



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**

www.GARmuseum.com

Email: GARmichigan@gmail.com

Volume 6, Issue 4

July, 2023

Memorial Day 2023



Museum hosts Memorial Day activities

The G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum coordinated with other organizations and the City of Eaton Rapids for Memorial Day observances. Parade through town followed by presentations on G.A.R. Island Park. Eaton Rapids Mayor and Museum board member Pam Colestock sang the National Anthem in front of the parade viewing stand at the start of the parade. Board members David Kimble, Ron Tyrl, lead the parade with the Museum's banner.



CATS!

Saturday, July 15

Charlton Park, Hastings

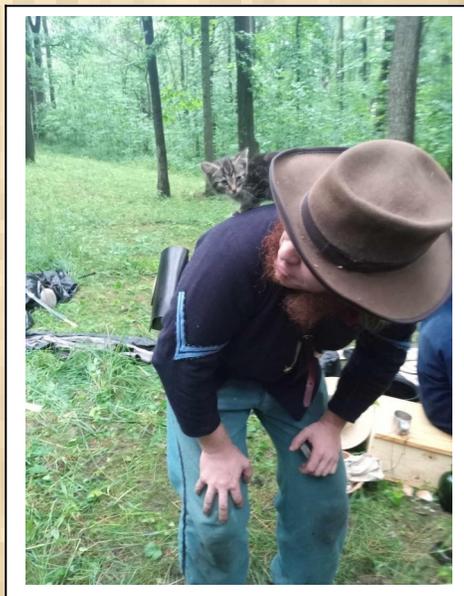
A remote section of woodland

Just before dawn on the morning of July 15, the Tiger Light Guard posted advance pickets in the works we had built the previous evening guarding the trailheads and forward advances to our camp. A torrential gale had blown up the night before, and instead of retreating to the embrace of a covered porch, this corporal resigned himself to the maelstrom and under a gum blanket proceeded to get entirely soaked through. As I was trying to revive our cook fire, the sergeant of the watch came back from the post on our right flank, carrying much to our surprise a cold and quaking tabby colored kitten. In our astonishment at the discovery, we inquired about the origins of the kitten, to which the sergeant replied he had heard to kitten cry out and scooped it up out of the underbrush. Two privates detailed to the same post then entered camp carrying two more kittens, found in the same vicinity and fashion. In ascertaining just where the kittens came from in the first place, it was concluded that sadly they had been dumped by their owner. Immediately, we wrapped them in a woolen blanket and placed them in a proximity to the fire that would be beneficial in warming them. We discovered they were domestic kittens when after refusing to drink from one of the puddles; they quickly flocked to a canteen half filled with water, as if by domestic instinct. We took shifts in caring for them, with a home being made from a woolen blanket and a hard tack box. They were named Felicity Chadwick, J.E.B Stuart, and Mary Todd Lincoln. By the close of the weekend, we had secured homes for all three, We have received progress reports in the time passed between then and this report, and all kittens are settled and happy in their new homes.

Cpl. Matt Allen

Tiger Light Guard

(Matt is a member of the Museum Board of Directors – this story made National news!)



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 4:00pm for the months of May, June, July, August and September. We will return to being open the first two Wednesday's of the month in October through the winter months. We are hoping these expanded dates will allow our members and visitors additional options in visiting the museum. (Last issue we reported we would not be open every Wednesday in September – that was an error)

August, 2023

Wednesday, August 2 (10 AM - 4 PM) - Museum Open
Wednesday, August 9th, (10AM – 4PM) – Museum open
Thursday, August 10 (7 PM) - Board Meeting
Wednesday, August 16, (10AM – 4PM) – Museum open
Wednesday, August 23rd (10AM – 4PM) – Museum open
Wednesday, August 30th (10AM – 4PM) – Museum open

September, 2023

Wednesday, September 6th (10 AM - 4 PM) - Museum Open
Wednesday, September 13th, (10AM – 4PM) – Museum open
Thursday, September 14th (7 PM) - Board Meeting
Wednesday, September 20st (10AM – 4PM) – Museum open
Sunday, September 24th (10AM – 5:00PM) – Museum Birthday!
Sunday, September 24th (3:00PM – 5:00pm) –
Wednesday, September 27th (10AM – 4PM) – Museum open

4th of July Living History Encampment

Reminiscent of the days when the Eaton County Battalion of the G.A.R. met on Island Park for their week long Encampments, the G.A.R. Memorial Hall and Museum hosted a Civil War Living History Encampment on the 4th of July weekend in Howe Park. Units set up Friday, June 30, with camps open for visitors Saturday July 1, Sunday July 2, Monday July 3 and closing after the parade on Tuesday July 4.

The Encampment was named Camp Harrison, in honor of our past President Keith Harrison. There were artillery firing demonstrations using a Murphy gun, a reproduction of a confederate breach loading cannon. We had Ron Shull and Arnold White, members of the Michigan Living History Education Association (16th Michigan) with demonstration of uniform, gear and firing. Both the artillery and infantry demonstrations were narrated by board member Jim Pahl, himself an experienced Civil War reenactor.

Historian Rob Stone made four different presentations in our Special Events area, along with Special Advisor to the Board of Directors, Kira O'Donnell-Allen presented a program about women in the war and in the army.

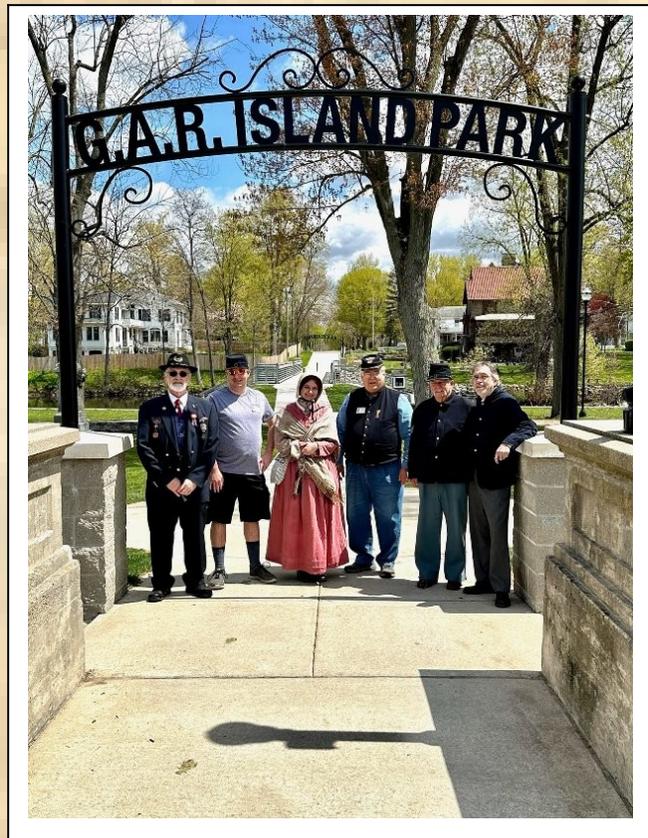
It rained most of the day on Saturday, causing us to cancel the artillery night firing. In spite of the rain, we say over 170 people tour the camps and listening to the presentations. Local musician ????? wondered the camps with his guitar, banjo and mandolin, singing period songs.

Sunday morning saw Charles Buckhahn, a retired Lutheran minister and the Chaplain for the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, conducted a well attended worship service in the special impressions area.



May 4th Program on G.A.R. Island Park

Scores of Eaton Rapids school children took a walking tour of downtown and gathered on the G.A.R. Island Park for lunch. Museum board members and volunteers met them and assisted board President Chris Allen in his presentation of a program about the history of the Island Park and the G.A.R. Encampments held there for some 20 years.



RECENT ACQUISITIONS



The Cryderman Post #112 was in Mulliken, Michigan and was a member post of the Eaton County Battalion. This was carried and used by Pome Canfield. The drum came with two drum sticks and a symbol.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS



Two Women's Relief Corp badges. National President on the left, Director of the Juniors on the right



Remodeling our first floor storage room

RECENT ACQUISITIONS



Memorial Ribbon – Ludington, MI Post



Cardboard Civil War Soldier for photos of visitors



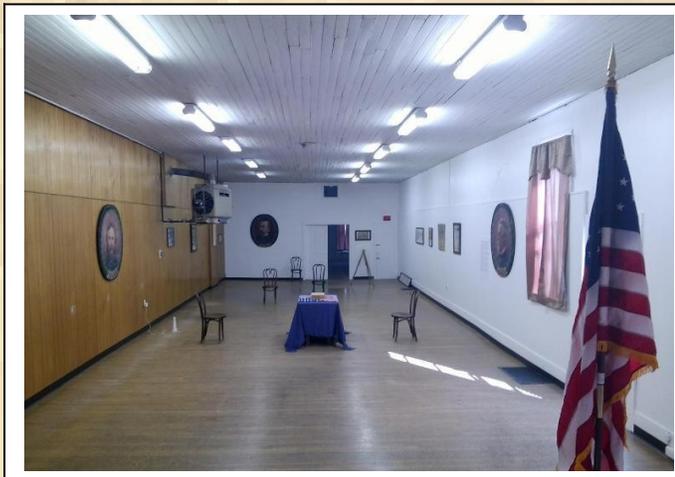
Reproduction Civil War Cavalry shell jacket

Message from our President, Chris Allen

Ten years ago I would have never pictured where we are today! This was me in 2013 when we were just getting started.



We have a lot to be proud of. Over 5000 artifacts in the collection, organizing the Memorial Day Parade, providing the Color Guard for the 4th of July parade, a cooperative relationship with the city, numerous presentations to teach and share history and I could go on. It's a lot of work for all of us. I look forward to what we can do in the next 10 years!



Second Floor, 10 years ago



Second Floor today

MUSEUM HOURS

The museum is open every Wednesday from 10am-4pm; patriotic holidays, special events, and by appointment

MICHIGAN'S

G.A.R. MUSEUM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*President-Chris Allen
Vice President-Jim Pahl
Secretary- Gary Gibson
Treasurer-James Kaiser
Directors: David Kimble,
Ron Tyrl, Pam
Colestock, & Matt Allen
Special advisors: Bob
Griggs & Kira O'Donnell-
Allen*



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



MICHIGAN'S GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC MEMORIAL HALL & MUSEUM

224 S. Main St., Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827

Grand Army of the Republic, Michigan Department,
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..

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	_____
---------	------------------	-------

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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.