

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

COL. HANS C. HEG CAMP #15

WIND LAKE, WIS. FALL 2016



The weed-choked disgrace that is
Muskego's Luther Parker Cemetery

Campaign to Clean Up the Disgrace that is Luther Parker Cemetery Shifts into High Gear

INSIDE

**New
Commander
Bob Koenecke**

**Jeff Graf
Kicks Back**

**The James
Bond Award
Goes To...?**

Our campaign is moving into high gear to persuade the city of Muskego to clean up the weeds and tall grass that make Luther Parker Cemetery a disgrace – a disgrace to the two Civil War soldiers buried there and the close to seventy other souls buried there as well. Camp #15 has hired one of the top attorneys in Milwaukee, Frank Gimbel, to champion our fight to get Muskego to do the right thing. In October, Gimbel sat down across a negotiating table from Muskego Mayor Kathy Chiaverotti and other city officials and told them bluntly: clean up the cemetery or we'll see you in court. *(next page)*



So far, Muskego is offering very little to head off a lawsuit. In its first response to Gimbel, Muskego proposed cleaning up just the graves of the two Civil War soldiers, Lieutenant Homer H. Clark and Private Jonathan W. Smiley. Unacceptable – that was the immediate response of Camp #15’s members. At the Nov. 3rd camp meeting, members rejected Muskego’s offer and approved a counter-proposal that requires Muskego to clean up *ALL* the graves in Luther Parker Cemetery. For years, the city has used a “controlled burn” in the spring to burn off the weeds, matted grass and brush that accumulates during the year because of the city’s no-mow policy. Our counter-offer also requires Muskego to use metal shields to protect cemetery tombstones if they continue the spring burning.

Ironically, the idea of requiring metal shields to protect gravestones during controlled burns came – unwittingly – from Muskego city officials. Tom Zagar, the city bureaucrat Muskego has put out front to defend the condition of Luther Parker Cemetery, has insisted since our dispute with Muskego began last May that controlled burns do not harm tombstones. But Green’s Prairie Cemetery in Green County, the only other cemetery in Wisconsin using controlled burns instead of mowing, acknowledges that it covers its tombstones with metal shields during the burn to prevent damage from heat and fire.

This fact our stellar attorney, Frank Gimbel, discovered in a legal case Muskego was trying to use to prove it was on solid legal ground in not mowing the cemetery. Gimbel turned that legal case around and pointed it right back at Muskego, making the metal shield protection a condition of our counter-proposal to Muskego.

Negotiations continue with Muskego. We will keep camp members updated.



Camp Commander's Column

By Camp Commander Bob Koenecke

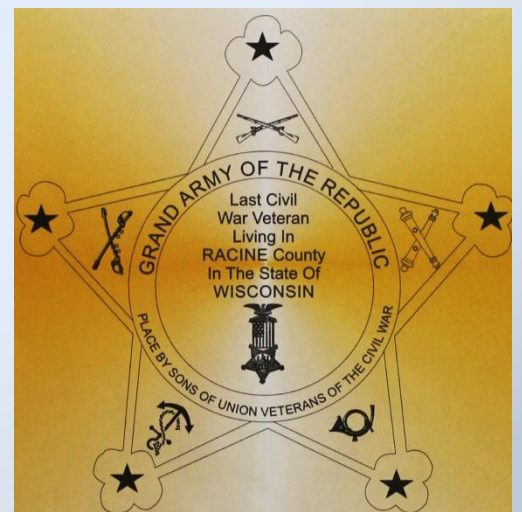
First, let me say what an honor it is to be elected by you as Camp #15's new camp commander. I've got some big shoes to fill – and I'm not just talking about past camp commander Jeff Graf's size XXL brogans! As Camp #15's first commander, Jeff set the bar high, and I hope I can maintain that level of passion, hard work and knowledge of history that Jeff brought to the job.

We've got a lot on the plate as we move into the New Year. We're moving forward on "The Last Soldier" project. This project, marking with a medallion the tombstone of the last Civil War soldier to die in each county in Wisconsin, is one I am committed to and passionate about.

The Last Soldier project was launched by the Sons of Union Veterans in 2003 but has moved slowly the last few years. After his election in August, new National Commander-in-Chief Don Martin urged new efforts to finish this job. This is a project close to Commander Martin's heart – and mine as well.

I've come up with a couple of different designs for the medallion and finally settled on the one pictured here in the right bottom corner. It's based on the star design of the old Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) badge and has a place in the center for the name of each county to be inserted.

I've been pricing medallion prototypes made of different materials. One – made of cast metal – came in at over \$200 apiece, way too rich for our camp's treasury. But I've now got one, made of aluminum with a bronze coating, that I think we can get for less than \$50 each. We can have one made for each of Wisconsin's 72 counties and offer them to other camps in the state for their counties. We're going to get this project done.



Camp Elects New Officers



**Camp Commander
Bob Koenecke**



**Senior Vice
Commander Dave
Daley**



**Jr. Vice Com-
mander Gerry
Drought**



**Secretary-
Treasurer
Brian McManus**



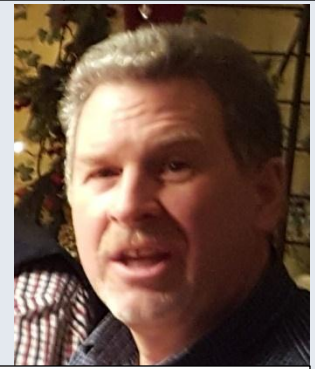
**Council #1
Jeff Graf**



**Council #2
Pat Kulas**



**Council #3
Mike Wozny**



**Patriotic
Instructor Rich
Kallan**



**Graves Registration
and Memorials
Officer Ken Artlip**



**Guide
John Gilles**

At the camp meeting on Nov. 3rd, Camp #15 elected new officers for the coming year. New Commander Bob Koenecke appointed Ken Artlip and John Gilles to their posts, Dave LaMeer as Chaplain and Rob Allen as Guard. Members Max Frederick and Sam Malliet will assist Brother Artlip in his graves registration and memorials officer duties.

AND THE JAMES BOND SECRET AGENT MEDAL GOES TO ... BARB KALLAN



Camp #15 sends out a special thanks to Barb Kallan, wife of camp member Rich Kallan, for her work on Luther Parker Cemetery. Back in October, Camp #15 was gearing up for a confrontation with the city of Muskego over its refusal to clean up the cemetery. That was when Barb, notebook in hand, quietly slipped into a wildflower group meeting where Muskego's Tom Zagar was outlining the city's native plant restoration program.

Zagar, you will remember, is the Muskego bureaucrat the city has put out front to defend its policy of not mowing Luther Parker Cemetery - a no-mow policy the city says is to protect native wildflowers. Camp #15's position, though is unequivocal: not mowing has turned the cemetery into a weed patch that looks like an abandoned cemetery, and is a desecration to the Civil War soldiers buried there.

Unaware that someone from Camp #15 was in the back of the room, Zagar disclosed that at a closed-door meeting of the Muskego City Council, the consensus reached was to do nothing in response to Camp #15's demand that Muskego clean up the cemetery or face a lawsuit. Barb, of course, was writing this all down.

Muskego Saves \$20,000 a year by planting prairie grass, not mowing.

During the talk - this was on Oct. 8th, just two days before the Muskego City Attorney and Muskego Mayor Kathy Chiaverotti began negotiations with Camp #15 over the cemetery issue - Zagar also disclosed that Muskego was saving \$20,000 a year by planting prairie grass in city parks instead of mowing the parks. This, by the way, may be the driving factor in Muskego's refusal to mow the cemetery, not the city's claim that it is protecting rare flowers.

Barb's note-taking proved invaluable as Camp #15 prepared to meet at the bargaining table with Muskego. Rich Kallan deserves our thanks, too. It was Rich who spotted the newspaper notice that Zagar was giving a talk Oct. 8th at the Wehr Nature Center in Franklin. Bottom line: Barb's note-taking and Zagar's verbosity helped our side come well-armed to our negotiations with Muskego. So for that, Camp #15 salutes our own Barb Kallan. Congratulations, Barb - job well done!

Jeff Graf Retires After A Momentous Two Years as Camp #15's Commander and Leader

Jeff Graf is stepping down after two momentous years as Commander of Camp #15. A long-time member of Camp #1 in Milwaukee, Graf helped found Camp #15 in 2015, and has been the driving force and fiery soul of the camp our first two years as the camp got off the ground.

Under Graf, Camp #15 hit the ground running, becoming one of the most vibrant camps in the country. That rise was highlighted by Graf's personal vow last May not to rest until the city of Muskego cleaned up the weed-infested Luther Parker Cemetery where two Civil War soldiers are buried in graves blighted by tall grass.

Brian McManus, Camp #15's secretary-treasurer, helped found Camp #15 with Graf, and has long admired Graf's knowledge of American history. "He's a walking Civil War and military history encyclopedia," says McManus. "There was no one more qualified to assume the command of Camp #15 than Jeff."

Dave Daley, Camp #15's senior vice commander, adds a hearty second to that sentiment. "Jeff is passionate about all things Civil War," says Daley. "That passion is behind Jeff's fight to clean up Luther Parker Cemetery. When Jeff saw the graves of the two Civil War soldiers buried there - graves that should be hallowed ground but were covered in tall grass and matted weeds instead - it became personal with him."

The members of Camp #15 offer a heart-felt thank you and good wishes to the man who helped make the camp what it is today. Danke schon, Commander Graf!



Jeff, now at the ripe old age of 55, says he plans to kick back a little in his emeritus status as a past camp commander. In that spirit, the camp will collect donations to buy Jeff a recliner to kick back in and an end table where he can set one bottle of Smithwick's "taking it easy" premium Irish ale. Let's all help Jeff in his new full-time hobby of kicking back. No Confederate money please!



Brother McManus Honors Ancestors at N.Y. Cemetery

Brian McManus at a ceremony Oct. 16 in at Lynhaven Cemetery in Lyndonville, N.Y. honoring his great-great-great uncle, George Gerry Thayer of Co. A, 8th New York Heavy Artillery. Shot through the hip at Petersburg, Virginia in 1864, Thayer survived



the war. Above, Brother Brian fires a musket salute at the grave of his great-great grandfather John McLean, also buried in Lynhaven.



Commander Jeff Graf presents 15 year SUVCW membership pins to Brother Pat Kulas (left) and Brother Bob Koenecke (bottom right), and membership recognition



to Brother Max Frederick (bottom left) and Brother Gerry Drought (top right).

Member Spotlight: Brother Ken Artlip, Docent Extraordinaire



Brother Ken Artlip was a one-man moneymaker for Camp #15 last summer, personally bringing \$330 into our camp coffers through his docent work at Heg Museum.

Artlip volunteered an incredible eleven times to work as a guide at the museum in Heg Park. The Norway Historical Society pays Camp #15 thirty dollars for each day's docent work. Artlip, of Muskego, serves as the camp's Graves Registration and Memorials Officer. Our hats are off to you, Brother Ken.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Col. Hans C. Heg Camp #15
Newsletter Editor Dave Daley
27624 Apple Road, Waterford, Wisconsin 53185
e-mail: davidddaley@wi.rr.com
414-418-5112