



Camp Orders 2018-04

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Grand Army of the Republic

“Old Abe” Camp #8

Wisconsin Department

July 2018

Camp Summer Picnic will be held on Monday July 16th at 6:00pm with 7:00pm meeting at the home of Br. Kurt Kirk

W2154 Cottonville Court, Auroraville



Remember to bring utensils, a chair, and a dish to pass.

Please RSVP the Saturday before so I know how much meat to purchase and tables to line up if necessary.

To get to Kurt's house at W2154 Cottonville Ct, go north at the Hwy 21 and 49 intersection into Auroraville. Before the dam, at the Willow Inn, turn right on Cottonville Ct by the old store. Go down a few hundred yards and you will see a yellow house and garage. Coming from the North, follow 49 South and cross the dam, turning left at the Willow Inn. If you have any questions and to RSVP, please call 920-361-1194.

Please RSVP by Saturday July 14th for the Summer Picnic.

W2154 Cottonville Court, Auroraville

Brother Kurt Kirk (920) 361-1194

Please bring a dish to pass and a chair

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

CAMP COMMANDER
DENNIS R. JACOBS



Brothers,

It is hard to believe the year is half over. I am writing this column as I sit on the front porch of the Fort Howard Officer's Quarters at Heritage Hill. The camp was asked back this year to represent the GAR and to promote the camp. You could not have asked for a better weekend. Sunny and comfortable, which makes for a good event for everyone, reenactors and the general public. One of our Green Bay brothers stopped by the booth to chat, it was nice meeting Brother Calba in person, since he isn't able to make our meetings in Oshkosh.

I would like to congratulate Brother Kirby Scott who is now our new Senior Vice Commander for the Wisconsin Department. I would also like to congratulate Brother Brian Peters for being re-elected as Department Secretary and Brother William Parker for being re-elected as Department Chaplin. The camp hosted the Department Encampment this year at King Veterans Home, and it was a very good event.

Please take a moment to send your thoughts and prayers to Past Camp Commander William Parkers' father. He suffered a heart attack and had to have bi-pass surgery. He is home and on the mend, but not back to full strength yet.

Our next meeting is a potluck at Brother Kurt Kirk's house in Auroraville Wisconsin. I hope to see many of you there.

In F, C and L

Dennis R Jacobs

Commander Old Abe Camp 8

**CIVIL WAR AT OLD
WADE HOUSE**

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED TO WORK**

THE BOOTH

**SEPTEMBER 23RD
AND 24TH**

OLD WADE HOUSE

**GREENBUSH,
WISCONSIN**

Camp Booth at Heritage Hill State
Historical Park Civil War weekend
June 23rd & 24th

Photograph by CC Dennis R.Jacobs



OLD ABE CAMP 8 IN ACTION



Memorial Day 2018 - Brothers Brian Peters, Kirby Scott, Kim Heltemes at the lake side ceremony for King Veterans Home.

Photograph by Br Kirby Scott



Brothers Bill Parker and Kim Heltemes participated in a Civil War day for Manitowoc schools on May 15, 2018.

Photographs by Br Bill Parker



Volunteers needed for Fond du Lac
Historical Society Annual Ice
Cream Social

Sunday August 12, 2018

Contact Camp Commander

Dennis Jacobs

Denmergb@hotmail.com



135th Department of Wisconsin
Encampment June 2nd, 2018. (Lrft)

Department Commander Alan Petit
presenting a gift to National Senior Vice
Commander Donald W. Shaw

(Below)

Delegation visiting the Auxiliary during the
Department Encampment,

Photograph by PCC Kirby Scott



Memorial program at the grave of Moses Ladd as part of our Department Encampment.

Photographs by Br. Kirby Scott

2018 Camp Calendar

July 14th, 10 Am

Iron Brigade Highway Marker Dedication

Location: US Hwy 12 & Sauk Cty Hwy PF

August 4th

Winnebago Last Soldier Dedication and other Dedications

Location: Riverview Cemetery, Oshkosh

August 9th – 12th

National Encampment

Location: Framingham, MA

August 12th, 9 AM

Ice Cream Social

Location: Fond Du Lac County Historical Society

September 17th, 7:00 PM

Camp 8 regular meeting

Location: Fire House #17 1813 Algoma Blvd Oshkosh WI

September 29th & 30th

Wade House Civil War Weekend

Location: Wade House, Greenbush, WI.

November 12th

Camp 8 Annual Bean Dinner, Meeting and Camp Elections

Location: Fire House #17 1813 Algoma Blvd Oshkosh WI

Please send information on events that you are aware of to be included in this newsletter to: dennergb@hotmail.com

FEDERAL MILITARY ON THE EVE OF WAR

BY

PAUL JOHNSON

CAMP 8 PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

By December 1860, the Army's authorized strength totaled about 18,000 officers and men, but only 16,367 were on the rolls.

Of these, 1,108 were commissioned officers, four were general officers (one major general who served as the commanding general and three brigadier generals), and the rest were either line officers assigned to the regiments or staff officers serving in the War Department. There were 361 staff officers assigned to the nine bureaus and departments, all of which were headed by colonels, although several held staff brevets of brigadier general. The bureau chiefs were men of long service, averaging sixty-four years of age, with six over seventy. The 743 line officers served in the regiments: 351 in the infantry, 210 in the artillery, and 182 in the mounted units. As with the bureau chiefs in the War Department, the nineteen regimental colonels were mostly old men set in their ways. They ranged in age from forty-two to eighty, the average being sixty-three.

The officers in each regimental headquarters consisted of a colonel, a lieutenant colonel, two majors, an adjutant, and a quartermaster. The adjutant and quartermaster were lieutenants detailed from the line companies except in the mounted regiments which were authorized additional lieutenants for the headquarters. The enlisted staff included a sergeant major, a quartermaster sergeant, and a chief musician. Infantry and artillery regiments were each authorized twenty musicians while mounted regiments had two chief buglers. Because Congress in 1850 had authorized units in the West to receive more men than those in the East,

regimental strength could vary significantly.

Theoretically a regiment in the West could have as many as nine hundred soldiers, but no regiment ever reached that size. With recruitment and desertion being perennial problems, a typical regiment averaged 300 to 400 enlisted men with 1 or 2 officers and 30 to 40 men in each company. With ten infantry and five mounted regiments of ten companies each (the 8th Infantry had only nine) and four artillery regiments of twelve companies each, there were a total of 197 line, or combat, companies in the United States Army on the eve of the Civil War. Of these, only eighteen, all artillery, were stationed east of the Mississippi River.

Regular Army Before the Civil War by Clayton R. Newell,
Center of Military History United States Army
Washington, D.C., 2014

With the outbreak of War. Lincoln was face with raising a much larger force. President Lincoln issued an official proclamation declaring that the Confederate states were in rebellion against the U.S. Lincoln asked for 75,000 volunteers to join their state militias to help put down the rebellion, and he called for a special session of Congress to assemble on July 4.

However, Lincoln's proclamation sparked intense outrage in the states still considering secession: Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, most of Tennessee, Kentucky, and Missouri. Three of these six would ultimately secede in defiance of Lincoln's call.

Lincoln never actually asked congress to call up the militia. Under the Militia Act of 1792, Congressional action would only allow only 90 days of involvement. Rather he asked that states send "volunteers for Federal service.

The Union Army was made up of the permanent regular army of the United States, but further fortified, augmented, and strengthened by the many temporary units of dedicated volunteers as well as including those who were drafted in to service as conscripts. To this end, the Union Army fought and ultimately triumphed over the efforts of the Confederate Army in the American Civil War.

Over the course of the war, 2,128,948 men enlisted in the Union Army, including 178,895 colored troops; 25% of the white men who served were foreign-born. Of these soldiers, 596,670 were killed, wounded or went missing. The initial call-up was for just three months, after which many of these men were asked to reenlist for an additional three years.

Federal

- Infantry 19 Regular Regiments
- 2,125 Volunteer Regiments
- 60 Volunteer Battalions
- 351 Separate Companies
- Artillery 5 Regular Regiments
- 61 Volunteer Regiments
- 17 Volunteer Battalions
- 408 Separate Batteries
- Cavalry 6 Regular Regiments
- 266 Volunteer Regiments
- 45 Battalions
- 78 Separate Companies

In 1860, Wisconsin had a population of 775,881 yet in the course of the war, it raised 91,379 soldiers (or about 11% of the population) for the Union Army, organized into 53 infantry regiments, 4 cavalry regiments, a company of Berdan's sharpshooters, 13 light artillery batteries and 1 unit of heavy artillery. Wisconsin provided the highest percentage of population to the war effort.

Most of the Wisconsin troops served in the Western Theater, although several regiments served in Eastern armies, including three regiments within the famed Iron Brigade. 3,802 were killed in action or mortally wounded, 7,464 died of disease, 604 died in PO camps, 212 from accidents and 219 from other causes. The total mortality was 12,301 men, about 13.4 percent of total enlistments.

They fought in every major battle of the Civil War. New recruits were trained in Milwaukee, Fond du Lac, Racine, and Madison. Camp Randall, Wisconsin's major training facility in Madison, also housed Confederate prisoners of war.

In the summer of 1861, after Lincoln called for volunteers, Gov. Randall issued a proclamation for Wisconsin volunteers. Although President Lincoln requested only one regiment, enough recruits came forward to fill several. By the end of October 1861, eight regiments of Wisconsin soldiers had left the state for the front.

The State supplied soldiers with weapons and accoutrements from the federal government, but the respective militia members privately selected and purchased uniforms. As far as uniforms were concerned, there was very little uniformity across militia units; they were free to choose uniform styles as they saw fit, and this resulted in an array of colors and styles. The Milwaukee Light Guard, the state's most active militia unit, wore a dress uniform consisting of a double-breasted coat, faced and piped in white, and topped with a bearskin hat. Others, like the Racine Zouave Cadets, made an attempt to copy the Algerian-inspired French military uniforms that were the sartorial rage among many eastern United States militia units.

Only after the state quartermaster issued uniforms to the first volunteers at the outset of the war was uniformity achieved. Gray was the traditional color of state militias in the United States, and so it was natural that Wisconsin's quartermaster initially selected that color for the state-issued uniforms. In the summer of 1861, the state provided gray frock coats or short gray jackets to the first eight infantry regiments.

This proved disastrous for the 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry at the First Battle of Bull Run, when it was mistaken for a Confederate unit and fired upon by the 79th New York Infantry Regiment On September 2, 1861, the problem was addressed when Governor Randall received a letter from US Army Headquarters, ordering Wisconsin soldiers be outfitted in dark blue wool uniforms. Still, the transition from gray to blue for the first eight

was not complete until the end of 1861, when the 8th infantry regiment was the last to receive its initial issue of blue uniforms. Wisconsin did not maintain an extensive armory system as nearly all of the arms were in the hands of volunteer militia companies, and in any case the numbers of small arms were low. The state-issued arms were a mixture of U.S. rifled muskets; flintlock conversions, smoothbore muskets, (1815 Harper Valley .60 cal converted musket to caplock) did the quality of arms improve.

OLD ABE CAMP MEETING MINUTES, MAY 21, 2018

1. Opening meeting-7:13 P.M. Fire Station #17 Oshkosh
2. Roll call of officers: (six members present)
 - CC-present.
 - SVC-present.
 - JVC-present.
 - Sec.-present.
 - Treas-present.
3. Treasurer's report: \$8079.75-total on hand. \$2625.74-in checking. CD1-\$1032.91. CD2-4421.10.
4. Sick or distressed brothers. NONE.
5. Guests and/or visitors. NONE.
6. New members. NONE.
7. Prior business:
 - a. 2018 Dept. encampment-Jun. 2 at king Vet's. Home. Ribbons done. Will eat out. Registration is \$7.00. Cemetary service will be Moses Ladd. See Kim Heltemes.
 - b. Last soldier project. Six markers approved. See List: Brown, Outagamie, Winnebago, Waupaca, Waushara, & Wood counties.
 - c. Waupaca Co. cemetery index. See Waupaca Geneological Society and K. Heltemes.
 - d. Grave dedications. Riverside Oshkosh. Louis Pues & William Stuelke. Tentative date Aug 4, 2018
 - e. Raffle. 100 tickets printed @ \$10.00 ea. Prizes set.
8. New business:
 - a. Revised set of by-laws presented. Cleans up the nat'l. G.O. 18 stuff. Will vote on it at Jul. 18 .
9. Past Events;
 - a. Little Chute dedication-May 19. Went well small turn out. Late notice.
 - b. King Open House-May 20. Went well.
 - c. Lincon tomb ceremony-Apr 14. Went well K. Heltemes attended.
- 10.. New events:
 - a. Memorial Day-May 28-King. Use our big Flag?
 - b. Department Encampment-Jun. 2-King. All should attend.
 - c. Pinecrest Village CW event- Jun.2-3.
 - d. Heritage Hill CW event-Jun.23-24.
 - e. Camp summer cook out-Jul. 16. Kurt's place.
11. Any communications and/or bills to address? NONE
12. Any new or old business. Matt Arndt was voted a hardship membership for 2018. Two ROTC awards were presented by the camp.
13. Patriotic Insruction. See the newsletter.
14. Anyboby do anything for the good of the ordrr? NO.
15. Closed. 8:24 P.M.

Camp Officers for 2018

Commander

Dennis R Jacobs – 329 N. Jackson Street #5 Green Bay, WI 54301
(920) 471-7824 dennergb@hotmail.com

Sr. Vice Commander

Kurtis Kirk - W2154 Cottonville Court. Berlin, WI 54923
(920) 361-1194 kkirk000@centurytel.net

Jr. Vice Commander

Ron Arndt – N10998 Town Hall Road Marion, WI 54950
(715) 754-4842 roliarndt@frontiernet.net

Secretary

PCC Alan Petit - E7602 Cutoff Road. New London, WI 54961
(920) 982-2374 apetitsucvw@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Kurtis Kirk - W2154 Cottonville Court. Berlin, WI 54923
(920) 361-1194 kkirk000@centurytel.net

Patriotic Instructor

Paul Johnson - 8804 Pine Lake Road Hiles, WI 54511
(715) 649-3359 johhnson@newnorth.net

Chaplain

PCC William Parker- 351 17th Street North WI. Rapids, WI 54494
(715) 451-1330 parkerwilliam405@gmail.com

Delegate

Paul Johnson - 8804 Pine Lake Road Hiles, WI 54511
(715) 649-3359 johhnson@newnorth.net

Graves Registration

PCC Vince Barker - W6109 Colonial Drive Appleton, WI 54914
(920) 993-0676 vbarker@new.rr.com

Memorials

PCC Kim Heltemes - W2570 Archer Avenue Pine River, WI 54965
(920) 987-5911 heltemesk@vbe.com

Historian

PCC Kirby Scott - 2545 West Waukau Avenue #6 Oshkosh, WI 54904
(920) 858-1916 kirby.scott.camp8@gmail.com

Camp Council

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Camp Council

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Camp 8 Newsletter

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NEXT OLD ABE CAMPE 8 MEETING July 16th

Picnic starts at 6:00pm at
W2154 Cottonville Court
Auroraville, WI.

Meeting starts at 7:00PM
After the cookout

**Wear Your
Membership Badge**

OSHKOSH and the OLD ABE Camp

In 1885 the Old Abe Camp, located in Oshkosh, was the largest SUV camp in Wisconsin. Old Abe was the famous mascot of the 8th Wisconsin Infantry, popularly known as the Eagle Brigade, a unit heavily involved in the campaigns of the western armies. Old Abe the battle eagle became a real war hero - used for recruiting during the war's later years, attending veterans reunions for years after, and finally becoming a National icon for Wisconsin.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT US

Contact the officers on page 13 of this newsletter. Visit the Department of Wisconsin website, and Camp 8 WebPages, at www.suvcw-wi.org. Also, visit the national SUVCW website at www.suvcw.org. Camp 8 also has a Facebook page at www.facebook.com/pages/Old-Abe-Camp-8-Sons-of-Union-Veterans-of-the-Civil-War-SUVCW/192313178329.

Membership is open to male descendants of a Union Civil War soldier. Application is made through National, Department, or local channels to become a member of a Camp. Some documentation about your ancestor is required – assistance is available through the Camp.

Membership is also available for males who cannot prove lineage to a Civil War soldier.

The initial dues for a new member are pro-rated through the year, and an initiation fee does apply.

Contact the Jr. Vice officer below for information.

Join Old Abe Camp 8! Membership

\$40.00/yr. Annual Dues*

For New Membership, Contact:

Jr. Vice Ron Arndt

**N10998 Town Hall Rd, Marion, WI
54901**

(715) 754-4842

roliarndt@frontiernet.net



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**Old Abe Camp 8 Sons of Union
Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW)**