

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Robert Finch Camp 14
Memorials Officer Report
November 10th, 2012

Lake County Memorials;

I talked with Pete Loucks of Reed City who informed me of two GAR relics in Lake County, both in Chase. The flag used at the GAR Maj. Fox Post # 272 meetings is preserved & in glass at the Chase Public Library. Also, the building which the GAR Post held its meetings at is still standing. Within the next few months I will visit the sites & add these to the Camp Memorials list. I give my thanks to Cheryl Nelson of Baldwin for her assistance.

Boyne City, Rodman 8-inch Gun;

The Rodman 8-inch Gun at the Boyne City Veteran's Memorial Park was inspected on September 10th 2012. The condition of the gun has changed since the previous Memorials Officer conducted an inspection. The gun was sandblasted 3 to 4 years ago & has been repainted. Also it has been moved to a different location & in the past was displayed in an upside down condition pointing out to the lake. It now is facing the road pointing toward town & is right side up. There is a little rust in the bore of the gun where water collects after a rain; otherwise the gun is in very good condition. The gun is now part of a much larger veteran's memorial. Many past Boyne City veterans are honored with engraved names in stone (see below). It has been passed on to me by the City Parks Manager there are no plans at this time to have Civil War veterans names added in the park. The American Legion has been spearheading the efforts in the park in the past. The Camp Commander & Council have been informed of the lack of Civil War veterans names. The park was dedicated as the Veteran's Memorial Park on March 25, 2009.

A further note about the gun; this is an 1861 model 8-inch Rodman Gun. Only 40 are known to survive. They were designed as coastal defense artillery so most likely were never used in battle. The Rodman Guns were a major advancement in artillery because of how they were cast. Prior to the Rodman's the tube was solid cast, than cooled from the outside in. Afterwards the bore was drilled out. The Rodman's were cast with a bore in place which had tubing which was able to allow water to cool the bore and allow the gun to be cooled from the inside out. This made for fewer defects & stronger steel.



Digitizing Memorial's Records; The Memorial Records are now on the Camp website.

Commander,
In Fraternity, Loyalty & Charity,
Jerry Grieve
Camp 14 Memorials Officer