



Camp Orders 2019-05
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Grand Army of the Republic
“Old Abe” Camp #8
Wisconsin Department



Camp September 16th Meeting Will Be Held At Oshkosh Fire Station #17, 1813 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI



Our March meeting, Monday, September 16th, 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,

A lot of planning went in to the August 3rd Last Soldier marker dedications with Sam Solberg leading the way. A few members stepped up and made the 200 mile trip for the day. Thank you Brian Peters, Jim Schumann, and Kirby Scott, for joining Sam and myself as representatives of the Camp. We could not have done it without your help. The dedications were well attended by members of the communities, historical societies, and American Legion and VFW members. The local Legion/VFW was the Honor Guard for each of the dedications. Thank you Sam Solberg for all that you have done for the 3 dedications.

The next Last Soldier dedication takes place in Wisconsin Rapids at 1 pm at Forest Hill Cemetery, 631 Spring St. on Sept 14. This is another high profile dedication as the news, paper, and radio have all advertised the event. Please make an effort to attend.

One of the headstones I ordered has been installed by the City of Oshkosh at Riverside Cemetery for Charles L. Porlier. He was one of the 17 unmarked graves in the G.A. R. section. In the process of researching graves in that cemetery, I discovered 5 more unmarked Civil War veterans. Once the paperwork is done I will order them. Also, I have received 3 other headstones that need to be installed. One is for an unmarked grave and 2 are replacement headstones. We need to get a work party together so they can be placed.

Dedications need to be planned especially for the Oshkosh marker. The City has requested that we hold a ceremony and with due planning, it may be a large event.

We are back to the Oshkosh Firehouse for the Sept. 16 meeting at 7 pm. As usual, we have been going to Dairy Queen on Murdock for a bite to eat at 6 pm. All are welcome. See you at the dedication and then the meeting.

Yours in F, C, & L,

PDC Kim J. Heltemes
Camp Commander

Reminder:
End of the Year is
coming up.
Please pay your
dues for 2020

2019 Camp Calendar

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

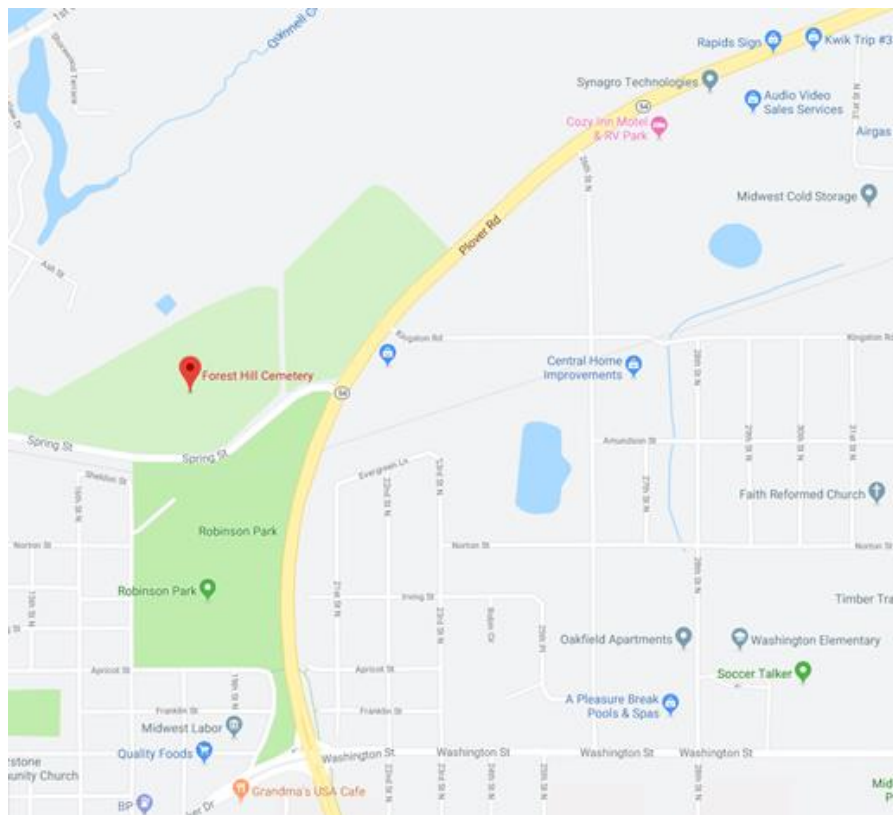
Wade House Civil War Weekend

Location: Wade House, Greenbush, WI.

November 18th

Camp 8 Annual Bean Dinner, Meeting and Camp Elections

Location: TBA



Last Soldier Dedication

James D. Gibson

September 14, 2019

1:00 pm

Forest Hill Cemetery

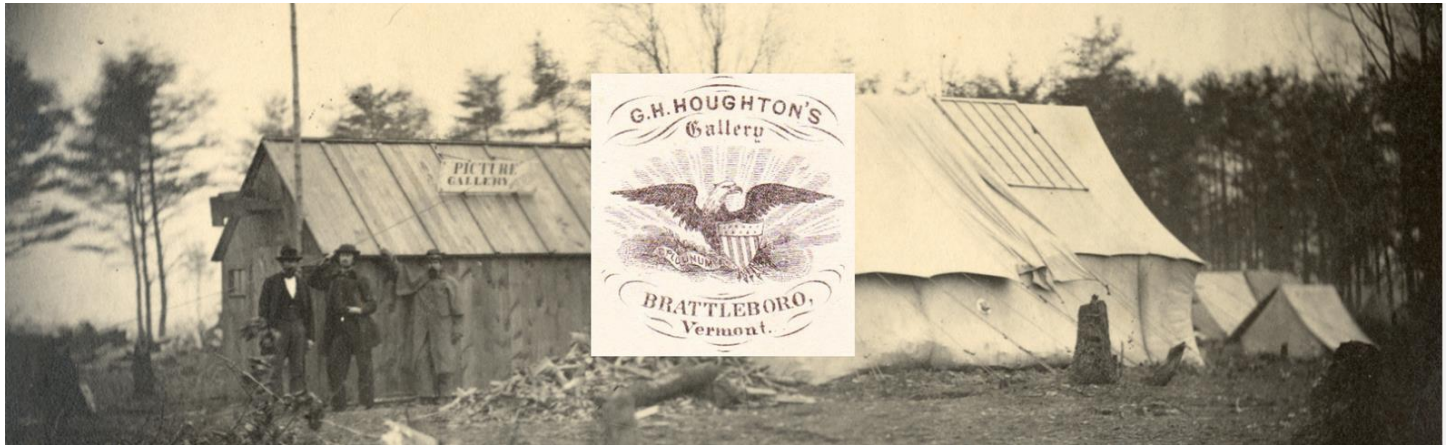
631 Spring Street

Wisconsin Rapids,

Wisconsin

Directions:

Take Hwy 39/51 to Plover Wisconsin, Exist at County B (Plover Road) and head west into Plover. Continue on Plover Road into Wisconsin Rapids. The cemetery is at the corner of Spring Street and Plover Road (Hwy 54).



GEORGE H. HOUGHTON: CIVIL WAR CAMERAMAN

George Harper Houghton was among the few photographers who followed the army to record history as it happened during the Civil War. George H. Houghton was also H. H. Bennett's uncle. It is through him Bennett first learned the photographic arts.

In 1861, as the Civil War consumed the attention of most of the people in this country, Houghton chose to leave his family and comforts of home to make pictures of Union Army soldiers near the fields of battle. For the first time in history citizens on the home front could view actual scenes from life – and sometimes death – in far-away camps and battlefields.

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.

This exhibition opens May 18, 2019.



HOUGHTON EXHIBITION SPEAKER SERIES

May 18: [A Very Fine Appearance: George H. Houghton and his Civil War Photographs](#)

June 8: [This Wicked Rebellion: Wisconsin Civil War Soldiers Write Home](#)

July 13: [Camp Food in the Civil War](#)

August 17: [The Sutlers: The Capitalists of the Civil War](#)

September 21: [Photojournalism of the Civil War: How Photography Captured War Time](#)

October 12: [Music of the Civil War](#)

[Learn more about the Houghton Exhibition Speaker Series](#)

Camp In Action

Three Last Soldier Dedications on August 3, 2019 in Ashland, Bayfield and Iron Counties



Dedication of Charles E. Van Vlack at St. Agnes Cemetery in Ashland County. L-R CC Kim Heltemes, Br. Brian Peters, Br. Jim Schumann, Br. Kirby Scott, and Br. Sam Solberg.
Photograph by Br. Kirby Scott



Dedication of David A. Monroe at Woodlawn Cemetery in Bayfield County. L-R CC Kim Heltemes, Br. Sam Solberg, Br. Jim Schumann, Br. Brian Peters and Br. Kirby Scott.
Photograph by Br. Kirby Scott



Dedication of Chester Huntsinger at Lakeview Cemetery in Iron County. L-R Br. Briand Peters, Br. Jim Schumann, CC Kim Heltemes, Br. Sam Solberg and Br. Kirby Scott.
Photograph by Br. Kirby Scott



American Legion taking part in David A. Monroe dedication.
Photograph by Br. Kirby Scott



Honor guard at the Chester Huntsinger dedication.
 Photograph by Br. Kirby Scott



Photograph from the Iron County Miner newspaper of the dedication at Lakeview Cemetery.

L-R Br. Brian Peters, Br. Jim Schumann, CC Kim J. Heltemes, Br. Sam Solberg, and Br. Kirby Scott.

Printed by permission of the Iron County Miner



Gun Salute at the Charles E. Van Vlack dedication.
 Photograph by Br. Kirby Scott



New headstone Camp Commander Kim Heltemes ordered and the City of Oshkosh installed for Charles L. Porlier, Co. B, 21st Wisconsin Infantry. Charles was one of the 17 unmarked graves in the GAR section of Riverside Cemetery. Porlier was the grandson of Augustin Grignon, the founder of Butte des Morte, WI. Charles Porlier worked for Paine Lumber after the war.

Photograph by CC Kim Heltemes



As you can see, one of the new markers broke. It slipped off the tractor bucket a few seconds after the semi-truck pulled away. It broke right through the death date. After some research on the Internet I liked the Bonstone products from Mukwanago, WI. I was going to the area so I stopped in to see what product would fix that headstone. I met with the sales manager, Paul Klees. He gave me a tube of "Glacier", a translucent epoxy and then told me how to use it. As you can see in the photos, it works. This product turned as hard as stone and blended in very well. Now, markers that are broken can be fixed and look like it never happen. Don't throw away those broken markers, fix them. Thank you Bonstone. He also gave me a bottle of D2, a stone cleaner. He assured me there were no harmful chemicals in the product. He wants me to try it. The Last Soldier marker headstone in Wautoma is covered in black so I will try it on that marker so it is clean for a dedication.

Patriotic Instruction

By

Paul Johnson

Grand Army of the Republic



The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was a fraternal organization composed of veterans of the Union Army, Navy, Marines and the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service who served in the American Civil War.

It was the postwar conception of Benjamin Franklin Stephenson of Springfield, Illinois, who had served a two-year enlistment period as surgeon of the Fourteenth Illinois Infantry during the Civil War.

The first post, numbering twelve members, was organized and chartered in Decatur, Illinois, on April 6, 1866 on the principles of "Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty."

By July 12, 1866, when a state convention was held to form the Department of Illinois, thirty-nine posts had been chartered. Interest spread rapidly to adjoining states. Ten states and the District of Columbia were represented at the first national encampment held at Indianapolis on November 20, 1866.

It grew to include hundreds of posts (local community units) across the nation (predominately in the North, but also a few in the South and West), it was dissolved in 1956 at the death of its last member, Albert Woolson (1850–1956) of Duluth, Minnesota. Linking men through their experience of the war, the G.A.R. became among the first organized advocacy groups in American politics, supporting voting rights for black veterans, promoting patriotic education, helping to make Memorial Day a national holiday, lobbying the United States Congress to establish regular veterans' pensions, and supporting Republican political candidates. It emerged as the most influential among the various organizations during the first post-war years

Its peak membership, at 410,000, was in 1890, a high point of various Civil War commemorative and monument dedication ceremonies.

The In his General Order No. 11, dated May 5, 1868, first GAR Commander-in-Chief, General John A. Logan declared May 30 to be Memorial Day (also referred to for many years as "Decoration Day"), calling upon the GAR membership to make the May 30 observance an annual occurrence. Although not the first time war graves had been decorated, Logan's order effectively established "Memorial Day" as the day upon which Americans now pay tribute to all their war casualties, missing-in-action, and deceased veterans.



In the 1880s, the Union veterans' organization revived under new leadership that provided a platform for renewed growth, by advocating Federal pensions for veterans. As the organization revived, black veterans joined in significant numbers and organized local posts. The national organization, however, failed to press the case

for similar pensions for black soldiers. Most black troops never received any pension or remuneration for wounds incurred during their Civil War service.

The GAR was organized into "Departments" at the state level and "Posts" at the community level, and military-style uniforms were worn by its members. There were posts in every state in the U.S., and several posts overseas.

The pattern of establishing departments and local posts was later used by other American military veterans' organizations, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars (organized originally for veterans of the Spanish–American War and the Philippine Insurrection) and the later American Legion (for the First World War and later expanded to include subsequent World War II, Korean, Vietnam and Middle Eastern wars).

The G.A.R.'s political power grew during the latter part of the 19th century, and it helped elect several United States presidents, beginning with the 18th, Ulysses S. Grant, and ending with the 25th, William McKinley. Five Civil War veterans and members (Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, and McKinley) were elected President of the United States; all were Republicans. (The sole post-war Democratic president was Grover Cleveland, the 22nd and 24th chief executive.) For a time, candidates could not get Republican presidential or congressional nominations without the endorsement of the GAR veterans voting bloc. The GAR reached its largest enrollment in 1890, with 410,000 members. It held an annual "National Encampment" every year from 1866 to 1949. At that final encampment in Indianapolis, Indiana, the few surviving members voted to retain the existing officers in place until the organization's dissolution; Theodore Penland of Oregon, the GAR's Commander at the time, was therefore its last

With membership limited strictly to “veterans of the late unpleasantness,” the GAR encouraged the formation of Allied Orders to aid them in its various works.

The GAR founded soldiers' homes, was active in relief work and in pension legislation. The soldiers' homes were later transferred to the federal government.

The GAR also had a number of auxiliaries: the Woman's Relief Corps (organized on a national basis in 1883); the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic (1896); Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW), and was founded by Major Augustus P. Davis in November 1881 to ensure the preservation of principles of the GAR and to provide assistance to veterans. It is based on the principles of Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty.

These three organizations along with the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War still carry on the work begun by the GAR in establishing and improving veterans facilities.



Woman's Relief Corps



Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic



Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Auxiliary to Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

The Grand Army of the Republic in Wisconsin

Although Illinois bears the distinction of being the birthplace of the Grand Army of the Republic, the first department of the Order was officially organized at Madison, Wisconsin on June 7, 1866. At that meeting, General James K. Proudfit was elected Department Commander. Within three months' time, eight posts had been established in the state, the first being the Cassius Fairchild Post #1, chartered in Madison on June 10, 1866 with 17 members. A year later, at the Encampment held in Madison on June 19, 1867, 16 of 51 posts were represented.

Following this initial period of enthusiasm, however, the GAR experienced a general decline in membership and interest not only in Wisconsin, but throughout the nation as well. The causes for this decline have been attributed by GAR historians to the neglect of proper reports and organizational work, the use of grades or degrees of membership, participation in partisan politics, and a waning interest among some of the early members. To its credit, the Department of Wisconsin maintained its organization and held annual encampments during the lean years of 1868 to approximately 1879.



1880 National Soldiers and Sailors Reunion

In June of 1880, Milwaukee became the scene of what many observers have judged to be the rebirth of the GAR as a national organization. The call for the meeting, originally intended only for GAR members in Wisconsin, concluded with this appeal:

'Comrades! Attend to this at once, or we shall not know whether you are dead, proud or gone to Texas.' The response was so overwhelming that it was decided to invite Civil War veterans from all over the country to attend. Forty thousand blue clad veterans accompanied by wives, children and assorted camp followers converged on Milwaukee for the conclave that opened on June 7

Generals U.S. Grant and Phil Sheridan arrived by special train and were guests of honor at the campfire and parade. Wisconsin's famed war eagle, "Old Abe," was there for what would prove to be his last parade. The direct result of it all was a renewal of interest and enthusiasm in the charitable and patriotic work undertaken by the Order.

Dept. of Wisconsin Membership Peaks in 1889

Most of the posts in Wisconsin were organized in the decade between 1880 and 1890. A total of 280 posts were recorded in the Wisconsin Grand Army roster. The year 1889 marked the high-water point in the state with 264 active posts and 13,987 members on the rolls. Post #4 at Berlin, chartered September 8, 1866, is credited with being the oldest post in continuous existence in the nation, since it never experienced reorganization.

National Encampments Hosted in Wisconsin

Milwaukee hosted the National Encampments of 1889, 1923 and 1943, as well as the 1880 meeting, and Madison played host to the organization in 1937. At the 1937 Encampment, 192 veterans representing 36 Departments attended the proceedings. In the parade, 122 hardy Grand Army veterans marched around the Capitol Square. Eighteen of these were listed on the Wisconsin roster. Over the years, Wisconsin was privileged to furnish the GAR with three Commanders-in-Chief: Lucius Fairchild in 1886, Augustus G. Weissert in 1892, and Frank A. Walsh in 1926.

Last Wisconsin Veteran Dies

Taps sounded for the Department of Wisconsin on September 29, 1951, when Lansing A. Wilcox, aged 105, died at the Grand Army Home at King. He had enlisted at the age of 18 and had served with a Wisconsin regiment for three years, most of which was spent in Louisiana. He served as Department of Wisconsin Commander from 1946-1951. With his death, the last survivor of the Civil War to reside in Wisconsin was gone



Lansing A. Wilcox
Wisconsin Dept. GAR
Commander

The GAR Legacy in Wisconsin

Although officially a non-political organization, GAR members were destined to play prominent roles in the politics of the Badger State. Eight post-Civil War governors; Fairchild, Washburn, Smith, Rusk, Hoard, Peck, Upham, and Scofield; could claim membership in the Order.

As a charitable and fraternal order, the GAR has left an enduring memorial to the people of Wisconsin in the establishment of the Grand Army Home, located at King.

At the Encampment held on February 15, 1887, a resolution was passed, urging the founding of a home for indigent veterans and their wives and widows. In April of that year, the Legislature enacted a bill to provide maintenance at the rate of \$3.00 per week for residents of such a home. Through the efforts of the GAR, the Woman's Relief Corps and other patriotic organizations, the sum of \$5388.32 was raised to help establish the home. With the cooperation of the city of Waupaca, possession of the Greenwood Park Hotel and 78 acres of land just west of the city was occupants of the Soldiers' Home took up residence. Although owned today by the State of obtained. Early in November 1887, the first Wisconsin, the Home symbolizes the resourcefulness and foresight that characterized the early members of the Grand Army of the Republic in the Badger State.

(Prepared for the GAR Centennial Observance held at Decatur, Illinois, on April 16-17, 1966. Submitted on behalf of the Department of Wisconsin, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, by Thomas L.W. Johnson, Commander, November 1, 1965)

Volunteers needed for the camp display at Wade House Civil War Weekend.

Saturday September 28th & Sunday September 29th, 2019

Wade House Greenbush Wisconsin

Camp Officers for 2019

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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



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