

Impressions

NEWSLETTER WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Get a Closer Look... Behind the Lines



This year marks the 150th anniversary of the outbreak of the American Civil War.

“Behind the Lines: Horses, Hardtack, Heartbeats and Heroes” takes you behind the lines of the Civil War battlefield to reveal the backstory of the Union army experience.

This exhibit also highlights the important contributions made by soldiers and residents of Michigan and Washtenaw County.

You will encounter the ordinary, unsung details that shaped the experience of our men and women in the 1860s. You will learn about tents, horses, music and flags; meet a variety of Washtenaw County soldiers; and appreciate the memory of America’s deadliest war.
(continued on page 5)

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How to Successfully Research, Write and Publish a Historical Book

Have you ever wanted to publish a book based on historical documentation? Not sure what to do first or next? The WCHS monthly program on Sunday, March 20th answered those questions and more. Author Tom Nanzig, gave us an inside look at creating interesting and publishable material in an archival setting. He shared advice about how to find historical information, edit the manuscript, produce and publish the final polished product. Tom is the author of four other Civil war books including *The Badax Tigers: From Shiloh to the Surrender with the 18th Wisconsin Volunteers*. The book he talked about in this program was *The Civil War Memoirs of A Virginia Cavalryman*." *(continued on page 3)*

Our mission is to educate and inspire our community to engage in the preservation and presentation of area history

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The President's Letter: Rally Round the Flag on Main Street

Washtenaw County Historical Society's new exhibit, "Behind the Lines," is a must see. Over the last four years (my relatively short tenure on the board) I've believed that all of our exhibits have been exceedingly well done and several of them, based on visitor's comments, were rated outstanding to excellent.

Maybe it is that the beginning of the sesquicentennial has created such a renewed interest in the Civil War; maybe it is that a couple of boys who grew up in our house, now Museum on Main Street, served in the Civil War; but, I believe it mainly is, that our exhibition committee found the right theme, created great displays, exhibited the special artifacts, provided correct local historical information and, as a result, produced an absolutely excellent, must see, exhibit.

Special thanks go to Board members: Judy Chrisman (exhibition chairperson) and Joanne Nesbit; Administrator: Bev Willis; our volunteers: Diana Mankowski and Jessica May Oyler; and several others who contributed in important ways. (See page six.) Do find the time, make the trip and enjoy "Behind the Lines."

Leslie Loomans

The jacket and belt to the right belonged to Major Seymour Howell. His Captain's epaulets and shoulder bars and his Major's dress chapeau are also on display. He enlisted in Co. F, 6th Michigan Infantry as a Second Lieutenant, at the age of 20.



Washtenaw County Historical Society

P.O. Box 3336
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Phone: 734-662-9092
email: wchs-500@ameritech.net

Museum on Main Street

500 N. Main Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1027
(at the corner of E. Kingsley & Beakes)

Museum Hours

Saturday & Sunday,
12 Noon – 4:00 PM
and by appointment
for groups or individuals

Current Exhibit: "Behind the Lines"
April 10 - October 23, 2011

Check us out, on the web and
www.WashtenawHistory.org



(Program Talk Continued)

Karen Jania, WCHS vice president, introduced Tom Nanzig who grew up in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He is a leading scholar on the Virginia Cavalry, and has published many works including a unit history in the Virginia Regimental History Series entitled *The 3rd Virginia Cavalry*.

RESEARCH AND WRITING In 1982 Tom was living in Farmville, VA and attended a Civil War roundtable meeting. He was invited to write a part of a series of books. He volunteered to do the 3rd cavalry under J.E.B. Stuart and was shown a map of the 11 companies that made up the 3rd Virginia Cavalry. Tom lived right in the area where Cos. D, F and I were located. The research began practically in his own back yard.

While writing about the 3rd Virginia Cavalry, he received a tip there was a 200 page cavalry journal at the University of Virginia. Tom asked for an image of the material but it had not been filmed yet. Ten years later it was on microfilm and he made the best copies he could of every page, hoping to be able to transcribe it. At the back of the last micro film reel, someone in the Hubbard family had typed up an entire copy of the manuscript.

Tom was able to check and verify dates where there was action, battles or a raid against factual records. He knew it was interesting, authentic and

publishable. Tom also gathered letters from Robert Hubbard Jr. and his father. Letters are important because a soldier at war is writing the way he feels without benefit of 20/20 hindsight. When the letters were compared to written memoirs they matched and helped us to understand what was going on in Robert Hubbard Jr's cavalry life.

TRAVEL Whenever possible take trips to see the places you are writing about. In 2001 Tom and his wife made two trips to Virginia and saw the Hubbard family home, *Chellow* in Charlottesville. Built in the 1840s'-50s', every letter that Bob Hubbard sent back from the war went to this house. Across the road, they saw the family graves – Robert Hubbard Sr, his wife Pochahantas and son Robert Hubbard Jr. They also saw an album of family photos, and for the first time, one of Robert Hubbard Jr., the subject of his book.

PHOTOGRAPHS Most Civil War images are public domain. Many are on line at the Library of Congress and the National Archives websites. Other images can come from families and need permission for their use.

GRAPHICS Publishers often design the cover without author input. Interior graphics are often author-provided. In addition to photographs, Tom needed maps. His neighbor, a graphic artist, volunteered to make them in return for a copy of his book.



WCHS member Howard Fox

FINDING A PUBLISHER Tom was encouraged to submit his book to academic presses by the second publisher that turned him down. The University of Alabama was happy to publish his work. University publishers have their own websites that tell you how to submit a book. The whole acquisition process can take 6 months to a year from submission to contract issuance. Be sure to follow-up to make sure your manuscript arrived. Self publishing is an alternative way to get your book in print but you also have to finance and market it.

EDITORS & READERS A book is put together and edited by a proofreader for grammar and more. The editor gives a manuscript to readers, experts who know the subject look over the material and throw out challenges. As the author, your job is to improve where you can and demonstrate the accuracy of your work when the depth of your research is questioned.

THE CONTRACT Read thoroughly before signing any agreement. Make sure if the book goes out of print you get the rights rescinded back to you. That way you can continue to sell and market your work.

"An imperfect journal of the war 1861-65". Tom finished the talk by reading excerpts from a Hubbard letter that gave some more insight into the soldier as a man. Questions and answers followed. He is working on his next book, a set of Civil War letters between a husband and his wife. ♦



Lauren Cook: Women Who Served in the Civil War

Written by *Susan Nenadic*, WCHS Board member and retired teacher



*The second battle of Antietam
Lauren Cook & Fred Burgess*

The first battle of Antietam was fought on September 17, 1862. That day, 23,000 men fell in the combat, marking it as the bloodiest single day of battle in Civil War. The second battle of Antietam, fought 127 years later, had but one casualty whose name is Lauren Cook, a native of Grand Rapids.

Lauren Cook is civil war re-enactor who values authenticity. In fact, re-enactments allow nothing to be used or worn that is not exactly what soldiers would have had at the time of the Civil War. But when two Antietam National Battlefield park rangers noticed Lauren leaving the ladies restroom, they stopped her and told her to either remove her uniform or leave the park immediately. According to a park spokesman, her participation violated the park's "serious commitment to authenticity."

Sadly, these park officials were not as well versed in history as they thought they were. Hundreds of

women, dressed as men, fought in the Civil War. There are at least four documented cases of such women at Antietam. The key word in that statement is "documented." If there were four known cases, there undoubtedly were many more since every day historians are discovering previously unknown examples of women who donned male attire and joined the army. Frequently they went to war with their husbands or fiancés. Even if their men folk perished, they continued to fight in disguise. Women soldiers even suffered at infamous internment camps such as Andersonville and Florence when all they had to do was reveal their gender and be released. The only real impediment to their service was discovery. Usually that came when they were seriously wounded and taken to the hospital. Even then, they often just recuperated, received their discharges and re-enlisted in other units. One young woman, Lizzie Compton, fought with seven different units including a year with the 125th Michigan cavalry. Others like Jennie Hodges aka Albert Cashier managed to keep her gender hidden not only throughout the war but into the twentieth century.

The exploits of such women were well known during and after the war. Newspapers and magazines published accounts. A few women, like Frances Clayton, went on lecture tours. Michigan's own Sarah Emma Edmonds wrote an account of her experiences. 175,000 copies sold in two years. Miss Edmonds donated all her profits to a veterans' relief fund. Even President Lincoln knew. When he received word that the war department refused to pay Mary Ellen Wise, who had fought valiantly

for the Union, he angrily ordered that she be paid immediately. And cross-dressing soldiers received pensions for their war time services. But in the late nineteenth century, memory faltered. The Civil War became a man's war. By 1910 when journalist Ida Tarbell asked the U.S. Adjutant General for documentation of women who served, she was told that there had been no such women. The truth lay dormant for decades. Then a slow but steady trickle of information began emerging. Today there are dozens of books and articles concerning these women warriors and new information appears all the time.

Lauren Cook has been an important contributor to that stream of information. The second battle of Antietam did not end when she was removed from Antietam National Battlefield. She filed a law suit against the national Park Service in federal court. The court ruled in her favor two years later. Her story was publicized in many magazines including Smithsonian which helped enlighten the general public concerning female soldiers in our nation's past. One of the readers of all this press was Ruth Goodier of Chipley, Florida. She wrote to Cook telling her that she was well aware women, pretending to be men, had fought in the Civil War because her great grandmother's sister had. In fact, said Ms. Goodier, she had a trunk full of letters and a daguerreotype of her great, great aunt, Sarah Rosetta Wakeman aka Lyon Wakeman. Cook was stunned. No such letters had ever been found. Historians have gleaned much of their information from letters men wrote home mentioning a woman in the ranks.



Sarah Rosetta Wakeman aka Lyon Wakeman

(Women in the Civil War Continued)

Sarah Rosetta Wakeman was a simple New York farm girl of limited education. Born in 1843 she was the eldest of nine children. She left home at nineteen seeking work as a woman only to find her opportunities and potential for income extremely limited. So she slipped into male attire and immediately got a job on a canal boat where she met some Union soldiers and decided to enlist. She received \$152 for signing up and wrote home that she was "as independent as a hog on the ice." Later in 1863 she wrote that she liked it so well that she was considering signing up again when her term ended. That was not to be. Wakeman died, as was so common during the war, not of wounds but of disease in June 1864.

The second battle of Antietam marked a new phase in Lauren Cook's life. She married fellow re-enactor Fred Burgess in 1990. For this important day in their lives, they chose to dress in period costumes and cut their cake with a 130 year old Civil War sword. In 1996, she published Ms. Goodier's cache of letters in a book entitled *An Uncommon Soldier: The Civil War Letters of Sarah Rosetta Wakeman*. Seven years later she and DeAnne Blanton published *They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the Civil War*. Both of these volumes are significant contributions to our knowledge of the era. ♦

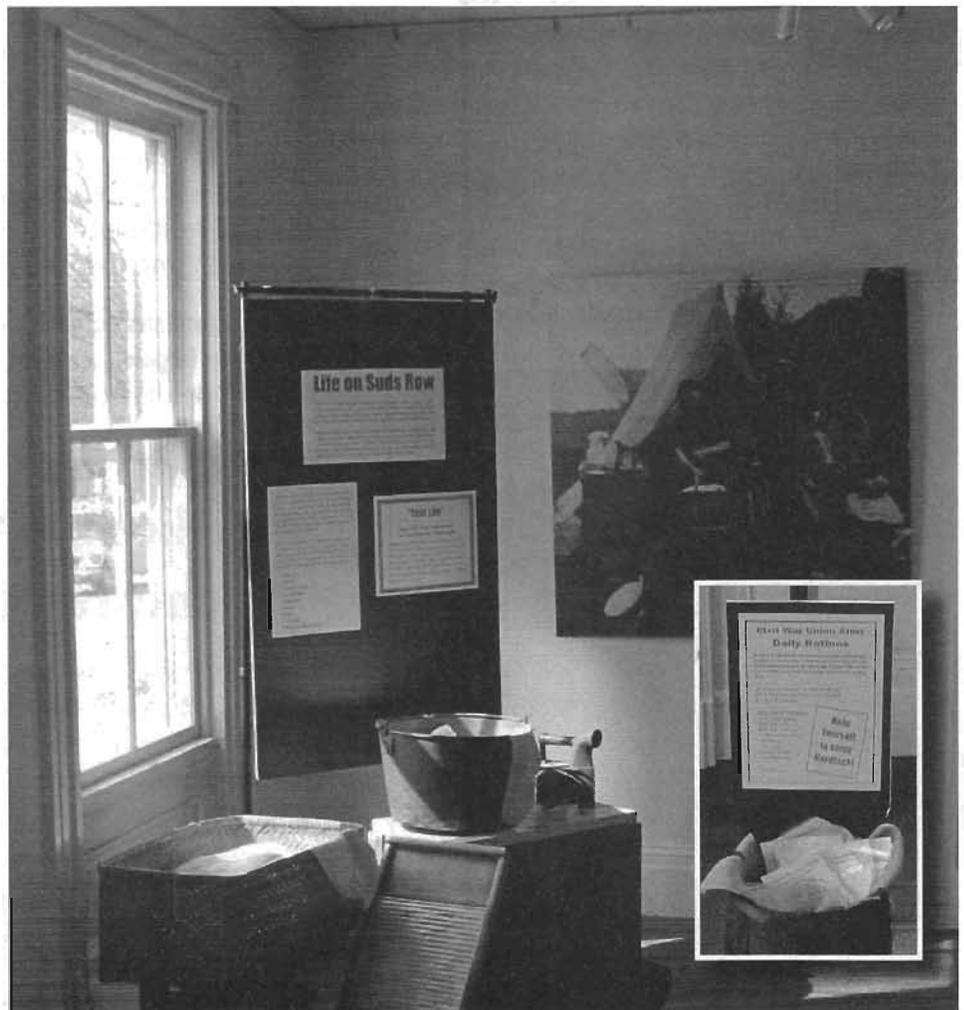
(Behind the Lines Continued)

Sunday April 10th was a perfect day for an Opening Reception. The sun was bright, the skies were blue and the temperature flirted with 80 degrees. Our front door stood open to welcome the fresh air and the many guests who came to the Opening. The feedback has been very positive and people have been enjoying the stories, artifacts, uniforms, and hardtack!

The Civil War exhibit is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 12 Noon-4 PM. Although any weekday that you see a car in the parking lot, feel free to stop by and see it. More photos and exhibit contributors are on page 6.

Individual and Group Tours

can be easily scheduled by calling 734-662-9092. We can accommodate groups up to 30 at one time. A docent-guided tour is also available on Saturdays, Sundays and by appointment.



Acknowledgments

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Wystan Stevens
Bentley Historical Library
Dexter Area Historical Society
Ypsilanti Historical Society



Torchlight used in an Abraham Lincoln Parade



The Garden on Main Street is Blooming!

The quince at the back porch will blossom in May. A purple lilac and rose bush that were moved from 1015 Wall Street are thriving next to the front porch. The fragrance of quince, lilacs and roses will fill the air soon along with the memories of a good friend. The original concept for the garden was designed by Peter Pollack in 1991. He helped us with a project proposal that was funded for six street trees on the lawn extension in 1992.



Peter Pollack/Pollack and Associates first joined the WCHS in 1981. He had a passion for creating beautiful places for people to enjoy and believed in creating places that people were drawn to use. A place that seemed it had always been there. When you walk through our garden, you feel as if it has always been there.

Thanks to bulbs from Scott Kunst, there are snow drops and crocus blooming. Heirloom daffodils display vibrant shades of yellow. As the days get warmer and longer look for snap dragons, columbine, lavender, clematis and more. Notice the colorful ground cover and low growing flowering plants amongst the trees on the extension. Peter M. Pollack died on December 20, 2010. We miss him but the garden at the corner of Main and Beakes is a beautiful reminder of how much one person's vision can give pleasure and last lifetimes.

The Museum appreciates our garden volunteers: Ann and Greg DeFreytas, Sue Kosky, Judy Chrisman, Lillian Ferguson, Mary and Wayne Florida, and Patty Creal. If you would like to volunteer and help with the garden this year, call 734-662-9092!

Michigan and Washtenaw County Families in the Civil War

What was it like for the residents of Washtenaw County during the Civil War? What was life like for the soldiers? Find out when you stop by the Museum on Main Street and see "Behind the Lines". The exhibit runs through October 23, 2011.

We are planning a second exhibit and are inviting local families to share the stories of their personal connection to the Civil War. If you have any Civil War artifacts and want to share them with the Museum please call Judy at 734-662-9092 or send an email to wchs-500@ameritech.net for more information.

MAY-JUNE EVENTS - VISIT YOUR COMMUNITY MUSEUM

The Washtenaw County Historical Consortium is a volunteer organization representing 27 museums, libraries, and historical attractions in and around Washtenaw County, Michigan. Member organizations can post their events directly to the online calendar and we will list as many as we can in our newsletter. For the most recent listings check out www.hvcn.org/info/wchs/consortium

Salem Area Historical Society

SAHS Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, May 25, 7:30 PM

Jarvis Stone School
Northwest Corner of N. Territorial
and Curtis Roads, Salem MI

Chris Ropeta will present his research on his family in Salem Township. His Grandmother was Mary Mager, William Mager's daughter. William was a stone mason who helped build the Old Stone School at Packard and Eisenhower and he was murdered by his son, Harold.

The Kempf House

Spring Open Houses

Tour the 1853 Greek Revival home of the musical German-American Kempf family, hear about their 1890's life style, and early history of Ann Arbor. Admission is free, donations are appreciated.

**Sundays, May 1, 8, 15 & 22,
1-4 pm**

Kempf House Museum
312 S. Division St., Ann Arbor
734-994-4898

www.KempfHouseMuseum.org

The Dexter Area Historical Society

Civil War Days

Friday - Sunday, June 10-12

Gordon Hall
8341 Island Lake Road, Dexter MI
734-426-8114

Email: cjones@villageofdexter.org

Experience military and civilian encampments, live period music and educational and family friendly activities and games. See military drills, period artifacts and living historians. President and Mrs. Lincoln are also expected to attend.

The Milan Area Historical Society

Milan Days

Saturday, May 14

734-660-4083

There will be free bus transportation between the Old Fire Barn and the Hack House museum during this family-friendly and fun event.

Ypsilanti Historical Society

Underground Railroad Exhibit:

April 1- October 31

Art Exhibit: May 8-22,

Ypsilanti Historical Museum
220 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti MI
734-484-0080

Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County, Michigan

May Genealogy Lecture and Class

Sunday, May 22, 1:30 P.M.

Education Center Auditorium, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Campus
5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti, Michigan. Use Parking Lot "P"

Email: gswcmi@gmail.com

The lectures and class are free and open to the public. Visitors are welcome

LECTURE *Basic Scandinavian Research* Presented by Diana Crisman Smith. Many people are intimidated at the thought of researching ancestors from Denmark, Norway or Sweden, because they do not speak the language. Finding resources, and tracking down aids to research will make it easier.

CLASS *Beyond the Death Record: Making Them Real* Presented by Gary M. Smith. Are you an ancestor collector? Do you collect names and dates? Go beyond the vital records and learn who they were as people! This presentation will discuss why and how.

Bentley Historical Library **Rally Round the Flag!**

Now — June 30, 2011 As the call to "Rally Round the Flag Boys!" was issued, Michigan responded by sending nearly 90,000 Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines. About 14,700 of these would never return. Bentley Historical Library, University of Michigan, 1150 Beal Ave., Ann Arbor, 734-764-3482. Hours: Monday- Friday , 9AM-5PM, Saturday 9AM-12 Noon. Check out the expanded exhibit online www.bentley.umich.edu

William L. Clements Library **Opening Guns: The First Year of Civil War**

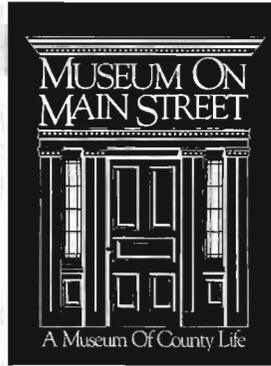
Now — June 3, 2011 This exhibit presents the year 1861 through the written word of the soldiers and civilians who experienced the war between the Union and Confederate states. Located in the Main Room of the Clements Library Monday through Friday from 1:00-4:45 PM, 909 South University Avenue, Ann Arbor. 734-764-2347.

**You are Invited to
the Annual Meeting**

Wednesday, May 18, 2011, 6 PM
at the Ann Arbor Community Center
Large Meeting Room, 2nd floor
625 N. Main Street, Ann Arbor

Free Parking in the lot, Ramp on Main St.

The Potluck Dinner begins at 6:30. There will be a short program at 7:30 pm, followed by the election of officers. Bring a dish for eight to pass. Beverages and dinnerware provided.



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The Washtenaw County Historical Society • www.WashtenawHistory.org

Slate Nominated for 2011-2012

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 Vice PresidentKaren Jania
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 Corresponding SecretaryPauline Walters

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Kay Williams

DIRECTORS (2011-2014)

Diana Mankowski (2011-2012)
 Susan Wineberg
 Cynthia Yao
 Bob Yuhasz

Respectfully submitted: Michele McClellan and Tom Freeman

WCCHS Members: Thank You!

We appreciate all of your support and attendance at our programs this past season. From Pease houses in September to the Big House in October to the opening of the Civil war exhibit at our house this April, you have been there.

Membership Benefits

Members have the advantage of bringing a friend to six free programs in the months of September, October, November, February, March and April. Our newsletter *Impressions* is published seven times a year from September to November and February to May.

Members are also invited to attend the Annual Meeting, Wednesday, May 18, 2011, 6 PM, the Ann Arbor Community Center (625 N. Main Street) and vote for the election of officers. You will also enjoy sharing a Potluck Dinner. Bring a dish for eight to pass. Beverages and dinnerware provided. Call 734-662-9092 if you have questions.