

Curtenius Guard Camp #17 Civil War History Seminar on Native American, Sharpshooters Unit is a Great Success

On April 28, 2009, the Lansing/Sunfield, Curtenius Guard Camp #17, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) again sponsored a Civil War History Seminar Sunfield, Michigan. Over 100 people attended this free event. The topic that was presented was the *Story of Company K – Michigan's Native American Sharpshooters in the Civil War*.



The speaker, Lansing Historian Chris Czopek, made a rare public appearance to tell the tale of these forgotten warriors. Some stories told were told in public for the first time! We heard of the gallant Lieutenant Graveraet (his name is carved on the Civil War monument on the front lawn of the state

Capitol) and wise Chief Mwa-ke-wenah, who urged the men in his tribe to join the army and - at the age of 40, went along with them to share their fate. In addition, we heard about Louis Miskoguo, who survived the Sultana steamboat disaster, Jacko Penaiswanquot, who died at the infamous Andersonville prison, Antoine Scott, a genuine Civil War hero, who was recommended twice for the Medal of Honor (but never received it), and new information on the most colorful member of Company K, Payson Wolf.



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 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 Michigan State Senate, and in the offices of the Michigan State Police.

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 writing a book that will tell the story of Company K, Michigan's

Native American Sharpshooters in the Civil War.

Following the meeting, Chris was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from Camp Commandery Paul "David" Arnold.