

"MARCHING ALONG"

www.21stmichigan.org

March 2010

Volume V, No. III

"Of Bayonets and Bonnets"

Mike Gillett, *President*

Before I go any further, I need (or maybe I don't need) to point out that this is a *very* atypical issue of "Marching Along". Personally, I didn't feel it would be fair - or respectful - to our *new* newsletter editor, Angie White - who only took the position last Sunday afternoon - to have to turn around and in just a few days produce a full-blown newsletter. This way, she has the opportunity to ease into the role over the next month. With our annual meeting just past, however, I felt it equally important to get all this information out to all of you quickly (election results, event calendar, meeting minutes, etc.). Forgive me in advance for anything lacking (both in content and in design). Many thanks to Angie for volunteering and many thanks to Randy Perry for *all* his hard work as the previous editor!

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find the 21st's 2010 event calendar. A caveat or two; you do *not* have to attend ALL of these events (just those you personally raised your hands for)... nor are you *limited* to these events. These are the "*official*" events... of which your attendance of at *least* four allows you voting privileges at next year's business meeting. There were many good events presented at the meeting that didn't quite have the numbers to be put on the "*official*" calendar, yet had a fair amount of people expressed interest. Following the "*official*" calendar, then is the list of those other events that might well be worthy of your consideration and attendance. Feel free to go to any (or all - if you are crazy like me!) and any others you might discover. But know they do *not* count towards your minimum of four events for the year.

Also here in the newsletter, is a much abbreviated financial report. Basically, it is what the bottom line was the day of the meeting. It doesn't reflect the dues paid or any other fiscal activities we discussed at the meeting. Again, I didn't feel it would be fair - or respectful - for our new treasurer, Jennifer Schmidt - who again only took the position last Sunday afternoon - to have to turn around and in just a few days produce a full-blown financial report. Know that one will be printed in the next month's "Marching Along". Many thanks to Jennifer for accepting the role and many thanks to Randy for *all* his hard work as the previous treasurer. Look for a complete unit roster in the next issue as well.

We have many opportunities as a unit, both civilian and military, as we do individually, this season. I am very proud to be the president (honored and humbled as well) yet another term, my fourth now... as I am just as proud to be a member of the 21st. As I mentioned in my "*State of the Unit*" speech Sunday, we play well together and we play well with others. That is rare - not necessarily in just this hobby - but in many facets and places in the world today. That pleases me greatly. It enhances the enjoyment certainly, of what we do. Our reputation in reenacting is good - and justified. I enjoy my time spent with you all and I am proud of where we've been and what we've done - and excited about where we are going and what we are going to do there! We are a close knit family (and the reenacting community our extended family). We agree to disagree, with respect and with humor. And we challenge and encourage one another. We bring out the best in each other! My old, repetitive saw; "...*best event ever*", is sincere! Personally, and corporately, I endeavor to continually

break my/our "personal best". So, in self-fulfilling prophecy, I say now with confidence, that 2010 *will* be the 21st's *best* season *ever*!

"As iron sharpens iron, a friend sharpens a friend."

"Civilian Corner"

By Ken Giorlando, *Civilian Coordinator*

As I am typing this it is snowing like the *dickens* outside; school (and thusly, for me, *work*) has been canceled. So, here I sit, dreaming (as many of you are, I suppose) of summer, and, of course, reenacting.

Events: Now that our yearly business meeting is past – and we all survived with nary a scratch - we know what lies ahead in the coming months. And what events we have to choose from! There are the annual reenactments we all love attending every year: Greenfield Village, Historic Fort Wayne, Jackson, Wolcott Mill, and Charlton Park in Hastings, But, there are also the other sometimes smaller events that are every bit as wonderful and can sometimes be even more authentic than the larger more popular ones. I'm talking about Waterloo, Walker Tavern, and, this year especially, Port Sanilac. It is important that Port Sanilac is well attended by our group for we are the host unit and it would look pretty sad if we had a poor showing. This is a growing event that will hopefully include a battle this year. Over the next couple of months there will be more on each of these events, but I just wanted you to keep them in mind.

Civilian Meeting: As you hopefully know, there will be a **period dress** civilian meeting (military members are welcome as well) at my home on March 13 beginning at 4 p.m. It is at this meeting where we will continue to discuss our impressions, including our daily lives as citizens of the mid-19th century, clothing, letter writing, and a special 1st person presentation given by our newly elected secretary Mrs. Schmidt, who has just returned from a seminar on the subject. My lovely wife, Patty, will be providing a warm supper to all who show, but we are asking for folks to bring period appropriate (if possible) snacks and non-alcoholic drinks – bakery bread, goober peas (peanuts), cakes, pies, sarsaparilla (root beer), cider, etc. Also, plan on joining in to play a parlor game afterwards! For the most part it will be natural and oil lamp lighting to keep the spirit of the past with us. **Of course, for the new members who do not have period clothing yet, it is a 'come as you are,' for this will be a great opportunity for you to see what clothing is correct and to learn what you need to get for yourselves.** There will be a wealth of information at your fingertips here! I can't wait to see all of you!

My address is **22023 Saxony
Eastpointe, Mi 48021
Ph 586-863-6346**

We are located just north of Detroit - - I-94 to 9 Mile Rd. West on 9 Mile (we are almost directly centered between Gratiot and Kelly --- while on 9 Mile heading west, you will drive past Wendy's, McDonald's, and Taco Bell (on your right) - - be in the left lane to turn onto my street - - when on Saxony, drive all the way down to nearly the end of the second block – we're on your right. Park wherever you can find a spot.

And, if you have (and can get to) your Civil War eating and drinking utensils, bring 'em along. Yes, we have some here as well, I just don't know if we have enough for everyone.

Please do not hesitate to e-mail (historicalken@giorlando.net) or phone me with any questions or concerns.

By the way, it's meetings like this that can prepare us for authentic hardcore events such as the invitation only Crossroads Village event in July. If any of you are interested in applying, please let me know.

Election: I would like to thank you all, once again, for your trust in me as your Civilian Coordinator. I really do love this position and try to be as knowledgeable and as inclusive as I can. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, thoughts, or concerns. That's what I'm here for.

See you on the 13th!

21st Michigan's Official 2010 Event Calendar

(event coordinators to be announced at a later date)

- Mar. 6 ***Company Drill sponsored by the 7th, Leslie, MI***
- Mar. 13 ***Civilian Meeting at the Giorlandos', Eastpointe, MI (the military is welcome!)***
- Apr. 24-25 ***Battalion Drill, Historic Ft. Wayne, Detroit, MI***
- May 15-16 ***Walker Tavern, Brooklyn, MI***
- May 29-31 ***Greenfield Village - Civil War Remembrance Weekend, Dearborn, MI***
- June 5 ***Richards Middle School at Historic Ft. Wayne, Detroit, MI***
- June 26-27 ***Waterloo Farm Museum, Waterloo, MI***
- July 10-11 ***Historic Ft. Wayne Civil War Days, Detroit, MI***
- July 17-18 ***Charlton Park, Hastings, MI***
- Aug. 7 - 8 ***Civil War Celebration, Pt. Sanilac, MI (the 21st is the sponsoring unit!)***
- Aug. 28-29 ***Civil War Muster, Jackson, MI***
- Oct. 9-10 ***Wolcott Mill, Ray Twp., MI***
- TBD ***Unit Year-end Event***
- Nov. 7 ***Veterans' Day Parade, Detroit, MI***
- Nov. 13 ***Reenactors' Thanksgiving, Westland, MI***
- Jan. ? ***Unit Christmas Party, Eastpointe, MI***

Other Events of Interest and Consideration

(participation does not count towards attendance requirement)

- June 11-13 ***20 Mile HFW Preservation March, Scottville, MI***
- June 12-13 ***Disaffected in Canada at Historic Ft. Wayne, Detroit, MI***
- July 4 ***Fourth of July Parade, Plymouth, MI***
- Sept. 18-19 ***Wildwood Park, Toledo, OH***
- Sept. 25-26 ***Civil War Days, Angola, IN***
- Oct. 2-3 ***Hayes Civil War Days, Fremont, OH***
- Oct. 23 ***Harvest Ball, Lansing, MI***

TBD

Grave Re-dedication for Andy Assenmacher's CW vet ancestor, Dearborn, MI

Remember: Participation in *Christmas at Crossroads*, *Holiday Nights at Greenfield Village* and *Christmas at the Fort* are all by application **and** acceptance only! See me for contact info - Mike G.

Company Drill Session

The White Pine Academy in Leslie, MI on March 6

Mike Gillett, unit event coordinator

The 7th Michigan is hosting a six-hour infantry drill session from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. on Saturday, March 6th. The White Pine Academy will be open an hour before drill begins so we can begin promptly at 10:00. The sessions will encompass School of the Soldier up through sections of School of the Battalion. For enlisted (especially new recruits) we will be reviewing footwork, marching, firing positions, manual of arms, and other basic functions. For NCOs' and officers there will be functional instruction on positions in various maneuvers, movements of the Color Guard, military etiquette, basic guard posting, Battalion Dress parade, etc. Mark Heath will be incorporating bugle signals into our program throughout the day. .

All attendees should wear their uniforms. Bring your rifle, accoutrements, and **SOFT-SOLED SHOES**. Modern shoes are permitted as we will be drilling mostly inside a gymnasium on tile floors. Bring your brogans or outside modern shoes just in case we have an Indian-Summer like day. **Leave all ammunition at home.**

Directions: The White Pine Academy address is 510 Russell Street and is located 4/10 of a mile south of downtown Leslie. Take US-127 to exit 56, go east to first stoplight, go through stoplight 5/10 of mile and turn right (south) onto Russell St. The Mill St. stop sign is 3/10 of a mile south on Russell. The school is 1/10 of a mile past Mill St. on west side of the road.

They need to know the number of attendees so please notify me if you plan to attend so *they* can plan accordingly... email me at yankeechaplain@gmail.com or call me 734-525-3524 (home) or 248-982-0298 (cell) soon!

Treasurer's Report

Balance (*as of 2/20/2010*) - \$2,893.73

Website Report

Currently the website (21stmichigan.org) is still under construction and is almost complete (with some tweaks and finishing work remaining), by Will Eichler (the unit's - and many of ours - good friend). Once everything is built, our own Jim Cary will then maintain the site. At the moment, now post-business meeting, we are working to put up both our unit calendar and our unit roster, which should finalize Will's participation.

Please, by all means, let Will know how much you appreciate his hard work. We have been without a site for far too long!

In regards to the roster on the site, if we've misspelled your name, mislabeled a child or two, or selected a "profile pic" that you would like to see replaced (or just plain forgotten you), please let us know by email to: 21stmichigan@gmail.com. If you have another picture you'd prefer instead, please send it along... or if you do

not have a picture, Mike Gillett or Ken Giorlando would certainly be happy to "take your likeness" the next time you see them!

Thank you (and thank you Will and Jim!).

Minutes from Annual Meeting of the Sunday, February 21, 2002

Meeting called to order by Mike Gillett at 1:15 p.m. Pledge of Allegiance was led by JR Schroeder. Meeting began with prayer by Mike Gillett. All members present were asked to introduce themselves.

Old Business:

- JR Schroeder made a motion that all dues paying members be allowed to vote on unit matters, with no attendance requirements. Seconded by Alyssa Schroeder. Motion did not pass on a show of hands.
- Ken Giorlando made a motion that any member 16 and older, who has attended a minimum of 4 events during the past year, be allowed to vote on unit matters. Seconded by Mike Parr. Motion passed on a show of hands.
- Bill Jones made a motion that only Military members would vote for Military Commander, and only civilians would vote for Civilian Coordinator. Seconded by Ralph Torok. After some discussion, motion was withdrawn.
- Bill Jones made a motion that the unit pay for Christmas gifts for children (under 12) of members. Seconded by Jean Cook. Motion passed by voice vote.

President's Report: Mike Gillett

Mike reported that the 2009 season was "the best ever". Praised the 21st Michigan as a unit that gets along well with others, both within the unit and with people from other units. Mentioned that we are a diverse group. After nearly a year our website is back online. Thanked Will Eichler for his work redesigning the site. Jim Cary will be the site's webmaster. Kudos from Tom Giorlando, especially to the military, for their progress on the field. We are becoming one of the premier units in the line of battle.

Angie White volunteered to be the new editor/publisher of "*Marching Along*". Appreciation was expressed for Randy Perry's efforts as the previous editor/publisher, as well as his work during his time as unit treasurer.

Secretary's Report: Jim Cary

Jim shared that we as a unit attended 26 events this past year, with a total attendance of 396. Members were encouraged to let Jim know if they attended an event, but were not given credit for it, so he can update the attendance chart.

Treasurer's Report: Randy Perry

Randy reported that the unit checking account is now in the name of the unit, so that it can be passed on to a new treasurer without closing one account and opening a new one, as has been done in the past. He has also created a spreadsheet that can easily be passed on to a new treasurer, making such transitions much easier. Members were given a copy of all transactions for the year.

Military Commander's report: JR Schroeder

JR is pleased to report that the military of the 21st looks very sharp on the field. He says we a cohesive unit. He reports that on the command "fire", he hears the 21st fire as one. Jon Boutsikaris also praised the military for their proficiency in drilling and marching.

Civilian Coordinator's report: Ken Giorlando

Ken reports that the civilians have 2 meetings each year (in March and November), at which they discuss first person impressions, period dress, and period customs and mannerisms. He says that the interest in social history by members is showing at events. He mentioned that at Wolcott Mill, 6 of the 10 stops on the Lantern Tour were 21st Michigan members. We are becoming one of the preeminent groups in the state.

Election of Officers:

The following nominations were made:

President - *Mike Gillett*

Secretary - *Jim Cary*

Treasurer - *Jennifer Schmidt*

Military Commander - *JR Schroeder*

Civilian Coordinator - *Ken Giorlando*

JR Schroeder made a motion that the 5 nominees be elected as one vote. Seconded by Jon Boutsikaris. Guy Purdue made a motion that vote be by unanimous consent. Seconded by Bill Jones. Motion passed on show of hands.

[Short break was taken]

Selection of events: Mike Gillett

Events available were discussed. An official schedule will be available on the website and in the next issue of the newsletter.

New Business:

- After discussion, it was decided that dues would remain the same as last year.
- Tim Keeney made a motion that we make a donation of \$175.00 to *the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition* and renew the unit membership (\$75.00). Seconded by Ken Collier. Motion passed on voice vote.
- Ken Giorlando made a motion that we make a donation of \$75.00 to *the Civil War Preservation Trust*. Seconded by Darryl George. Motion passed on voice vote.
- Darryl George made a motion that we make a donation of \$50.00 to *the Eastpointe Historical Society*, as a thank you for the use of the schoolhouse for the Christmas party. Seconded by Jon Boutsikaris. Motion passed on voice vote.
- Darryl George made a motion that we make a donation of \$50.00 to *Our Savior Lutheran Church*, as a thank you for allowing us to use the building for our annual meeting. Seconded by Jon Boutsikaris. Motion passed on voice vote.
- Ken Giorlando made a motion that we name Erv and Judy Rock as "*Members Emeritus*". Seconded by Alyssa Schroeder. Motion passed on voice vote.
- Guy Purdue announced that there is a charitable fund being set up to help reenactors who are struggling financially.
- Darryl George suggested that the ladies in our unit might consider rolling rounds for the men in the military, as was done during the War. He will provide the paper. The ladies could sell the rounds at, or near cost, with any profits going back to the unit.
- Ken Giorlando encouraged more members (both military and civilians) to write letters, to add to the authenticity of our unit.
- There was some discussion of the possibility of a midseason meeting. It was decided that we would not

schedule anything at this time, but if there is an issue that needs to be addressed by the membership, a meeting would be scheduled to deal with that matter.

- Meeting was adjourned at 4:12 p.m.

Annual Membership Dues are Due!

If you've not yet paid your membership dues for 2010, and are wishing to remain a part of the unit, please do so by the end of February (or *very soon* since the month is *nearly over*). Once again, single membership is \$10 for a single and \$20 for a family membership (that includes any college age "children"). Please send your checks (made out to the "21st Michigan") and mail them *quickly* to: Jennifer Schmidt, 170 Riviera Terrace, Waterford, MI 48328). And *then* send an email to us at 21stmichigan@gmail to let us know that "the check is in the mail". ***This is vital...*** if you are not on the roster that we hand in to Greenfield Village, then you will *not* be able to attend the Civil War Remembrance Weekend there with us!

Please pass this on to any new members (or prospective members sitting on the fence!). For you new folks - or who find things momentarily monetarily tight - let us know your intentions.

And, of course, if you've already have paid... many thanks!

"General Orders from the Captain"

JR Schroeder, *Military Commander*

Pards -

Here we are, mired in another "winter camp". The snow is still deep, the wind is still cold, but there is hope! Spring is right around the corner, and it's time to prepare for another campaign season.

First, I want to thank everyone for their hard work and dedication last summer. It was a difficult year for all of us, but we came through stronger and better than when we started. Everyone's hard work paid off - we are one SHARP unit! We are marching better, shooting better, and dressing better than ever before. And off the field, we are bonding better in camp. And we're getting noticed - other units and higher commanders are noticing us and complimenting us highly. Keep up the great work!

And now, it's time to look forward to the 2010 campaign. I believe that to get the most out of reenacting, we should strive to be as authentic as possible as often as possible. This means living as the original 21st did, eating what they did, sleeping as they did, dressing as they did. I believe that we should try our best to leave the modern world behind for the duration of the weekend, as far as we are able. I want to see us sharper in drill, marching better, and fighting better. I want to see us spending as much time as possible in military camp during off duty hours, from reveille until late afternoon... and into the evening or overnight if at all possible. I want to see us improve our first-person impressions. I want every event to be even better than the last one.

We are each part of the 21st because we don't want to be in another unit. Some of our comrades have left other units to join us. We are pards, brothers in arms, we drink from the same canteen. But like brothers, sometimes we don't always see eye-to-eye. Like the original 21st, our members today come from many backgrounds, we have different years of experience, different close friends, and we have many ideas about the best direction the unit should follow. We need to stay focused on the big picture - we're here to honor our Nation's history and our forefathers as we recreate the time of the Civil War. All other personal agendas are secondary. Let's keep this in mind when we get caught up in unit politics and heated debates over important issues, like the proper color of cheddar cheese.

I'm looking forward to a great summer. But until then, enjoy your time counting down the days until we can once again be hot and sweaty and wearing dark wool, running around in the heat and humidity and rain.

Y'r Ob't Serv't,
|| J.R. ||



