

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

COL. HANS C. HEG CAMP #15

WIND LAKE, WIS.

JANUARY 2021

Winner of the Abraham Lincoln Commander-in-Chief Award – Best Camp in the Country



NEW OFFICERS
Left to right – Tom Greil, Gerry Drought, Sam Keith, Jeff Graf, Dave Daley, Bob Koenecke and Brian McManus. Hidden behind Jeff Graf is Jerry Coveney, new junior vice commander.

Camp #15's New Officers Sworn In

Brother Drought is Pinned as Camp's New Commander

Brother Gerry Drought was sworn in as Camp #15's new commander at the camp's Dec. 3rd meeting, and other new camp officers took their oath of office at that meeting as well. Junior Vice Commander Sam Keith was sworn in as the camp's new Senior Vice Commander, and camp Chaplain Jerry Coveney took the oath as Camp 15's new Junior Vice Commander.

Chaplain Jerry will also keep his position as the camp chaplain. Long-time camp secre- *(continued next page)*



Outgoing commander Dave Daley pins Camp Commander badge on new commander Gerry Drought.



Past Department Commander Bruce Laine swearing in Camp #15's new officers on Dec. 3rd.



The camp's new trio of top officers: Gerry Drought, Jerry Coveney and Sam Keith.

tary-treasurer Brian McManus was sworn in for another term. Brothers Jeff Graf and Bob Koenecke were re-elected to the camp council and former commander Daley now joins them in the Council #1 position. Daley will also now serve as the camp's patriotic instructor, replacing Brother

Kallan who declined another term.

"Letters Home"
A CIVIL WAR MOVIE



Civil War reenactors needed in feature movie!

Shoot dates: March 6th & 7th
Location: Toledo, Illinois
Scene: Battle of Shiloh

Camping setup will begin on Friday March 5th. Cast dinner Saturday night & black powder bounty. All reenactors must be authentically correct to either Union or Confederate army attire during the Civil War.

Please email wissleb@wi.rr.com for registration form

Brother Humfeld to be in Civil War Movie

Brother Phillip Humfeld, our southwestern Wisconsin camp member, has signed up to be in a Civil War movie on the battle of Shiloh. Called "Letters Home," filming is scheduled to begin in March in Toledo, Illinois, in southern Illinois.

Brother Humfeld is excited about appearing in the movie. "Can't wait," Brother Phillip says. A reenactor buddy of his is also signed up for the film.



Brother Phillip Humfeld

Brother Humfeld lives in Chaseburg, Wis., in Vernon County in the southwest part of the state. Besides Camp #15 and the U.S. Air Force Auxillary, he also belongs to a Civil War reenactors group.

Even though he is four hours from our camp, Brother Humfeld joined Camp #15 in 2018 because his Civil War ancestor, Erik Olsen Hoilien, served in Co. G of the 15th Wisconsin Infantry, commanded by our Col. Heg who recruited the 15th Wisconsin. Brother Phillip promises to keep us posted on the filming's progress. We want free tickets when the movie comes out, Brother Phillip!

Bob Koenecke Gets It Done Again

Camp #15 Now has a Working Furnace at Lafayette Church Thanks to Bob and the Brothers

Brother Bob Koenecke is known as a man who gets it done - and Brother Bob has once again done just that. Lafayette Church now has heat, thanks largely to Brother Bob. In early December, Brother Koenecke finished the installation work on the new furnace at the church. This was an on-and-off job over three months in which Brother Bob found a newer propane furnace to replace the church's obsolete fuel-oil furnace, then disassembled and hauled the old furnace to the junkyard. Then Bob arranged with his brother Tom Koenecke, also a camp member and manager of a local Farm Service outlet, to install a new propane tank in back of the church. Bob himself fitted a pipe from the tank to the furnace inside.

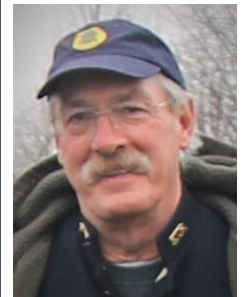
Finally, Bob bought and installed fittings to dovetail the new furnace with the propane tank set-up. A professional heating contractor wanted \$6,000 for all this - Bob did it for less than two hundred dollars. Thank you, Bob - those power company lineman skills come in handy.

A shout out of thanks goes to Brothers Gerry Drought and Brian McManus as well. Brother Drought lined up a tin-fitter to do the duct work on the furnace and when that bill came to \$200, Brother Drought paid \$100 of the cost himself. Thank you, Brother Gerry.

And Brother McManus helped in the onerous job of disassembling the old fuel-oil furnace and hauling that monster out of the church's basement. Thank you, Brother Brian.

Camp Volunteers of the Month -

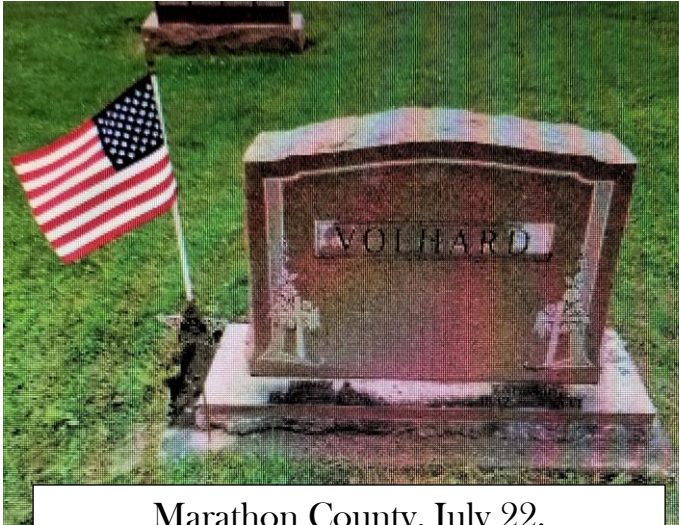
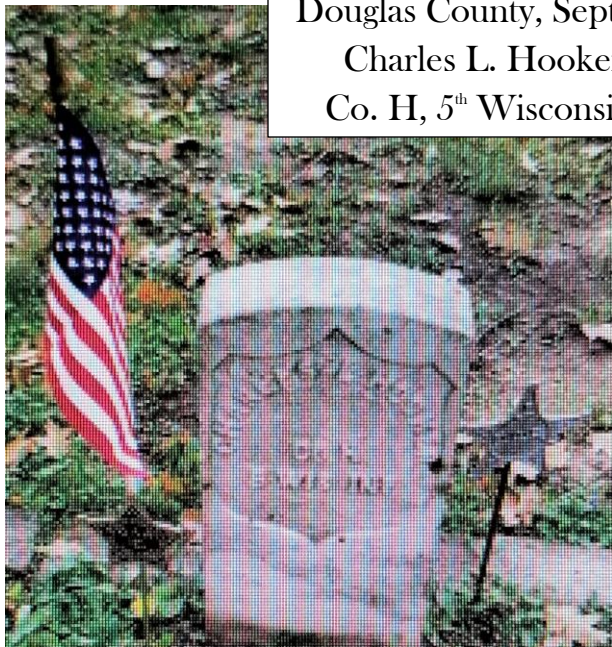
Left: Brian McManus, Gerry Drought, and Jeff Graf. Below, Bob Koenecke with the new furnace.



The brothers in Camp #15 continue to use their individual expertise to help the camp and other camp members. Brother Jeff Graf has well-known magic keyboard fingers when it comes to running down genealogical data.

When a camp member needed military service records on a vet friend who served in World War II hunting German subs in the North Atlantic, Brother Jeff's genealogical skills instantly came up with the data. Brother Jeff, that U.S. Navy seaman, Ples Ivy of Burlington's VFW post, thanks you, as does his Camp #15 friend, Dave Daley.

Douglas County, Sept. 23
Charles L. Hooker
Co. H, 5th Wisconsin.



Marathon County, July 22.
Henry P. Volhard, St. Mary's
Cemetery, Marathon City, Wis.

Last Soldiering Across Wisconsin with Department Commander McManus

Sawyer County, Sept. 23
Egbert P. Fullington
Wisconsin Light
Artillery
Greenwood Cemetery,
Hayward, Wis.



Photos
courtesy
Brian
McManus



Lincoln County, July 22. George W. Langley,
Merrill Memorial Park, Merrill, Wis.



Wisconsin Department Commander Brian McManus dedicated Last Soldier Markers in a dozen counties in northern Wisconsin in 2020 - the top third of the state is now done. At left, Brother Brian reading the Last Soldier ritual at one of the graves. We have now dedicated markers for about 80 percent of the last Civil War soldiers buried in Wisconsin's 72 counties.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA - December 2020



Camp #15 Brothers at the Grave of Col. Heg Dec. 19th

Camp #15 honored our camp's namesake, Col. Hans C. Heg, with a wreath at Heg's grave at Norway Lutheran Cemetery in Wind Lake Dec. 19th.

Below, Brother Phillip Humfeld of Chaseburg, Wis., wearing his Sons of American Legion cap, places a wreath at the grave of Civil War veteran J. Milton Powell at a cemetery in Chaseburg.

Above, Camp #15 Brothers Jeff Graf, Brian McManus and Bob Koeneke, at the grave of Lt. Homer Clark in Luther Parker Cemetery in Muskego. Clark was killed at the battle of Chickamauga in 1863.

Below, Brothers Dave Daley and Jerry Coveney at the grave of Civil War veteran Hugh McConahy at Luther Parker Cemetery, Muskego.





Camp #15's Bob Koenecke at St. John's Lutheran Grade School .

Teaching Grade School Kids about the Civil War

The eighth grade kids at St. John's Lutheran School in Burlington learned about the Civil War when Bob Koenecke, wearing a Civil War uniform, gave a talk to their class.



Brother Bob demonstrating how a Civil War musket is loaded. In December, Bob talked to the eighth grade class at St. John's Lutheran school where his daughter, Beth Malliet, is a teacher and his granddaughter, Ella Malliet, is an 8th grader.

CAMP #15 NOTES

by Newsletter Editor Dave Daley



The year 2020 is now in the history books. Some are calling last year *annus horribilis*, Latin for horrible year. With the widespread shutdowns because of the covid pandemic, politics that seemed over the top for many, and some personal tragedies in our camp, *annus horribilis* seems an apt description for a year thankfully over.

Our brother Jeff Graf lost not only his father, Rolland W. Graf, Sr., in early August, but daughter Sara K. Graf a month and a half later. Again, our condolences, Brother Jeff.

Camp #15 also lost a good friend in mid-December when Meg Jones, a reporter at the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel who wrote excellent stories about our camp and the SUVCW in general, died just a month after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

But let's not overlook the good parts of 2020. Our restoration work on the historic Lafayette Church is moving forward, and once the covid pandemic eases, hopefully by next summer, we can start thinking about booking weddings and other events at the church - events that earn us some revenue. We are also finally cleaning up Luther Parker Cemetery - admittedly, only a part of that weed-choked disgrace but what do they say - baby steps, right? We can thank Brothers Gerry Drought, Jerry Coveney and Brian McManus for the overtures to the city of Muskego that got us the OK to at least clean up the graves of Brother Drought's relatives at the cemetery.

We should be looking forward to the new year, one in which we once again can keep doing the good work of Camp #15 and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

One housekeeping note: Feb. 14th, the funeral of Kyle Reed, from the Wuehrmann family who gifted us with Lafayette Church, is scheduled at the Evergreen Country Club north of Elkhorn, Wis. Let's all turn for Kyle and her family for that most welcome gift.



That masked man is none other than Chaplain Jerry Coveney at the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery on Wreaths Across America day Dec. 19. That posse with him includes Gerry Drought, Brian McManus, Jeff Graf and Bob Koenecke.



Does This Guy Look Like Santa Claus?

Santa Brian has little elves, too, named Jerry Coveney, Jon Rupp, Gerry Drought and Bob Koenecke.

Who is this guy over here on the left? Is that Wisconsin Department Commander Brian McManus? Or is that Santa Claus? The answer - Santa Claus! Brother McManus, living up to the spirit of the season, just donated \$500.00 to the Lafayette Church preservation fund and another \$200.00 to the camp fund.

Thank you, Brother Brian. Those are not the only donations Brother Brian's made in recent months - our redoubtable secretary-treasurer paid the \$329.00 insurance bill on Lafayette Church last year, laid out another \$75.00 for five wreaths for the Wreaths Across America event, and paid \$350 for the setting of Union soldier tombstones in Forest Home Cemetery.

Camp #15 has benefited greatly from the donations of other brothers as well this past year. The list is long: Jerry Coveney, Jon Rupp, Gerry Drought and Bob Koenecke, among others. Thank you all, Brothers.

New Mold for Heg Statue Taken



Photo by Bob Koenecke

A bronze sculpture expert encasing the head of Col. Heg with a rubber substance that will be used to mold a new head.

The restoration of the Col. Hans Christian Heg statue is moving forward and the new statue should be in place outside the state Capitol next summer.

A contractor took a mold in early December of the head of a duplicate statue of Heg that stands in Wind Lake, Wis. Bob Koenecke photographed the contractor as he layered a rubber substance around the head of the Wind Lake Heg statue.

That mold will be used to recast a bronze head of Heg to replace the one still missing from the Heg statue vandalized in Madison last June.

Some good is coming out of that mindless act - Col. Heg, killed at the battle of Chickamauga, is getting national recognition as a Civil War hero and a leading abolitionist who died for his country.