



PCinC Steve Michaels, our Camp commander past and present, has been appointed national inspector general of the Sons of Veterans Reserve. Along with that, he has been commissioned as a colonel. He was chosen by Maj. Gen. Robert Grim, commander. Congrats, Steve!!!!

C. K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SUVCW



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SERIES 2017 **CAMP ORDERS** APRIL 2017

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

## MEMORIAL DAY, VA MEDICAL EVENT ON AGENDA

The Camp's Memorial Day agenda is set, and the following weekend will see the VA's 150th Anniversary Event at the Milwaukee Soldiers Home.

These will be two of the largest public events of the year for the Camp.

Archbishop Jerome Listecky will return to Memorial Day as the main concelebrant of the Roman Catholic Mass at Calvary Cemetery, joined by Camp Chaplain Dean Collins, who is a deacon. The Mass begins at 10 a.m.

Listecky has been in our commemoration every two years and then fires the cannon of Cushing's Battery A, 4th U.S. Artillery.

We are proud to announce that the 1st Brigade Band also will return to our ceremony this year. A few dozen members will play period brass band music, performed on antique instruments. The band dates to 1864,



Archbishop Jerome Listecky has a thrill firing the Cushing's Battery cannon in 2015. He will do it again this year.

when 18 men from the Brodhead Bass Band (the border between Green and Rock Counties runs through that city) enlisted in the Union Army as the band of the 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, 15th Army Corps.

Its story is told at [http://1stbrigadeband](http://1stbrigadeband.org/2017/)

[.org/2017/](http://1stbrigadeband.org/2017/)

Our keynote speaker will be Jon Christensen, a Vietnam War veteran and longtime therapist in readjustment counseling at the Milwaukee Vet Center, 7910 N. 76th St., Milwaukee. This is part of the VA. The center provides counseling and coaching services to returning veterans and to those who served earlier, for example in Vietnam and Korea.

We also will have the traditional musket salute from the Sons honor guard

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**The next Camp meeting will be Wednesday, May 3, at the Machinists Union hall at 1650 S. 38th St., Milwaukee. PDC Kent Peterson will have the patriotic presentation.**

## MEMORIAL DAY AND VA MEDICAL EVENT — *continued from page 1*

and the American Legion Milwaukee Police Post #415.

A special thank you goes to Collins, who organizes the event for both the Camp and the Archdiocese.

Then on Saturday, June 3, a living-history event will be held at the Milwaukee Soldiers Home to honor the 150th anniversary of medical care by what is now the Zablocki VA Medical Center.



The event is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is being held in the spirit of Reclaiming our Heritage, the large event that ran from 2002 to 2012 on the VA grounds, according to Laura Rinaldi, organizer.

The anniversary event, however, is smaller and is a living-history event only, Rinaldi said. No firearms from any era will be allowed, even for display, and neither are swords or black powder, etc. This is a VA policy, Rinaldi stresses.

Besides living-history groups, there will be musical entertainment, tours of the grounds and

select buildings, and displays about the VA's history of care. More information is at [https://www.milwaukee.va.gov/150th\\_Ceremony.asp](https://www.milwaukee.va.gov/150th_Ceremony.asp)

The VA says that on May 3, 1867, about 60 Civil War veterans first moved into farmhouses on the grounds of the Soldiers Home.

During the war, the West Side Soldiers Aid Society first opened a storefront in downtown Milwaukee to take care of Civil War veterans.

On March 3, 1865, a month before the war ended, President Abraham Lincoln signed the act that created the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. The West Side group raised more than \$100,000 to build a permanent place of respite. Milwaukee was one of the first three national homes.

The original domiciliary, Old Main, was completed in 1869, with a 500-bed capacity. The VA provided care to veterans there through 1989.

Many more buildings were built in the late 1800s, including a hospital, library, chapel, theater, firehouse and more. Many of these original buildings were designated a National Historic Landmark in 2011.



### REMEMBERING COL. PIER: CHEERS AND THEN OFF TO WAR

*These monthly articles about our Camp namesake are written by PCinC Steve Michaels. This item first was published in the April 1997 Camp Orders.*

April 16, 1861, found C.K. Pier as a member of Company I, "Badger Boys," assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Wisconsin Infantry. He was among the first body of Fond du Lac men to start off for the war, which had begun days earlier at Fort Sumter. The next two months would become a blur, lost in the patriotic fervor of the times.

On April 30, the city's ladies presented the company with a large, costly flag. The company had assembled to take the Army oath at Armory Hall. The spectators were so enthusiastic, that all arose and also took the solemn obligation.

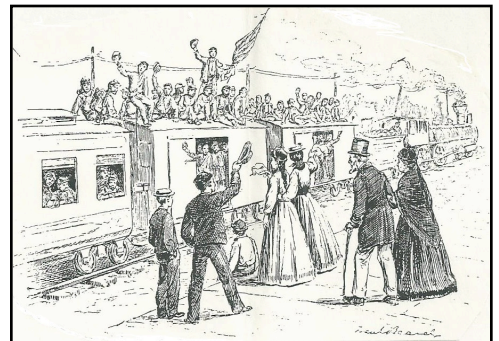
The proprietor of Lewis House served a splendid dinner while bands played music and patriotic speeches were made outside.

On May 2, the company departed amid a strange commingling of cheers, sobs and tears. The city was literally jammed with people from all parts of the county to whom the idea of war and the sight of soldiers were novel and inspiring.

Pier and his company joined others assigned to the 1<sup>st</sup> Wisconsin in Milwaukee. They spent the next six weeks at Camp Scott, where they were equipped and trained. Then, on Sunday, June 9, they departed for Harrisburg, Pa.

The 810 men boarded 17 passenger cars. Their equipment and belongings were packed on two baggage and five freight cars. About 1,000 people thronged after them. The journey was one continuous ovation. Music, cannon, cheers, ice water, hot coffee, lunches, fruits, papers, pretty girls and shouting men met them at every depot. At one Ohio village, the people were so enthusiastic that they allowed their daughters to board the train and ride with the soldiers until the returning train was met.

*From History of Fond du Lac County, by the Western Historical Company, 1880; and Wisconsin in the War of the Rebellion, by William DeLoss Love; Church & Goodman, Publishers, 1866*







## MY RELATIVE'S STORY

BY SVC BILLY COLE



Cpl. William D. Cole of the 7th Missouri Infantry was born on Aug. 2, 1844, on his father's farm in Cooper County in central Missouri. He lived to be 100. His older brother, Samuel, who served in the cavalry, was killed at Fredericksburg, and his younger brother Frank, who served in the infantry, was killed at Gettysburg.

The dispositions of their remains are not

Missouri records disagree with our family as to when and where. They show that he enlisted on Aug. 15, 1862, in Franklin County, the first county west of St. Louis, and was mustered in on Oct. 23 of that year at Schofield Barracks in St. Louis.

The 7th Missouri Volunteer Infantry had been organized at St. Louis in June 1861 and mustered in for three years of service. It often was referred to as the "Irish Seventh" given its large number of immigrants.

The regiment was a special project supported by the federal commanders in Missouri, Brig. Gens. William S. Harney and Nathaniel Lyon. Most of the volunteers in the state's early regiments were German immigrants, and the generals supported creation of a regiment recruited from St. Louis' Irish population to demonstrate that the Union cause had wider support.

Many St. Louis Irish were ambivalent about the new Republican Party and federal military action against seceding states. In addition, Irish were strong participants in the pre-war Missouri Volunteer Militia, and many resented the May 10, 1861, federal arrest of the militia for suspected secession activity.

Like other Irish regiments during the Civil War, the "Irish Seventh" carried a distinctive green regimental color. An article in the July 12, 1862, Boston Pilot said one side of the flag featured the "Irish harp, guarded by a savage-looking wolf dog, surrounded by a wreath of shamrocks, surmounted by an American eagle, and supported on either side by flags and other implements of war. On the other side is a 'sunburst' in all its glory, with the Irish war cry as a motto - 'Faj an Bealac!'"

The 7th began its service at Boonville in the first days of July 1861. It marched in U.S. Grant's central Mississippi campaign from November 1862 to Jan. 10, 1863, then was moved to Memphis, Tenn., and the battle of Port Gibson, La., on May 1 and the siege of Vicksburg.

After Vicksburg, the 7th was based at various times in Arkansas, Memphis, Louisiana and



Despite a 108-year gap in their birth years, the two William Coles bear a striking resemblance in their faces and musical abilities and postures.

known to this day. For a good many years, the family has consulted just about everything that there is to try to find them.

Their family's land, about 2,000 acres, was in the northwest corner of the county. They raised cattle and hogs and bred horses, along with growing three large wheat fields and vegetable gardens. They sold their milk, cream, beef, pork and fresh vegetables in Boonville and Columbia. The Cole family was, and still is, known for dairy, beef and pork products.

The Cole family had settled in Cooper County around 1800, about the same time as Daniel Boone of Kentucky fame (yes, that is the correct spelling). Our family has remained fiercely patriotic to the USA since coming to the Colonies, and some fought in the American Revolution

This is the story of William D. Cole. Our family records indicate that he was just over 17 years old when he left his father's farm in June 1861 and signed up at the nearest volunteer station, which was in Jefferson City, Mo., about 60 miles from the Cole homesteads.

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## Welcome, Brother!!!

Clifford John Howard of West Allis has joined our Camp as a lineal member, honoring Pvt. John Henry Howard of the 7th Wisconsin Infantry, Co. C, among his Civil War relatives.

Clifford is the grandson of PCC David Howard and Toni Howard of the Auxiliary.

### *Cole relative – continued from page 3*

Mississippi. It ceased to exist on Dec. 17, 1864, when it was consolidated with the 30th Missouri Infantry.)

Stories passed down in our family say William Cole's comrades called him "Willie" and referred to him as "the unofficial camp musician." It was said that with his music and wit, he kept up the morale in the unit. It also was said he came up with several parodies of Confederate songs.

He also sang the well-known Union Civil War songs as they were written, as well as the works of Stephen Foster, and a great many more from the writers at the time. It is also said that he was a daring soldier in battle; that several times, he dragged wounded comrades out of line of fire, without any thought for himself.

There is some controversy as to why he sported sergeant stripes in the photo with this story, but was mustered out as a corporal. Some in the family say he was fond of hard apple cider (another thing that many in the Cole family were known for), and it had something to do with his demotion.

He received two kinds of wounds. One was when he was creased across the shoulder by a Rebel musket ball, and the other was when a guitar string

broke and hit him in the face, leaving a small scar on his cheek. That is still a family joke to this day.

Afterward, Cole returned to the family farm and dairy. Later, he was elected as a city councilman in a small community that does not exist any longer. He served in this office until the age of 82. He died on Sept. 28, 1944, just two months after his 100th birthday, from complications of pneumonia.

William was buried at the Mt. Nebo Baptist Church Cemetery near Pilot Grove (the city has a population of about 800 today). However, a relative and family historian says that after continued vandalism of the cemetery about 10 years ago, several graves moved to one of the Cole homesteads, which was news to me.

When I asked exactly where the graves now are located, my cousin told me exactly where they were re-interred, but made me promise not to divulge that location because various branches of the family do not have good relations. She said she will continue to try to obtain permission allow the Sons to honor the grave. There are also three graves there of our direct ancestors who were veterans of the Revolution. She said the family had a new headstone for William's grave, because the other one was almost completely destroyed by the vandalism.

### CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

**Q:** What was  
a fascine?

**A:** This was a tightly bound bundle of straight sticks that was used to reinforce earthenworks or trenches. Fascines also could be used to make revetments, fill magazines, fill material and blinds, according to <http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/glossary/glossary.html#F>

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

7 – James Cook  
19 – Tom Myers  
23 – Brian Craig



**Report any address or e-mail changes to  
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### CAMP CALENDAR

**3 June:** Department Encampment, Saukville, hosted by Camp 5. Starts at 9 a.m. Information recently was emailed to you, but the essentials are that the cost is \$7 plus \$13 lunch unless you go out to eat on your own. Mail in your RSVP by mid-May.

**4 July:** Parade in Union Grove in support of Camp 15. 9:15 a.m.

**29 July:** Heritage Days parade, South Milwaukee. 11 a.m.