



# G.A.R. Dispatch

Newsletter of

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

224 S. Main Street

Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

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January, 2022

## G.A.R. Island Park Sign Installed



The City of Eaton Rapids is in the process of renovations at the G.A.R. Island Park. Part of that renovation project is a sign over the west side bridge, identifying the park as the G.A.R. Island Park. Another part of this renovation is the walkway, discussed in the previous issue.

This finally replaces a previous sign, which was in place many decades ago.



This photo is circa 1915 and this photo is currently on display in the museum. The photo was originally donated by Michele Thompson and was enlarged by Deb Malewski, former member of the board of directors.

Current plans call for the park to re-open sometime in the spring, once the grass has had a chance to get going.

## Monument to the Grand Army of the Republic Ziegler's Grove Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

by

Wanda Langdon, Past National President  
Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

On September 12, 1956, the Grand Army of the Republic Monument, featuring Albert Woolson was unveiled and dedicated during the 75<sup>th</sup> National Encampment of the SUVCW and the 70<sup>th</sup> National Encampment of the ASUVCW. The bronze statue of Woolson, sculpted when he was 107, sits in a prominent spot on Hancock Avenue shaded by the trees in Ziegler's Grove. Woolson is seated on a boulder with a staff in his right hand; his campaign hat bearing the GAR emblem rests by his left hand. His membership badge is prominent on his jacket over his heart. Woolson gazes pensively toward the spot of Picket's Charge where so many brave soldiers died on July 3, 1863.

The dedication was led by Colonel Frederic Bauer, GAR Commander-in-Chief. The statue of Woolson sits atop a 6' x 7' mahogany colored, polished granite base with incised engraving.

This monument was the dream of Celeste Gentieu, who served as National President of the ASUVCW in 1931. At the Fifty fifth National ASUVCW Encampment in 1941 in Columbus, Ohio, Recommendation No. 8 was made and adopted "That the Permanent GAR Memorial Fund shall be reopened and Past National President Celeste Gentieu be appointed permanent chairman".

At the 1954 National Encampment, sculptor Dr. Avarad Fairbanks of the University of Utah, was in attendance and presented as the sculptor chosen by the committee to sculpt the figure of the last standing civil war veteran, Albert Woolson. It was determined at this Encampment to place the monument in the Gettysburg National Military Park. The monument was dedicated September 12, 1956 with 5000 people in attendance.



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS

### January 2022

Wednesday, January 5th (10 AM - 5 PM) - **Museum Open**  
Wednesday, January 12th (10 AM - 5 PM) - **Museum Open**  
Thursday, January 13th (7 PM) - **Board Meeting**

### February 2022

Wednesday, February 2nd (10 AM - 5 PM) - **Museum Open**  
Wednesday, February 9th (10 AM - 5 PM) - **Museum Open**  
Thursday, February 10th (7 PM) - **Board Meeting**

### March 2022

Wednesday, March 2nd (10 AM - 5 PM) - **Museum Open**  
Wednesday, March 9th (10 AM - 5 PM) - **Museum Open**  
Thursday, March 10th (7 PM) - **Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, March 15th (7 PM) - **Seminar: *Born Free & Equal - Michigan's Colored Regiment***  
(Speaker: Maurice Imhoff)

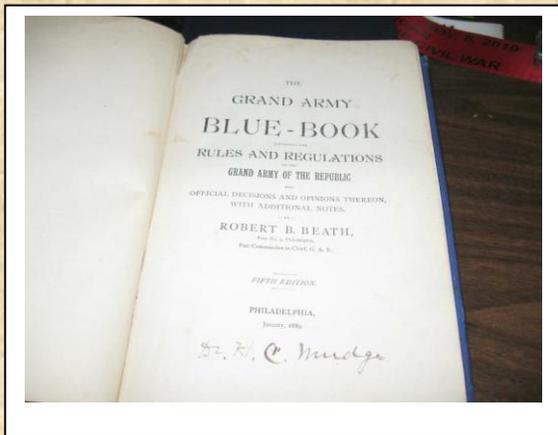
### April 2022

Saturday, April 2nd (10 AM - 5 PM) - **Grand Army of the Republic 156th Anniversary** (Two floors of G.A.R. artifacts and memorabilia and other special G.A.R. exhibits will be on display.)  
Wednesday, April 6th (10 AM - 5 PM) - **Museum Open**  
Wednesday, April 13th (10 AM - 5 PM) - **Museum Open**  
Thursday, April 14th (7 PM) - **Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, April 19th (10 AM Noon) **Tri- River History Group Meeting**

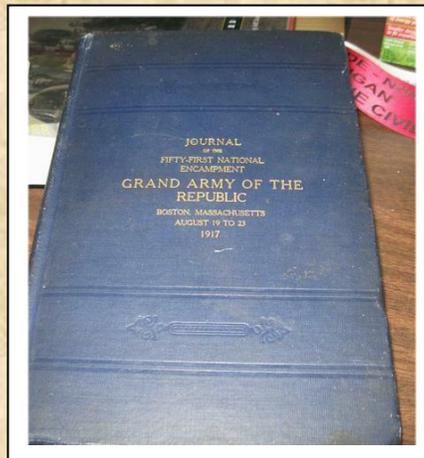
### May 2022

Wednesday, May 4th (10 AM - 5 PM) - **Museum Open**  
Wednesday, May 11th (10 AM - 5 PM) - **Museum Open**  
Thursday, April 12th (7 PM) - **Board Meeting**  
Tuesday, May 17th (7 PM) - **Seminar: *Lincoln's Winning Smile*** (Speaker: Cameron S. Brown)  
Saturday, May 28th (9 AM) - **Flag placement at Rose Hill Cemetery**  
Monday, May 30th (10 AM - 5 PM) - **Museum Open for Memorial Day**  
Monday, May 30th (11 AM) - **Annual Memorial Day Parade and Program**

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS



1889 The Grand Army Blue Book, 5th Edition



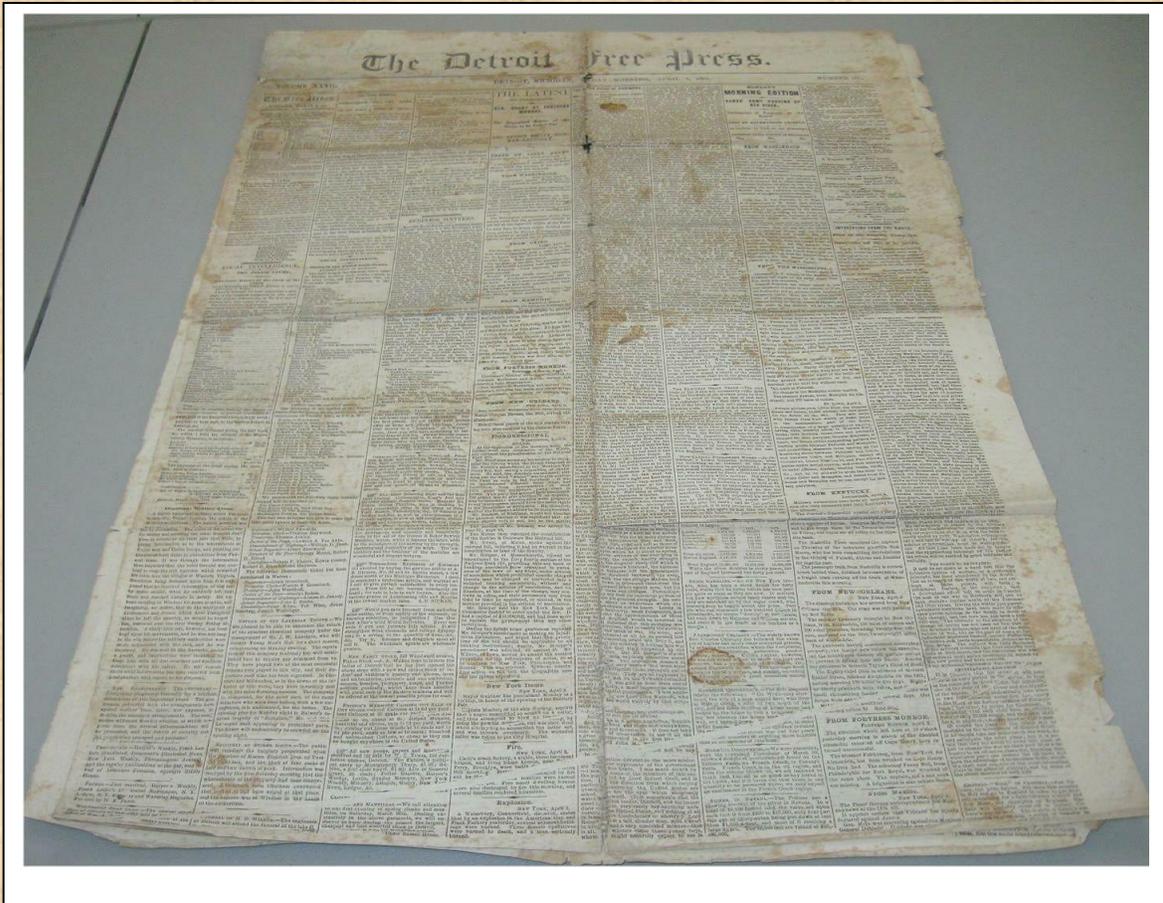
1917 Journal of the 51st G.A.R. National Encampment



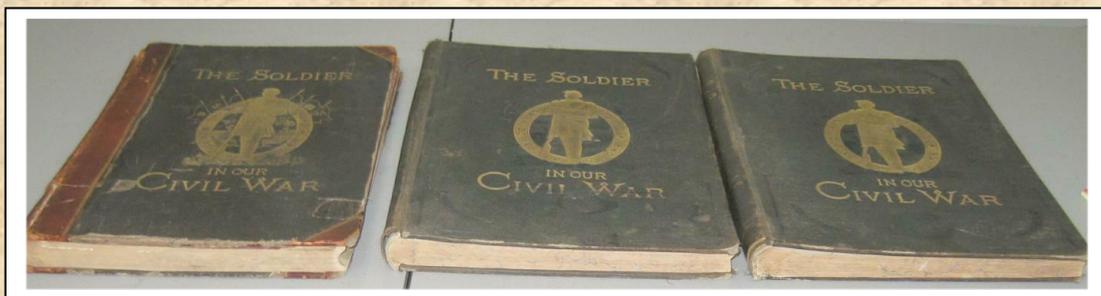
Popcorn Machine

All ready used it once and sold 122 bags!

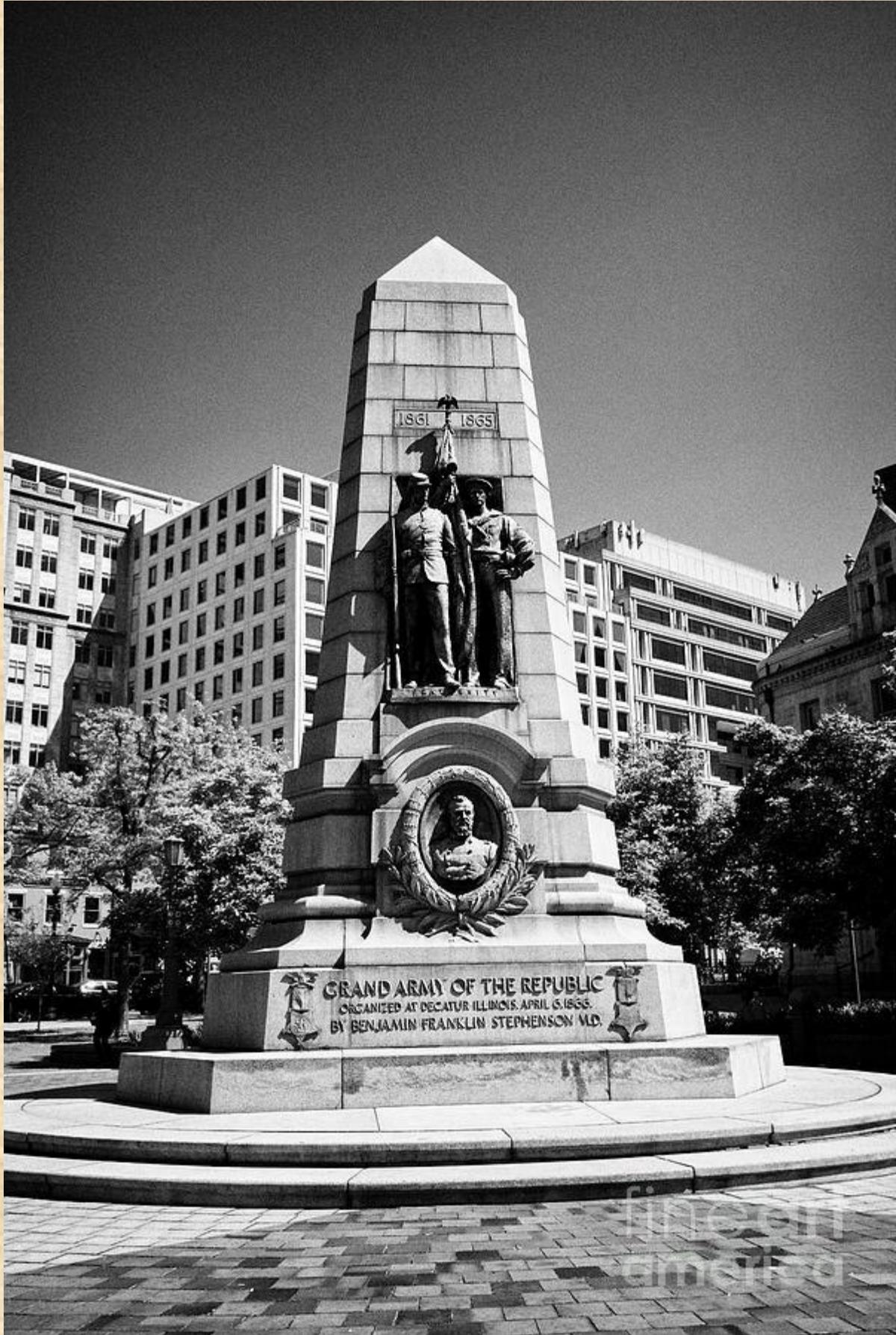
# RECENT ACQUISITIONS



April 1864 Detroit Free Press



1886 Leather Bound The Soldiers in Our Civil War Vol I  
1893 Frank Leslie's The Soldiers in Our Civil War, Vol I & II



G.A.R. Monument - Washington, D.C.

## Save the Date!

### 2022 Annual Civil War Discovery Camp for Kids

The Board of Directors of Michigan's Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Hall and Museum has set the date for the 2022 Annual Civil War Discovery Camp for Kids. It will be Tuesday, August 9th beginning at 10:00am through 3:00pm. It is intended for children ages 7 to 14 years of age.

Activities will include instruction of the Civil War manual of arms using wooden muskets, how to march, how the Civil War soldier lived and much more. The students will then be split up into smaller groups and continue to explore various aspects of the Civil War. They will also have the opportunity to fire a reproduction Civil War era musket (with prior parental approval). Instructors will load the musket with a black powder only and then cap the rifle. The instructor will continue to hold the rifle, while the student is fitted with safely glasses, then steps up and then is allowed to pull the trigger. BOOM!

The student's will then march in formation over to the G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum for a tour, learning about the Grand Army of the Republic and the Women's Relief Corp, the woman's auxiliary to the G.A.R. At the conclusion, students will each be paid \$13.00 in replica 1860's script and discharged from military service with an appropriate discharge certificate. Registrations forms will be available late spring/early summer. Additional information may be found on our website: <https://garmuseum.com/civil-war-discovery-camp.html> or by email at [garmichigan@gmail.com](mailto:garmichigan@gmail.com). You can also call the museum at 517-922-6427.



**MUSEUM HOURS**

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

**MICHIGAN'S**

**G.A.R. MUSEUM**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*President-Keith G. Harrison*

*Vice President-Chris Allen*

*Secretary- Gary Gibson*

*Treasurer-James Kaiser*

*Directors: Don Limpert,*

*David Kimble, Bob Griggs,*

*Pam Colestock, & Jim Pahl*



*Thank you to all who have visited the museum and who generously gave a donation or became a 2022 Sponsor!*





**MICHIGAN'S  
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC  
MEMORIAL HALL & MUSEUM**  
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James B. Brainerd Post #111 Memorial Hall and Museum, Inc.  
*Email:* GARMichigan@gmail.com *Web:* https://GARMuseum.com  
*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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Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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.