



On the 150th anniversary of his Medal of Honor, Milton Matthews' grave near the freeway at Wood National Cemetery was decorated with the flag of the 7th Tennessee Regiment, and display of a book detailing how he seized that unit's colors. See page 3.

C. K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SUVCW



C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SERIES 2015 CAMP ORDERS APRIL 2015

TWO-TIME RECIPIENT OF THE MARSHALL HOPE NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

ALL KINDS OF EFFORTS TO HONOR THE BOYS IN BLUE

We in the Sons always are working to honor our ancestors, sometimes by all of us on Memorial Day, sometimes by several of us in parades or at history events, sometimes by one or two of us carrying out a great idea.

Some of our members now have transferred to the new Camp 15 at Norway in Racine County, and we have had a few non-renewals by inactive members. So Camp 1 is smaller — but our mission continues unchanged and our hearts are as big as ever.

The season of appearances is beginning, and seemingly every weekend there is something a Brother could attend. I hope to see some of our less-active members at one or more of these events.

Any event or work project is a great way for you to reconnect; I have talked to many members over the months and every one of you eagerly discusses your relative and how you read our Camp Orders.

FROM THE COMMANDER — TOM MUELLER



No matter what the size of any project, it perpetuates the Civil War legacy.

As you can see on the left side of page 1 and on page 3, I recently researched and honored two soldiers from the last week of the war; one buried at Wood National Cemetery and one at Forest Home Cemetery.

On a much larger scale, we now have formed a committee to plan the historical marker at Forest Home, which you first read about in the January Camp Orders. Cemetery executive director Jan Van Rens has offered us space right by the cemetery sign at the front gate pillars; one cannot get any greater visibility than that for a marker noting there are about 1,000 Civil War veterans there.

Once we determine the height, width, headline size and letter size on the marker, we will draft a fund-raising letter to send to a wide variety of groups and people that we have helped at Forest

Continued on page 4

PLANNING OF EVENTS AND APPEARANCES

Our spring planning will kick into high gear at the next meeting, which is at 7 p.m. May 6 at the Machinists Union hall at 1650 S. 38th St., Milwaukee. PDC Tom Brown will have the patriotic presentation.



Victorious Charge needs some help

The landmark Victorious Charge monument to Civil War soldiers is one of three statues that the Westtown Association of Milwaukee wants to refurbish. The group is raising funds for the Court of Honor project along West Wisconsin Avenue just west of the freeway. Victorious Charge was dedicated in 1898 and given a major restoration in the 1990s, but again is in need of some touch-ups.

Our Camp will be raising and allocating money this summer and fall to help this work. Contact CC Tom Mueller for more info. Brother Tom Myers assessed the condition of the monument a few years ago and reported that sections of the base of the rear of the statue, along with blocks in the stone foundation, need new mortar or caulk to prevent further damage by the elements.

The other two statues, which are in need of the most work, are a bronze woman and child at the feet of George Washington, dedicated in 1885, and a bronze monument to a Spanish-American War hero, dedicated in 1932. More details are at <http://www.westtown.org/>

File photos by Brother Tom Myers (the artsy one with the buildings in background) and PCC Brian D. McManus



REMEMBERING COL. PIER: OUR SERIES STARTS OVER

These monthly articles about our Camp namesake are written by PCinC Steve Michaels. This item was published in the April 1995 Camp Orders as the FIRST in a series of articles about our Camp namesake. So we are restarting the cycle of articles in this issue. It discusses a visit to the C.K. Pier Camp 35, which in 1901 would merge with another Camp to form our C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1.

Col. C.K. Pier first visited this Camp during its infancy. He was present at a meeting on Friday evening, May 17, 1889.

That night, the Camp received its annual inspection by Capt. Harry C. Fuller of the Rufus King Camp and four new recruits were mustered in. After the close of other business, Col. Pier delivered an interesting address. He informed the members of the rank their Camp would occupy in the organization upon various increases in membership, and explained the importance of each member's acquiring the highest possible degree of proficiency in marching, in the manual of arms and other features of military tactics.

The Milwaukee Sentinel also reported that despite being a young Camp (chartered that February), Col. C.K. Pier Camp was "vigorous and full of energy."



Harry C. Fuller



**2 ORDINARY SOLDIERS
IN APRIL 1865
BY CC TOM MUELLER**



This is the story of a Union corporal and a private whose units were near each other in the climax at Petersburg, Va., and then, 10 days later, lined the roads at Appomattox for the surrender of 27,000 Confederates. Both soldiers are buried in Milwaukee.

On April 2, 1865, the last day at Petersburg, Milton Matthews of Company C, 61st Pennsylvania, earned the Medal of Honor "for capture of flag of 7th Tennessee Infantry (Confederate States of America)." The medal was awarded May 10, 1865. He is buried at Wood National Cemetery, very close to the freeway.

There is very little biographical info about Matthews on the web, other than that he died on April 11, 1896. Thanks to Brothers Tom Ludka (Milwaukee Soldiers Home records) and Virgil Matz (Pennsylvania info), this presentation hereby adds the fact that he was age 61 when entering the Soldiers Home on June 2, 1886, and therefore was born in 1824 or 1825. That would make him age 40 or 39 at the time of his heroism. He enlisted on Aug. 1, 1861, at Pittsburgh, at the age of 35, Pennsylvania records say.

Matthews came to Soldiers Home from Pittsburgh. He was admitted with rheumatism and died 10 years later of senile disability, in his sleep. He was single and appears to have been totally alone in Wisconsin, because his final assets were sent to his brother in Pennsylvania.

The 61st Pennsylvania fought at places like Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Spotsylvania, Petersburg and Appomattox Court House, according to Civil War Archive. Then it was at the surrender of Lee and his Army.

The 7th Tennessee was among those firing at the 2nd Wisconsin and others in the Iron Brigade on McPherson's Ridge at Gettysburg, where future Wisconsin Gov. Lucius Fairchild was wounded and lost his left arm. A map at <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/gettysburg/maps/gettysburg-battle-for.html> shows the 2nd Wisconsin directly facing the 7th Tennessee and the 14th Tennessee.

Matthews' seizing of the 7th's colors is described in a book by William Thomas Venner, "The 7th Tennessee in the Civil War," published in 2013. It says on pages 151-154 that the Tennesseans were surrounded on all sides at Hatcher's Run and were backed up against a millpond. Some surrendered and others threw down their arms and tried to swim away. "The Yank avalanche surged closer to the broken Confederate line, encouraged by their weakening fire. Most of the remaining Southerners milled around, some still shooting but many having dropped their rifles and waving white rags. The Federals neared the beaten Southerners, no longer firing, just inching forward.

"One Yank, Milton Matthews, darted forward and ripped the 7th Tennessee flag out of the stunned Tennessean holding it. A Federal officer recorded the feat, saying Matthews 'dashed into a squad of Rebels who had gathered round a beautiful stand of colors, and ... knocked down the color bearer, seized the colors as they fell, and rushed on to another portion of the field.'"

A map of the last day at <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/petersburg/petersburg-history-articles/two-days-in-april-2.html> shows the 61st Pennsylvania was a few regiments away from the 5th Wisconsin.

Filtering the order of battle for Appomattox through the Civil War Archive shows that the 5th Wisconsin was in the surrender ceremony, as were the, 6th, 7th and 36th Wisconsin.

All the Forest Home burials have been entered into the SUVCW national database, the work of members of our Camp plus Marge Berres of the Woman's Relief Corps. Using multiple search functions in the database, I determined that from those Wisconsin units that were at Appomattox, the cemetery has 11 men who were at the surrender.

The man with the longest service among these 11 is Pvt. John Iversen, who enlisted in the 5th Wisconsin on April 21, 1861. That is nine days after Fort Sumter, so imagine the patriotic fervor that was sweeping his home of Milwaukee, and Wisconsin too. He was mustered out on Dec. 9, 1865. His name is Iverson in the Wisconsin roster. He died in 1917 at the age of 74, and is buried with an ordinary tombstone that has no indication of his service, much less his longevity in the war. It is not likely he has received a Memorial Day flag in many decades, so I took him a U.S. flag from our Camp.

The 5th Wisconsin fought at Antietam, Fredericksburg, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania and Bloody Angle, before Petersburg and finally Sailor's Creek and Appomattox. Matthews' 61st Pennsylvania was at some of these same spots.

Grant and Lee met on April 9. The actual surrender of the troops was April 12.

From the Commander – continued from page 1

Home. You in the Camp will be encouraged to join this project when the dues renewals are mailed in November, but nothing is stopping you from helping get us started now. Contact me and I will tell you how.

Ditto for the forthcoming restoration work on Victorious Charge on West Wisconsin Avenue in Milwaukee. See page 2 for a description of the project being launched by the Westtown Association for the grand Civil War statue and two others.

Another noble piece of work is that a couple months ago, Patriotic Instructor Bruce Nason purchased a solar light for our flagpole at Oak Hill Cemetery in Wauwatosa; it will be installed soon. We salute you, Brother Nason. And Nason recently checked out a small cemetery on 27th Street south of Rawson Avenue in Oak Creek that caught his eye because it was very old. The cemetery is for St. James Roman Catholic Church, which is across the street in Franklin. Find a Grave has 149 burials, going back to the 1870s.

Nason found that one grave, Joseph Haas, has a GAR marker, and Virgil Matz used pension records to quickly discover he was a private in the 17th Missouri, Company I. This unit and the 12th Wisconsin of Nason's relative were in many of the

same battles, including the siege of Atlanta (where Nason's kin was wounded). So it was karma that Nason decided to check out that cemetery. Haas now has been put into the national graves database of the Sons.

Three other graves in small cemeteries in my home of Oak Creek have been entered into the national database in recent years, and I say hello to them each time I pass by: Leo Gotsch (6th Wisconsin); Pvt. Bernard Stollenwert (24th Wisconsin) and Pvt. Jacob Goelzer (28th Wisconsin).

As we recite at the start of our meetings, we teach and practice these words: "Fraternity, Charity, Loyalty." No matter where you live, I encourage you to take action on behalf of at least one long-lost soldier. And to talk up our organization to people you know.



Brother Bruce Nason found this grave along South 27th Street in Oak Creek. Pvt. Joseph Haas died in 1888 at the age of 55. He has a GAR marker. He enlisted on Sept. 20, 1861, in the 17th Missouri Infantry.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Q: What did Grant and Lee do in the Mexican War?

A: At Appomattox, Grant brought up how he had met Lee, who was chief engineer under Maj. Gen. Winfield Scott in 1847 and found feasible routes to invade in attacks on places like Cerro Gordo and Contreras. Grant was a quartermaster but at Chapultepec, he dragged a howitzer into a church steeple to bombard nearby Mexican troops. At Appomattox, Grant was age 42 (born on April 27, 1822) and Lee was 58 (born Jan. 19, 1907).

MAY BIRTHDAYS

7 – James Cook
17 – Larry Kiggins
19 – Tom Myers
23 – Brian Craig

Congratulations,
Brothers!!!



Report any address or e-mail changes to
Secretary David Howard
Lifeopp@yahoo.com

Newsletter editor
Cmdr. Tom Mueller
thewisconsin3800@gmail.com

Website <http://www.suvcw-wi.org>

CAMP CALENDAR

16 May: Oak Hill Cemetery cleanup, in Wauwatosa at Capitol Drive exit on U.S. 45, 9:30 a.m. We work with Boy Scout Troop No. 61 of Milwaukee.

24 May: Re-dedication of Cushing Park in Delafield. Be in the parade and see Alonzo Cushing's recently awarded Medal of Honor for Gettysburg.

25 May: Memorial Day, at Calvary Cemetery, Milwaukee. Archbishop Jerome ListECKI celebrates the memorial Mass.

6 June: Department Encampment at Civil War Museum, Kenosha. Save the date.

18 July: Dedication of new Civil War memorial at Camp Randall in Madison. Save the date.

