

**The Michigan Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Service of Rededication
April 9, 2005, Detroit, Michigan [Booklet], 11 pages (2009)
Bruce Butgereit**



**THE MICHIGAN
SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' MONUMENT
SERVICE OF REDEDICATION**

**APRIL 9, 2005
DETROIT, MICHIGAN**



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TO PLAY THIS VIDEO CD (VCD):

Some computer systems will automatically recognize this .mpg file and offer you several options on how to view the VCD; the choices will be usually Windows Media Player or Real Player. If your system does not recognize this format, please make sure you have either of these software programs on your computer. (They are available as a free download off the Internet.)

If you have these media players on your computer and it doesn't recognize them:

1. Find the CD drive in which you placed the VCD—it will either be an icon on your desktop or in the My Computer icon after you double click on that.
2. Once you've found the drive, right click on it and a small window will open up with a list of tasks you can choose—left click on EXPLORE.
3. This will open another window and in it you will find a file named Michigan_Monument_at_Andersonville—double click on it and your media player will automatically open and begin playing the video.
4. Be sure the volume on your speakers is turned up and sit back and enjoy the show.
5. At the bottom of the viewing screen, there are buttons that STOP, PLAY, PAUSE, FORWARD, and etc. the VCD should the text scroll too fast or be difficult to read.

To install Windows Media Player, go to:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/default.aspx>

1. Click on the Windows Media Player listed in the index on the left of the page.
2. On the next window, click "Download Now" under the Windows Media Player 10 icon.
3. If you are running Windows XP, you can and should download Player 10; if you are running Windows 98, ME or 2000, it will instruct you to download Player 9.
4. Click on the download icon to install this player on your computer; you will need to restart your computer after downloading.

To install RealPlayer, go to:

<http://www.real.com/>

1. Click on the "Free Download" under the RealPlayer Free icon on the right of the page.
2. On the next window, click on the "Download Free RealPlayer" under the Basic Player tab.
3. The next window will give you the option of saving the download to your computer to install later or to open the file for immediate direct download (choose direct).

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ERECTED BY THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN
IN HONOR OF THE MARTYRS WHO FELL
AND THE HEROES WHO FOUGHT
IN DEFENSE OF LIBERTY AND UNION

MICHIGAN IN THE CIVIL WAR:

The Michigan regiments were early in the field, and in rapid succession flung their flags to the breeze, until forty-nine regiments, with several independent companies, had gone to the front to battle for the Union, and included up to the close of the war over ninety-thousand men, fourteen thousand and over of who are recorded as martyrs for their county.

Infantry regiments – 1st thru 30th / Colored regiment – 102nd USCT

Engineers and Mechanics

First Regiment Light Artillery – Battery A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, K, L, M, 13th Battery, and 14th Battery

First Sharpshooters / Cavalry regiments – 1st thru 11th

Miscellaneous units with Michigan men –

“Merrill Horse” (three companies of the 2nd Missouri); Co. D 37th IL, Co. E, F, and H, 42nd IL, Co. H, 44th IL, and Co. D, 66th IL Infantry; Co. K of the 1st New York (Lincoln) Cavalry; Co. C, 70th NY; Co. B, 47th Ohio;

Miscellaneous units with Michigan men – continued

“Jackson Guard (Co. A, 23rd IL Infantry); 29th and 127th Indiana Infantry; 20th Indiana Battery; 1st Iowa Cavalry; 7th and 9th Iowa Infantry; 9th Kansas Cavalry; 1st Missouri Engineers; 1st Missouri Light Artillery; 10th Pennsylvania Infantry; 11th PA Cavalry; 4th and 12th Tennessee Cavalry; 13th and 19th Wisconsin Infantry; Mississippi Mounted Rifles (colored); Powell’s Colored Infantry; Mississippi Marine Brigade; 9th, 13th and Cavalry Corps Band; Veteran Reserve Corps; Veteran Volunteer Engineers; U.S. Navy; 2nd, 11th, 12th, 15th, 16th, and 19th U.S. Infantry; 5th, 9th and 13th, U.S. Colored Artillery; 3rd U.S. Colored Cavalry; 12th, 31st, 38th, 49th, 53rd, 54th, 55th, and 61st U.S. Colored Infantry.

THE MICHIGAN SOLDIERS' & SAILORS' MONUMENT

After the Michigan Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument Association gave Randolph Rogers the contract to build the Michigan monument, at a cost of under \$75,000, over the next several months, Detroit newspapers reported on Rogers's progress in completing sections of the monument in Europe.

The *Detroit Post* noted Rogers was having the bronze figures cast in Munich, Germany, by Ferdinand Von Muller of the Royal Bavarian Foundry. Over the next five years, Von Muller cast nine bronze figures and seven low-relief tablets from Rogers's sculptures. Back in Detroit, a cornerstone for the monument was laid in East Circus Park after the monument's original location, Campus Martius, was rejected by the Detroit Common Council. In late 1871 the council reconsidered and a granite foundation for the monument was placed in the Campus.

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The monument's bronze military sentinels at the buttresses of the work are its main symbolic offerings. These slightly larger than life-size pieces with smooth, noble facial expressions represent Infantry, Artillery, Cavalry and Navy. Immediately above the sentinels,

Rogers placed four female allegoric figures representing Victory, Union, History and Emancipation. These seated life-size figures have smooth, calm facial features and each holds a circular wreath symbolizing the 1865 victory over the Confederacy. Victory seated above Cavalry, clutches a wreath in her right hand and a tablet in her left. Union, with the fasces (a bundle of rods tied around an axe) by her right side representing a united Union, sits above the Sailor. History, holding a quill pen and a record book, sits above Infantry. Emancipation is seated above Artillery; she has two wreaths of victory and gazes northward toward freedom.

On the lowest level of the monument, Rogers placed four oversized American bald eagles; each perched on a granite pedestal. Symbolically, the eagles mourn the soldiers and sailors who did not survive the conflict. The four bronze eagles, wings outstretched in defiance, elegantly guard the monument.

At first glance it looks as though the four birds are identical. But upon closer examination, two of the eagles look to their right and two look to their left. Together, their gazes cover the entire circumference of the work.

The eagles are positioned forward of the other sculptures. Rogers must have instructed Von Muller to execute these creatures with textured, elegant features that would entice the public to walk around them and inspect every angle. The birds' curved, outstretched wings suggest movement. Each creature's tilted head and pointing beak seem to draw the viewer around the monument and the spectator finds himself in front of other bronze figures located on a higher plane.

Four bronze low-relief tablets around the monument recognize key Civil War figures. Facing Woodward Avenue, Rogers positioned a large rectangular bronze plaque honoring General Sheridan. Moving clockwise, another plaque commemorates Admiral David G. Farragut, the North's most famous naval commander. Plaques also honor General Ulysses S. Grant and President Abraham Lincoln. Each plaque bears a profile of the individual in an oval frame. The individual's name appears above his image and decorative oak leaves appear below. Additional bronze plaques bear versions of the national and state seals; another notes the structure's commemoration. Directly above the portrait of Grant is a smaller plaque bearing an eagle with stars representing the states in the Union. On the other side of the structure, above the portrait of Sheridan, a plaque bears Michigan's state seal. Directly above Lincoln's portrait another plaque was placed noting the purpose of the entire work. According to the inscription, the monument was "Erected by the people of Michigan in honor of the martyrs who fell and the heroes who fought in the defense of liberty and Union."

Atop the fifty-foot-high granite column Rogers placed a fifteen-foot-tall figure named Michigania portrayed as an impressive female Amazon warrior.

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Michigania wears a feathered war headpiece and holds a shield in her left hand, raised to point the way toward the southern enemy.

Rogers' work communicates the message that Michigan is ready to strike at the heart of rebellion. Reporting on the monument's unveiling for *Appleton's Journal* [New York], Constance Fenimore Woolson noted that Michigania "rushes to the defense of the Union, and for spirited grace this statue deserves a place with the best in the country."

THE DEDICATION—APRIL 9, 1872

In early April 1872 anticipation grew as Detroit prepared to unveil Rogers' monument. On April 8, two thousand guests and former Civil War generals Ambrose E. Burnside, Philip Sheridan and George Armstrong Custer packed the Russell House for a reception to honor the monument. As veterans and other citizens lined up to shake the hands of the wartime heroes, the reunited First Michigan Infantry band "played a number of fine airs, and added to the general enjoyment of the occasion."

Just after the clock on City Hall struck four, amid patriotic music and veterans waving tattered regimental colors, all eyes turned to Rogers' monument. Throughout the dedication ceremony the monument had been covered with American flags hanging from wires stretched from a telegraph pole and the belfry of the old City Hall. Following a trumpet call, the flags were released. It had started to rain and instead of falling away, one flag clung to the monument. Suddenly, a sailor from the audience "daringly scaled" the monument and released the flag.

THE MONUMENT'S TIME CAPSULE

When workers dismantled the monument in 2003 for relocation, they found a copper time capsule in the monument's cornerstone. After opening the box, it was found that all the items in the capsule had deteriorated leaving just two silver coins.

After carefully considering what to place in a new time capsule, it was determined that the names of all Michigan soldiers who had served in the Civil War and Spanish-American War should go in as well as the names of all Michigan soldiers who had lost their life in WW I, WW II, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the War on Terror.

The list included:

Civil War—Over 90,000 men who served and over 14,000 died

Spanish-American War—3,555 men who served

World War I—2,430 who lost their life

World War II—19,179 who lost their life

Korean War—1,339 who lost their life

Vietnam War—1,844 who lost their life

The War on Terror—While 1 name went into the capsule, our ceremony remembered the 43 who had lost their life to date in April, 2005.

In honor of the men and women soldiers who served in these wars, an Honor Guard was created of men wearing the combat uniforms of each war that stood at the base of the monument during the rededication ceremony.

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THE REDEDICATION—APRIL 9, 2005

The rededication ceremony conducted on this day was the result of several years of planning and coordinating. I must share credit with Doug Armstrong, Civil War Memorials Officer for the Department of Michigan, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Michael Nick, Commander of U.S. Grant Camp 101, SUVCW of Detroit for monitoring the progress of construction in Campus Martius and the dismantling and reassembly of the monument; taking photographs and attending meetings and other pertinent events. Tom Berlucchi of the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition and 7th Michigan Infantry Reenactors Group also proved invaluable in coordinating the military presence that day.

The ceremony conducted was the 1917 Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Ceremony of Rededication. Co-sponsoring the event was the Detroit 300 Conservancy and the Detroit Historical Museum with assistance from the City of Detroit Police Department.

Several event highlights include:

1. The Detroit Police Department once again served at the head of the Color Guard as they did in 1872.
2. The Second Baptist Church of Detroit Male Chorus sang two songs as did their predecessors in the original dedication.
3. All 5 of the Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic participated in the ceremony.

WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION -

The Detroit 300 Conservancy:

Enter *Detroit 300* in any search engine for numerous articles on the organization and their work

The Detroit Historical Museum: <http://www.detroithistorical.org/>

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War: <http://www.suvcw.org/>

By clicking on the Website Index on the Home page, you can scroll to find out more on the Woman's Relief Corps; the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865; the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic; and the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans as well as the Department of Michigan, SUVCW.

The Detroit G.A.R. Building:

<http://www.buildingphotos.com/historic/DE-GAR.shtml>

Under the photograph of the building are several links to other websites; the pictures on those sites tell a sad story of neglect, indifference, and disrespect for a building where Detroit's boys in Blue met. The rededication of the monument served as a reminder that the GAR Building MUST BE PRESERVED!

Historic Fort Wayne:

Enter *Historic Fort Wayne* in any search engine for numerous articles on one of Detroit's forgotten historic treasures— a star fort of significant importance in American history.

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Websites continued-

Alpheus Williams Statue: <http://bhere.com/plugugly/williams/tour.html>

A great site about the man, the horse and the statue.

The U.S. Grant home in Detroit:

<http://www.mscomm.com/~ulysses/page145.html>

PHOTO CREDITS -

Mr. Chester Trybus of Grand Rapids

Mr. Neal Breough of Traverse City

Mr. Chris Czopek of Lansing

Ms. Constance Larsen of Grand Rapids

Mr. Felix Malinowski of Grosse Pointe Woods

The Library of Congress

The Detroit News Archives

VCD DESIGN AND CREATION -

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