

Michigan Remembers Gettysburg Day

November 23, 2013 ~ Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

On Saturday, November 23, 2013, the Michigan Historical Commission and the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee participated in the Michigan Remembers Gettysburg commemoration in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The commemoration, hosted by the Michigan Civil War Sesquicentennial History Partners, in cooperation with the Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS), the Woman's Relief Corps (WRC) and others, was an honorable and memorable tribute to the sacrifice of Michigan citizen soldiers during the Gettysburg Campaign of July 1863.

The event took place on this year's annual Remembrance Day, which typically takes place on the nearest Saturday to November 19 - the date when President Abraham Lincoln dedicated the cemetery and delivered his now immortal Gettysburg Address in 1863. This year marks the 150th Anniversary of that historic event and the Michigan Remembers Gettysburg ceremony was our state's opportunity to observe and memorialize those Michiganders that fought and died for the preservation of a more perfect Union.

In addition to the parade, various ceremonies, and other tribute activities that take place during Remembrance Day, the Michigan contingent started out at 8:00am in the Michigan Section of the National Cemetery. With a crisp, cold and sunny morning at hand, these volunteers placed a small US and Michigan flag at each one of the Michigan graves. Although the stone marker at the head of the Michigan section indicates that there are 171 men buried in this location, research has found that there are indeed more. There are also several Michigan men buried in the US Regular section of the cemetery. There are over 3,500 Civil War graves in the cemetery and each one of them at minimum had a US flag placed over them. Every Michigan soldier in the Cemetery received both flags. Michigan white pine boughs and vines were wrapped around the base of the state section stone marker. An evergreen wreath with a red, white and blue bow and blue ribbon with the silver letters 'MICHIGAN' was placed adjacent. With the graves fully decorated and honored, the participants left to participate in the parade through town.

At 3:30pm the Michigan group, along with many others, gathered at the Michigan Section for the formal program and ceremony. Just prior to the start, commemorative buttons with attached ribbons with inscription that read, "Michigan Remembers Gettysburg; Thank God for Michigan; The Honored Dead - Gettysburg National Cemetery - November 23, 2013" and programs were distributed to all those present. Large flag streamers with the same information were also given to each organization that carried a flag as part of the Color guard. Bruce B. Butgereit, History Partner member and Commander of the Michigan MOLLUS, welcomed everyone as the Master of Ceremonies and detailed Michigan's past efforts over the 150 years to honor her fallen at Gettysburg. Keith Harrison, also a History Partner and past Commander-in-Chief Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) and MOLLUS posted the Color Guard and the ceremony began. The cemetery is located on the summit of a hill that overlooks the town of Gettysburg and is subject to the strong winds that come from the valley below. This day was no exception, as strong cold wind blew across the graves stirring over 3,500 flags both small and large alike. The sound of the fluttering flags set to the backdrop of red, white and blue, towering fully mature trees, monuments and markers, created a powerful scene that will not soon be forgotten by those in attendance.

Michigan Historical Commissioner and Chair of the Michigan CW Sesquicentennial Committee, Brian James Egen, spoke about the importance of remembering the past and then presented a proclamation issued by Michigan Governor Rick Snyder declaring Saturday, November 23, 2013

as Michigan Remembers Gettysburg Day. Brian also announced that on November 14, 2013 the Michigan House of Representatives adopted House Resolution No. 270 – A resolution to commemorate the 150th anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address of November 19, 1863 and to honor the sacrifice made by the 90,000 Michigan soldiers and sailors who fought in the Civil War.

Chaplain Wenda Foe from the Champlin Corps No. 41, WRC, delivered a fitting address. The main portion of the program was conducted by Marcia Butgereit, Past National President of the Woman's Relief Corp. Jim Paul, Past Commander-in-chief SUVCW and Paul Davis, Commander, Department of Michigan, SUVCW assisted by reading the names of the Michigan soldiers buried within the grounds. During this portion of the ceremony, volunteers from Michigan and from the crowd fanned out across the Michigan graves and commenced dumping a small tin of soil over each grave. A three inch, round tin, labeled with the soldiers name and unit were placed at each respective grave. The soil, collected from volunteers across the Great Lake State, was from each soldier's hometown, school grounds, or memorial marker back in Michigan. The scene of these volunteers spreading a "little piece of home" over the graves as the names of the fallen were read aloud filled the cold air with profound homage and commemoration these honored Michigan dead.

At the conclusion of the reading of the honored dead names being read, Harry Dillon III, 2nd Military District, SUVCW, played taps. Fred Priebe, Michigan resident who portrays Abraham Lincoln, read the Gettysburg Address not more than fifty yards from when it was first recited 150 years ago. Following these few appropriate remarks, several wreaths and floral elements were placed by the various primary participating organizations, including the Michigan Historical Commission. The presentation of these tributes was assisted by Michigan youth, Cecilia Jennett, Jr. Member Champlin Corps No. 41 WRC and Rylan Vazquez, Jr. Member guide/Guard Gen. John A. Logan Camp No. 1, SUVCW. Chet Trybus, vocalist representing Gen. John A. Logan Camp No. 1, SUVCW, led the gathering in singing the Battle Hymn of the Republic and Jannine Trybus, President, Champlin Corps No. 41, WRC provided the benediction. Bruce Butgereit closed the ceremony with final appropriate remarks and thanked everyone for attending.

The U.S. and Michigan flags flown during the ceremony will be retired after several years of service. The flags, along with tins that contained the soil for each soldier, will be sold as fundraising effort for future History Partners activities. A commemorative *Michigan Remembers Gettysburg* booklet is being produced of this sesquicentennial project. The booklet will include a history of Michigan in the Civil War, soldier biographies, the story of the Cemetery, then and now photographs of Michigan monuments, remarks from the ceremony and much more. Each participant to the November 23 program will receive a complimentary copy while others are available at cost. For those interested in purchasing flags, tins or the *Michigan Remembers Gettysburg* commemorative booklet should contact Bruce B. Butgereit at civil-war@comcast.net.

The state of Michigan can be proud of the extraordinary effort made by those who paid the ultimate sacrifice during the Civil War. The Michigan Remembers Gettysburg event was a fitting tribute of commemoration and appreciation for those who can no longer speak. Over one hundred people stood in the cold winds of Pennsylvania to participate in this ceremony and pay their respect to the fallen. It was a great day for Michigan and for remembering a portion of Michigan's rich historical past.

Brian James Egen,
Michigan Historical Commission,
Chair, Michigan CW sesquicentennial Committee

STATE OF MICHIGAN



CERTIFICATE OF PROCLAMATION

ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN

I, Rick Snyder, governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim

November 23, 2013

MICHIGAN REMEMBERS GETTYSBURG DAY

WHEREAS, during the American Civil War, the state of Michigan sent over 90,000 soldiers, nearly one-quarter of the State's male population, to serve as members of the Union army; nearly 15,000 of her brave and loyal citizen soldiers paid the ultimate sacrifice; and,

WHEREAS, on July 1 - 3, 1863, nearly 5,000 Michigan soldiers defended their nation during the Battle of Gettysburg, sustaining more than 1,130 casualties fighting with the 1st, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 7th, 16th, & 24th Michigan Infantry; Battery I First Artillery; Company C, I, & K 1st U.S. Sharpshooters; Company B, 2nd U.S. Sharpshooters; the Michigan Cavalry Brigade; and various United States Regular Army units.

WHEREAS, the Federal victory during the Gettysburg Campaign, considered the "High-Water Mark of the Confederacy," ultimately led to the preservation of the Union and fulfillment of the 13th Amendment in the promise that all persons are created equal and possess certain inalienable rights; and,

WHEREAS, on November 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln consecrated and dedicated the Gettysburg National Cemetery that serves as a final resting place for over 3,500 Union soldiers, including 173 Michigan men, who died from the epic Battle; and,

WHEREAS, on this day, we join with the Michigan Historical Commission, the Michigan Historical Center and the Michigan Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States and the Woman's Relief Corps, with assistance from History Remembered, Inc., have planned an honorable and memorable service to honor the Michigan dead at Gettysburg National Cemetery; we encourage citizens of Michigan to honor and remember the sacrifice and outstanding leadership of those Michigan service members and the women who provided soldier aid relief efforts during the American Civil War.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Rick Snyder, Governor of Michigan, do hereby proclaim Saturday, November 23, 2013 as Michigan Remembers Gettysburg Day.



Rick Snyder
Governor



Michigan Remembers Gettysburg



Battle Hymn of the Republic
 Julia Ward Howe
 Music by John W. Steffe

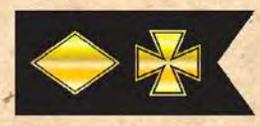
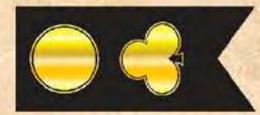
Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
 He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
 He hath loosed the fateful lightning of His terrible swift sword;
 His truth is marching on.
 Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
 Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His truth is marching on.

I have seen Him in the watch fires of a hundred circling camps
 They have builded Him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
 I can read His righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;
 His day is marching on.
 Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
 Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! His day is marching on.

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
 With a glory in His bosom that transfigures you and me;
 As He died to make men holy, let us die to make men free;
 While God is marching on.
 Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!
 Glory! Glory! Hallelujah! While God is marching on.



A Civil War Sesquicentennial Memorial Service
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November 23, 2013
Gettysburg National Cemetery



Fourteen Regiments Fought Here
 Some Men Never Returned Home

MICHIGAN REMEMBERS GETTYSBURG

We have been here before. Michigan was here first during the Gettysburg Campaign of June 3 - July 24, 1863. Michigan was here again during the creation of the Soldiers' National Cemetery. In 1889, Michigan returned to dedicate the granite memorials that permanently recognized her patriotism, service and sacrifice here. The example that Michigan should be here again today is a result of the veterans who returned here in 1888, 1913, and 1938 to participate in reunions that recalled the glories of the past and remembered the honored dead. And although Michigan has since been a participant in annual Remembrance Day events, today will be special in that we are here 150 years later to prove that we have not forgotten what Michigan first did here in 1863.

On behalf of those no longer with us, we thank you for joining us as Michigan Remembers Gettysburg.

The original plan for the Michigan Remembers Gettysburg project was to have a commemorative program printed and ready for distribution today. However, we realized there was a greater story to tell than we had envisioned and the decision was made to put together a post-event report that will include today's ceremony.

Each participant here today will receive a copy of the publication upon its completion at no charge. Please be sure to give us your name and mailing address (write legibly, thank you).

The contents will include:

Michigan in the Civil War	The Honored Dead
Michigan at Gettysburg	Soldier Biographies
Annie Etheridge, Third Corps Nurse	The Soldiers' National Monument
The Soldiers' National Cemetery	Michigan Monuments
The Beginning	Photographs: Historic & Today
Cemetery Consecration	Michigan Remembers Gettysburg
"...a few appropriate remarks..."	The Story of the Soil

Additional copies will be available at cost plus a small shipping charge. If you have any questions, I can be reached at:

Email: civil-war@comcast.net Ph: 616.291.6939

Bruce B. Butgereit

THE CEREMONY

Welcome & Master of Ceremonies	Bruce B. Butgereit - Commander Michigan Commandery, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States
Color Guard	Keith G. Harrison - Past Commander-in-Chief Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War & MOLLUS
The Importance of Remembering the Past & Governor's Proclamation	Various Units
Chaplain's Address	Brian Egen - Member Michigan Historical Commission, Chair, MHC Civil War Sesquicentennial Comm.
Program	Wenda Fore - Chaplain Champlin Corps No. 41, Woman's Relief Corps
Assistants	Marcia Butgereit - Past National President Woman's Relief Corps
The Honored Dead & Distribution of Michigan sail	Jim Pahl - Past Commander-in-Chief Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Taps	Paul Davis - Commander Department of Michigan, SUVCW
A Few Appropriate Remarks	Volunteer Honor Guard
Floral Tributes	Harry Dillon III 2nd Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve
Song - Battle Hymn of the Republic All please join in.	President Abraham Lincoln - as portrayed by Fred Priebe
Benediction	Cecilia Jennett - Jr. Member Champlin Corps No. 41, WRC
Closing	Rylan Vazquez - Jr. Member Guide/Guard Gen. John A. Logan Camp No. 1, SUVCW
	Chet Trybus - Vocalist Gen. John A. Logan Camp No. 1, SUVCW
	Jeanne Trybus - President Champlin Corps No. 41, WRC
	Bruce B. Butgereit





















