



Camp Orders 2019-02
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Grand Army of the Republic
“Old Abe” Camp #8
Wisconsin Department



**Camp March 18th Meeting Will Be Held At Oshkosh Fire Station
#17, 1813 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI**



Our March meeting, Monday, March 18th, is being held at Oshkosh Fire Station #17, 1813 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI.

This fire station is located at the southern end of Riverside Cemetery in Oshkosh, WI. Parking will be in back of the fire station where the red arrow is.

- Meeting Directions -

Coming from the north or south take Hwy 41 to exit 120. After exiting head into the city of Oshkosh on Algoma Blvd. Drive on Algoma Blvd past the large cemetery on your right which will be Riverside Cemetery. At the end Riverside Cemetery you will see Fire Station #17 just before the intersection of Algoma Blvd & West Murdock Avenue.

From Waupaca & the west take Hwy 45 straight into Oshkosh. Hwy 45 becomes Algoma Blvd once you pass over Hwy 41. Stay on Algoma Blvd & go past the large cemetery on your right which will be Riverside Cemetery. At the end Riverside Cemetery you will see Fire Station #17 just before the

Camp Commander

Kim J. Heltemes



Commander's Comments

Brothers,

Thanks to the members that helped with Bingo at the Veterans Home in January. We ate at the new restaurant nearby and had our meeting there. I wish more members were there for our annual dinner meeting.

Spring is just around the corner. We need to start planning some of our events. We have 5 Last Soldier markers to install and hold dedications for those soldiers. The Oshkosh marker was installed last summer so we need to do that one also.

April 13 is the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield, IL. I know there will be at least 2 from the camp going for the weekend. See the National website for the paperwork to send in if you want to go.

The King Open House is on May 18. We need people to attend the tent and display. You do not need a uniform to attend this event. Just wear your membership badge. This is a great event to recruit. We need more members and it is a good way to talk to the public.

Don't forget Memorial Day. We are all about honoring our ancestors and this is the day the Sons can do the most to honor them. Spend the day in the cemetery with our honored dead. Clean a headstone or clean a gravesite. Attend the local ceremonies. Picnic in the cemetery in the G.A.R. plots like our ancestors did before us. Lay flowers at the headstone of a veteran. Most of all, remember them – the reason the Sons exist.

We are planning a ceremony for the Wood County Last Soldier marker. It will probably be held in Sept. or early October. We will discuss this at the meeting. It will be a large event with the Wisconsin Rapids Police Dept. and VFW. It also involves the Wood County Historical Society. Bill Parker is working to set it up but we will need our members there to have a good event. When we get a date set, please mark your calendars.

We had the Echoes of the Past event in Oshkosh on Feb 23, 24. Only 2 of us worked the tables all weekend. We could have used more help. Granted the weather was lousy but it was a commitment the camp made.

We are planning on having a raffle. Suggestions welcome as to what to have for prizes

See you at the March 18 meeting at the Oshkosh Fire Station.

Yours in F, C, & L,

Kim J. Heltemes

Wisconsin
Veterans Home
Upcoming events

May 18th

Open House and
Car Show

10:00 AM - 3:00
PM

May 27th

Memorial Day

9:30 AM - 11:00
AM

King, WI

2019 Camp Calendar

March 18th, 7:00 PM

Camp 8 regular meeting

Location: Fire House #17 1813 Algoma Blvd Oshkosh WI

April 13th, 10:00AM

Lincoln Tomb Ceremony

Location: Lincoln Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, IL

May 18th, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Veterans Home Open House and Car Show

Location: Wisconsin Veterans Home, King, WI

May 20th, 7:00 PM

Camp 8 regular meeting

Location: Fire House #17 1813 Algoma Blvd Oshkosh WI

May 27th

Memorial Day

Location: King Veterans Home, King, WI.

June 1st & 2nd 10:00 Am – 4:00 PM

Civil War Event

Location: Pincrest Historical Village, Manitowoc, WI

June 8th

Department Encampment

GAR Hall, Boscobel, WI

June 15th & 16th 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Civil War Event

Heritage Hill State Park 2640 S. Webster Ave, Green Bay, WI

July 15th, 7:00 PM

Camp 8 regular meeting & picnic

Location: TBA

September 16th, 7:00 PM

Camp 8 regular meeting

Location: Fire House #17 1813 Algoma Blvd Oshkosh WI

September 28th & 29th

Wade House Civil War Weekend

Location: Wade House, Greenbush, WI.

November 18th

Camp 8 Annual Bean Dinner, Meeting and Camp Elections

Location: TBA

Camp In Action

Echoes of the Past Trade Fair, Oshkosh, Wisconsin February 22nd & 23rd, 2019



Sister Kathy Heltemes and Camp Commander Kim Heltemes talking to visitors at the booth during Echoes of the Past.

Photograph by SDC Kirby Scott



Left
Brother Sam Solberg at the Ashland Museum giving a talk on Civil War. Photograph by Brother Sam Solberg

Below
PCC Dennis Jacobs receiving his Past Commander's certificate from DC Brian McManus at the Mid-Winter meeting Photograph by CC Kim Heltemes



Patriotic Instruction

By

Paul Johnson

Camp Followers

A reality for almost all conflicts in history, including present day, Afghanistan has been camp followers, while it may mean what you think it means in some cases, this expression has been corrupted into a synonym for prostitutes who follow army camps, but it historically referred to all civilians, male and female, associated with the military. Followers accompanied military units to pursue profit, find employment, or remain with loved ones. American military forces have always had such followers; their number, kind, activities, and administration, however, have changed over time.

During the Civil War it was up to the colonel of the regiment to approve who could officially be a part of any given encampment and often a part of the baggage train

Perhaps the most ubiquitous camp followers were the sutlers, who were often appointed from the government to sell goods to the soldiers. Many of their prices were very high, but when there was a need for a specific supply, the soldiers had to pay no matter what the price. Sutlers were sometimes not looked upon favorably. This was for both the Union and Confederate armies.

Sutler (or suttler) was defined as: a camp follower who sold supplies to the soldiers. The term came into English language from the Dutch. There it was a soetelaar or zoetelaar. It originally meant “one who does dirty work, a drudge, a scullion”.



Civil War Sutlers Tent

The sutlers would sell items that were not provided by the government or items that should have been provided but never arrived to them on time. Peddlers were not allowed in camps, therefore, there weren't any competitors and many commanders of units also banned sutlers because they wanted the men to purchase items from the townspeople due to better prices and to help the town. In some cases, sutlers would have the men use “chits” that were only good at a specific sutler. (Chit: a voucher) Military rules would not allow sutlers to extend credit to more than a third of the soldier's monthly pay. The sutler would get his money from the paymaster before the soldier received his pay. Many times sutlers would show up on pay day and disappeared when goods were short or customers had used up all their credit.

Sutlers were also taxed by the military unit and a portion of the money would go to the band, education of children to those born to members of the regiment, stocking the library, or fruits and vegetables or special items to hospitalized wounded members.

The sutlers regulated under rules adopted in March of 1862 and appointed by a board comprised of senior officers.

Sutlers were, for instance, prohibited from extending credit for more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of a soldier pay and many of the prices they charged were controlled. Violations could result in a sutler being de-commissioned and prohibited from ever being re-appointed.

Sutlers sold everything from tobacco and old newspapers, to sugar for the soldier's coffee and the coffee itself. They sold playing cards, cigars, ink, pocket mirrors, combs and brushes, pencils and paper, sewing kits, and sometimes even alcohol. Their list of items for sale to the soldiers included most anything that was of non-military nature and which the government was not already providing the soldiers.

Perhaps the next most common camp followers were laundresses. Only women of good character were allowed to be a laundress or “washer woman” in the civil war camps as stated in the Union army’s 1861 Military Hand Book and Soldier’s Manual of Information. Each woman had to obtain a “Certificate of Good Character” from the army headquarters before she was allow to assume duty within the lines.

With certificate in hand she was granted an official status in the army camps to be the company laundress while other women, including officer’s wives were given the status of “camp followers.” She was considered a very important person in the company. The company captain generally appointed the laundresses and with their appointment they received housings, a daily ration of food, and the services of the surgeons.



Laundress with, perhaps, her husband and family

The laundress was usually married to one of the soldiers in the company with which she served and in some cases it was expected that she should be a relative to one of the soldiers in the company. For instance, Mrs.Hannah O’Neil went to war with her son in Company H of the 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry; and The State Journal both reported and opined “The wife (Mary, age 20) of Sergeant (Byron) Williams of Company I, 7th regiment (from Waushara county, I believe) died in camp of typhoid fever on Sunday morning the 10th inst. She was sick but eight days.

The camp of the soldier is no place for a woman either to live or to die in. Patriotism and love for her kindred may induce a woman to surrender the comforts and quiet of home for the privations and hardships of the camp but it is no place for her, and in nine cases out of ten she will be more an inconvenience than an advantage, either as a nurse or a "laundress,"

Each company in the Union army was allowed up to four laundresses’

Other camp followers would be civilians employ by the army or regiment such as waggoners, spies, clerks, copyists, barbers, tailors nurses, Vivandier/Cantineers and so on. Occasionally an individual with specific skills, such as a photographer or dentist would make the rounds of many camps to ply their trade.

Keep In Mind

136th

Wisconsin

Department

Encampment

June 8, 2019

G.A.R. Hall

Boscobel, WI

Old Abe Camp 8 Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2019

Place: Magdalenes, Waupaca, WI

Time: 3:30 pm

Attending: Ron Arndt, Bill Parker, Tim Nitzske, Brian Peters, Kim Heltemes

Roll Call

Commander here

SVC absent

JVC here

Sec absent

Treasurer Absent

Last meeting minutes

Motion to approve by Tim, second by Ron to approve as written. Approved

Prior Business: Notified everyone that dues are due. Please pay them.

Past business: Wreaths Across America

Elections

Future Business: Last Soldier project was discussed. Veterans Home will not allow marking last soldier in state cemetery. Possibility of making a wall plaque with the marker and hanging it in the Home. Some locations mentioned were Museum, Chapel, or by Sons fountain.

Bill said he would mark Wood, Portage, and Adams Counties.

Motion: by Bill Parker to buy 10 more last soldier markers. 2nd by Brian. Carried.

Talked about the Oshkosh last soldier marker not dedicated and also headstone dedication there not done. We need to schedule a dual dedication for Riverside Cemetery, Oshkosh. Headstone dedication for the Peeters family.

Future events: Motion by Brian and seconded by Bill to donate \$100 to the Dept Patriotic Fund at the Mid-Winter meeting.

Need our display redone. Talked about a poster that says "We are not Re-enactors", "Join Us", and a timeline of the organization from the GAR to the Sons to the VFW to educate the public.

Raffle. We agreed to have a raffle license this year. Haven't decided on prizes yet.

Motion: by Ron and second by by Tim to spend \$200 towards a bench for the Veterans Home along with the Aux, depending on the Aux approving a bench at the Mid-Winter meeting. It was approved.

Adjourn: 4:20 pm

Sincerely,

Kim J. Heltemes (for Dennis Jacobs)

Camp Officers for 2019

Commander

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Ian Smith

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Camp 8 Newsletter
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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 9 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)**