

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

COL. HANS C. HEG CAMP #15

WIND LAKE, WIS. SPRING 2017



**Camp #15
Sues City,
Muskego
Burns Off
Luther
Parker
Cemetery**

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Camp #15 is suing the city of Muskego over the city's refusal to mow the graves in Luther Parker Cemetery and stop burning off the cemetery, a practice that is damaging fragile tombstones. Two Civil War soldiers who died during that war are buried in the cemetery. The lawsuit was filed April 10 in Waukesha County Circuit Court.

The lawsuit drew widespread media attention. One Milwaukee talk radio host summed up the condition of the cemetery bluntly: "It's a weed patch," said



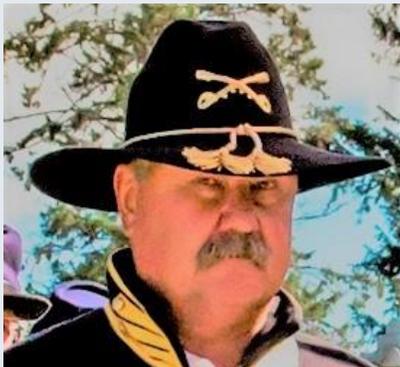
Muskego city workers burning off Luther Parker Cemetery April 17.

Muskego claims burning the cemetery does not damage fragile, 100-year-old tombstones. Dr. Ted Nield, a prominent British geologist, disagrees. “Burning off vegetation is highly aggressive to gravestones,” Nield says. Intense fire not only “blackens” the stones but disrupts the chemical composition of the stones so the surface layer cracks and “spalls off,” Dr. Nield says. Muskego has been burning off Luther Parker Cemetery for the last 20 years. The damage done by repeated burn-offs over two decades may be irreversible. Burn-off photos by Jeff Graf.

(Burn Off continued from page 1) Jeff Wagner on WTMJ-Radio. Another talk show host agreed, declaring that Muskego ought to at least knock down the tall weeds in the cemetery so the graves can be seen.

This is the argument Camp #15 has made since negotiations with Muskego over the cemetery’s condition started last October. Camp #15 offered a compromise in which the city mowed the graves but not the borders and rear of the cemetery - areas that would be set aside for the wild flowers the city says it wants to protect. But Muskego turned that compromise down, leaving the Camp no choice but to go to court to stop Muskego’s desecration of a place of burial.

We could not have filed the lawsuit without the help of one of Milwaukee’s top attorneys, Frank Gimbel, and an associate in Gimbel’s law firm, Kathryn Keppel. Thank you Frank and Kathy. Updates will be posted.



Camp Commander's Column

By Camp Commander Bob Koenecke

We've had a busy four months since the start of the year. Camp #15 has launched two major initiatives in that time: finishing work on a marker honoring the last Civil War soldier buried in each of Wisconsin's 72 counties, and taking the city of Muskego to court over the disgraceful condition of weed-choked Luther Parker Cemetery where two Civil War veterans are buried.

We need to thank National Commander-in-Chief Don Martin and Milwaukee attorney Frank Gimbel for their help on the cemetery lawsuit. Under Sons of Union Veterans' national rules, any lawsuit involving the Sons must be approved by the SUVCW's Council of Administration, and Commander Martin helped us win that approval. And the lawsuit could not have been filed without the help of Frank Gimbel and his associate Kathryn Keppel. Thank you Commander Martin, and thank you Frank and Kathy.

The national SUVCW has authorized the camp to sell our Last Soldier markers across the U.S. Camp #15 will have a table at the National Encampment in August to take orders for the markers. The selling price will be decided at our camp meeting. God watches over our camp and our work.

Brian McManus, Camp #15's secretary-treasurer, fine-tuned a design for the Last Soldier marker that originated with Camp Commander Bob Koenecke. This is the prototype and the camp now has five markers on hand. The markers can be mounted on a headstone, installed flag-holder style or mounted on a paver brick.



Last Soldier marker - photo Brian McManus

SUVCW Camp #15 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**



**Camp Guide
John Gilless**



**Asst. Graves
Registration
Max Frederick**



**Camp Guard
Rob Allen**

CHRISTMAS PARTY PICS



Bottom left, counter-clockwise: Gerry Drought, Pat Kulas, Rob Allen, Bob Koenecke, Tom Greil, Dave Daley, John Gillless and Rich Kallan.

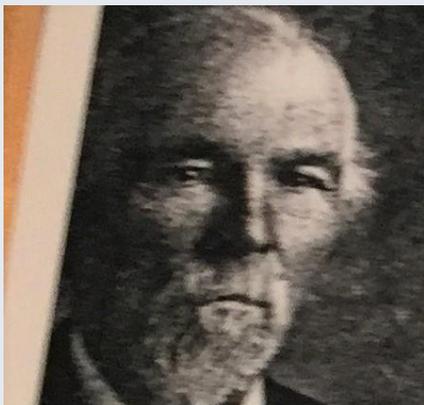


The ladies of Camp #15, left to right: Ann Kulas, Carolyn Wilson, Ruth Gillless, Ann Daley and Marge Koenecke.



Ex-camp commander Jeff Graf is taking up Napoleon imitations in his semi-retirement. Uh, Jeff, you're way too tall to play Mr. Bonaparte. Now, there's a real short guy in #15 who might be...

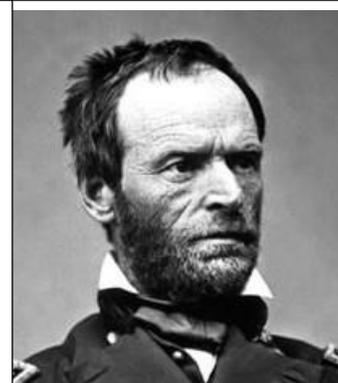
Our Civil War: Camp #15 Members Tell Their Ancestors' Stories



Lewis Townsend

How a Chicken Introduced My Great- Uncle to Gen. William T. Sherman

by Bob Koenecke



Gen. Sherman

Southerners like to scold that Gen. Sherman's Army stole every chicken in Georgia during his March to the Sea in 1864. Undoubtedly, many a farmer's chickens ended up in Union Army stewpots on that march through Georgia.

But at least one squawking hen escaped and played a key role in how my great-uncle Lewis Townsend met the famous general himself. Lewis was a private in the 12th Wisconsin Infantry at the time, one of the regiments that left Atlanta with Sherman as the general cut through the heart of the South and a place in history.

On the famous march, Sherman used foragers to supply his troops from the farms of Southerners on his line of march. As my great-uncle Lew tells the story, the 12th Wisconsin was camped on a plantation where chickens ran free. Uncle Lew - actually, he was my great-great-great uncle - spotted one and gave chase.

Dashing around a building, he made a mad lunge for the escaping hen and hit the ground instead. He lay there a moment, then raised up enough to see a pair of officer's boots. It was Gen. Sherman himself! Uncle Lew jumped up and saluted.

There was a long moment of silence as Uncle Lew stared into the cold eyes and stern visage of the general. Then Sherman spoke. "Soldier - never be in such a hurry that you lose your equilibrium or dignity." There was another pause as the general eyed him coldly. Then Sherman barked, "Dismissed!"

My Uncle Lew survived the war, went back home to Sandusky, Wis., and never tired of telling the story of how a chicken made the introductions when he met Gen. William T. Sherman, the second most famous general in the Union Army.

Letters and e-mails

Muskego Residents Do Not Support City on Not Mowing Cemetery

April 19, 2017

Mr. Brian McManus

As a Muskego resident, I would like to apologize to you and your organization for the selfish position the City of Muskego officials have taken reference to Luther Parker Cemetery. This position does not reflect the majority of the Muskego resident's opinion. If you do not succeed in the Waukesha County court system prior to April 2020, upon my successful bid to be the next Muskego Mayor, I will take action my first day in office to direct staff to work directly with your organization to make this sacred ground once again have the appropriate appearance to honor those who lay there.

Eric Schroeder

Muskego resident, past Muskego Alderman

Editor's Note: Mr. Schroeder is a member of the Muskego-Norway School Board, where he serves as clerk, and is a former member of the Muskego City Council.

Documentary Filmmaker Interested in Luther Parker Cemetery Issue

April 25, 2017

Dear Mr. Koenecke

I recently came across an article from Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and heard about the recent conflict of the Muskego Veterans Cemetery on Ryan Road on Mark Belling.

I work for a documentary film making company and have interest to try to tell the short story of both sides of this argument. I am from Muskego as well, giving me a little background in the area.

If you would have interest in further discussion, we would like to possibly look into setting up a phone call to hear a little bit more from your side about the Sons of the Union, the goals, both overall and specifically with this case.

Matt Prekop

Matt Prekop's credits include a film, "The Blood Is At the Doorstep," about the Dontre Hamilton case in Milwaukee

CALENDER of UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY, MAY 28
MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND
 Ceremony at Luther
 Parker Cemetery
 (time to be determined)

MONDAY, MAY 29
MEMORIAL DAY
CALVARY CEMETERY
 5503 W. Bluemound Rd.
 Milwaukee, Wis., 10 a.m.

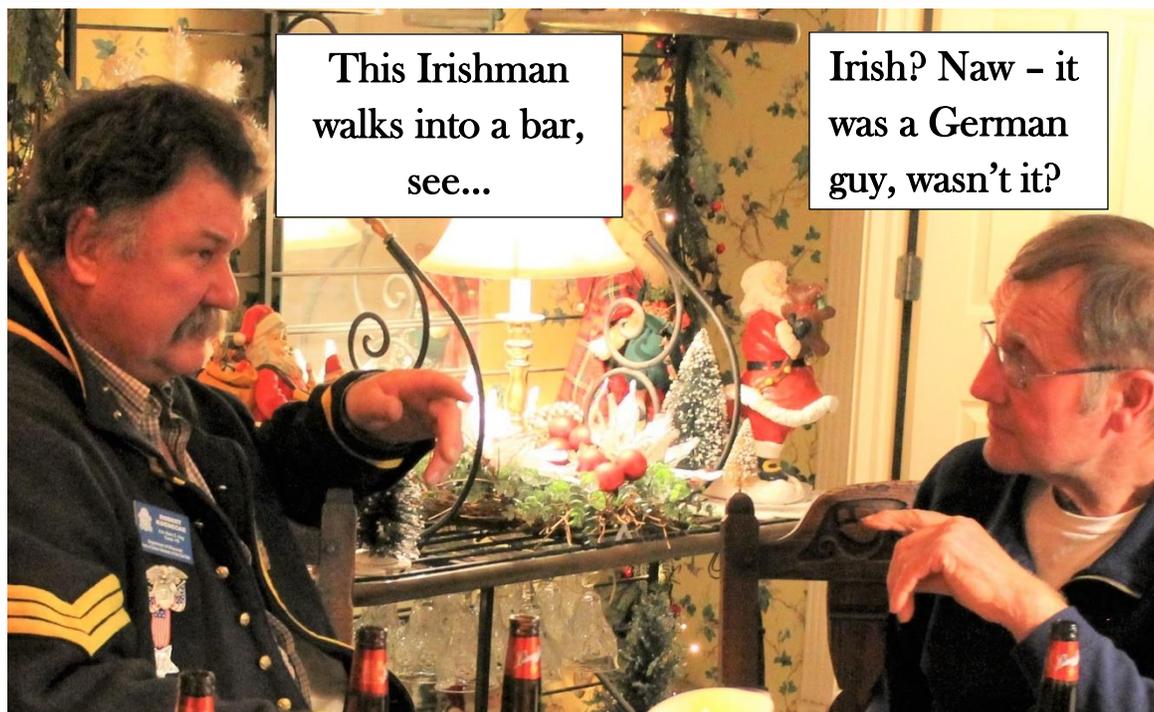
SATURDAY, JUNE 3
 Wisconsin Department
 Encampment - Saukville,
 Wisconsin

TUESDAY, JULY 4
 Independence Day Parade
 Union Grove, Wis.

THURSDAY to SUNDAY,
AUGUST 10 to 13
 SUVCW and Allied Orders
 National Encampment
 Lansing, Michigan.

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Got a story or an idea or
 an event to promote? Send
 Dave Daley an e-mail.



This Irishman
 walks into a bar,
 see...

Irish? Naw - it
 was a German
 guy, wasn't it?

We eaves-
 dropped at
 the camp
 Christmas
 party.
 Here, Bob
 Koenecke
 and Tom
 Greil are
 engaged in
 deep philo-
 sophical
 discussion..