



*Camp Orders 2019-06*  
**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**  
*Grand Army of the Republic*  
**“Old Abe” Camp #8**  
Wisconsin Department



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**November 18<sup>th</sup> Camp Meeting Will Be Held At Oshkosh Fire Station #17, 1813 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI**



Our March meeting, Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 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,

It is important to have a turnout for the next camp meeting. Elections are held in the November meeting at the Oshkosh Fire Station. Our bean dinner starts at 6:00 P.M. with the meeting to follow. Please bring a dish to pass.

We need members to run for an office. Please consider running for an office. I am not running for re-election so the commander position is at least one office that will be open.

On October 20, Brian Peters, Alan Petit, Kurt Kirk, Kirby Scott, and I installed three new headstones. One was for an unmarked grave and two were replacement markers. Thank you brothers for a great job. I went back two days later and they look very straight and plumb.

We have two headstones that need dedications and several Last Soldier Markers that need dedications. Six more headstones are in the works, so we have plenty of dedications coming up to handle.

No is a good time to pay your dues for 2020. Reminders will be going out for dues soon.

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

**November 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting**  
**Traditional Bean Supper &**  
**Elections**

**Bring a dish to pass**



## 2019 Camp Calendar

### November 18<sup>th</sup>

Camp 8 Annual Bean Dinner 6:00 pm , Meeting and Camp Elections 7:00 pm  
Location: Firehouse 17, Oshkosh, WI

### December 14<sup>th</sup>

Wreaths Across America 10:00 am  
Location: Wisconsin Veterans Home Cemetery, King, WI



### Wreaths Across America

All are welcome to lay wreaths at the King Veterans Cemetery. Last year we had a good group from Old Abe Camp 8 laying wreaths.

Dress warmly, because it can be cold.

Location: Wisconsin Veterans Home Cemetery, King, Wisconsin

Date & Time: December 14, 2019 9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

If you want to donate money toward a wreath, please visit the  
Wreaths Across American webpage Cemetery code WICVMK 14985

Or mail a check by November 30<sup>th</sup> to

ALRA 1130 13<sup>th</sup> St. S Wisconsin Rapids, WI. 54494

Per an announcement by the American Legion Riders WI District 8 on November 4<sup>th</sup>, only 4500 wreaths have been purchased, which is short of the 7400 goal.



## Camp In Action

Three Last Soldier Dedication on September 14, 2019 for James D. Gibson at Forest Hill Cemetery in Wisconsin Rapids, Wood County, Wisconsin



Left to Right: PDC Brian McManus, CC Kim Heltemes, Brother Brian Peters, Brother Sam Solburg, Brother Paul Johnson, Brother Dave Daley, Brother Bill Parker, Brother Dennis Jacobs



Installation of replacement headstones on October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Brothers Alan Petit, Kurt Kirk, Brian Peters, Kirby Scott and CC Kim Heltemes shown above. Photograph by Br. Kirby Scott





Upper Left: Captain Andrew Gasman received a headstone for his unmarked grave at Oakwood Cemetery in Weyauwega.

Upper Right: Private George Crandall received a new marker to replace his damaged one at Bell Cemetery near Winneconne.

Left: William Doughty received a new marker to replace his damaged one at Bell Cemetery near Winneconne.

Photographs by Brother Kirby Scott

Right: Camp booth at Wade House Civil War Weekend, September 27 and September 28, 2019.

Photograph by Br. Kirby Scott



## Patriotic Instruction

By

Paul Johnson

# Hardtack

Hardtack (or hard tack) is a simple type of biscuit or cracker, made from flour, water, and sometimes salt. Hardtack is inexpensive and long-lasting. It is used for sustenance in the absence of perishable foods, commonly during long sea voyages, land migrations, and military campaigns

Hardtack, though mostly associated with the navies of the world and the Civil war, has a long history. The introduction of the baking of processed cereals, including the creation of flour, provided a more reliable source of food. Egyptian sailors carried a flat brittle loaf of millet bread called dhourra cake, while the Romans had a biscuit called bucellatum. King Richard I of England left for the Third Crusade with "biskit of muslin", which was a mixed grain compound of barley, bean flour, and rye.



Hard Tack also know as: brewis, cabin bread, dog biscuit, molar breakers, pilot bread, sea biscuit, sea bread, sheet iron crackers, ship's biscuit, shipbiscuit, tooth dullers, worm castles, Lincoln crackers, Hard Bread, were a staple of the army on the move.

During the American Civil War three-inch by three-inch hardtack was shipped from Union and Confederate storehouses. Some of this hardtack had been stored from the 1846–48 Mexican–American War. There were some bakeries that just made initials of "Baking Company" (B.C.) which only fueled the rumors about the age of the product.

With insect infestation common in improperly stored provisions, soldiers would break up the hardtack and drop it into their morning coffee. This would not only soften the hardtack but the insects, mostly weevil larvae, would float to the top, and the soldiers could skim off the insects and resume consumption.

Some men also turned hardtack into a mush by breaking it up with blows from their rifle butts, then adding water. If the men had a frying pan, they could cook the mush into a lumpy pancake; otherwise they dropped the mush directly on the coals of their campfire. They also mixed hardtack with brown sugar, hot water, and sometimes whiskey to create what they called a pudding, to serve as dessert.

A popular recipe called Skillygalee required one to break up hardtack, soak it in water, and then fry in pork fat.

However, according to Harvey Barney of Co A (Lodi Guards) "We cannot handle our guns when we have our hard bread in our hands because it would scratch the barrels."





## Making your own hardtack

If you want to manufacture your own hardtack, either for a re-enactment or a Civil War dinner the process is simple. The author has done it and I would suggest making library past and dry it in a 250o oven for several hours until it takes a blow from a 9 ½ pound rifle to crack in half.

The actual recipe is:

2 cups flour

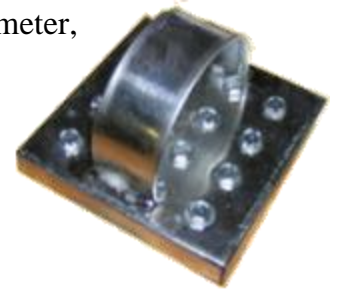
1/2 tablespoon salt (optional)

1/2 to 3/4 cup water

Preheat oven to 250 degrees F. Combine flour with salt in a mixing bowl. Add water and mix with hands until the dough comes together. Roll out on a table to about 1/3 inch thickness. Use a knife to cut 3×3 squares from the dough. Place on baking sheet, and use a dowel to make 16 evenly-spaced holes in each square. Bake for at least four hours, turning over once half-way through baking. Cool on a rack in a dry room.



A hint: get two wooden dowels 1/3 inch in diameter, place on each side of the dough to get an even rollout, then cut it into 3x3 inch squares and poke holes to aid the drying progress of fork out a couple of bucks and order a handy/dandy hardtack cutter and become your own quartermaster



Ed note: I'm near hitting the bottom of the barrel when it comes to instructions. I've covered the camp names, the blue and brown water navies, camp followers, civil war diets, hats, horses, shoes and more. If you have a subject you want reported, let me know and I'll research and report on it. In F,C & L Paul Johnson Camp 8 Patriotic Instructor [johnson@newnorth.net](mailto:johnson@newnorth.net)

# Camp Officers for 2019

## Commander

PDC Kim Heltemes – W2570 Archer Avenue, Pine River, WI 55965  
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## Sr. Vice Commander

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## Delegate

Ian Smith

## Graves Registration

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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](http://www.suvcw-wi.org). Also, visit the national SUVCW website at [www.suvcw.org](http://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](http://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](mailto:roliarndt@frontiernet.net)**



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