



***Camp Orders 2011 ~ 2***  
**Sons of Union Veterans  
of the Civil War**  
*Grand Army of the Republic*  
**“Old Abe” Camp #8**  
**Wisconsin Department**

**NEXT  
MEETING**

**March 21,  
2011**

Lower Level Lecture  
Room,  
Oshkosh Public  
Museum,  
Oshkosh, Wis.

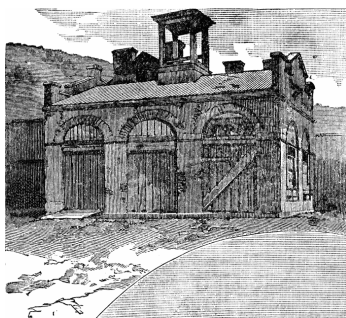
Doors open ~  
6:00 PM

**Meeting Begins  
at 7:00 PM**

1331 Algoma Blvd.  
Oshkosh, WI

“Social Hour” before  
the business portion  
begins.

**Commander's  
Corner**  
by Vince Barker



**Greetings Brothers of Camp 8!**

I hope you all are surviving our rough winter. It may not seem like it but spring is right around the corner and with it our main activity season in the SUVCW. We have some great events lined up to kick off the Civil War Sesquicentennial, starting with our March meeting in the Lower Level Lecture Room at the Oshkosh Public Museum on March 21st. Start time is our usual 7pm. The museum curator, Brad Larsen, is giving a presentation on the history and restoration efforts of the 3rd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry battle flag. Camp 8 is being asked to assist with the restoration costs. It should be a very interesting and informative program.

Also, mark your calendars for Saturday, May 21st, for what will probably be our first dedication ceremony of the season. We are dedicating five new headstones in Plummer Cemetery, located just north of Oshkosh, on old Hwy 110. Several of these veterans were well known in the area and the event has stirred up considerable interest among descendants near and far. So far several are planning to attend and are spreading the word to more family members. We are also working on having a possible social gathering at Jimmy's White House Inn following the ceremony. More details to follow.

Hope to see you at the March meeting!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,  
Vince




Directions at left courtesy of the  
Oshkosh Public Museum

1331 Algoma Blvd. ~

Doors will be open at 6 PM, our meeting  
will start at 7 PM in the

Lower Level Lecture Room





Here's what I have on the flag. This is from the research I did and put on the catalog record.

Hand-made silk United States Flag: blue canton with 30+ white five-pointed stars (flag is folded and some stars are not visible); the field has thirteen alternating red and white horizontal stripes.

This flag was one of two flags made by women of Oshkosh from silk ribbon that they bought in town. They presented this flag to Scott's Volunteers in April 1861. Scott's Volunteer's were mustered into United States service on June 29, 1861. After the war, the flag was hung on the porch of the donor, the daughter of John Walter Scott.

The flag is made of silk which has faded with time. There was not enough of one kind of material so the small town of Oshkosh was canvassed until all ribbon was found. The women were not sure of the arrangement of stars so different sizes were used. The flag was presented to the men by Miss Carrie Weed at the City Grove. Then presenting it she said "Gentlemen, It is with mingled feelings of sadness and joy that we meet you today; sadness that our beloved country should be so rent by treason as to make our parting with friends necessary; joy that, at the first call, so many bravely volunteer to defend what is dear to all, our Constitution and Union. Our hopes and prayers go with you etc, etc."

Nancy Derby mentions this flag in her diary: "[April 24, 1861] ...The ladies in Oshkosh are making a flag for the company, or I presume one for each company. [April 25, 1861] ...I called to see Mrs. Jewell to learn about the flags. The ladies in Oshkosh are making them of silk on sewing machines. Red white & blue & stars put on & appropriate mottoes...

[May 4] A very pleasant but cool morning. George & Hattie have gone down to see the flag presented to Mr. [Bouck's] company [Company E, 2nd Wisconsin]. Evening George came home said there the largest gathering he ever saw in Oshkosh. The company departed amidst weeping & heartrending farewells. Mr. Scott's company is to start next Wednesday.

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Scott Cross  
Archivist  
Oshkosh Public Museum

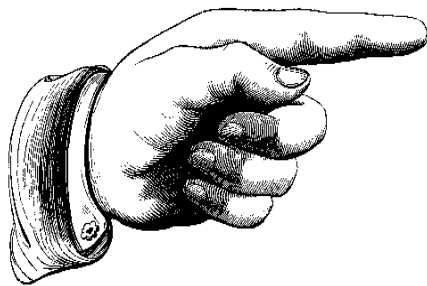




**This picture of the Hand-Made silk Flag presented to Scott's Volunteers - It is Courtesy of the Oshkosh Public Museum and not to be Reproduced without their Permission.**

**Object Identification Number ~ 385-2**





**THIS IMPORTANT REMINDER ~  
DUES FOR THE YEAR 2011  
MUST BE PAID BY THE  
CONCLUSION OF OUR NEXT  
MEETING, MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> AT THE  
OSHKOSH PUBLIC MUSEUM.  
WE NEED TO GET OUR ANNUAL  
REPORT IN TO STATE A.S.A.P \*\*\*  
(Dues payable to Alan Petit or any Camp Off.)**

**Old Abe Camp 8, SUVCW, Dept.  
of Wisconsin**

**Schedule of Events ~ 2011**

**March 10 – Oshkosh Public Library,  
7 PM ~ Last Soldier Project**

**March 12 – Waupaca Genological  
Society, researching**

**March 21 – meeting Camp 8, Oshkosh  
Public Museum, 7 PM**

**April 16<sup>th</sup> – Lincoln Ceremony,  
Springfield Illinois**

**May 15<sup>th</sup> – King Open House**

**May 21<sup>st</sup> – time now set at 10:30 AM  
Plummer Cemetary dedication  
(near Oshkosh on old Hwy 110)**

**May 21<sup>st</sup> – possible 2<sup>nd</sup> (Alyea)  
dedication, in Winnecone  
(we will take time for lunch,  
probably at the White House  
Inn, between dedications)**

**August 27, 28 – Stevens Point**

**September 24, 25 – Wade House**



**Pincrest  
Village is,  
at present,  
not happening  
for 2011 – it  
may be back  
in future.**

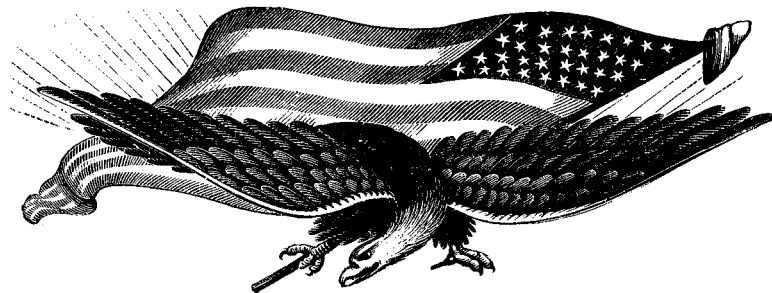
**Momentous News for the Wisconsin Department of the  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War :**

***THE NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT***

**will be held in Wisconsin in 2013!!**

**The National Encampment will take place  
in Milwaukee during the Sequicentennial!!  
(We have not had this honor since 1943)**

**Another event to look forward to in 2013 ~ the rededication  
of the Arches at Camp Randall! Two great events in our  
home State! All Brothers are called upon to help!**



**Kim Heltmes is  
presented his Past  
Camp Commander's  
Badge by current  
Camp 8 Commander  
Col. Vince Barker  
January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011**





Junior Vice Commander Kirby Scott submitted this  
Blast From the Past ~ not 1861, but 1999, and this article on  
the formation of Old Abe Camp # 8 that appeared in the Banner:

The Banner  
The National Journal of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
March 1999  
Department News  
Wisconsin  
Page 20

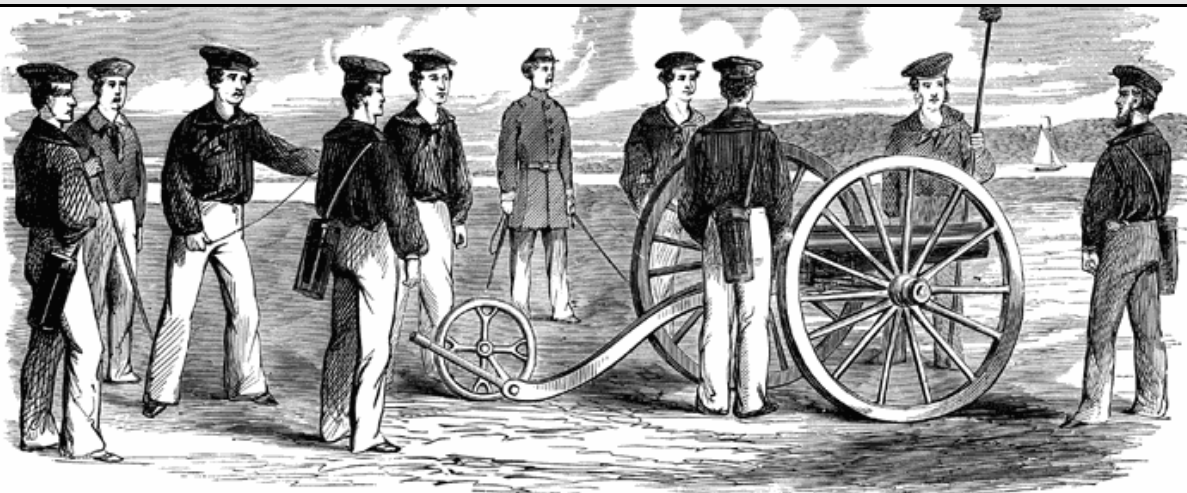
Northeastern Wisconsin Sons met recently in Oshkosh to organize a new camp. Wisconsin JVC and Camp Organizer Randy Novak presided over the meeting which included members from as far away as Cascade and Stevens Point. Also present was Dept. Sec. Ronald Aronis.

The members elected temporary officers and chose to call themselves Old Abe Camp 8 in honor of the famous mascot of the 8<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry. The first camp chartered in Oshkosh in 1885 had also been called the Old Abe Camp.

Officers elected were: Commander-Randy K. Novak, Oshkosh; SVC-Paul A. Stache, Potter; JVC-Roberth L. Hatch, Oshkosh; Sec/Treas.-Gordon Moran, Omro; Delegate-James D. Waid, Scandinavia.

The new camp has already adopted the Camp Bragg Memorial in Oshkosh, will work with the Winnebago County Patriotic Council in planning ceremonies for Memorial day and other occasions, and will man informational booths at community and Civil War events.

The camp will begin by meeting quarterly. At its January 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, camp goals will be discussed, a calendar will be set and staff appointments will be made.



**The following was submitted by brother Randy Novak, who has served (and, I think, is currently serving,) as Camp and Department Historian ~**



#### Wartime history

April 13th, 1861 - Oshkosh Northwestern announces the fall of Fort Sumter.(1) Oshkosh had a population of about 10,000. (8)

April 17th - A "war" meeting is called for, and held downtown at Washington Hall.(1)

April 22nd - A second meeting to discuss the war was held, attending were most of the members of Pioneer Fire Company #1. Under Gabe Bouck, ex-attorney general and now Captain, they formed the Oshkosh Volunteers, which became Company E of the 2nd Wisconsin Infantry. The unit went on to earn its place in history as part of the Iron Brigade, the unit to receive the heaviest losses of the war. Company E left on May 4th with 120 men and returned with 33.(1)(2)(3)(6) Scott's volunteers, organized by John W. Scott, a Mexican War veteran, also formed. Scott set up his men to camp and drill on the fairgrounds property, which in a few months would become Camp Bragg. (8)

April 30th - A call went out to the women of Oshkosh with sewing machines, and all who were willing to sew by hand, to make uniforms for the men that would soon be leaving for war. Flags were also made and presented to the men.

June 5th - Scott's volunteers were announced as entering service.(1) They would become part of the 3rd Wis. (8) The two Oshkosh units would in the future again be together, meeting near a small stream in Maryland called the Antietam, where 5 Oshkosh men, from both groups, died in the cornfield.

August and September 1862- the 21st Wisconsin Infantry formed in Oshkosh. The 21st and 32nd Regiments were trained at Camp Bragg, located on the old fairgrounds on the east edge of town, and named after E.S.Bragg of Iron Brigade fame, and a former resident of Fond du Lac. The 21st left Oshkosh with 1171 men, their term of service involved them in 21 battle engagements with the loss of 306 men. The 21st and 32nd had been in the thick of it during their term with the famed Army of the Tennessee. Under General Sherman they had helped conquer the south, their credentials as soldiers and fighters were unquestioned. The Camp Bragg site is now occupied by Mercy Hospital and residential area, and contains the Camp Bragg Memorial Park that this Camp is proud to help maintain.(1)(3)(8)

Oshkosh men also helped fill the ranks of the 5th, 18th, 19th, 37th ,38th , 52nd , 53rd, infantry, 3rd Wis. Cavalry, 9th Wis. Artillery. (8)

Winnegago County supplied 1657 for the war effort, 442 came from Oshkosh proper.(3)

#### Post-war history

1866 - The first GAR Post in Oshkosh is chartered. P. H. Sheridan #10.



1876 - General William Tecumseh Sherman visits Oshkosh. An old friend of his from the war, Mose Ladd, was living in Winneconne at the time and was paid a visit by the General.(3) A militia unit, the Oshkosh Guards, is formed - headed up by our Captain Gabe Bouck, formerly Captain of Co. E of the 2nd Wis.(7) The unit goes on to serve in the Spanish American War, Mexican Border service, and WW I evolving into part of Co. B of the 127th infantry of the 32nd Red Arrow Division

1877 - The GAR was in its unorganized phase of its history. Not one of the Wisconsin's top 6 political positions was occupied by a veteran. (4)

1879 - Nearby Berlin, Wisconsin surviving the GAR's lean years, had the oldest continuously active GAR Post in the country.(4)

1880 - General Grant visits Oshkosh with much fanfare of whistles blowing and cannons booming. Mr. Athearn, livery stable owner, provided horses and carriage elaborately trimmed in red, white, and blue, and provide the General with a tour of the city. (3) The Oshkosh Rifles, another militia unit is organized and goes on to serve in the Spanish American War, and WW I evolving into part of Co. H of the 127th infantry of the 32nd Red Arrow Division. (7)

1882 - The 2nd Wisconsin held a re-union encampment in Oshkosh.(4)

1884 - The Wis. Dept. of the SUV, with six Camps, has their first Dept. Encampment.

1885 - The original Old Abe Camp SUV is organized.

1886 - The city donates a plot of land designated as the GAR burial plot at Riverside Cemetery. Phil Sheridan Corps. #38 of the Womens Relief Corp. is also organized this year.(7)

1887 - The GAR was by this time in full power, compared to its status in 1877, now the Lt. Governor's office was the only top office NOT held by a veteran.(4)

1888- The cities second GAR Post, John W. Scott #241 was chartered.

1893 - Colonel J. A. Watrous writes an article aimed towards other GAR and SUV members in Wisconsin. He foretells the end of the GAR, and how the SUV will be here to keep the memory of the GAR from fading. How the SUV will ensure the GAR's Memorial Day services will be observed after the GAR is gone. He calls upon the SUV to carry on the work of their fathers, and he criticizes the GAR in Wisconsin for being self indulgent and not supportive enough of the SUV. In another article, M. C. Philips, Dept. Sr. Vice Commander, refers to the Old Abe Camp as the largest in Wisconsin. The Wis. Dept. now has 56 Camps.(5)

1894 - Nathan Paine Camp #80 SUV is organized in Oshkosh.

1907 - Wis. Dept. GAR encampment is held in Oshkosh, during which the soldiers monument downtown is unveiled. Nathan Paine Camp #77 SUV is organized, in Omro Lincoln #55 SUV Camp is organized.

1914 - A statue of Carl Schurz, famous statesman, editor, and CW General was unveiled at the foot of Washington Blvd.(3)

1917 - Camp Bragg Memorial Park is dedicated to the memory of the 21st and 32nd Wisconsin. Held in conjunction with the 40th annual reunion of the 32nd , and attended by about 40 members and guests of the 21st and 32nd. Due to bad weather the ceremonies were held at the John W. Scott GAR Post hall on Merritt street, several blocks from the park.

1924 - Wis. Dept. representatives from the SUV meet with members of GAR Sheridan Post #10 in Oshkosh to discuss the formation of a new SUV Camp. Post #10 voted in favor of supporting a new Camp, stating they hoped the new group would continue their patriotic mission. At first they desired to

be named after a previous Camp, Nathan Paine.

1925 - The new Camp is being organized. The newspaper states that recent rule changes in the GAR allow for SUV members to be granted honorary membership in the GAR. The organization is hoped to supplement work being performed by the Ladies of the GAR, WRC, and the Daughters of Veterans in the area.

1926 - the last SUV Camp, General T. S. Allen, is organized. The chartering meeting was attended by 125 people, including representatives of the Allied Orders.

1932- Major Rufus Dawes, one time commander of the Iron Brigade visited Oshkosh.(3)

1935 - GAR Wisconsin Department encampment has held in Oshkosh. (3)

An important GAR benefactor in Oshkosh was Col. John Hicks, owner of the Oshkosh Northwestern. Not a military Colonel but a citizen of high ranking. Hicks was a son of a veteran, his father was a member of the 32nd Wis., killed in battle at Binmakea's Bridge.

It was the money and influence of Col. Hicks that provided for many of the monuments in this area, and an endowment from him continues to provide funding for the upkeep of various monuments to this day.

The space in time between 1926 and 1998, 72 years, is pretty much devoid of acknowledgement of the GAR or SUV in local history. In 1996 I was encouraged to join the SUVCW by Ernst Frankenburg, then Commander of Camp #4 in West Bend. After realizing the CW history the local area contained, the Novak's with encouragement from Steve Michaels, Dept Commander, began thinking about organizing a Camp in the Fox Cities area. At this time Paul Stache of Potter Wis. also expressed his wish in seeing a Camp established in this area.

Why Oshkosh? - it's no different than any other community. The story of our fraternities history in this community can be repeated for just about any city or town. Each had its share of CW heroes, which all the veterans were. A new Camp could just have easily been started in Appleton, or Omro, and maybe should have been. But convenience for the people organizing something like this probably has a lot of influence on it's location. I encourage members of Camp #8 to look upon this Camp not necessarily as an Oshkosh group, but a regional one. The areas that each of us reside in contain more than enough projects to keep us all busy in our task of representing the SUVCW and the GAR.

I would like to close with a couple of paragraphs taken from the book "When Oshkosh went to war". It refers to the final days of the GAR in this community, and their annual procession to Riverside Cemetery in the spring of each year;

These survivors of Perryville, Shiloh, Antietam, Gettysburg, Cold Harbor, and dozens upon dozens of other locations, renowned or unknown, where they fought or skirmished or did camp duty or caught fever or languished in captivity; these men who somehow made it back, continued to receive the community's recognition and gratitude.

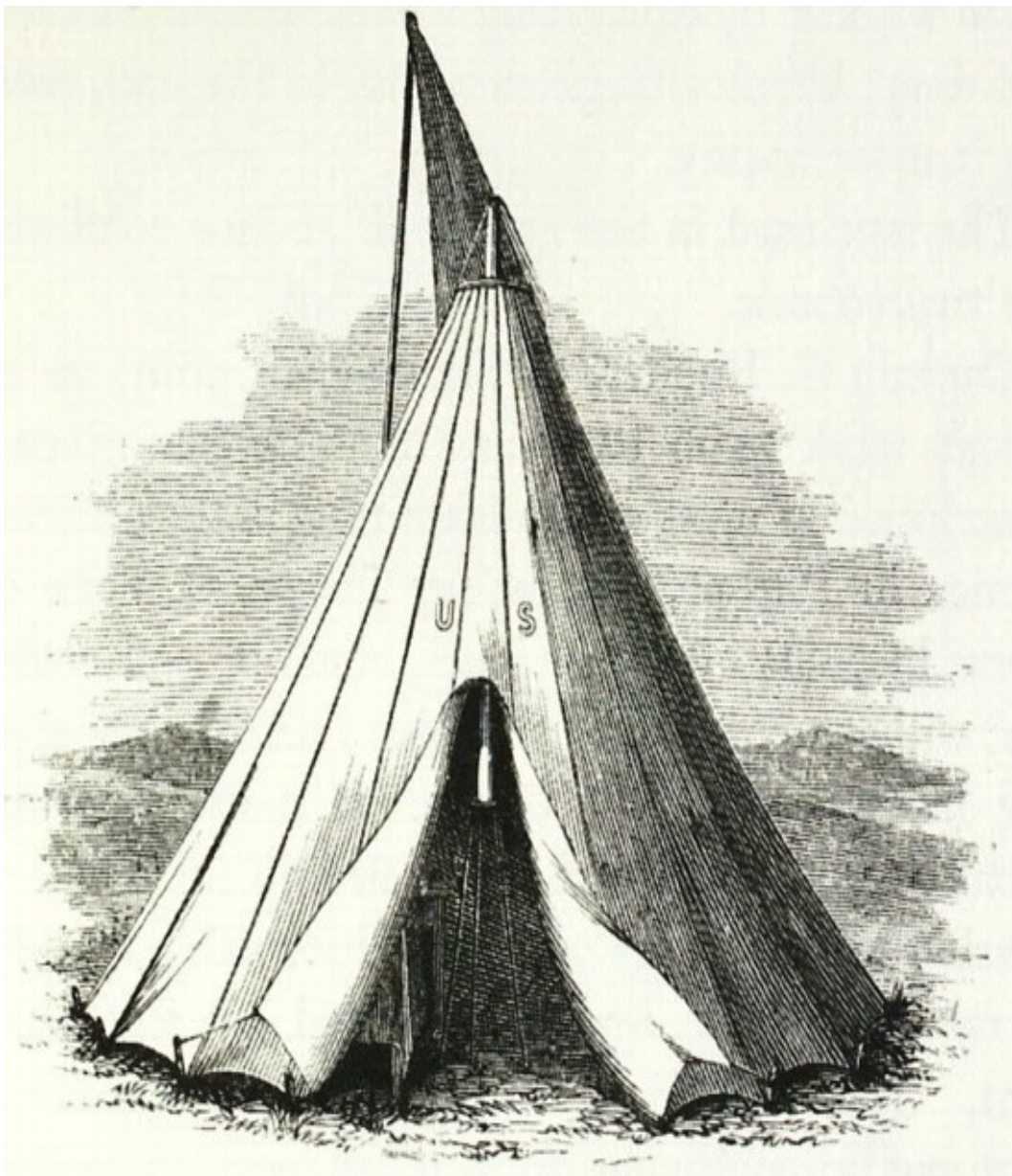
Generations stood attentive and inspired as the men in blue resolutely fulfilled their Memorial Day obligations, marching as they had learned to march in the bloom of their manhood, to Riverside Cemetery.

Marching, then walking, then shuffling as their ranks thinned and their steps became less sure.

Generations to whom Antietam was only a history book word and Shiloh Church was nothing more than a legend shrouded by the mists of time: They also paid homage as the stooped men of the Grand Army of the Republic rode stoically, solemnly in automobiles out Algoma Boulevard to meditate one more time amid the gravesites of their comrades.

Each of them was honored by their fellow citizens of Oshkosh - and deservedly so - so long as any of them lived.

- (1) History of Winnebago county.
- (2) Winnebago County History, 1908.
- (3) History of Oshkosh, 1938
- (4) History of Wisconsin, 1985
- (5) Illustrated History of Wisconsin, 1893
- (6) History Review, story of Oshkosh,
- (7) Oshkosh, 100 years a city, 1953
- (8) When Oshkosh went to war, 1997







**Echoes of the Past February 2011 – thanks to everyone who manned the booth, Special Thanks to Kirby Scott for all his hard work setting up and taking down! Huzzah, brother!**







MADISON, Wis. — The Wisconsin Historical Museum will soon feature an exhibit on the Civil War as part of the 150th anniversary of the war's start.

It will feature battlefield relics to home-front souvenirs for visitors to explore how people of that era responded, how they memorialized it, and how the experience of war and remembrance has changed over the past 150 years.

The exhibit, called "Civil War Memories and Mementos," will run Tuesday through Oct. 8. (from the Appleton Post Crescent, March 7, 2011 – from Camp Commander Vince Barker, who adds - I was at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum a couple weeks ago and their special exhibit room was in a state of total remodeling, so they may be gearing up for a special 150th exhibit as well. )

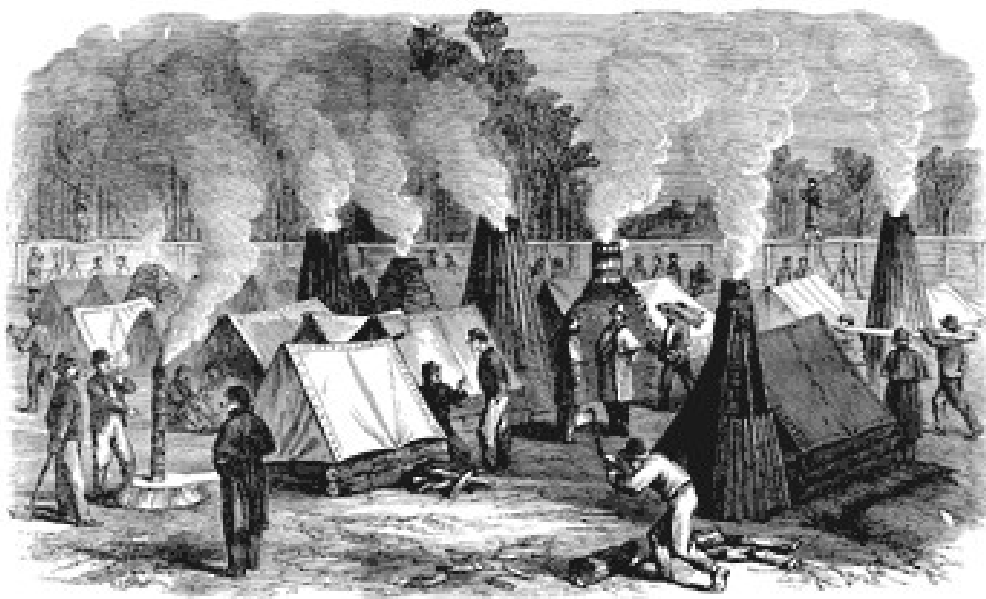
## OLD ABE CAMP MEETING MINUTES, JAN. 17,2011

1. Opening ceremony-about 7:20 P.M. (8 members present)
2. Roll call of officers: a. Commander-here. b. SVC-here. c. JVC-here. d. Secretary-here. e. Treasurer-here.
3. Minutes of Nov. 15, 2011 meeting. Correction Kathy Heltemes was the caller at the bingo event. Approved as corrected.
4. Treasurer's report: As of 12-31-10, \$3548.14 in checking & \$4100.00 in CD's. Raffle income is approx. \$932.57.
5. Any sick or distressed brothers or family? Dave Dresang finally got an explanation of his condition and still is feeling poorly. Dave was voted a hardship dues waiver unanimously. Sam Solberg is coming along well.
6. Introduction of visitors and guests: None.
7. New applications for review and acceptance? None.
8. Any bills and/or communications to address? a. Thank you from Brad Larsen for donation to Oshkosh Public Museum. b. Camp 8 was listed in the thank you's in the King newsletter.
9. Prior business: a. Raffle report. b. Check to Oshkosh Public Museum (third and last for Hancock Collection) was presented .
10. Past events: The dinner at Jimmie's White House was judged a great success.
11. . Future events: a. Feb. 5,2011-Waukesha-Dept. Mid-winter meeting & patriotic luncheon. b. Feb. 26-27,2011-Oshkosh-Echoes of the Past Trade Fair. c. Mar. 2011-Oshkosh Public Museum-possible Ancestor Research Day. d. Mar. 26,2011-CW history event at Kenosha Museum. Individuals only. e. Apr. 16,2011-Springfield, Ill.-Lincoln Tomb Ceremony. f. May 15,2011-King-King open house. g. May 21,2011-Butte des Morts-Plummer Cemetery grave dedication. 6 new stones. h. Apr. 22,2011?-Oshkosh?-Possible 150th Ft. Sumpter commemoration . i. Jun. 11,2011-Wisconsin Department Encampment. j. Aug. 27-28,2011-Stevens Point-CW living history & battle?- we are invited. k. Sept. 2011-Greenbush-Wade House CW event.
12. New business: a. 2011 Raffle prizes will be: 1st -pistol, 2nd -knife, 3rd -print. b. March Camp Meeting will be at the Oshkosh Public Museum. Watch emails.
13. Patriotic Instruction was cancelled due to low meeting turnout.
14. Any other old or new business? a. A work date for refurbishing the cannons at the Oshkosh Public Museum will be set . b. A motion was made by Kim Heltemes and seconded by Jim Schumann to spend \$200.00 for bronze GAR cemetery markers to be voted on at the next camp meeting.
15. Has anyone anything else for the good of the order? No.
16. Closing ceremonies. Approx. 9:00 P.M.

Submitted by PCC Alan O. Petit, Secretary Old Abe Camp #8, Dept. of Wisconsin



## **MIDWINTER MEETING 2011**



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**Respectfully submitted by James C. Schumann,  
Senior Vice Commander, Old Abe Camp 8  
March of 2011**



