



# G.A.R. Dispatch

Newsletter of

**MICHIGAN'S GRAND ARMY OF THE  
REPUBLIC MEMORIAL HALL AND MUSEUM**

**224 S. Main Street  
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## **Museum President Keith G. Harrison 1950-2023**



## In Memory of Museum President Keith G. Harrison

We are very sad to announce the passing of our museum president, Keith G. Harrison on January 12, 2023. Keith was born in Dowagiac, Michigan January 10, 1950. He is a 1968 graduate of Cassopolis (MI) High School. He obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in fisheries and Wildlife Biology from Michigan State University and a Master of Arts degree in Ecology from Western Michigan University in 1974. Keith retired after 25 years of service to the State of Michigan as the director of the Office of Special Environmental Projects within the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

Keith belonged to several historical, patriotic, and civic organizations, including the 1865-created Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, in which he served as the National Commander-in-Chief from 2009 to 2011, the 1881-created Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), in which he served as the National Commander-in-Chief in 1994/1995, and Commanding Officer of the SUVCW's Sons of Veterans Reserve in 1996/97. He also belonged to the Michigan Society of Mayflower Descendants; Society of Colonial Wars; Sons of the Revolution; Society of the War of 1812; Morgan's Men Association Inc.; Military Order of the World Wars; and Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels. He was a Mason (Lodge #252 of Okemos, Michigan and Civil War Research Lodge #1865 of Highland Springs, Virginia) and a Rotarian (Rotary Club of Eaton Rapids). He also was a member of the Michigan Civil War re-enactment organization, 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Company B, Inc., and the midwestern reenactment organization, Cumberland Guard.

Keith traces his ancestry back to 47 Union Civil War soldiers, 42 of them in Michigan regiments. Several of them joined local Michigan Posts of the Grand Army of the Republic.

Keith served as the Board President of Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum (Eaton Rapids, Michigan) since its inception in 2013, Chair of the Michigan Civil War History Partners, and Treasurer of the Friends of Michigan History. He published four books, one on the Natural History of Cass County, Michigan in 1979), two family genealogies (Ancestry of Nathan Lewis Harrison in 1989 and Ancestry of Nathan Lewis Harrison - Revisited 19 years Later in 2008), and his most recent book (2020) on Cass County, Michigan in the Civil War and the Grand Army of the Republic.

Keith will be greatly missed. He was responsible for 99.9% of the work done in the museum and has left a legacy of preservation and education for those following in his footsteps.



## Museum Board Elects New Officers

With the passing of our president, an emergency meeting of the Board of Directors of the museum was called by Vice President Chris Allen. All but one member of the Board was able to attend.

Chris Allen was unanimously elected President. Chris has been Vice President since the museum's founding. Chris lives in Eaton Rapids and owns Island City Woodcrafts. Chris has been a long time student of the Civil War and the Grand Army of the Republic.

James B. Pahl was unanimously elected Vice President. Jim took over as board attorney shortly after the museum was opened and a few years later, was elected to the board of directors. He retired from a 20 year career in law enforcement and then again after a 22 year career as a District Court Magistrate for the 55<sup>th</sup> District Court. Jim has been interested in the Civil War his entire lifetime and is a Past Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Jim is a long time reenactor of the Civil War with the 16<sup>th</sup> Michigan and a past Vice President of Michigan Living History Education Association, Inc..

Matt Allen was unanimously elected to be a member of the Board of Directors. He is a 2009 Graduate of Allendale High School. He is a drywaller and have been in the trade for 11 years. The American Civil War has been his passion since he was 9 years old, and he has been in the reenacting hobby for 3 years, being a member of the Degens Mess and Tiger Light Guard and the 7th Michigan Co. B. As such, he has assisted in the Museum's Civil War Discovery Camp held in August each year on the G.A.R. Island Park. His other passions include the bass guitar, fur trapping, model railroading and 70's custom vans. He lives in Lakeview with his partner Kira and their three tuxedo cats. Matt is looking forward to working hard for the museum to preserve and teach history with steadfast determination and attention to detail.



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

### New Museum Hours

Beginning May 1, 2023, the G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum will be open every Wednesday from 10:00am to 5:00pm for the months of May, June, July and August. We will return to being open the first two Wednesday's of the month in September through the winter months. We are hoping these expanded dates will allow our members and visitors additional options in visiting the museum.

#### February, 2023

Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

Wednesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

Thursday, February 9<sup>th</sup> (7 PM) - Board Meeting

#### March 2023

Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup> (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

Tuesday, March 9 (7 PM) – Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> (7 PM) **Seminar: Lincoln's Michigan Visit – Shocking New Discoveries** by Dr. Tom George

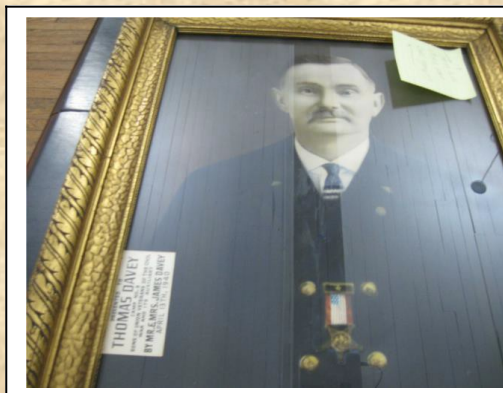
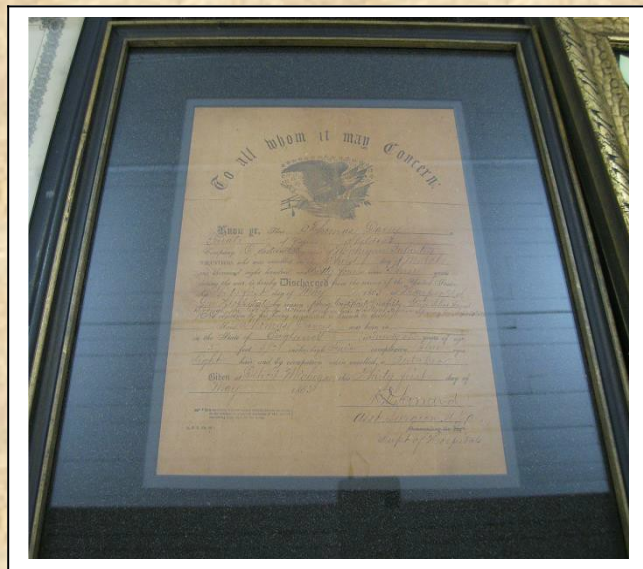
#### April 2023

Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup> (10 AM - 5 PM) - Museum Open

Thursday April 13<sup>th</sup> (7 PM) – Board Meeting

# RECENT ACQUISITIONS



Thomas Davey Post 17 Aide-De-Camp Commission, Post Charter, Discharge Certificate, Auxiliary Charter and photo

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS



**SUVCW 2022 National Encampment Badges**



**Michigan Department Delegate Badges**

## G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum host to the National Congress of M.O.L.L.U.S.

The National Organization, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States held their National Congress at the Museum on October 15, 2022. This is an organization consisting of descendants of officers of the Union Army, Navy and Marines of the American Civil War. Founded in 1865, their descendants proudly keep alive the memory of the sacrifices made by their ancestor's to preserve the Union. The museum is proud to display MOLLUS memorabilia. While MOLLUS was meeting upstairs, their Auxiliary, Dames of the Loyal Legion of the United States was meeting on the first floor of the museum. Jan Davis of Traverse City was elected National President of DOLLUS at this meeting.



## Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Austin Blair Camp #7 Christmas Party

The Museum hosted the Christmas Party of the Austin Blair Camp #7 of Jackson, Michigan on December 10, 2022.





### MUSEUM HOURS

*The museum is open the first two Wednesdays of each month from 10am-5pm; patriotic holidays, special events, and by appointment Beginning May 1, open every Wednesday.*

### MICHIGAN'S

### G.A.R. MUSEUM

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*President-Chris Allen*

*Vice President-Jim Pahl*

*Secretary- Gary Gibson*

*Treasurer-James Kaiser*

*Directors: Cody Orr, David*

*Kimble, Ron Tyrl, Pam*

*Colestock, & Matt Allen*

*Special advisor: Bob Griggs*



*Thank you to all who have visited the museum and who generously gave a donation or became a Sponsor!*



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GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC  
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**224 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827**

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Telephone: 517-922-6427

Face Book: GARBrainerdPost111MemorialHallAndMuseum

This collection of post-Civil War history is displayed on the two floors of the original James Brainerd Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Post #111 in downtown Eaton Rapids. The 1886-built G.A.R. Hall is just a short walk from G.A.R. Island Park where annual G.A.R. encampments were held in August in 1886, 1893, 1901, and then each year from 1908 until 1929. Your support is needed to help us chronicle and preserve the significant contribution of the G.A.R. to our state's and country's history..

**2022**

**ANNUAL SPONSOR LEVELS**

\$ 200	President Abraham Lincoln G.A.R. Post	_____
\$ 175	Governor Austin Blair G.A.R. Post	_____
\$ 150	Lt. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant G.A.R. Post	_____
\$ 125	Major Gen. William T. Sherman G.A.R. Post	_____
\$ 100	Major Gen. Philip Sheridan G.A.R. Post	_____
\$ 75	Bvt. Major Gen. Alpheus S. Williams G.A.R. Post	_____
\$ 50	Bvt. Major Gen. Russell A. Alger G.A.R. Post	_____
\$ 25	Lt. James B. Brainerd G.A.R. Post	_____

**OTHER SPONSOR LEVEL**

\$1,000 Life-time Patron \_\_\_\_\_

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If paying by check, make your check payable to *G.A.R. Museum*. If you wish, you also may pay by credit card by filling out the bottom of this form. Mail completed form and payment to address above.

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_  
(3 digit code-back of card)

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card Billing Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The Museum is open the first two Wednesdays each month, patriotic holidays, **and by appointment**.  
Museum Admission is Free.

The Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall & Museum is a federally recognized 501 (c) (3) tax exempt, Michigan nonprofit corporation. All donations to Michigan's G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law.