



SEPTEMBER 2009
THE PRITCHARD PRESS
NEWSLETTER OF THE
GEN. BENJAMIN PRITCHARD
CAMP 20
DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
SONS OF UNION VETERANS of the
CIVIL WAR
"PRESERVED BY THE GRACE
OF GOD..."



2009 CAMP 20 OFFICERS

COMMANDER JOHN R. KEITH
SR. VICE COMMANDER JEFF E. BAKER
JR. VICE COMMANDER THOMAS BRUCE
CAMP SECRETARY DANIEL KNIGHT
CAMP TREASURER JOHN C. KEITH
GUARD: CLIFFORD BURHANS
GUIDE: JOHN BREWSTER
PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR: DENNIS LAPOINT
EAGLE SCOUT COORDINATOR: DANIEL KNIGHT
MEMORIALS & MONUMENTS: ART BONNELL

GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER:
BILL COSTELLO
COLOR BEARER: GLENN HALL
HISTORIAN: GARY GIBSON
CHAPLAIN: BILL BRENNAN
SIGNAL OFFICER: JOHN C. KEITH
MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL:
BILL COSTELLO, STEVE REDINGER AND ART
BONNELL

REMINDER- our next camp meeting will be **Tuesday, October 6th, 2009 at 7pm.** Camp 20 meets on the first Tuesday of the month, March through November, at the Oshtemo Branch of the Kalamazoo Public Library, located at 7265 West Main Street.

**THANKS TO ALL UNITED STATES
VETERANS FOR YOUR SERVICE!**

****At our September meeting, Camp 20 added a new member to our roster. Bro. Gary Swain, who resides in Kalamazoo in the summer and Key West, Florida in the winter, where he is a member of the Navy League. The Navy League is a group devoted to helping Navy personnel and their families.**

Please join us in giving him a hardy welcome to our great organization.**

Reminder:

Please report any change in your contact information to Camp Commander Keith or Camp Secretary Knight so we can be up to date!

Here it is September already; and we at Camp 20 have no events planned for 2010. Please give it some thought and bring your ideas of what Camp 20 can be involved in next year or what's left of 2009, to our October meeting or email them to Hardtackcw@aol.com.

ITEMS FROM THE SEPTEMBER MEETING:

Brother Bill Brennan, informed us of the proceedings at this years SUVCW Nation Encampment in Kentucky.

Also the committee looking into possible monuments for the BRONSON G.A.R. POST in Galesburg, and the ORR G.A.R. POST, in Scotts, both in Kalamazoo County, has been put on hold until further notice!

Brother Glenn Hall is in the process of seeing how cost effective it would be to have him cast some G.A.R. flag holders.

Brother Gary Gibson mentioned that at Lawler Cemetery also known as Territorial Cemetery, located in Fort Custer, that there is a G.A.R. Monument in need of cleaning in that cemetery, this will be brought up at a meeting in the future and a date set to proceed to clean it.

Also, Camp 20 voted to donate \$100 to help defer costs of mounting the new Lincoln's Gettysburg Address Plaque given to Fort Custer National Cemetery, all National Cemeteries were presented this plaque. See information later in this newsletter! We hope other Michigan SUVCW Camps will follow our lead and donate towards this project also!

[THANKS TO ALL OF YOU THAT FAITHFULLY ATTEND CAMP 20'S MONTHLY MEETINGS.](#)

MORE REMINDERS :

NOMINATIONS FOR 2010 CAMP 20 OFFICERS WILL BE TAKEN AT THE OCTOBER MEETING WITH ELECTIONS AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

BOWEN MILLS CIVIL WAR DAYS
OCTOBER 10 AND 11 2009

New Gettysburg Address Tablets for National Cemeteries To Honor Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial

The National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is recognizing the historical impact of President Abraham Lincoln, especially his initiation of the national cemetery system, by restoring and introducing some of his most beloved words to these facilities just in time to celebrate the bicentennial of his birth in February 2009.

In July 1862, legislation was enacted authorizing the president "to purchase cemetery grounds . . . to be used as a national cemetery." This was the origin of all national cemeteries, including 75 established by 1872. The next year, on November 19, 1863, Lincoln gave the famed speech at the dedication of "Soldier's National Cemetery" in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

(Continued on page 3)

Page 2

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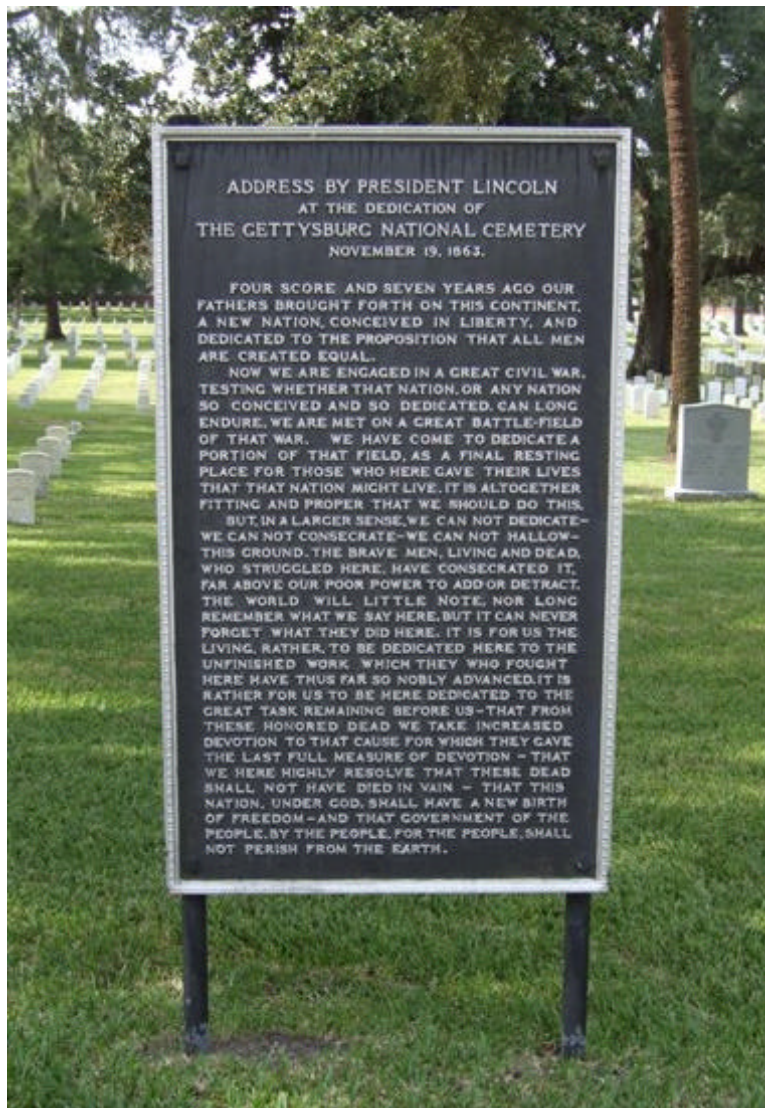
An invitation to Lincoln to make "a few appropriate remarks" was almost an afterthought, but his 2-minute speech was the best-remembered event of the day and well beyond.

With funding provided through VA's Historic Preservation Office, the NCA History Program coordinated the acquisition of sixty-one (61) cast-iron tablets containing the Gettysburg Address, the most prominent historic tablet found throughout our 125 national cemeteries. The new tablets measure nearly 5 feet tall and 3 feet wide, and will be painted black and silver. They will be installed in older cemeteries where originals have been lost over the years, and in cemeteries developed after about 1950 that never had them. Delivery will start in February 2009, with the newest national cemeteries to receive tablets first.

The tablet at Rock Island National

Cemetery, Ill., was used as the model for the new tablets being produced at the Army's nearby Rock Island Arsenal (RIA). It is no coincidence that NCA chose to partner with RIA, because it was exactly one century ago that the original tablets were manufactured there. The Gettysburg Address as a permanent element of the cemetery landscape appears first in 1895 when legislation authorized a monument to Lincoln's speech at the Soldiers National Cemetery; it also transferred the cemetery to the federal government as part of the nation's fourth national battlefield park. That monument was not completed until 1912, but in the meantime the Army had begun producing a standard Gettysburg Address tablet for all national cemeteries. Starting by 1909, these were fabricated of iron, later "copper plated," at RIA.

Assuring that each NCA national cemetery, old and new, displays the Gettysburg Address reflects the association of Abraham Lincoln's words and actions on these hallowed shrines. The tablets have been officially designated an "endorsed project" of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.



Please submit items to be added to this newsletter to-

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