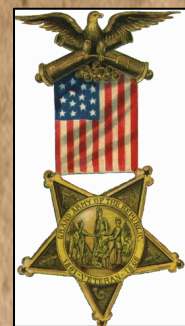




# The Sharpshooter

Official Newsletter of the  
Robert Finch Camp No. 14 – Traverse City  
Department of Michigan  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



January 2014  
Vol. 1 Issue 1

Camp Officers 2013

Commander:  
Geo. Goodrich

Sr. Vice Commander:  
Skip Bryant

Jr. Vice Commander:  
Jos. Conger

Secretary:  
Thos. Jenkins

Treasurer:  
Wm. Watson

Patriotic Instructor:  
Jas.. Morse

Chaplain:  
Jno. Lantzer

Camp Council:  
Dale Aurand, PCC  
Wm. Skillman, PCC  
Jan White, PCC

Color Bearer:  
Ant. Bonecutter

Guide:  
Jno. Dyle

Guard:  
David Smith

## Launching a New Camp Newsletter

January 2014 marks a new year, a centennial celebration, and the launch of a Newsletter for Robert Finch Camp No. 14!

Initial plans for the newsletter are to publish on a quarterly basis. The newsletter is a work-in-progress, and please feel free to make suggestions and comments. Suggestions and comments can be made in person or via e-mail or telephone (information below). We plan to have Camp news, information, CW historical items/stories, Ancestor Spotlight, classifieds, recommended books/articles/media, Auxiliary information, etc. We hope you like this first issue as we build towards an even better product in the future!

David Smith, Editor of **The Sharpshooter**  
wyattusmagnus(AT)gmail.com  
616.748.8763

**The Sharpshooter** can be found online at [www.robertfinch14.org](http://www.robertfinch14.org)

## New Camp 14 Officers Elected for 2014

At the November 2013 Camp Meeting, the following officers were elected to a one year term for 2014:

Commander:	Skip Bryant
Senior Vice Commander:	David Smith
Junior Vice Commander:	Joseph Conger
Camp Council:	Dale Aurand, PCC
Camp Council:	William Skillman, PCC
Camp Council:	Jan White, PCC
Secretary:	Thomas Jenkins
Treasurer:	Theodore Mattis

Appointed officers will be announced shortly. Camp Officers will be installed at the January Camp Meeting by Department Commander Davis.



Camp Officers 2013  
continued

Signals:  
Wm. Skillman, PCC

Boy Scout Coordinator:  
Jeff Morse, PCC

Historian:  
Geo. Goodrich, CC

Graves Registration  
Officer:  
Thos. Jenkins

Memorials Officer:  
OPEN

The **Sharpshooter** Editor  
David Smith

## 2014 Camp 14 Meeting and Event Schedule

January 11	Camp Meeting and Installation of Officers Traverse City Elks Lodge
March 08	Camp Meeting, Speaker: Chris Czopek "Escape from Andersonville" Traverse City Elks Lodge
March 29	Camp 14 Centennial Celebration/Luncheon Traverse City Elks Lodge
April 26	Camp Meeting Traverse City Elks Lodge
May 10	Department Encampment Lansing, Michigan
July 26	Medal of Honor Grave Rededications Kalkaska, Michigan
August 12 - 16	National Encampment Marietta, GA
September 20	Camp Meeting Traverse City Elks Lodge
November 08	Camp Meeting Traverse City Elks Lodge

Additional dates to be announced.







## Commander's Corner

Skip Bryant, CC

Greetings Camp 14

It is a blessing to look over the 2014 Camp calendar and see a solid, yet balanced plate of participation events in our region. What an honor to take the helm of so fit a ship as ours, steered well the past two years by Commander Goodrich. One responsibility given the Camp Commander is to instill a sense of urgency in our calling, to reach deeper into the community, while fulfilling every duty before us. We have such a broad reach geographically, and diverse skills among our membership, my hope is for us to do just a little more than we now do -- squeeze just a bit more juice from the fruit.

There is a statewide wave of enthusiasm that we are riding on in this Sesquicentennial year. The number of Civil War history events that are scheduled this year throughout Michigan is quite remarkable. Outside of our planned Camp 14 events, we've got a bounty of opportunities to go out and meet other men and women who also are inspired by what the boys in blue did to save the Union.

DSVC Aurand helped establish and oversaw the first two annual Camp 14 banquets with the hope that we would build on our friendships outside of meetings and events. We can take that camaraderie among Brothers to a higher level by informally getting together occasionally in small groups of two or three, doing something even as simple as going out for coffee. Try bringing another friend along, first for a lunch, later even to observe our events. This may heighten their interest our unique Son's calling, not with a constant sales pitch, but through sharing the interest in history. There are broader American history events each year held all throughout Michigan. Let us get to know the members of the historical societies, and other groups, and then try to support their events when possible.

We all certainly do have limits to our schedules, and budgets. But my hope in 2014 is for us Brothers to each use our time wisely, and fruitfully, always with an eye on reaching more of the people who have lost their patriotism. Help them to find it. Thanks to each man for your efforts individually, but especially for your Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty in the works of Robert Finch Camp 14.

Commander Bryant





# Snapshots in Civil War History

## COURTING!

Contributed by Gertrude E. Mevis and Edward B. Whittier  
(as told to them at the Foster GAR Post 4 in Lansing, between  
1918 and 1922)

At the close of the war two chums returned to Knoxville, entering Government employ, and being sent to pick up Government stock, as horses and mules bearing the United States brand were called, making their headquarters with a farmer named French, on "Strawberry Plain."

To pass away the time they called one evening on some girls whose acquaintance they had made a year and a half before, when the army was in Tennessee. But while chatting with the girls their two brothers, with two neighbor boys, returned from Dandridge, all being ex-Confederate soldiers; and all were proportionately "wrathy" that they "Yanks" should call on their sisters. So when the boys came to go, the Southerners swore to "take care of them," promising them only four lengths of fence before the hostilities should begin.

Being granted the privilege of saying farewell to the family, young Bryant went into the house and laid the situation before them, asking only one favor. It was readily granted, though doubt was expressed of anything being of any avail. The lad then requested that the girls hold their brothers' arms while they made good their escape.

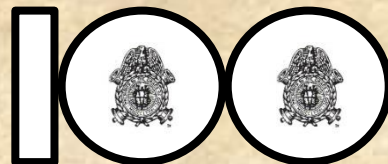
So the boys were stationed off the four lengths of fence, and bade to go, which they did; but before they could hardly get started they heard the curses and swearing of the enraged brothers at being held; and soon the bullets were flying fast and close. But the boys made good their escape, arriving at their headquarters late at night, and promptly throwing up their job the next morning, starting for Michigan on horseback, by way of Cumberland Gap and Lexington and Louisville, where they carred their horses for Detroit. [Experience of A.L. Bryant and his chum, Albert E. Ludlum, Co. G, 23<sup>rd</sup> Michigan Volunteer Infantry - Fall of 1865]

Editor's Note: A.L. Bryant is the direct ancestor of Camp Commander Skip Bryant



### Classifieds:

If you have something that you would like to buy, sell, give away, announce, etcetera, please contact the Editor.  
[wytattsmagnus\(AT\)gmail.com](mailto:wytattsmagnus(AT)gmail.com)



**Robert Finch Camp No. 14**  
**Michigan's Oldest Camp**  
**Celebrating a Century**  
**1914 - 2014**



## Civil War Ancestor Spotlight

Corporal John Morris of the 77<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry\*\*\* is the G-G-G Uncle of Brother David Smith, as well as the Union Veteran that Br. Smith derives his right of membership to the SUVCW. John Morris served from 1861 to 1866. Cpl. Morris' Company was at the vanguard of the Battle of Shiloh, where he fought along with two of his brothers (Elza and Elwood - twins). Cpl Morris also saw action in the Battle of Marks Mills where the Union supply train was overwhelmed by a superior number of Confederates waiting in ambush. After exhausting their ammunition supplies most of the remaining Union soldiers of the various regiments were taken as POWs and marched to Camp Ford, Tyler, Texas. Corporal Morris was later released and rejoined the war effort in the capture of Mobile, Alabama. Morris' continued service took him to Brownsville, Texas until 1866 in which he was mustered out. Corporal Morris had a large number of fellow Union veterans in his immediate family including his brother-in-law Henry Smith (Br. Smith's G-G Grandfather) 148<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry, his twin brothers Elza & Elwood (same Company, 77<sup>th</sup> OVI, both passed away during the war), and additional brothers Harvey and William also in the 148<sup>th</sup> OVI.

Brother Smith's additional immediate Union CW ancestors include: John H. Clark and William W. Clark (G-G Grandfather & G-G-G Grandfather) 60<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry, John J. Clark (G-G-G-G Uncle) 92<sup>nd</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Amos B. Clark (G-G-G-G Uncle) 111<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry, and Albert Ferguson (G-G-G-G Uncle) 16<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry.

\*\*\* For additional information on the 77<sup>th</sup> OVI and Cpl. Morris' detailed war experience, please see: [www.ohiocivilwar.com/cw77.html](http://www.ohiocivilwar.com/cw77.html) - or - <http://www.ohiocivilwarcentral.com/entry.php?rec=667&PHPSESSID=0068d44627ed900de9f492844b2f3a5a>



Cpl. John Morris, 77<sup>th</sup> Ohio Infantry, Co. B







## Frances Finch Auxiliary No. 9

The slate of Frances Finch Auxiliary Officers has been voted upon, and the following Sisters will serve for the 2014 year:

President:	Judy Jenkins
Vice President:	Dorothy Roush
Secretary:	Emily Breaugh
Treasurer:	Karen Goodrich
Patriotic Instructor:	Lisa Smith
Chaplain:	Mary Rose & Darlene Hinkley

## Camp 14 Centennial Challenge Coins Still Available



Camp 14 Centennial Challenge Coins are still available for purchase from the Camp 14 Centennial Committee. The cost is \$10 per coin. The coins shown on the left are excellent mementos of Camp's 100<sup>th</sup> year and of the highest quality. Please see DSVC Dale Aurand to purchase coins as there is a limited quantity available.

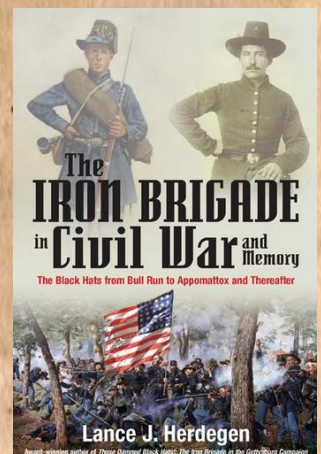
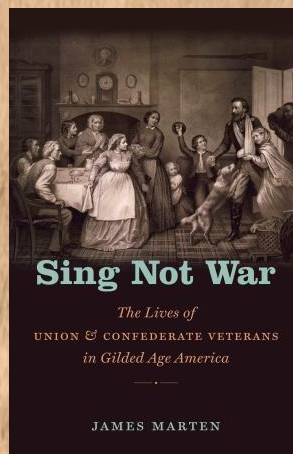
## Recommended Reading

Sing Not War: The Lives of Union & Confederate Veterans in Gilded Age America

James Marten

The Iron Brigade in Civil War and Memory: The Black Hats from Bull Run to Appomattox and Thereafter

Lance Herdegan







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