

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

**COL. HANS C. HEG CAMP #15
WIND LAKE, WIS. SPRING 2020**

Winner of the Abraham Lincoln Commander-in-Chief Award - Best Camp in the Country



Photo by Marie Frederick

Memorial Day 2020 – Camp #15 Honors Col. Hans C. Heg with Three-Volley Musket Salute

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On May 25th Memorial Day this year, Camp #15 turned out to honor Col. Hans C. Heg, our camp's namesake, with a three-volley musket salute at his grave and a reading of Gen. Logan's general order honoring Civil War soldiers. That general order in 1868 marked the start of what became Memorial Day ceremonies across the country to honor soldiers who died serving their country. Following the ceremony *(continued on next page)*



Photos courtesy of Steve Michaels

Camp #15 Honor Guard saluting Sergeant Jonathan Dwight Stevens, 20th Wisconsin Inf., at Lafayette Church.

at Norway Lutheran Cemetery in Wind Lake, Camp #15 convoyed to our Lafayette Church in Walworth County. There, we honored Jonathan Dwight Stevens, a sergeant in Co. D, 20th Wisconsin Infantry, who is buried in White Oak Cemetery next door. Stevens, a son of the church's first pastor, was wounded at the battle of Prairie Grove, Ark., and after a medical discharge in 1864 because of illness, came home to Lafayette Township where he died that same year.

After the ceremony, camp members and their spouses - a baker's dozen in all - set up a grill and lawn chairs under a maple tree on the church lawn and spent the afternoon eating brats, telling stories and enjoying the day. This Memorial Day, we honored the fallen in the Civil War - and then we had some fun. As they used to say in the rural weeklies, "A good time was had by all."



Camp #15's Lafayette Church. One of the first jobs is repainting the church's exterior, now marred with peeling paint. The church was last painted by Brother Pat Kulas and other volunteers some eight years ago.

Camp #15 Launches Lafayette Church Restoration Campaign

Our restoration work on Lafayette Church is moving forward. A news release announcing that Camp #15 now owns the church and is launching a campaign to raise funds for restoration was posted on the Walworth County Historical Society's website in mid-May. That post included a link to our GoFundMe page and will hopefully help raise donations for the restoration work.

Thank you Brother Mike Wozny for that posting. Brother Mike is vice president of the Walworth County Historical Society and is working to secure contributions from his contacts in the Walworth County historic and veterans' communities.

The Southern Lakes newspaper chain, which publishes the East Troy, Elkhorn, Burlington and Lake Geneva weeklies, published a full-page feature story May 29th on Camp #15 and our restoration of Lafayette Church. Add to that, a free-lance writer whose work appears in the Walworth County Sunday newspaper stopped by our Memorial Day ceremonies at the church on May 25th and is asking to do a story on our church restoration as well.

Let's not forget this all started when Brother Bob Koenecke spotted the defunct Lafayette Church ten years ago while driving his route as a lineman for WE Energies. Brother Bob and

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State Summer Encampment to be Held at Camp 15's Lafayette Church June 13



Department Encampment Agenda

- Registration 8 a.m. - meeting 9:30 a.m.
- To vote for Department officers, have a credential card signed by your camp secretary.
- No registration fee due to venue change.

This year's Wisconsin Department Summer Encampment will be held at our Lafayette Church on Saturday June 13th.

The Encampment had been scheduled in Waukesha, hosted by Camp #4, but covid-19 made that venue untenable.

Wisconsin Department Commander Jeff Graf issued an order relocating the Encampment and called for an abbreviated half-day event with attendees following social distancing protocols.

The church has no toilets but a handicapped Porta John and a handwashing station will be in place.

The address of Lafayette Church is W3465 Church Road, Elkhorn, WI. The church is located about five miles southwest of East Troy, WI, just west of the intersection of Walworth County Highway ES and County Highway D.

Camp #15 Helps with Camp #1's Memorial Day

The brothers in our camp turned out Saturday, May 30th, to help Camp #1 and Brother Dean Collins honor the fallen soldiers at Calvary Cemetery in Milwaukee. Brother Collins is a Catholic deacon.

Jeff Graf Dave Daley Dean Collins Brian McManus/Tom Brown Bill Seaman Jerry Coveney



Photo courtesy of Steve Michaels

CAMP KUDOS CORNER

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We take time here in the Camp Kudos Corner to thank five brothers for their generous contributions to the camp in recent months. First up, Brother Bob Koenecke. “Big Bob” has selflessly given of his time, energy and wallet in launching the Last Soldier project to install a marker on the grave of the last Civil War veteran buried in every one of Wisconsin’s 72 counties.

Brother Bob has worked tirelessly the last four years to see this project through and hopes to have Camp #15 finish marking all 72 graves by the end of this year. Bob is also responsible for Camp #15 now owning the historic Lafayette Church, stepping up when an opportunity to obtain the church arose last year and working to get the church’s title transferred to our camp. In addition, Brother Bob is working to get a second Iron Brigade plaque installed along U.S. Highway 12 in Wisconsin – perhaps in the Tomah area. Bob personifies the old saying, “If you want a job done, give it to someone who is busy.” His plate is indeed full. Thank you, Brother Bob.



Next up for a vote of thanks is Brother Jerry Coveney, our camp Chaplain. Brother Jerry donated \$1,925 to pay for the setting of tombstones for the last 11 unmarked soldier’s graves at Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee, part of Camp #1’s Adopt a Soldier project. That donation helped Camp #1 complete a project started a decade ago at Forest Home Cemetery.

Brother Jerry followed that largesse with a donation of another thousand dollars to pay for ten new casement windows in the basement of Lafayette Church, replacing old windows put in when the basement was installed in the 1920s. The new windows have brightened the basement considerably. And let’s not forget Jerry’s regular mowing of Lafayette Church. You’ve been doing a helluv - uh - a heckuva job, that is, mowing that church lawn, Chaplain Jerry.

Next on the list is Brother Brian McManus, our camp’s redoubtable secretary-treasurer. Brother Brian donated \$500 to pay for the installation last November of gutters and downspouts at Lafayette Church, and paid another \$326 this spring for liability insurance on the church. He donated another \$350 to pay for the setting of two tombstones at Forest Home Cemetery, part of the Adopt A Soldier program, and \$100 to the church GoFundMe account.

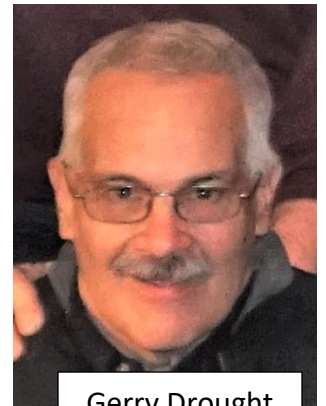
And only this past Memorial Day, Brother Brian won recognition in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel for helping obtain funding from We Energies, his old employer, to set a tombstone for a World War II veteran buried since the war in a Milwaukee *(continued on next page)*

cemetery without a grave marker. Thank you, Brother Brian – your generosity and patriotism does you honor.

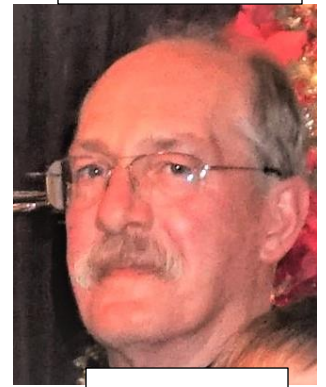
Then we come to Brother Gerry Drought, the camp’s Senior Vice Commander, Wisconsin Department chaplain and our camp’s “Taps” soloist. Brother Gerry wrote a check for \$200 just this past Memorial Day to help pay for the restoration work we are doing on Lafayette Church. Gerry is not what you would call a talkative type – but that generous check does its own talking. Thank you, Brother Gerry – you are standing tall and looking good these days.

We have one more Brother to thank – our intrepid Department Commander, Jeff Graf. Brother Jeff stepped into the commander’s job last year on an emergency basis when Commander Brian McManus had to step down, and has admirably handled the onerous job of shepherding the Wisconsin Department’s eight far-flung camps during what has been truly a challenging year. The fact that we are even having a Department Encampment this year is due to Brother Jeff’s strong leadership. Well done, Commander Graf – we salute you.

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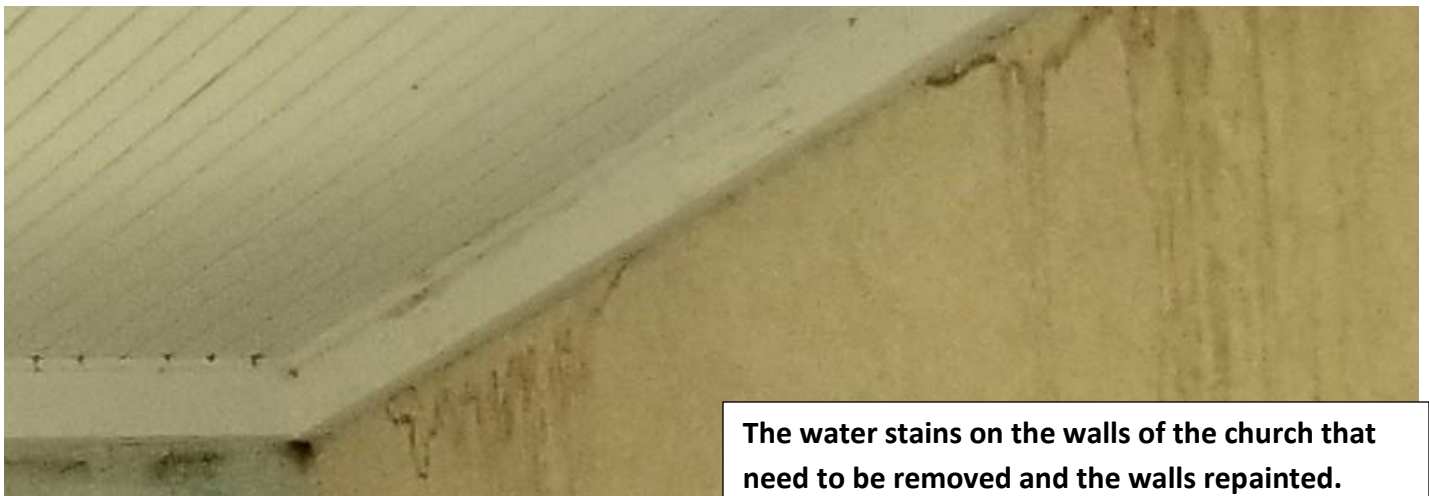


Gerry Drought



Jeff Graf

Brother Pat Kulas then started restoring the church. Brother Pat raised funds for a new metal roof, and with his son John, put on the roof, repainted the church’s exterior and replaced the frames on the church’s deteriorating stained glass windows. Brother Bob rewired the church’s electrical system, repaired the furnace, put a new ceiling in the basement, built a basement office, restored the outhouse behind the church, and installed a flagpole in front of the church.



The water stains on the walls of the church that need to be removed and the walls repainted.

The Camp #15 Newsletter WANTS YOU!

If you have a story or a photo for the Camp #15 newsletter, we want it. E-mail to: Dave Daley, newsletter editor, at: davidddaley@wi.rr.com. Cell phone: 414-418-5112

Welcome Dr. Jack T. Humbert, 86, Retired Professor and Camp #15's Newest Member

March 26, 2020

Mr. Dave Daley

Waterford, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. Daley:

Thank you, Col. Hans C. Heg Camp #15 for designating me a Honorary Member of Camp #15. If anyone deserves thanks, it's Col. Hans C. Heg Camp #15 who carefully planned and implemented the Last Soldier Marker Ceremony for JJ Humbert in Waldwick, Wisconsin, Aug. 31, 2019.

Camp #15, your stellar performance has provided the Humbert Family a warm reunion and a solid appreciation of JJ Humbert's dedication to serve his country during the Civil War. Thank you.

I would like to share with you two adages from JJ Humbert that were related to me as a young boy sitting on JJ's "itchy" wool army pants legs. They are:

1. Never relate your successes to your friends, always relate to your friends your problems.

WHEN COMPANY OR FAMILY CAME TO VISIT JJ, HE WOULD STATE:

2. It's great to see you come and it's great to see you go.

Again, thank you most warmly for being selected as an Honorary Member of the Col. Hans C. Heg Camp #15. My request to Camp #15 is to continue your exemplary Last Soldier Dedications. Your Last Soldier Dedication has kindled positive family relations and documented the service of citizens like JJ in the Civil War.

Sincerely,

Sp4 Jack Humbert

Encl: \$200.00



Dr. Jack T. Humbert



Camp Commander's Column

By Camp Commander Dave Daley

We welcome the newest member of Camp #15, Dr. Jack Humbert, a retired professor of vocational education at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Jack is now living in Pinellas Park, Florida. Camp #15 members will remember Jack from the Last Soldier dedication last August 31st in Waldwick, Wis., where we honored Jack's great-grandfather, Jeremiah J. Humbert, the last Civil War soldier buried in Iowa County, Wis.

Jack, 86-years old then, impressed us all, insisting on paying for the Last Soldier marker for his great-grandfather even though other relatives wanted to pick up the cost. Jack's pride in his great-grandfather and his love of "J.J." - as he calls great-grandfather Jeremiah J. - was clear that day as he addressed a hundred friends and relatives who turned out for the dedication.

Jack entertained us that day with stories about J.J. - he remembered how scratchy his great-grandfather's wool Union Army uniform was when, as a small boy in the 1930s, he climbed onto his lap. And how Jeremiah, well into his eighties, would drive straight down the middle of the road in Waldwick in his car, hunched over the wheel, as he ferried local ladies to Ladies Aid Society meetings. Town citizens knew to get out of the way - "J.J." was on the streets.

Jack not only entertained us but he fed us that day, too - horehound hard candies, tasting like root beer and menthol, like the ones he remembered as a boy eighty years earlier.

Jack signed off his letter to us with "Sp4 Jack Humbert." The Sp4 reference is to the rank of Specialist 4th Class, a rank when I was in the U.S. Army in 1970 that was higher than a PFC - Private First Class - but lower than a buck sergeant or E5. So Jack can claim military service, too, with his great-grandfather, Union Army Sergeant Jeremiah J. Humbert.

And Jack enclosed a check for two-hundred dollars to help Camp #15 continue its Last

Soldier dedications around the state. Thank you, Brother Jack - you are a most welcome member of our camp. You are not only the newest member of Camp #15 but we're pretty sure you are our most senior member as well. We welcome you, sir.



Sergeant Jeremiah J. Humbert, Co. G, 35th Wisconsin Infantry. Jeremiah was wounded twice in the Civil War and took part in battles at Port Hudson, Louisiana and Mobile, Alabama. He died March 9, 1938 in Mineral Point, Wis., at the age of 95.