



On the night of Thursday, July 9, 1863, Corporal Allen Dwayne Pease and five other Union troopers from the 6th Michigan Cavalry crept behind Confederate lines at Falling Waters, Maryland and cut the ropes which secured pontoon bridges over the Potomac River. This simple act would delay Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia from returning to safety in Virginia following the Battle of Gettysburg. It further forced one of the most famous cavalry skirmishes of the Civil War. The same six men who had cut the ropes participated in this skirmish but all escaped unscathed. Ten days later at Battle Mountain, Virginia, Union cavalry again met Lee’s horsemen, and once more, the six Federal troopers were unhurt. In each instance, Corporal Pease was one of the six.

“We have had some pretty hard times for the last 10 days,” wrote Pease to his wife on July 10. *“We had seven fights in nine days, took about 1800 prisoners and a great many arms and horses besides a lot of wagons filled with their supplies which we burnt.”* Of the fighting, Pease stated: *“There was ten [Rebels] to our one we think. They drove us back three times then we rallied and drove them about two miles and they cleared out. Our seven shooters [Spencer carbines] were too much for them. The prisoners wanted to know if we carried seven men on one horse.....Every one has the idea that we have got the rebs in a box, that they will have to surrender their whole army.”* Pease then added confidently, *“a feller feels different than any one would suppose going in a battle. He don’t feel very ticklish at first but afterwards he don’t fear the devil hardly....”*

A native New Yorker, Pease moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1861 with his wife and child. The 6th Michigan Cavalry, destined to become part of George Custer’s Brigade of “*Wolverines*,” was mustered in on October 13, 1862, with 1229 officers and men under the command of Col. George Gray and Lt. Col. Russell A. Alger. Eventually 386 men of the 6th Michigan died—7 officers and 95 men killed in action, 18 more dying of wounds, and 266 from disease. Yet, Corporal Pease survived the war without wounds or illness. Mustered out of the service in November of 1865 at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, Pease returned to Grand Rapids where he and his wife would raise 8 children. Pease died in 1922 at age 82 and is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery.

Fortunately, the Civil War letters of Corporal Pease, written between December 1862 and November 1865, remain intact in the hands of his great-granddaughter, Eloise Amy Haven. Born and raised in Grand Rapids, Eloise received her Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees in history from Central Michigan University. After seventeen years in Industrial Security Administration with the Investigative Service and aerospace contractors, Eloise moved from Los Angeles to central New York to pursue a career in writing for children and young adults. She also served in the United States Air Force as a 1st Lieutenant and as a Captain in the California and Michigan Air National Guards.

On **MONDAY, APRIL 24**, Eloise Haven will present a special program to the MRRT, *“The Civil War letters of Corporal Allen D. Pease, Co. B, 6th Michigan Cavalry.”* It promises to be a great evening!

FALL FIELD TRIP: So far 42 people have signed up for the trip to Franklin/Spring Hill/Nashville scheduled for the weekend of Saturday/Sunday, October 14-15. Room still remains on the bus, so hopefully, you will decide by this month’s meeting whether or not you would like to join us for what promises to be a great trip. **NO MONEY** will be collected this month since final numbers have yet to be determined. However, next month (May) you will be alerted as to the amount you will owe for the bus, speaker’s fees, museum costs, etc.

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The Michigan Regimental extends a warm Thank You to last month’s speaker, **Ann Larabee**, for her fine presentation, *“The Dynamite Fiend—Alexander Sandy Keith, Jr.”*



QUIZ: All questions pertain to Michigan....

1. Which radical Michigan Senator stated on February 11, 1861, “Without a little blood-letting, this Union will not, in my estimation, be worth a rush”? And, who took office as Michigan’s adjutant general on March 14, 1861?
2. When the 22nd Michigan Infantry was mustered into service at Pontiac on August 29, 1862, which former governor was its colonel? And, what was his final outcome?
3. Which Michigan infantry regiment was given the nickname “Stonewall regiment” for its valiant effort in driving Confederate troops out of their position behind stone fences at South Mountain? And, which 2 Michigan regiments did not participate in the fighting at Antietam? A) 2nd B) 4th C) 7th D) 16th E) 17th F) 19th
4. Of whom was Governor Austin Blair referring when he dejectedly asked President Lincoln, “Why not *try* another man”? And, who was Blair’s Lieutenant Governor?
5. What 2 women wrote the lyrics to the song, “Michigan, My Michigan”? And, in which Detroit newspaper did the words of the song first appear on April 20, 1863?
6. How many Michigan men are buried in the Gettysburg Cemetery? A) 107 B) 212 C) 415 D) 621 E) 97 And, how many Michigan men are known to be buried in the Andersonville Cemetery? A) 1103 B) 291 C) 735 D) 954 E) 421
7. Which Michigan regimental band serenaded President Lincoln outside the White House on May 9, 1864? And, which colonel of the 19th Michigan Infantry was mortally wounded on May 15, 1864, at Resaca, Georgia?
8. Which Michigan politician is credited with persuading John C. Fremont to withdraw from the Presidential race of 1864? And, although the Michigan delegation at the Republican Convention of 1864 cast its 16 votes unanimously for Lincoln’s re-nomination, which candidate did it strongly support for Vice-President?
9. Which colonel of the 16th Michigan Infantry was killed on September 30, 1864, in the fighting around Petersburg, Virginia? And which Detroit hospital opened on October 12, 1864, as a general military hospital, primarily for wounded Michigan soldiers?
10. John Huff of the 5th Michigan Cavalry mortally wounded Jeb Stuart at Yellow Tavern on May 11, 1864. At which battle was Huff mortally wounded 17 days later? And, where is Huff buried?

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By the time World War II ended in 1945, only four Civil War veterans remained in Michigan. At the close of 1946 only one still lived—Orlando LeValley, ninety-eight years of age. LeValley was born September 19, 1848, on a farm in Lapeer County. He wasn’t quite thirteen when the war started but he was determined to be a soldier. He applied at the local recruiting office but was abruptly turned away. “*Go home and grow up a little,*” he was told. “*Then come back. The war will wait for you.*”

On October 3, 1864, a few days past his sixteenth birthday, LeValley was mustered in for one year as a substitute for a certain Perry Kroll, who had been drafted from Thetford in neighboring Genesee County. LeValley was assigned to Company E, 23rd Michigan Infantry, and joined the regiment at Johnsonville, Tennessee in mid-November. He was just in time to get a baptism of fire in the battles of Franklin and Nashville. He was transferred to the 28th Michigan Infantry and honorably discharged at Raleigh, North Carolina on October 14, 1865.

LeValley went home and with his bounty money bought an 81-acre farm near Caro in Tuscola County. In due time he married and sired six children. By April 1948 LeValley was nearing his 100th birthday. On April 19 in the Michigan state capitol the clerk responsible for such details reported to Governor Kim Sigler that Orlando LeValley had died. The town of Caro paid its last respects to the passing veteran. All the business places in the community closed for the funeral on



April 20. The Governor and other high dignitaries came to pay their respects. A military escort accompanied LeValley to the Fairgrove Cemetery. Taps were blown and a firing squad split the air with its farewell volley.

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At 9:40 A.M., July 13, 1951, Joseph Clovese, age 107, died in the Veterans Administration Hospital in Dearborn, Michigan. Clovese was born a slave on a plantation in St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana. He ran away at about age eighteen, and attached himself to the Union army operating in the vicinity of Vicksburg. On November 1, 1863, he enlisted in a Negro regiment, the 63rd Infantry, and served until January 9, 1866.

Clovese continued to live in the South for many years after the war, working as a laborer along the Mississippi and as a deck hand on steamers running between New Orleans and Biloxi. In 1948 he moved north to make his home with his niece, Mrs. Valerie Daniel, in Pontiac. A civic observance was held in Pontiac in honor of Clovese's 107th birthday on January 28, 1951. Tributes were paid him by his fellow townsmen, and he received a warm letter from President Harry Truman, who wished "*that your pathway ahead will be bright with days of serene contentment.*" Serenity was one of Joseph Clovese's notable attributes. "*Ever since I can remember,*" Clovese told an interviewer a few days before his death, "*every time I sit down to eat I say 'Thank God and bless the cook.'*"

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Zachariah Chandler and John Robertson
2. Moses Wisner and he died of typhoid fever in Lexington, Kentucky on January 4, 1863
3. 17th Michigan Infantry and A) 2nd F) 19th
4. George McClellan (after Antietam) and Charles S. May of Kalamazoo
5. Winifred Lee Brent and her mother, Mrs. Jane W. Brent and the *Advertiser and Tribune*
6. B) 212 and C) 735
7. 27th Michigan Infantry and Henry C. Gilbert of Coldwater
8. Zachariah Chandler and current VP Hannibal Hamlin; the Michigan delegation was the last one to swing over to Andrew Johnson
9. Norval E. Welch of Ann Arbor and Harper Hospital
10. Hawes Shop and Armada, Michigan

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Make certain you're in attendance on **MONDAY, APRIL 24** for "*The Civil War Letters of Corporal Allen D. Pease, Co. B, 6th Michigan Cavalry,*" as presented by his great-granddaughter, **Eloise Amy Haven**. The meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M. at the Farmington Public Library (Grand River and Farmington Road). Show up early for the fellowship and bring a friend. See you there.

Also try our website: <http://www.farmlib.org/mrrt/>.