

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

COL. HANS C. HEG CAMP #15

WIND LAKE, WIS.

JUNE 2021

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

Journey of a Sons of Union Veterans' Drummer Boy

by Marie Frederick



Max Frederick at age 10 in 2013, the year he took the oath as a junior member of the Sons of Union Veterans. In 2015, he was voted the most outstanding junior member by the National Sons.



Now 18, Max graduated from Catholic Central High School in Burlington, Wis., in May, and leaves for the U.S. Navy in July on a six-year enlistment. "In the Sons, I picked up the call to service," Max says.

Almost a decade ago, a young boy visited the Sons of Union Veterans booth at the Kenosha, Wisconsin Civil War Museum. There, seasoned brothers would start him on a journey that would take the little guy back to his own family roots in the War of the Rebellion and onward to the beginning of his own career in the military.

That boy, Camp #15's Max Frederick, my son, is now 18. Just graduated from high school, Max has enlisted in the U.S. Navy and ships out July 19th on a six-year commitment to study nuclear propulsion.

Drummer Boy to Become a Sailor

At the 2012 Civil War Expo at the Civil War Museum in Kenosha, Brian McManus and Jeff Graf were the first to befriend Max, instantly becoming his mentors. "They were welcoming guys," Max remembers, "and had a lot of knowledge about a subject in which I had a growing interest – the Civil War. They were immediate role models."

Max initially belonged to *(continued next page)*

Camp #1 in Milwaukee where he served as a drummer boy, marching in Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades, among other events. Camp #1's Steve Michaels informed Max that he had been accepted into the Sons, telling him, "From now on you will be called 'Brother.'"

The constant encouragement he received from the other brothers on anything to do with the SUVCW, and learning from other members what they knew are among his fondest memories as a junior member, Max says.

In 2015, Max became a charter lineal member of a new camp close to his home in Racine County - Camp #15, based in Wind Lake, Wis. There, Max began carrying flags and muskets in parades. One special memory for him is a moving ceremony in 2016 when the camp rededicated a statue of Abraham Lincoln in Burlington, Wis., that had been torn down by vandals. The camp marched to the site as large clusters of snowflakes fell gently on them.

In addition to brothers McManus, Graf, and Michaels, many other Camp 1 and Camp 15 members played roles in Max's development. Brothers Graf and Tom Mueller helped research his 4x great grandfather, Captain Patrick Bennett of the 19th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment, Company E, who was killed in action on Oct. 27, 1864, at Fair Oaks, Virginia.

Brothers Graf, Tom Brown, and Bob Koenecke put civil war weapons in his hands. John Gillless taught him about signaling. Dave Daley's Christmas parties, and camp picnics at Heg Park and Jeff Graf's house provided him memorable fellowship. Pat Kulas, Patrick Fallon, Dean Collins, Kent Peterson, and Jeff Lesar are other brothers who helped shape a junior member into a young man.

Max, who lives in Kansasville, Wis., graduated from Catholic Central High School in Burlington, Wis., on May 28th this year with high academic honors. He lettered in baseball and football and is most proud of his four years in the school's musical program. His breakout, comic role his freshman year was speaking and singing in Mandarin Chinese in the play "Thoroughly Modern Millie." That was a role that set him up for a *(continued next page)*

July 4, 2015 – Max (on the right) marching in the Independence Day parade in Union Grove with Sam Malliet, Brother Bob Koenecke's grandson.



Max loading his musket during a Veterans Day ceremony Nov. 17, 2017 at Luther Parker Cemetery in Muskego, Wis. Next to him, Brother Jeff Graf is capping his musket.





One of the Sons' events Max especially enjoyed was marching in parades. The two pictures above show Max marching in the Fourth of July parade in 2018 in Union Grove, Wis.

All photos courtesy of Marie Frederick.

supporting role as Uncle Max Detweiler in "The Sound of Music," and the lead roles of Jack Kelly in "Newsies" and, this spring, Jesus in "Godspell."

Max also graduates this summer as a 12-year member of 4H. He earned civic trips to Madison, Wis., and Washington, D.C., and an American history tour of the eastern U.S. called "Spirit of America" - a trip where he caught the travel bug. "On the 4H "Spirit of America" trip I found that I learned more going out and seeing the places where history was made," Max says.

The opportunity to travel and to serve in a nuclear propulsion job were factors in his decision to join the U.S. Navy. "I chose the Navy because of its unique career opportunities," says Max. "The Navy is the only branch that has nuclear propulsion."

Max said his membership in the SUVCW also steered him toward the military. "In the Sons, I picked up on the call to service," he says, "and I wanted to be in a group of people that have the camaraderie I experienced in the Sons." In the Navy, Max plans to continue his membership in Camp #15 but will also seek out and get involved in a camp near wherever he is stationed.

Max ships out July 19th, grateful for his upbringing, so to speak, in the SUVCW, and with particular thanks for his Camp #15 brothers. "The original Camp #15 members are guys who really love the Sons, everything they were doing in it, and everyone who was doing it with them," Max says. "They really love the group."

"I liked talking to all of them and being around them," Max continued. "I want to thank them for sharing their enjoyment with me despite the difference in age demographic. They have full lives, I was just starting mine. They made it easy to be part of the camp."

Marie Frederick lives in Kansasville, Wis., where she and her husband raised four children. Marie was Max's official driver and photographer through the years and still enjoys accompanying him to SUVCW events even though Max can drive himself now.

We Party Hardy on Memorial Day

My friends, the time has come, to raise the roof and have some fun...



After a busy Memorial Day weekend in which Camp #15 participated in three cemetery commemorations, the brothers and their families relax with a picnic and party on the lawn of the camp's Lafayette Church. Above: David Miller, Max Frederick, Sam Keith (the back of his hat), Dave Daley, Jeff Graf, Jerry Coveney, Lisa Coveney, and Michele Bock enjoying the day.



Ann Daley exclaims, "Who took my brat?" Marie Frederick looks at Gerry Drought and asks, "Well, Mr. Drought?"



Brian McManus asks Bob Koenecke, "Say - isn't that about the fourth time Chaplain Jerry has been back to the food table?"

The Good Life

“A beer in a Green Bay Packers cozy, a musket and a pick-up truck – life doesn’t get any better than this,” Jeff Graf tells his Camp #15 brothers. Brothers Jerry Coveney, Bob Koenecke and Sam Keith are unanimous in their agreement.

All photos by Bobby Daley.



Bob Koenecke asks: “Who put that in my hat?” Sam Keith on the right is smiling but will only say, “My lips are sealed!”
(Below) Camp Commander Gerry Drought is looking around for another unattended brat while Lisa Coveney (middle) is working hard to ensure all get enough to eat. Mike Wozny (right) is saying: “You like my hat?”

Camp Commander Gerry Drought is unfixing a bayonet and muttering: “Now how did that gold-dang Dave Daley’s bayonet end up on my musket?”



The Camp#15 Brothers Celebrate Memorial Day



Camp #15 took part in three ceremonies over the Memorial Day weekend. Above, on May 30 we commemorate the fallen at Calvary Cemetery in Milwaukee with Chaplain Dean Collins of Camp 1.



We fire an honor salute (above) on May 31st at the grave of Col. Hans C. Heg at Norway Lutheran Cemetery in Wind Lake, Wis.

Finally, also on May 31st, we honor the fallen soldiers buried at White Oak Cemetery, next to our Lafayette Church southwest of East Troy in Walworth County



Inside of Lafayette Church

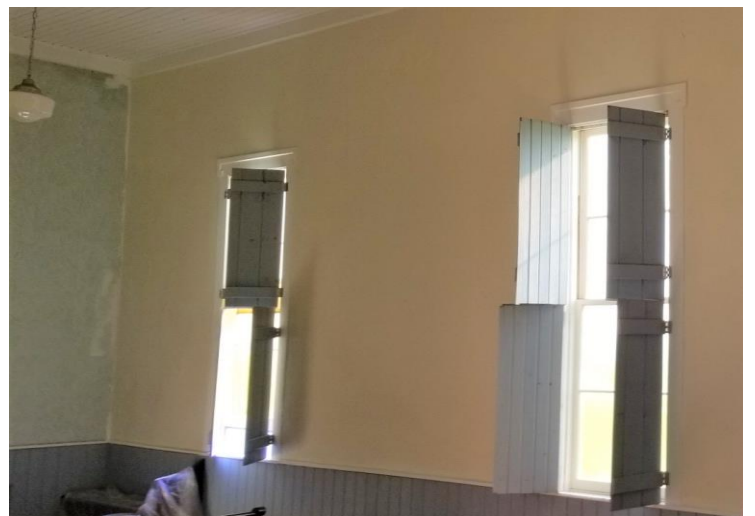
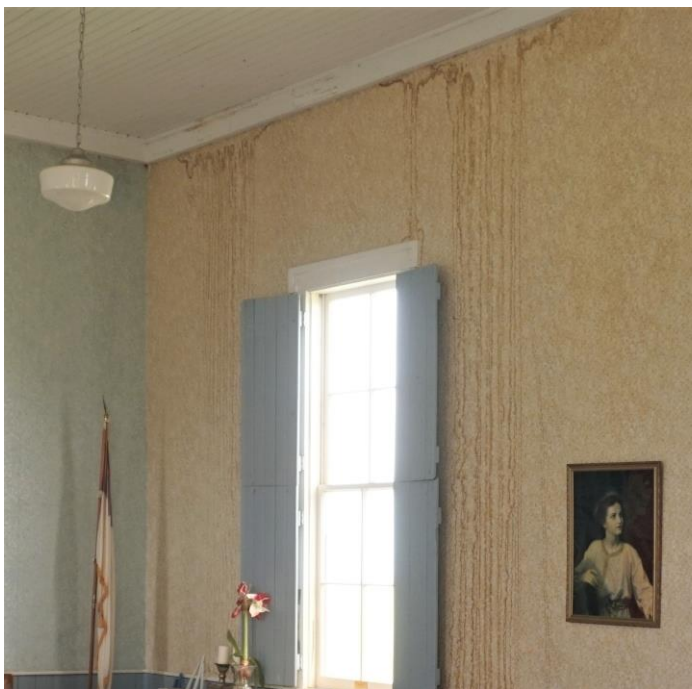
Getting a New Paint Job

A tip of our caps this month to Brother Jeff Graf who the last week in May finished painting the west and east walls inside our Lafayette Church. Both walls, previously spotted with water stains, now sport a splendid coat of antique white paint on top of a coat of primer.

Chaplain Jerry Coveney can take a bow too - Brother Jerry is footing the bill for the estimated \$500.00 cost to paint the inside of the church. Brothers Jeff and Jerry, you have our deep thanks.



Brother Jeff Graf, atop a ladder with a roller brush, painting the east wall of our Lafayette Church.



The east wall (top) painted. The west wall (above), now painted. (Left) the west wall before the painting, with water stains running down the wall to the floor. The transformation is spectacular.

Camp #15 Potpourri



Set 157 years ago, the grave marker for Darius Allen toppled over at some point and grass and dirt grew over the stone.

Brother Bob Koenecke Finds a “Lost Grave”

Fifteen years ago, Brother Bob Koenecke discovered a lost grave while walking the Bloomfield Pioneer Cemetery near Pell Lake, Wis. Brother Bob noticed an empty space along a line of tombstones and a slight depression in the ground in that space. Using a probe he always carries, Brother Bob found a grave marker under the ground, buried three inches beneath the soil.

Chiseled into the stone marker was an American flag - Brother Bob knew immediately this was a soldier. Indeed, it was - and now thanks to Brother Bob and Brother Jerry Coveney, a VA tombstone is now on order for Private Darius T. Allen, who died in 1864 during the Civil War. Allen, a farmer in the Town of Bloomfield, served in Co. C of the 22nd Wisconsin Infantry. He left behind a wife and three children. RIP, Private.



Wisconsin Dept. Commander Brian McManus and his fiancé, Michele Bock, visited the grave of Private Francis Ruelle in Lena, Wis., in May. Ruelle was Michele's great-grandfather.



Wisconsin Dept. Commander Brian McManus and John Decker of Camp #2 - these two brothers dedicated 27 Last Soldier graves in northern Wisconsin in the last year. A big thanks to them both.



The Iron Brigade Guard, made up of brothers from Camp#15, Camp #4 in Waukesha and Camp #2 in Madison, at a drill practice at Lafayette Church on May 15. Photo by Scott Schable