



Camp Orders 2019-03
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Grand Army of the Republic
“Old Abe” Camp #8
Wisconsin Department



**Camp May 20th Meeting Will Be Held At Oshkosh Fire Station
#17, 1813 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI**



Our March meeting, Monday, May 20th, 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,

The summer months are upon us. With summer comes dedications and graveyard work. I am ordering 3 headstones, one is for an unmarked grave and 2 are replacement markers. We will need to install them. Also, we have to place 5 of the neighboring counties Last Soldier markers and have the dedications for each. We are going to be busier than we have in the past few years. The camp used to be much busier than we have been. The dedications will help keep us focused on what we are all about – honoring our ancestors. Please plan on helping us out, whether in helping install the markers or being there for the dedications. Remember, you do not need to buy a uniform. The only requirement is to wear your membership badge. We have enough members with uniforms to be the honor guard.

The Open House at King is May 19. We usually set up by 9 am. It runs to about 4 pm. We need your help meeting the public. It is a good recruiting time and we need to do recruiting. These are the people interested in veteran organizations, have family history in American wars, and are like minded. They value the veterans. Please make the event.

The next day, May 20, is the Camp meeting at the firehouse in Oshkosh at 7 pm. I have resurrected the practice of eating before the meeting so we have been meeting at Dairy Queen on Murdock St. a block west of Jackson St. at 6 pm. Please join us.

September 14, 2019, has been set for the Wood County Last Soldier marker dedication. This is going to be a big event with the Wisconsin Rapids Police Dept and the local VFW. It takes place at 1 pm. We need to have a noticeable presents at this dedication. With ample warning, you should be able to plan on being there. Again, wear your badge.

None of this can be done without you. You are the ones that will make these events a success or not. Let's get back to being active and recognizable in the public eye for what we do and for what we are all about.

Yours in F, C, & L,

PDC Kim J. Heltemes
Camp Commander

Wisconsin
Veterans Home
Upcoming events

May 19th

Open House and
Car Show

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

May 27th

Memorial Day

9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

King, WI

2019 Camp Calendar

May 19th, 9:00 AM - 4:00 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 14th, 1:00 PM

Wood County Last Soldier Dedication

Location:

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

Lincoln's Tomb Ceremony April 13, 2019 Springfield, Illinois



Camp Commander Kim J. Heltemes representing both Old Abe Camp 8 and MOLLUS at the ceremony.
Photographs by CC Kim J. Heltemes



Camp Commander Heltemes visited Lincoln's New Salem and stopped by the Berry Lincoln Store.
Photograph by CC Kim J. Heltemes



WI Dept. SVC & Old Abe Camp 8 member, Kirby Scott, presents ROTC Cadet Christopher Rosene the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War Ulysses S. Grant award at the Fox Valley Senior ROTC Battalion Spring Awards Ceremony held at the Reeve Memorial Union on the UW-Oshkosh campus on May 2, 2019.

Photograph by WI Dept SVC Kirby Scott

**Keep In Mind
136th
Wisconsin
Department
Encampment
June 8, 2019
G.A.R. Hall
Boscobel, WI**

Upcoming Civil War Events

Pinecrest Historical Village - Manitowoc, Wisconsin

Saturday June 1st 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM & Sunday June 2nd 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Heritage Hill State Park - Green Bay, Wisconsin

Saturday June 15th 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM & Sunday June 16th 10:00 AM - 3:30 PM



Patriotic Instruction

By

Paul Johnson



Old Abe

Old Abe (May 1861 – March 26, 1881), a female bald eagle, was the mascot of the 8th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment in the American Civil War. Later, her image was adopted as the eagle appearing on a globe in Case Corporation's logo and as the screaming eagle on the insignia of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division.

Old Abe was captured by Ahgamahwegezhig or "Chief Sky". He was the son of Ah-mous (translated either as "The Little Bee" or "Thunder of Bees"), who was an influential leader of the Lac du Flambeau Ojibwe.



In spring of 1861, Chief Sky set up a hunting and fishing camp near the South Fork of the Flambeau River, within the present day Chequamegon National Forest, east of Park Falls, Wisconsin. Here, he noticed a treetop nest, with two fledgling eagles, and to capture them, cut down the tree. One eaglet died from the fall, and the other became the young Indian's pet. That summer, Chief Sky and his father canoed down the Chippewa River on a trading expedition. At Jim Falls, Wisconsin, they encountered Daniel McCann, who lived nearby in Eagle Point. The Indians sold the eagle to McCann in exchange for a bushel of corn.

In August 1861, John C. Perkins, assisted by Seth Pierce, Frank McGuire, Thomas G. Butler and Victor Wolf, recruited a company of volunteers from Eau Claire and Chippewa Counties. This company was called the "Eau Claire Badgers". Soon after its formation, McCann offered to sell the eagle to the Badgers, for \$2.50. In his "History of Old Abe", published in 1865, Joseph O. Barrett, who helped McCann bring the eagle to Eau Claire, gave a description of the transaction, which can be paraphrased as:

"Will you buy my eagle," said McCann, "only two dollars and a half?"



"Here, boys, let's put in twenty five cents apiece," answered Frank McGuire, who began to collect quarters. He also solicited a contribution from a civilian, S. M. Jeffers, but was rebuffed. When the soldiers heard of this, they accosted Jeffers, and gave him three lusty groans. When he understood that they were protesting against his reluctance to help buy the eagle, Jeffers laughed, paid for the bird with a Quarter Eagle and presented her to the Company. After that, he had cheers instead of groans. The quarters were returned to the donors.

Captain Perkins named the eagle after President Abraham Lincoln, his quartermaster, Francis L. Billings, made a special perch on which to carry the bird into battle, and a young soldier, James McGinnis, volunteered to take care of her.

As the newly formed company made its way to Madison, Wisconsin in the fall of 1861, word spread that they were carrying a live eagle at their head. Thousands gathered in La Crosse to see the eagle, and the scene repeated itself in Madison when they arrived at Camp Randall in September 1861.

After training at Camp Randall in Madison, Abe accompanied the regiment as it headed south. Old Abe witnessed 37 battles and skirmishes, including some of the bloodiest fighting at Vicksburg and Corinth, Mississippi. He became an inspirational symbol to the troops rather like the ceremonial flag carried by each regiment. Col. Rufus Dawes of the Iron Brigade recalled, "Our eagle usually accompanied us on the bloody field, and I heard [Confederate] prisoners say they would have given more to capture the eagle of the Eighth Wisconsin, than to take a whole brigade of men."

After Wisconsin took possession of Old Abe, state officials classified him as a "War Relic" and created an "Eagle Department" in the Capitol building, which included a two room "apartment," a custom bathtub for the eagle, and a caretaker. Later John Hill served in this capacity.

Old Abe became a nationally known celebrity, whose presence at events was requested by individuals and organizations from the state and the country. Old Abe appeared at the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the 1880 Grand Army of the Republic National Convention. Other events were fundraisers for charities, which included: the 1865 Northwest Sanitary Fair in Illinois, Soldiers' Home Fair, Soldier's Orphan's Home, Harvey Hospital, and Ladies Aid Society of Chippewa Falls.

In February 1881, a small fire broke out in the basement of the Capitol. After Old Abe raised an alarm, the fire was quickly put out. However, the eagle inhaled a large amount of thick black smoke, and about a month later, lost strength and began to decline. On March 26, 1881, in spite of the efforts of numerous doctors, Old Abe died in the arms of caretaker George Gilles.

On September 17, 1881, Old Abe's stuffed remains were placed in a glass display case located in the rotunda of the Capitol. Four years later, Old Abe was moved, within the Capitol, from the rotunda to the G.A.R. Memorial Hall. In 1900, his remains were transferred to the new building of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin. However, pressure from veterans convinced Governor Robert M. La Follette to return Old Abe to the Capitol building in 1903. That year, President Theodore Roosevelt viewed the remains and expressed his pleasure at being able to see the eagle he had studied in school as a child. In 1904, Old Abe's remains and the glass case were destroyed in a fire that razed the Capitol building.



Since 1915, a replica of Old Abe has presided over the Wisconsin State Assembly Chamber in the Capitol, and another is on display at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison. A stone sculpture of the eagle is at the top of the Camp Randall Arch.

YOU'RE INVITED!
 GEORGE H. HOUGHTON: CIVIL WAR CAMERAMAN

GEORGE H. HOUGHTON
 Civil War Cameraman

George H. Houghton: Civil War Cameraman will showcase many of Houghton's Civil War images while delving deep into what photography and a soldier's life was like during the time period. It is through Houghton, H.H. Bennett's uncle, that Bennett first learned the photographic arts.

SATURDAY | MAY 18
 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

H.H. Bennett Studio & Historic Site (Reese Gallery)
 215 Broadway, Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

2 PM presentation by Don Wickman, author of "A Very Fine Appearance" (Civil War photographs of George Houghton)
 Light refreshments will be served.

\$5 SUGGESTED DONATION hhbennettstudio.org |

H.H. BENNETT STUDIO
 A WISCONSIN HISTORIC SITE
 215 Broadway, P.O. Box 147
 Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965

WHAT'S UP!?

HOUGHTON'S Picture Gallery!

UP STAIRS IN BAILEY & VLIETS Block,
 Kilbourn City, Wis.

PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH CANNOT BE SURPASSED.

He has also a large collection of PICTURES of Scenes and Incidents of the War in Virginia taken by himself which he can furnish singly or in sets.

Perfect satisfaction guaranteed.
G. H. Houghton, Operator.

In March 1857, George Harper Houghton arrived in Kilbourn City, Wisconsin (now Wisconsin Dells) with two teenage nephews – Henry H. and Georgie Bennett. Both boys would learn the “black art” of photography from their uncle in the new couple years.

In 1861, as the Civil War consumed the attention of most of the people in this country, Houghton chose to leave his family and the comforts of home to travel with the Union Army in Virginia. While most photographers of that time remained safely in their studios waiting for subjects to come to them, George Harper Houghton camped near the dangers of the battlefield to record history as it happened. The twenty-eight images in this exhibition are the result of his adventures while living among the Union troops, and gives us a very rare glimpse into the lives and deaths of common soldiers during that time period.

In addition to our opening day activities on May 18, 2019, we will have monthly programming and presentation throughout the summer which will focus details, activities, and the routines of common soldiers as portrayed in the photographs of G. H. Houghton.

Hope to see you this summer!

Dave Rambow

H.H. Bennett Studio

Old Abe Camp 8 Meeting Minutes
March 18, 2019

Place: Fire Station #17, Oshkosh, WI
Time: 7:00PM

Roll Call

Commander Here, SVC Here, JVC Absent, Sec Here , Treasurer Here

Last meeting minutes: Motion to approve by Bill P., second approve as written. Approved

Treasurer's Report: \$9,743.05 in Account and CD

Prior Business:

1. Form 990-N completed and submitted.
2. Six people assisted with Bingo at King Veterans Home.
3. January meeting at Magdalenes Italian Restaurant after Bingo.
4. \$100.00 donation to the Patriotic Fund.

Past Events: Echoes of the Past – poor attendance due to bad weather.
Mid-Winter Department Meeting.

New Events and Dedications:

1. 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.
2. Five other Last Soldier Plaques to place this summer.
3. Wood County Last Soldier purchased by historical society, Fall dedication to include police department, Honor Guard, VFW Honor Guard
4. King Open House May 19th

New Business:

1. Brother Randy Novak's passing, all present signed card.
2. Develop a new member packet to help encourage recruitment.
3. Flag Disposal Ceremony, need to set a date.
4. Update and redo the camp display, updated prints and new signage.
5. Raffle – 1st prize possible pistol, 2nd buck knife, 3rd print

Patriotic Instruction: See newsletter

Good for the order: Bill Parker did a WWII school presentation.

Adjourn: 7:40 pm

Sincerely,

Dennis R. Jacobs Camp Secretary

Camp Officers for 2019

Commander

PDC Kim Heltemes – W2570 Archer Avenue, Pine River, WI 55965
(920) 987-5911 heltemesk@centurylink.net

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 Dennis Jacobs- 329 N. Jackson St #5. Green Bay, WI 54301
(920) 471-7824 dennergb@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 johhns@newnorth.net

Chaplain

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

Delegate

Ian Smith

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@centurylink.net

Historian

PCC Kirby Scott – 456 W. 9th Avenue, Oshkosh, WI 54902
(920) 858-1916 kirby.scott.camp8@gmail.com

Camp Council

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

Camp Council

Michael Mladenik – N6550 South 6th Street Crivitz, WI 54114
(715) 854-2055 smguide@centurylink.net

Camp Council

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

Newsletter Editor

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



Camp 8 Newsletter
PCC Dennis R Jacobs
329 N. Jackson Street #5
Green Bay, WI 54301
dennergb@hotmail.com

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



Find us on
Facebook

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