



Curtenius Guard Camp #17

Department of Michigan

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Samuel W. Grinnell GAR Post #283

115 Main Street, Sunfield, Michigan

<http://suvcw.org/mi/017/017home.htm>

Free Civil War History Seminar “Michigan Soldiers at Andersonville Prison”

The Lansing/Sunfield Curtenius Guard Camp #17, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) will be sponsoring the next in its series of *Free Civil War History Seminars* on **Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 7 PM, at the Brethren Church located at 8436 West Grand Ledge Hwy (M-43), in Sunfield, Michigan.** The church is located approximately one-half mile west of the four corners of Sunfield Highway & M-43 (Note that this is a new location from the previous year's seminars). The presentation will cover “***Michigan Soldiers at Andersonville Prison.***”

During the Civil War, Union soldiers captured in battle were sent to a prison camp in Georgia run by the Confederate Army. The actual name of the prison was *Camp Sumter*, but history books call it *Andersonville Prison*. Lansing historian Chris Czopek has discovered new information about Michigan soldiers who stayed there as “Guests of the Confederacy.” During his presentation, you will hear about the Michigan governor who had been a prisoner at Andersonville and find out why his story is never told. New information will be revealed about the most colorful group of Michigan prisoners – the captured troopers from General Custer’s Cavalry. You also will hear about how the Medal of Honor was awarded to a Michigan soldier for his daring escape from Andersonville. Other new discoveries that will be discussed will include how Native American soldiers from Company K (*Michigan’s Native American Sharpshooters in the Civil War*) ended up at Andersonville. They fought a deadly fight with the infamous raiders, and guess who won? Finally, for many years there has been a rumor that the 8th Michigan Cavalry was sent on a mission to liberate all the prisoners at Andersonville - find out what really happened!

To end the evening, the amazing story of Morgan Dowling will be told. This smooth-talking Sergeant in the 17th Michigan Infantry fell in love with a Southern belle living at the local plantation. He promised to come back and marry her if she would help him escape. Did he keep his promise? Come to the Sunfield United Brethren Church on **Tuesday, February 23rd at 7 PM** and find out.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER –Chris Czopek “Lansing’s History Detective”



Chris grew up in Michigan during the Civil War Centennial. Stories in *LIFE* magazine and special Television programs captured his imagination and started a lifelong interest in Civil War history. As a boy, he would watch a movie on TV – then go to the library and find out how much of the story was true. This was the beginning of his career as a “history detective”.

After college, he worked for a newspaper, joined the US Army, and served six years in Military Intelligence, volunteered for an archaeological dig in Israel, worked as a tour guide at the State Capitol Building in Lansing, a photographer

for the State Senate, and in the offices of the Michigan State Police. He lives in Lansing with his wife, Bonnie.

In recent years, Chris has become well known to Michigan historians for his expert research of Civil War soldiers. Called "Lansing's History Detective" by the Lansing State Journal, he has published three books on local history, and has been a consultant for The History Channel. Currently he is collecting information on Michigan soldiers held at Andersonville prison for a future book project.

The important role of "**Michigan Soldiers at Andersonville Prison**" will be covered as Chris Czopek, Lansing's History Detective, leads us on a captivating journey of this remarkable segment of Michigan's Civil War history.

Maps to Brethren Church, 8436 West Grand Ledge Highway, Sunfield, Michigan

