

# RIVER RAISIN NEWS & DISPATCH

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM & THE MONROE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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**Museum Hours**  
Wed., Thurs., Fri., Sat., & Sun.  
all year long  
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

**Archives Hours**  
Wed., Thurs., Fri., & Sat.  
all year long  
10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

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## **From the Director**

John Gibney

Last month we featured some great eagle pictures from our good friend Mike Winkelman. He sent me some other pictures from Monroe County's newest monument dedicated to the veterans of the conflicts of the Middle East which I include below.



## **Mike added the following caption:**

"My son has been home since December 2005 ... He served about a year over there. He was a large vehicle mechanic. He was in Kuwait for a while, then Tikrit, and then in Ramadhi ... I was and am very proud of him."

## **We are too Mike!**

In great deeds  
something abides,  
On great fields  
something stays...  
spirits linger

And reverent men and  
women from...  
generations that know  
us not shall come to  
ponder and dream

## **Major General John Morrison Oliver**

by David Ingall



John Morrison Oliver was born on September 6, 1828, at Penn Yan, New York. His father, William Morrison Oliver, was a U.S. Congressman and Lieutenant Governor of New York. John graduated from St. John's College on Long Island, New York. He moved to Monroe where he was a pharmacist and court recorder.

On April 17, 1861, he enlisted at age 33 as a private in Company A, "The Smith Guards," of the 4<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry. On June 20th he was promoted to First Lieutenant, and on September 25th he was made Captain of Company F.

On March 13, 1862, he was commissioned Colonel of the 15<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry at its organization. The 15<sup>th</sup> trained and organized at the "old fairgrounds" in Monroe.

Less than 2 weeks after the regiment left Monroe, he gallantly led them into the battle of Shiloh, Tennessee. Major General Alexander McCook, 2nd Division Commander, cited Colonel Oliver and his men for "conspicuous gallantry." He was made brigade commander by special order, and commanded the 2<sup>nd</sup> brigade, 6<sup>th</sup> division; the 2<sup>nd</sup> brigade 4<sup>th</sup> division; and the 3<sup>rd</sup> brigade, 2<sup>nd</sup> division—all of the Army of Tennessee. He led these brigades in the battles of Corinth, Vicksburg, and Jackson, Mississippi. He also led them through Sherman's Atlanta Campaign, "The March to the Sea," and the march through the Carolinas.

He was promoted to Brigadier General of Volunteers on January 12, 1865. On March 13th he was made Brevet Major General of Volunteers for "faithful, efficient and gallant service." After the war ended, he and his division were stationed at Louisville, Kentucky and Little Rock, Arkansas, until August 24, 1865.

General Oliver settled back in Little Rock, Arkansas and practiced law. Later he was appointed assessor of internal revenue. When President Grant appointed him superintendent of postal service in the southwest, he moved to Washington D.C. He died there on March 30, 1872, at the young age of 44 and was buried in Lakeview Cemetery, Penn Yan, New York.

### **Sources:**

Bottom, Ray. *Monroe County's Other Generals*. Monroe: Monroe Guardian, 2004.

Brown, George H. *Record of the Fifteenth Michigan Infantry, Civil War 1861-1865*, Volume 15. Kalamazoo: Ihling Bros & Everard, 1903.

Warner, Ezra J. *Generals in Blue: Lives of the Union Commanders*. Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 1992.

### **NEWTON STEEL STRIKE EXHIBIT DEBUT**

article provided by Chris Kull

(MONROE)----- Monroe County Council CIO Social and Welfare Association will present the debut of the, *Eyes of the Nation are on Monroe: Second Conflict on the River Raisin* and historical marker dedication. The exhibit will commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Newton Steel Strike. It will be the featured exhibit at the Monroe County Labor History Museum which is housed in the historic Philip Murray Building, 41 W. Front St., Monroe. A smaller, "satellite" exhibit and historical marker will be located at the River Raisin Battlefield Visitor Center, 1403 East Elm Ave., Monroe. The satellite site is the location of the most significant battle of the War of 1812 and ironically the same location where the Newton Steel Strike occurred.

This exhibit was partially funded by a grant awarded by the Michigan Humanities Council, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Other support and resources for the project provided by the Steelworkers Union, Monroe County Historical Museum, Monroe County Library System, Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau, Monroe County Community College, Wayne State University Walter Reuther Library, Michigan Labor History Society, and Dr. James DeVries.

The exhibit will provide an historic narrative, specifically designed for public display and individual interpretation. It will add another dimension to the collective knowledge regarding Michigan's importance to labor, workplace culture, and the study of the American workplace. The exhibits will also be used to complement the educational curriculum developed by the Monroe County Labor History Museum, including field trips and educational course packs. Two physical exhibits include artifacts, documents, and supporting materials that tell the story of the strike. Labor historians and students of Michigan history will be given an opportunity to learn more about Monroe's second conflict on the banks of the River Raisin. This exhibit provides documentation on how labor in Monroe County has played an integral role in the national labor movement and sets a milestone as the only labor history museum in the State of Michigan. The Labor History Museum will be used as a tool to help build a foundation for the next generation of the labor movement.

"The association is a non profit corporation established in 1946 by the CIO union members for the purchase of this building and still maintains this building today," explained L. Wm. Conner, Jr., the president of the Monroe County Council CIO Social and Welfare Association. "In 1947 the building was dedicated as the CIO headquarters with a grand ceremony which closed Front Street off for the programs key note speaker Walter Reuther president of the UAW. Back in 2001 the building was on the brink of closure when a bold new plan was conceived to create a Labor History Museum " The renovation of the building is estimated at 1.2 million and fund raising efforts have already generated over 125,000 in cash, and 400,000 from in-kind services. We are almost half way there in just 3 years of fund raising. Were using the approach with the unions so it isn't so hard on the treasury, to make a good faith monthly commitment for 5yrs at a level they feel comfortable with. The commitments average from 50.00 to 400.00 per month and we are looking for opportunities to do presentations across the state in order to raise the funds to complete the project. If your interested in a presentation at your meeting please contact us at the number listed at the end of the article.

The mission of the Monroe County Labor history Museum is to provide a facility open to the public for the purpose of:

1. Preservation and display of local, regional, and national labor history for present and future generations to view.
2. Provide a venue for a youth outreach program that

educates our youth about labor's past and present cause.

3. Provide an area for organized labor and the public to gather which will be immersed with labor history.
4. Provide a library and database for the research of labor history.
5. Provide a facility that will be self-sustainable and managed in an efficient manner

Contact: Michael Smith, AFL-CIO Community Services Liaison, 734-242-1331, [msmith@monroeuw.org](mailto:msmith@monroeuw.org)

## **Inaugural Year of the River Raisin International Muster**

by Scott Lonsdale

As the British approached Frenchtown it is reported that they heard Reveille being played by the American drums. It is in the spirit of these dutiful musicians that the River Raisin Battlefield Visitors Center, along with the 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Colonial Fife and Drum Corps and the War of 1812 Bicentennial Committee, are proud to present the River Raisin International Fife and Drum Muster. This event is funded by the Monroe County Historical Society and the War of 1812 Bicentennial Funding Committee.



**1st Michigan Colonial Fife and Drum corps**

This event, while still being planned, will have six fife and drum corps. It is our hope to grow this event larger each year as we approach 2012, the bicentennial of the War of 1812. As we work toward this goal we will be attracting some of the great fife and drum corps in the United States. We have already received a commitment to attend the 2008 muster from the Fifes and Drums of Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, one of the finest corps in the world.

It is my hope that this event will be attended by a large number of spectators, this will ensure that the muster continues on for years to come. Please tell everyone you know about this event; it is sure to be a highlight of the year for Monroe. In addition to the fife and drum corps we are asking organizations with a special interest in history to set up small booths on the muster field. This will hopefully highlight all that Monroe and Southeast Lower Michigan has to offer. If you know of an organization that may be interested in participating please have them call the Main Museum at 734-240-7780 and talk to Scott Lonsdale.



The corps in attendance will be: The 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan Colonial Fife and Drum Corps from Sterling Heights, Belletré Fife et Tambour from Port Huron, MI, Plymouth Fife and Drum Corps from Plymouth, MI, Great Lakes Ancient Field Music from Romeo, MI, the Detroit Dirty Dogs Fife and Drum Corps from Canton, MI and the Voyageur Ancient Fife and Drum Corps from Lafayette, IN.

The event will start at 10:00 am, on June 9, 2007, with a parade of the corps through downtown Monroe, the parade will conclude with all the corps massing and playing Yankee Doodle in Loranger Square. The Muster will start at 1:00 pm on the historic River Raisin Battlefield located on the northwest corner of Dixie Highway and Elm Ave, adjacent to the Multi-sports complex. Bring your lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy the patriotic sites and sounds of fifes and drums.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Scott Lonsdale at the Monroe County Historical Museum 734-240-7780 or email at [stlonsdale@hotmail.com](mailto:stlonsdale@hotmail.com)

## **Custer's Secret Weapon?**

by Shawna Mazur

General George Armstrong Custer's actions at East Cavalry Battlefield, Gettysburg, is now the stuff of legend. His exhortation, "*Come on you Wolverines,*" will continue to reverberate throughout history. Was part of Custer's success in this pivotal battle due to a secret weapon?

Custer's 5<sup>th</sup> and part of his 6<sup>th</sup> Michigan regiments were the only men wielding the amazing Spencer Repeating Rifle at East Cavalry Battlefield.(1) The Spencer was patented in 1860 by Christopher Spencer. Spencer was a machinist who worked for the Sharps company and invented the Spencer on his own time. It was the first practical repeater of its time and was completely self-contained. "*It was a lever action gun which actuated a rolling block that fed cartridges from the magazine into the chamber...its hammer had to be manually cocked for each shot...The Spencer with its tubular butt stock magazine had a seven round capacity.*"(2) An experienced soldier could shoot all seven shots in 15 seconds or less. The firepower of this weapon was literally devastating to those in its path.



In 1863, though the Spencer was not a general governmental issue gun, a few select regiments were privileged to utilize it. Custer's men were supplied with the Spencer, and other carbines, by the state of Michigan in May of the same year. According to author Edward Longacre, in the hands of the cavalry the Spencer "*would win a reputation as the most effective small arm of the war.*"(3) General Alfred Pleasonton drilled the recruits to fight dismounted with their

new rifles.(4) The men were to get their first taste of these guns, as well as Custer himself, at Hanover Station, Pennsylvania. Up to this time the Spencers were primarily carried in picket duty at the Capital. At the end of June however, the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry clashed with Fitz Lee at Hanover. The firepower of the Spencer proved so effective that the Confederate artillerymen were forced to abandon their pieces in Forney Field.(5) But the real test would come in only a few days at a little farming community in Southern Pennsylvania.

On July 3, 1863, just as Pickett's Charge was taking place south of town of Gettysburg, the 5<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry dismounted and formed a fence line on John Rummel's farm. The farm was nestled on the slightly rolling ground that would soon come to be known as East Cavalry Field. Colonel Russell Alger had noted previously that "*my regiment was armed with the Spencer rifle, being the only regiment on the brigade, and I think in our division, then provided with that weapon. Consequently, I was then and afterwards required to do very much fighting on foot.*"(6) Indeed, Gettysburg was no different. The Confederates, seeing the line, quickly advanced up to the fence row and found themselves being poured upon the 5<sup>th</sup>'s superior firepower. The rebels must have been taken back for later they called the Spencer the gun "*a yank could load on Monday and shot the rest of the week.*"(7) Yet, being outnumbered, the 5<sup>th</sup> "*worked their Spencer repeaters until the barrels were hot and their ammunition began to give out.*"(8) The mounted 7<sup>th</sup> Michigan charged to the fence line to relieve the pressure on the 5<sup>th</sup> but found themselves instead trapped against the fence. They hastily retreated in disorder, but this gave the 5<sup>th</sup> time to remount and counter attack. The fighting was intense and consequently the casualties were high.

Independent brawls seemed the order of the day, until Stuart decided he had had enough, and called up his best commanders Fitz Lee and Wade Hampton. The only US regiment not similarly engaged was the 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan, thus, they were ordered up to face the ensuing attack. Custer believing that "*the Battle of Gettysburg might be lost right here if Stuart got through to Meade's rear,*" trotted up to the front of the 1<sup>st</sup> Michigan and the enemies faced each other in a grand spectacle.(9) As the men found the gap between them narrowing, Custer rode up and shouted his now infamous line, "*Come on you Wolverines!*"(10) The tide ebbed back and forth in a mass of gray and blue until the dust cleared revealing to Stuart that another US brigade was quickly approaching in the distance. He knew he could no longer hold, let alone face a fresh brigade.

The Michigan Cavalry cemented its place in glory that day as did Custer. Did the Spencer have role? Perhaps, we will never know for sure. Some historians say Custer's career was made by Christopher Spencer's gun. Author Frank Woodford, states that the Spencer is "*credited by several authorities for the poor showing of the Confederate cavalry during the Gettysburg campaign. The fire-power advantage which these weapons gave the federals, provided an edge which Stuart was unable to overcome.*"(11) Custer in his official report notes the importance of the Spencer in the action at Gettysburg saying: "*I ordered the 5<sup>th</sup> Michigan*

*Cavalry to a more advanced position, with instructions to maintain their ground at all hazards. Colonel Alger, commanding the 5<sup>th</sup> ...made such admirable dispositions of their men behind fences and other defenses as enabled them to successfully repel the repeated advance of a greatly superior force. I attributed their success in a great measure to the fact that this regiment is armed with the Spencer repeating rifle, which in the hands of brave, determined men, like those composing the 5<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry, is, in my estimation, the most effective fire-arm that our cavalry can adopt.”(12)*

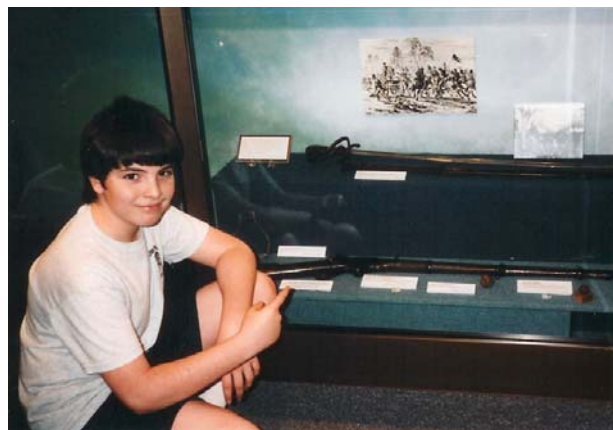
Yet, the Spencer did have a few shortcomings, most notably was that the sheer firepower of the rifle lent the ammunition to be used up too quickly.(13) Despite this however, it is very effective in its ability to support and hold off the enemy by foot soldiers, while a subsequent mounted charge is taking place.(14) Custer undoubtedly trusted in its abilities when he remarked in a letter to the Spencer company *that had his entire command been armed with repeaters he wouldn't hesitate to engage the enemy when outnumbered almost 2 to 1.*(15) There is no doubt that the cavalry clash on those fields that day, prompted the Federal Ordnance Department to issue Spencers in a steady flow over the winter of 1863 and through 1864. Most of these were carbines, due to the cumbersomeness of the long barrel of the repeater.

James Henry Avery of the 5<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry, noted in his journal that *“Our rifles were found too long and heavy for cavalry and were changed for the Spencer carbine, a very nice, light arm.”*(16) Custer as well as many commanders pulled every string possible to get their whole regiments armed with these amazing weapons. In fact, Custer himself ordered a custom made Spencer from the company after the war.(17) The Confederates jumped on the bandwagon too and took every opportunity to try to capture them. But perhaps the most fitting tribute to the Spencer is by the men who used them, such as General Edwards of the 37<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Infantry, who wrote after the war, that *“we have always found them [the Spencers] our best and truest friend.”*(18) Obviously Custer expressed the same sentiment and gave the Spencer its due.



Curator Jim Ryland and donor Tyler Mazur examine bullets, grapeshot, and canister from the East Cavalry Battlefield at Gettysburg. This donation is now part of the Spencer display in the Gettysburg section of the Custer exhibit.

Please visit the Monroe County Historical Museum, which has just added a Model 1860 Spencer Repeating rifle-just like those used at Gettysburg-to the Custer display. A fired Spencer bullet with partial cartridge, as well as some other fascinating items recovered from East Cavalry Battlefield have also been added to the display.



Young history buff and proud donor Tyler Mazur in front of the Spencer rifle in the Custer exhibit.

Tyler first became acquainted with the Museum in 2006 when he attended our first Archaeology camp at the Battlefield. He and his mother Shawna now volunteer their time and energy generously. Thanks, Tyler & Shawna!

#### Footnotes:

1. Wittenberg, Eric J. *The Civil War Letters of Brevet Brigadier General James H. Kidd, 6<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry: One of Custer's Wolverines*. Kent: The Kent State University Press, 2000, p. 182.
2. Bilby, Joseph G. *Civil War Firearms: Their Historical Background, Tactical Use and Modern Collecting and Shooting*. Pennsylvania: Combined Books, 1996, p. 197.
3. Longacre, Edward G. *The Cavalry at Gettysburg*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1986, p. 60.
4. Wittenberg, Eric J. *The Civil War Letters of Brevet Brigadier General James H. Kidd, 6<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry: One of Custer's Wolverines*, p. 30.
5. Longacre, Edward G. *The Cavalry at Gettysburg*, p. 60.
6. Report of Colonel Russell Alger, 5<sup>th</sup> Michigan Cavalry: <http://www.civilwarcaavalry.com>
7. Riggs, David F. *East of Gettysburg: Custer vs. Stuart*. Bellevue: The Old Army Press, 1970, p. 54.
8. Woodford, Frank B. *Father Abraham's Children: Michigan Episodes in the Civil War*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1961, p. 123.
9. Riggs, David F. *East of Gettysburg: Custer vs. Stuart*, p. 50.
10. Woodford, Frank B. *Father Abraham's Children: Michigan Episodes in the Civil War*, p. 124.
11. *Ibid.*, p. 280.
12. Wittenberg, Eric J. *The Civil War Writings of James Harvey Kidd: At Custer's Side*. Kent: The Kent State University Press, 200, p. 129.

13. Marcot, Roy. *Spencer Repeating Firearms*. Irvine: Northwood Heritage Press, 1983, p. 54.
14. *Ibid.*, p. 54.
15. Spencer Company Catalog, 1965.
16. Wittenberg, Eric J. & Husby, Karla Jean. *The Civil War Journal of James Henry Avery: Under Custer's Command*. Washington D.C.: Brassey's, 2000, p. 18.
17. Marcot, Roy. *Spencer Repeating Firearms*, p. 152.
18. *Ibid.*, p. 87.

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### Potter Cemetery

by Sue Donovan

Potter Cemetery, formerly known as Swan Creek Cemetery, is located in Ash Township, in northern Monroe County, Michigan. It is situated east of Swan Creek Road and just west of I-75. It is bounded on the south by Labo Road and on the north by Sigler Road. It is landlocked.

The cemetery was begun in 1847 with the burial of Roswell Flint. Mr. Flint had come from the east and took out his patent on land just east of the cemetery in 1834. From 1847 until the cemetery was actually deeded to the Trustees of Swan Creek Cemetery Company in 1860, there were about eleven burials.

The cemetery was deeded by Royal L. Potter and his 2<sup>nd</sup> wife, Mary (Chapman) Peters Potter and John D. Flint and his wife Margaret (Robertson) Flint, all of Ash Township, Monroe County, MI on June 16, 1860. Each couple deeded ½ acre. A certified survey was done in April 2000 and shows the cemetery to be 1.056 acres. The deeds were recorded on February 29, 1864 and can be found at the Monroe County Register of Deeds office in Monroe. It is the understanding of this writer that the cemetery may hold the remains of 200 people; the current list, however, has 84 names on it. This list includes Royal Potter. He is not buried in Potter Cemetery as he died as a POW at Libby Prison, VA during the Civil War. His body was never recovered. However, there is a monument to his memory in the cemetery and for this reason he is included on this list.

There are many of Ash and Berlin Township's earliest settlers buried in Potter Cemetery. Among the surnames are Southworth, Laboe, Flint, Neidermeier, Post, Chapin, Manor, Hawley, and Gretzler. These surnames can still be found in Ash and Berlin Townships as well as in the wider Monroe County area. The Cemetery holds the remains of several children as well as six Civil War veterans: Benjamin Bulger, Joseph Cackett, Martin Chapin, Daniel Griffy, Frederick Manor and Benjamin Southworth and their families. Also 5 members of the Masonic Lodge are interred in Potter Cemetery. The last known burial was that of Simon "Sam" Hawley in 1930.

It is the understanding of the writer that Potter Cemetery was cared for by the relatives of those buried there until the late 1930's-1940's. By then many people had died or moved away and WWII was beginning. The Depression had

set in, causing financial hardship to many, as well as gasoline rationing, making it difficult to get to the cemetery and maintain it. Additionally, access over Swan Creek was often impossible due to flooding. The Flint and Potter families no longer lived next door so access through what had been their properties was not always possible. Although subsequent property owners did allow access, visits to the cemetery grew fewer and fewer. One family had their loved ones remains moved to a Detroit cemetery for the above mentioned reasons.

Over time Potter Cemetery became a wooded area of overgrown trees, vines and brush. Trees toppled due to ages or storms; monuments toppled from fallen trees. The wild animals dug holes. There was vandalism and many inappropriate activities at the cemetery. This continued through the decades until 1998 when a group of descendants formed Friends of Potter Cemetery Association and in 2001 were appointed successor trustees (essentially owners) to be able to restore, maintain and preserve Potter Cemetery. The "Friends" group is a non-profit organization, incorporated in the State of Michigan and is recognized by the IRS as a 501 (c)(3) group, therefore able to accept tax deductible donations.

The group worked in the cemetery 13 times from May 1999- August 2000 when their access was closed. Since then the group has worked tirelessly to re-establish access in order to be able to restore, maintain and preserve the historic, 146 year old cemetery and return dignity to the graves of those buried there. Efforts toward this end are ongoing.

To learn more please see the group's web site at: [http://monroe.lib.mi.us/community\\_info\\_ash\\_township\\_potter\\_cemetery.htm](http://monroe.lib.mi.us/community_info_ash_township_potter_cemetery.htm) the site is maintained by the Monroe County Library system. You may also contact me at 734-675-5162.

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### EYE on EDUCATION by Lynn Reaume



The school year is revving up before it winds down, and school tours and kits are moving every week. If we thought we were busy before, now we really are!

**The Navarre-Anderson Trading Post and Martha Barker Country Store** will be open during Michigan Week, Monday May 21<sup>st</sup> through Friday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, from 1- 5:00 p.m. If you'd like to step up and volunteer at either building, for any amount of time, we'd be glad to have you- it's easy! In fact, only with volunteer hours are we able to keep open many of our museum sites and have events!

Other events we could use volunteers at the site:

- June 23-24<sup>th</sup> Colonial History Days and Log Cabin Day 10- 5:00 p.m.
- Fair Week, Monday July 30<sup>th</sup> through Friday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 1- 5:00 p.m.
- Possible other days throughout the summer, to be announced



The Monroe County Fair will be coming quick once summer starts, and I will need volunteers for the **Eby cabin**. The theme this year will be “Women’s crafts” and if you have some time and want to spend it at the cabin demonstrating your craft, let me know. Such crafts involve quilting, embroidery, hand-sewing, basket making, dyeing, weaving, etc. Due to parking restrictions, you should bring only portable items to demonstrate.

**Thanks to all the groups** who generously give of their time and come back each year which helps make scheduling easier for me! But often I need to fill in sparse times with individuals, and if you would be that flexible, please contact me.

**The River Raisin Battlefield Visitor Center** is now open on weekends for May from 1- 5:00 p.m. In June, hours change to 5 days a week- Friday through Tuesday, 10:00 to 5:00 p.m. Summer hours continue through August. Watch for Battlefield Saturdays starting July 21<sup>st</sup>. Don’t forget a special event at the Visitor Center on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> for the start of Michigan Week- our Open House. This day focuses on “Leaving a Cultural Food Legacy” and our previous Director Ralph Naveaux, will educate the public on the different ways of cooking our little friend, the muskrat, among other things. There will be open fire cooking, demonstrations, information, and a sampling of tasty historic tidbits if you are a Battlefield “Friend for a day” (\$5). The occasion itself is free, and a great family event.

**The Monroe County Vietnam Veterans Historical Museum** will be opening on Wednesdays and Saturdays starting in May, from noon to 5:00 p.m. It is located at Heck Park on North Dixie Highway. For tours for 8 or more people, call our main Museum for reservations. The museum staff are all Monroe County Vietnam veterans and want to share their stories.

**Check our calendar** for all events and hours; or call the main Museum for up-to-date information. Already this year we have had a day sweet with maple syrup, a River Raisin Trade Day all about the economic system of the fur trade, Civil War talks at Ellis library by our Director and Assistant Director, among others. Were you at any of these events? History people, support our museum- visit, attend, and get involved! In June, come to the Fife & Drum Muster on the 9<sup>th</sup>, visit the tall ship Niagara at the Port of Monroe on the 15-17<sup>th</sup>, come to Colonial History weekend at the Trading Post on the 23-24<sup>th</sup>.

Another way to find out about Museum activities **on the web** is to go to the county’s website:

[co.monroe.mi.us](http://co.monroe.mi.us)

Also, activities are posted on the emonroe website:

[www.emerciv.org](http://www.emerciv.org) and chose “groups”;

and at the Travel Michigan tourism site:

[www.michigan.org/travel](http://www.michigan.org/travel) and go to “Monroe” and chose

“museums, historical”.

## 2007 Calendar of Events

### May

- 12 Planting Day at Trading Post
- 19- 26 Trading Post opened for Michigan Week
- 19 Open House at Battlefield

### June

- 9 Fife and Drum Corps
- 15-17 U.S. Brig Niagara at Port of Monroe (Historical Society)
- 23 Log Cabin Day at Trading Post
- 23-24 Colonial History Weekend at Trading Post

### July

- 2-4 River Raisin Independence Festival
- 21 Battlefield Saturday
- 29 – 30 Fair Week: Eby Cabin + Trading Post Open

### August

- 1-4 Fair Week: Eby Cabin + Trading Post Open
- 18 Battlefield Saturday

### September

- 15 Battlefield Saturday
- 15-16 Dundee Living History Event at Old Mill Museum
- 21 Scout merit Badge Day at Trading Post
- 29-30 Custer Week: Civil War Reenactment at Trading Post

### October

- 1-6 Custer Week
- 19-20 Lantern Tours at Trading Post
- 26-27 Lantern Tours at Trading Post
- 27 Battlefield Saturday

### December

- All Month Christmas Tree Festival
- 1 Christmas Tree Festival Open House Trading Post on the 23-24<sup>th</sup>.