot signed by President Abraham Lincoln.

Learn more about Michigan & The Civil War by visiting these sites:

www.suvcw.org/mi/058home.html www.civilwar.nps.gov
www.sos.state.mi.us/history/index.html <http://216.88.32.142/cwss/>
www.umich.edu/~bhl/bhl/mhchome/mhchome.htm
<http://hometown.aol.com/dlharvey/cwmireg.htm>

We rejoin Charles Mead and his gang camping along the Grand in Grand Ledge...

Story of a Crime;

Or The CRUISE OF THE SARAH BERNHARDT

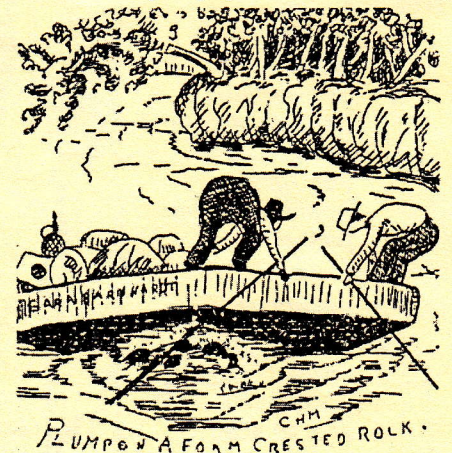
Scene II

Our camp-fire was on the bias. Our supper of hot coffee and ham was also on the bias, as was our sleep. The river murmured the same old romantic murmur we are all so familiar with in poetry and song. The same gang of bloodthirsty mosquitoes, who got their "succulent" work on us the night before, with millions of local talent, were only waiting our first snore before beginning operations. The various sounds and smothered exclamations of that night cannot be reproduced.

But the morning found us on deck, with appetites like a tape worm. A foot square of sheet iron, with three stones and a fire under it and a coffee pot on top, soon fried our coffee so 'twould float a bullet.

While one packed the mess chest, others cleaned the knives and forks by jabbing them into the sand, then mopping them, and the tin plates, in the river, another did up the bedding, and the other struck tent and got it ready for shipping. The Sara Bernhardt, the orphan boat we had adopted, and so named on account of her determination to do as she pleased regardless of public opinion, is loaded with the baggage, and all the little articles of camp life distributed among the rest of the fleet, and we are again afloat. Pools of greater or less depth abound, in whose clear waters, mullets, suckers, bass, red-horse, pickerel, and whales are seen. Turtles from the size of a dollar to that of an old-fashioned loaf of bread, slide off the logs and snags with a splash. The hawk sails lazily, high up in the sunlit sky, and a crane rises from the margin of the river with a few lazy flaps of his great wings, dragging his long legs behind him, disappearing around a bend. Islands divide the river into various channels. Shoals, rapids, stones, snags and "cuss" words obstruct navigation, while the sun smiles warmly down on bare legs, which soon wear a painful blush. Occasionally the water gathers itself into a narrow channel, and shoots down a toboggan slide, in a swift, smooth current. Close under an overhanging bank with a vast contiguity of shade

stretching unknown distance back, and lands the Sara Bernhardt plump upon a foam-crested rock,



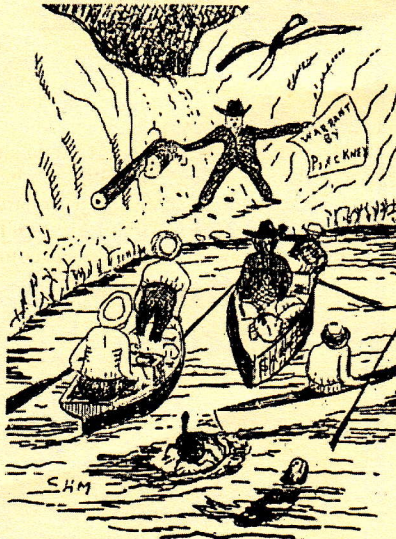
swings her around broadside to the current, and she gets "fuller than a tick" - another peculiar resemblance to the original Sara. The other boats have shot around the head of an island, leaving the Sara B. full of wet bedding, a flooded commissary chest and two hilarious navigators.

Past the island, around the bend, on a big flat rock, we had lunch and a council of war. Wet victuals

Story of a Crime, continued,

were fed to the fishes, which we expected to take by and by, and eat our fill of. The wet bedding the sun would dry as we sailed. The afternoon was getting whiskers on it when we rounded a bend, and saw, a half a mile away, a well-dressed man leisurely walking the bank. Taking this as a sign that Portland was not far away, we let out all the tucks in our strength and started in for Portland and early camp. When abreast of the well-dressed, leisurely man, he hailed, and asked us to come in shore. Little we dreamed that that well dressed man was clothed with the authority of the law, and carried a large smooth bore weapon of the heaviest caliber, in the shape of a warrant by Justice Pinckney, for maliciously steeling a boat, the same we had named Sara Bernhardt - another point where the two Sarah's resembled each other: always getting into trouble.

There is an astonishing want of suitable words in the English language to



convey an adequate idea of the mixed feelings the aggregation experienced as it dawned upon us that we were in the clutches of the law. *To be continued...*

HSGL 2002 Calendar

Reserve these historic dates now!

January 16, 2002

Michigan and the Civil War

with Shirley Hodges

Friend's Auditorium - 7:00 P.M.

Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol, Lansing

February 23, 2002

Billy Durant, The Wizard of Flint

Presented by The Friends of Durant Park, Inc.

Forum, Michigan Historical Center - 7:00 P.M.

March 16, 2002

The David R. Caterino Collector's Showcase

Library Galleries, Lower Level - 10 A.M.-4 P.M.

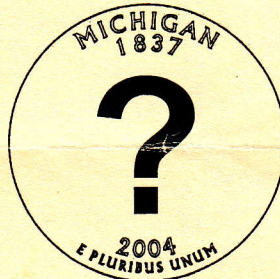
Capital Area District Library, 401 S. Capitol, Lansing

Michigan State Quarter Design Entries Due by February 15, 2002

Governor Engler Invites Participation

The design of the Michigan Quarter, which should be in circulation in 2004, will be guided by a 25-member commission that includes artists, coin collectors and a former astronaut. Already, hundreds of designs have been submitted this year to the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries.

The most popular submissions to date feature the Mackinac Bridge, an outline of the Great Lakes edged state, lighthouses and cars. The deadline for entries to be submitted is February 15, 2002, and may be done through the state's Web site (www.michigan.gov) or by mail and fax.



The quarters are being issued in the order in which states were admitted to the Union, with the complete set of 50 expected to be in circulation by 2008. So far, 15 quarters have been issued; Michigan is the 26th state.

"It is not too soon to begin thinking about a design that reflects our unique history, traditions and symbols. I hope this wonderful opportunity energizes people of all ages - students, teachers, parents, history buffs - to submit the ideas that best represent Michigan," Governor Engler said.

For additional details & Submission Form

www.michigan.gov

Quarterly Review

He moved the cars Lansing built from here to everywhere, U.S.A.

When the cars Lansing built from here to everywhere, U.S.A. ...

Enjoy the benefits of membership in the
Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Publications...

- **Historical Society of Greater Lansing NEWS**
- **The Quarterly Review** published by the R.E. Olds Transportation Museum & Oldsmobile / GM Heritage Center

Membership Application 2001-2002

Annual Renewals are due October 1, 2001 for the 2001-2002 program year.

Please accept my New Renewal membership in the
Historical Society of Greater Lansing. I have enclosed:
 \$15 Individual \$25 Family \$150 Life \$___ Gift

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel: (Day) _____ (Eve) _____

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

P.O. Box 12095
Lansing, MI 48901

The Historical Society of Greater Lansing is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation.

Thank you for your support of our programs and activities.

Join Us TODAY!

Historical Society of Greater Lansing
Historical Society of Greater Lansing
NEWS

BUILDERS OF THE TOWN
GhostWalk 2001

CABINET WARE!
OSWALD!

Join Us!
September 19, 2001
6:30 P.M.
ML Hope Cemetery
Corner of ML Hope & Aurora Road



Special Announcement

Billy Durant,
The Wizard of Flint

WKAR, TV 23 will soon be airing a documentary titled "Billy Durant, The Wizard of Flint".

Watch for it!

For More Information Contact:
Joan Sheldon, President
Friends of
Durant Park, Inc.
Tel: 517.485.4225



Historical Society of Greater Lansing

Proudly announces the

David R. Caterino Collector's Showcase

Saturday, March 16, 2002

10:00 AM to 4:00 P.M.

Capital Area District Library
401 S. Capitol, Lansing

If you collect history of the greater Lansing area and would like to share it with the public we invite you to join us as an exhibitor.

If you are a local author or artist of the greater Lansing area we also invite you to participate.

Please contact us today!

For an application or more information contact:

Craig A. Whitford
517.394.4443

Harry Emmons
517.485.5998

email: cawhitford@aol.com

*Historical Society
of Greater Lansing*

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Permit No. 636

It's Membership Renewal Time

If your membership label doesn't read 01-02 in the upper right hand corner, your membership dues are payable for the coming season.

Please RUSH to:

Timothy J. Bowman
401 E. Willard #10
Lansing, MI 48910

00-01

