



Monument Dedication August 31, 2003, Fredricksburg, Virginia



*“Dark rolled the Rappahannock’s flood,
Michigan, my Michigan;*

*The tide was crimsoned with thy blood,
Michigan, my Michigan.*

*Although for us the day was lost,
Yet it shall be our proudest boast,*

*At Fredericksburg our Seventh crossed,
Michigan, my Michigan.”*

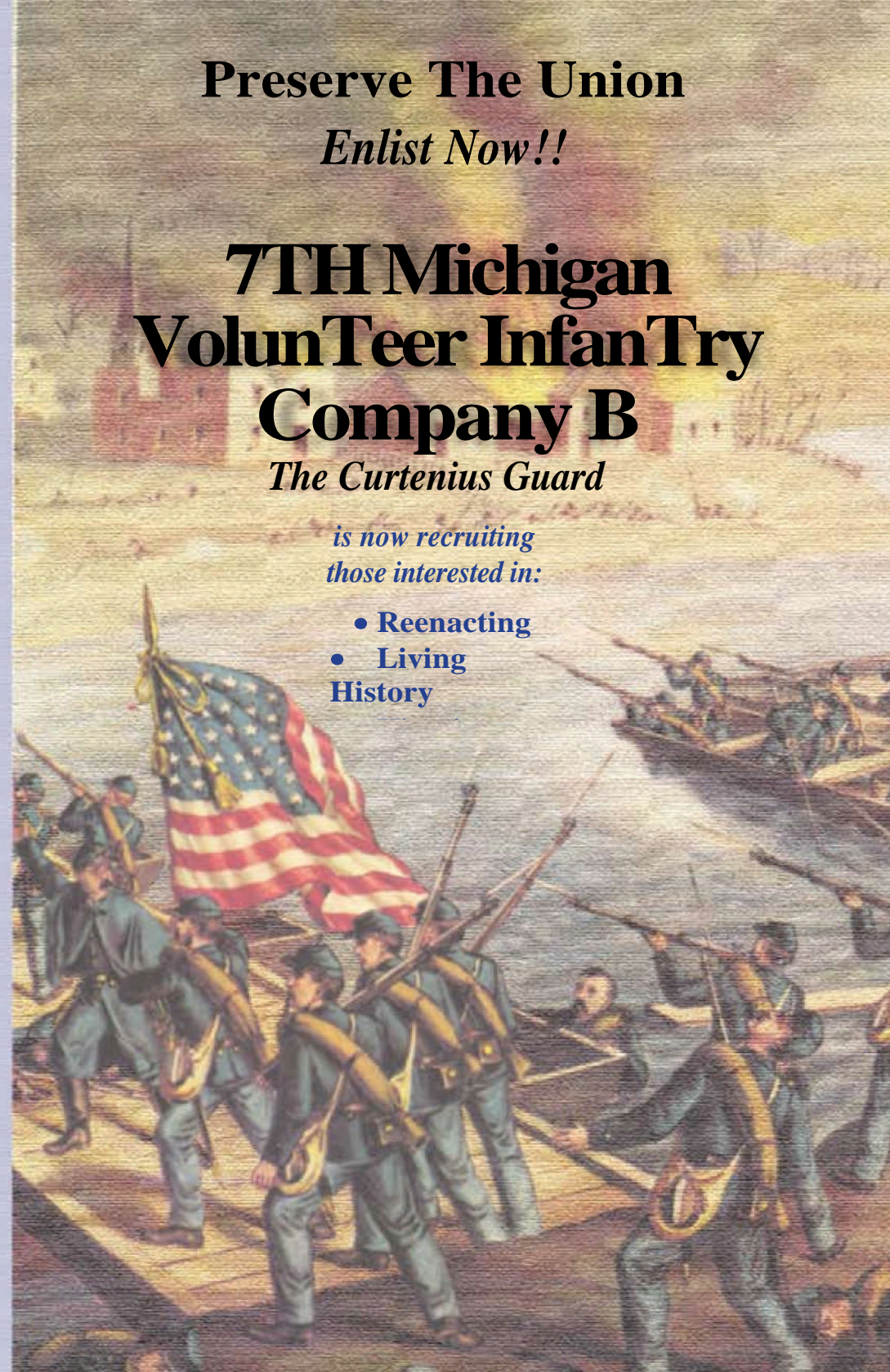
Second stanza of Michigan, My Michigan

Preserve The Union *Enlist Now!!*

7TH Michigan VolunTeer InfanTry Company B *The Curtenius Guard*

*is now recruiting
those interested in:*

- Reenacting
- Living History



INTRODUCTION .

7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Company B., Inc.

We would like to extend a welcome to potential members of the 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Company B., Inc. The 7th Michigan is a family oriented, federally tax exempt, Michigan nonprofit corporation organized exclusively for the purpose of fostering and preserving the history of the Civil War era (1861 - 1865) through public discussions and demonstrations of living history, Civil War battle reenactments, camp life, military drills, parades, memorials, ceremonies, and other related public portrayals of historically accurate Civil War era military and civilian lifestyles and activities. The Corporation is funded entirely through membership dues, public donations and fund-raising activities.

Membership in the 7th Michigan is open to anyone 18 years or older who desires to participate in Civil War era events and activities. Individuals under than 18 years of age may be permitted as an associate member provided that he/she has secured the agreement, of a current member willing to assume the responsibility of sponsorship, guidance and supervision. All members have equal say and voting rights at all Corporation meetings.

The corporation is composed of a seven member board of directors, annually elected by the membership, and five standing committees: Military, Fife and Drum, Civilian Relief Commission, Living History (speciality civilian and military impressions) and Quartermaster. The President of the Corporation with the concurrence of the Board of Directors appoints the chairpersons of the five standing committees. New members/associate members in the 7th Michigan are subject to a two year probation period. During this time, the member/associate member is required to acquire the necessary uniform, clothing, accouterments and/or equipment associated with the chosen impression.

The 7th Michigan participates in numerous memorials, programs/lectures for Schools, Universities and Civic groups, ceremonies, parades, living history demonstrations, and battle reenactments throughout Michigan and the Mid-West. Members of the 7th Michigan have participated in the 125th, 130th, 135th, and 140th Anniversary National Battle Reenactments of the Civil War held throughout the country. In recent years the 7th has become involved in historic preservation by donating for Battlefield preservation, donating for other historic preservation projects and fund raising to restore the 7th Regiments monument at Gettysburg. It is one of the few Michigan Civil War organizations to have been invited to a presidential inaugural parade. It is also involved in the Michigan "Save the Flags" campaign. By adopting the 7th's National battle flag in the collection we helped to preserve Michigan's Civil War battle flags. The 7th is one of the reenactment groups that has been involved in the reopening and restoration of Historic Fort Wayne in Detroit, one of the few Civil War sites in Michigan. On August 3 1, 2003 the 7th dedicated it's monument to the Regiment crossing the Rappahannock River, under fire, at the Battle of Fredericksburg. The monument is at the point that the 7th crossed the river in Fredericksburg,

Virginia and may be the last monument allowed to be placed on National Park property. The 7th Michigan annually co-sponsors and co-hosts the Jackson (Michigan) Cascades Civil War Muster, one of the largest Civil War Reenactments in the Mid-West.

HISTORY

B Company, 7th Regiment Michigan Volunteer Infantry

The 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry was organized in September 1861. It was composed of 10 companies from various parts of Michigan. B Company of the 7th was organized in Mason, Michigan and was known as the "Curtenius Guard". B Company was initially commanded, by Captain Philip McKernan of Mason until 26 September, 1861. Its second commander was Captain (later, Lt. Colonel) Amos E. Steele, also of Mason. Lt. Colonel Steele was killed in action at Gettysburg on 3 July, 1863. The 7th Michigan regiment left Monroe Michigan on 5 September, 1861 with 884 officers and men. The regiment was attached to the 3rd Brigade, 2nd Division, 2nd Corps of the Army of the Potomac.

The 7th Michigan Regiment fought in all major battles while attached to the Army of the Potomac. In particular, it wrote itself into the annals of history at the Battle of Fredericksburg (12/62) when the regiment crossed the Rappahannock River under heavy sharpshooters' fire, dislodged the enemy from their rifle pits and ensured safe passage for the rest of the Army. For this action they received the nickname Forlorn Hope Regiment. It was also one of the regiments that formed the "Bloody Angle" at the Battle of Gettysburg (7/63) that helped repel Pickett's famous charge. Other major battles in which the 7th Michigan Regiment participated included: Savage Station (6/62), Malvern Hill (7/62), 2nd Bull Run (8/62), Antietam (9/62), Chancellorsville (5/63), Haymarket (6/63), Spottsylvania. (5/64), Wilderness (6/64), Siege of Petersburg (6/64 - 4/65), Saylor's Creek (4/65), and the surrender ceremony at Appomattox (4/65).

The 7th Michigan Regiment Volunteer Infantry participated in the "Grand Review" in Washington, D.C. on 23 May, 1865. On 5 July, 1865, it was mustered out of service and then returned to Jackson, Michigan where it was paid off and disbanded. During the War, the 7th Michigan Regiment Volunteer Infantry suffered a total loss of 338 officers and men (killed in action - officers, 123 men; died of wounds - 5 officers, 47 men; and died of disease - 3 officers, 154 men).

Individuals interested in membership are encouraged to contact the membership chairperson by mail at

7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Co B Inc.
Attention Membership Co-Chairs
P.O. Box 16206
Lansing, MI 48901-6206
Or contact the 7th Michigan via the internet on line at:
www.7thmichigan.us

