

Michigan Remembers Gettysburg

Michigan Wreath Placed at Gettysburg on June 27, 2013

Michigan Remembers Gettysburg Event Set for November 23, 2013

Hundreds of Michiganders participated in the 150th Anniversary of Gettysburg during ten days of commemorative events surrounding the July 1–3, 1863, battle. Through living history encampments, speaking engagements, book signings, demonstrations, dedication ceremonies, and more, the legacy of the sacrifices made during that time lives on for future generations to appreciate. On June 27, three Michigan residents—Roy Adkins, Jr., Seth Adkins and Commissioner Brian James Egen (all from Monroe)—set a wreath over the Michigan section in Gettysburg's National Cemetery where 171 Michigan soldiers are buried. The wreath, made by Bettyann Egen (Monroe) of Michigan grapevine, arborvitae and white pine boughs, was in place over the entire 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg commemorative events in late June and early July.

The Gettysburg National Cemetery was consecrated on November 19, 1863, when Abraham Lincoln delivered the Gettysburg Address. There were many activities and events surrounding the Sesquicentennial commemoration at Gettysburg, but the essence should be this: remembering the sacrifices that saved the Union and, from a Great Lake State perspective, especially those of our Michigan forebears.

A formal rededication ceremony is being planned and hosted by the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners on November 23, during this year's Remembrance Day in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. This annual event, typically held on the Saturday closest to November 19, draws thousands of re-enactors, living history historians, and members of fraternal organizations such as the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States and the Sons of Union Veterans. A parade through town and other ceremonies are held.

To commemorate the 150th anniversary of the dedication of the national cemetery, the History Partners will hold a special event, Michigan Remembers Gettysburg, on Saturday, November 23, 2013, at 4:00pm in the Gettysburg National Cemetery. This rededication will commemorate the role Michigan soldiers played in the Gettysburg battle in July 1863. The Michigan graves at the Gettysburg National Cemetery will be marked with an American and Michigan flag and rededicated. Soil from Michigan will be sprinkled on each of the Michigan graves.

This event is open to the public and everyone is welcomed to attend. A special commemorative booklet is being published for participants and available afterward for purchase. For more information about Remembrance Day and Michigan Remembers Gettysburg, please see <http://www.micw150.us/2013events.htm> and/or contact Bruce Butgereit at civil-war@comcast.net.



Wreath made of Michigan grapevine, arborvitae and white pine boughs placed in the Gettysburg National Cemetery on June 27, 2013.

###