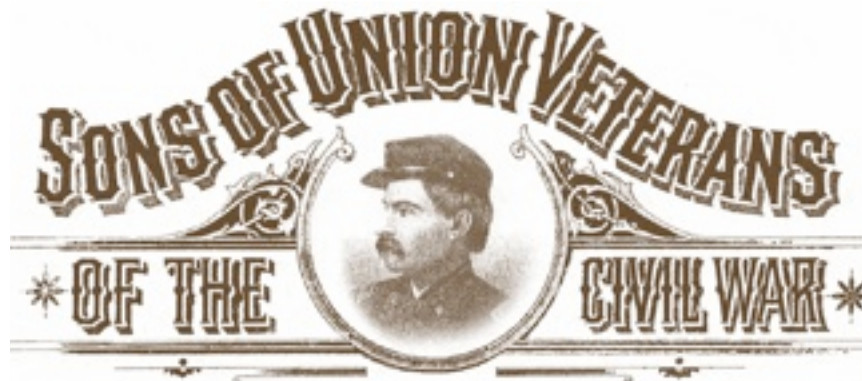




Edward McGinn is one of the two Medal of Honor recipients buried at Calvary Cemetery. See page 2 for the story of his heroism in "the Forlorn Hope" charge at Vicksburg. He was a private at the time and was wounded three times that day.

C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP #1

SUVCW



C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SERIES 2018 **CAMP ORDERS** APRIL 2018

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

DECIPHERING A MEMORIAL IN WATERTOWN

It certainly ranks as one of the most unusual Civil War memorials in Wisconsin.

Pvt. Conrad Dippel of Watertown, who lost his right arm at Petersburg, Va., erected a monument at Oak Hill Cemetery in Watertown to his 37th Wisconsin Infantry and to 13 close colleagues who were killed, wounded or captured. The monument consists of a large plaque on a rock, giving statistics for the 37th, and is fronted by an eerie combination of military memorial grave-stones, plaques and private memorial tombstones. Dippel and his wife are buried 80 to 100 feet away, the cemetery says.

There is nothing consistent about the men named, other than being in the 37th. Most were hit on June 17 or 18, 1864, but others were on other days or in other months. About half were in Co. I along with Dippel. Two are officers, but most are sergeants and privates.



This research by PCC Tom Mueller shows that C.K. Pier was wounded in the same fight that the memorial honors. Photo from Find a Grave.

The soldiers are from all over the state, so this is not a tribute to hometown boys. A few are buried or have memorial stones in other Wisconsin places and in other states. Others do not, according to Find a Grave; maybe they were among the many MIAs in the trenches at Petersburg and do not have memorial stones in their own towns.

Many more men in Co. I were KIA or wounded on June 17 or 18 but are not on the memorial.

From all the above factors, this research concludes that the monument is Dippel's tribute to his war buddies and direct officers in the 37th.

The story behind the memorial is not known in Watertown today. "I am not aware of any newspaper article that appeared regarding Mr. Dippel and the Civil War memorial he set up," said Wil-

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We need your input in planning the busy events schedule on Wednesday, May 2, at the Machinists Union hall at 1650 S. 38th St., Milwaukee. PDC Kent Peterson will have the patriotic presentation.

MCGINN WAS WOUNDED IN 'FORLORN' CHARGE

This is the third in a series of articles about things connected to the historical marker that the Camp will be placing at Calvary Cemetery. The research is by PCC Tom Mueller.

Edward McGinn was wounded three times in a daring charge at Vicksburg, Miss., that was dubbed "the Forlorn Hope." He received the Medal of Honor three decades later.

McGinn's name will be included on the historical marker that Camp 1 is erecting, along with Calvary's other MOH, the Navy's John Breen (more on him next month).

McGinn, a private in the 54th Ohio Infantry, Co. F, was 19 at the time of his heroism on May 22, 1863. His service began in September 1861 and his wounds did not knock him out of the war. He was promoted to sergeant and then first lieutenant starting in March 1865. McGinn died on Sept. 24, 1908, at the age of 62.

In the charge, 150 men volunteered to try to carry logs and planks to lay across a moat protecting the Confederates' heavily defended Stockade Redan. The charge was preceded by naval bombardment and artillery barrage and was followed by a much larger Union assault. They were stranded and

remained under fire for hours; finally evacuated after nightfall. Eighty-five percent of the 150 were killed or seriously wounded.

"Edward McGinn (was) severely wounded, as many as three bullets striking him in the head, and four others passing through his hat," Lt. Col. Cyrus W. Fisher, commander of the 54th Ohio, wrote in his report to headquarters two days later, posted at <http://www.ohiocivilwarcentral.com/entry.php?rec=607>

Fisher saluted 10 other men in the report. Five received the MOH like McGinn, all for "gallantry in the charge of the volunteer storming party." These medals were not awarded until 1894.

On the morning of May 22, Fisher said, "the regiment was called upon for seven volunteers to go with the storming party leading the head of the column. Eleven men offered their services," and he called them "such daring, gallant fellows."

No married soldiers were allowed to volunteer for the highly risky mission.

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The speaker at our Memorial Day commemoration on May 28 will be retired Sgt. Donald Lynch of the Air Force, a Gulf War era vet who served from 1986 to 1996 and was stationed in South Korea.

Lynch is junior vice commander of the Wisconsin Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He is also the past national commander of the Military Order of the Cootie, whose services include supporting the VFW National Home for Children and veterans hospitals.

The main celebrant of the Roman Catholic memorial mass will be the Most Rev. Jeffrey R. Haines, auxiliary bishop of Milwaukee.

REMEMBERING COL. PIER: VISIONARY IN LOCAL ROLE OF BANKING

These monthly articles about our Camp namesake are written by PCinC Steve Michaels. This item first was published in the April 1998 Camp Orders.



C.K. Pier in 1892. He died three years later.

Long before the rise of savings and loans, credit unions and savings banks, Col. Colwert K. Pier was advocating their establishment. He had been both a banker and businessman before moving to Milwaukee in 1888, and knew the benefits of reinvesting capital in local business.

In May 1890, Pier addressed the Milwaukee Liberal Club, taking for his theme "Cooperative Banking."

He cited the success of cooperative savings banks in New York and New Jersey. Pier said all workers should be given the best opportunity for saving. The money saved could be invested profitably and business stimulated. Every worker could become a capitalist.

In Milwaukee, there were 200,000 workers. If each were to save 10 cents a day, the amount would grow to fully \$6 million in one year, Pier said.

Wisconsin had a well-defined law allowing for such banking, but not one had been established as of then. The colonel strongly urged the establishment of such a bank and contended that no other movement would produce so much general good for the community.

From Milwaukee Sentinel, May 26, 1890.

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liam F. Jannke III, who has written two books about Watertown history.

"I can tell you that Dippel lost an arm in the war and claimed that they cut it off with no more anesthetic than good strong whiskey, and that from that time onward he was known as 'one-armed Dippel.' In my book, 'Watertown: A History,' I ran a picture of him, one of only two known," Jannke added.

Dippel died at age 80. His brief obituary in the Watertown Daily Times on June 1, 1912, did not discuss his efforts at Oak Hill. The Watertown Public Library unearthed the obituary and asked for a copy of this story about Dippel's war memorial to include in its history files.

The obit's headline called Dippel a "plasterer and mason by trade" and noted his wound at Petersburg. It said he was born in Germany and educated at the Polytechnic Institute of Dresden. Dippel came to America in 1849, learned the mason trade in New York and arrived in Watertown in 1855. He taught school for six years, the obit said, and "served as justice of the peace and held other minor offices of trust in the community." It added that he was a beekeeper "and attained considerable prominence in that industry."

The large plaque on the memorial rock pays tribute to the regiment and gives these statistics – 154 KIA, 71 discharged due to wounds, 335 severely wounded, 48 died of disease and 30 taken prisoner. E.B. Quiner's official Wisconsin history gives only a toll of 156 killed and 91 died of disease.

From the wording on one of the plaques, for Pvt. Hans Warner, Dippel evidently made this a decade and a half after their ordeal. The plaque labels Warner as "secretary of state of Wisconsin in 1880." He actually held that office from 1878 to 1882, died in 1896 and is buried at Ellsworth in Pierce County.

One stone at the memorial says the man on it was age 86 in 1911 (notably not saying he had died), so maybe all or part of the monument was done at that time, a year before Dippel died.

In the fighting of June 17 and 18, "the 37th suffered severely," says Quiner's history, at <http://content.wisconsinhistory.org/cdm/compoundobject/collection/quiner/id/17121>.



The Watertown memorial was set up by hometown vet Conrad Dippel, who lost his right arm at Petersburg. Photo processes of this era reversed the image. Dippel died in 1912. Photo from "Watertown: A History," by William F. Jannke III.

The 37th had left Wisconsin in April, and had served guard duty, but Petersburg was its first combat. It arrived there in the afternoon of June 16, and immediately was ordered "to move to the support of a charge" against enemy works along with other regiments. The next day, another charge was made "under a perfect storm of shell, shot and canister. When about halfway across the intervening space, an order was given by someone to 'half wheel to the right,' which produced confusion in the movements of the brigade, and exposed the left to an enfilading fire from the batteries, which made terrible havoc in the ranks of the 37th."

On June 18, the brigade advanced over the previous day's field of battle to the edge of an oat field.

"An order was given to move forward, and the command, under a sharp fire of cannon and musketry, pressed on across the oat field, towards a line of works, about half a mile in advance. ... They soon came to a deep cut of

the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad, and there were met by a terrible fire, which swept the top of the cut," Quiner said.

"An attempt to charge up the opposite side was met by the same sweeping fire, and soon the rebel sharpshooters obtained a position on the right, where they could fire along the whole length of the cut. Under cover of an artillery fire, two charges beyond the railroad cut were attempted in the afternoon ..." and the 37th eventually was relieved by fresh troops.

The 37th was with Lt. Col. Colwert K. Pier's 38th Wisconsin in the order of battle at Petersburg. Both regiments served in the 1st Brigade of the 3rd Division. Quiner's history of Pier's regiment closely matches Dippel's 37th on these days.

On the evening of June 16, the 38th Wisconsin "arrived in front of Petersburg, and moved out, under fire, to the battlefield," Quiner said. "Here they remained, exposed to a severe fire, until noon of the 17th, when they moved with the brigade in a charge against the enemy's works, and were repulsed. In the evening they again joined in a charge, and assisted in

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Fredric C. Lynch, PDC of Ohio for the SUVCW, wrote a detailed account of “the Forlorn Hope” at <http://www.ohiocivilwar150.org/2014/10/ohios-forlorn-hope-medal-of-honor-heroes/> It says 96 men from various Ohio units received the MOH for the May 22 attack.

Stockade Redan was a 17-foot-tall dirt wall protected in front by an 8-foot-wide, 6-foot-deep ditch.

“The assault of the storming party launched at 10 a.m. The gallant volunteers grabbed their logs, planks and ladders in sequence and charged across more than 1,000 yards of open battlefield. ... Any that made it to the ditch or got across it were trapped and forced to stop,” Lynch reported.

“By 11 a.m., their valiant effort was clearly a failure. As General Sherman noted, ‘about half of them were shot down. When the survivors reached the ditch, they were unable to construct the bridges as too many logs had been lost along the way when their bearers were shot down.’”

carrying three lines of earthworks. In this attack, Lt. Col. Pier and Maj. (Courtland P.) Larkin were both wounded, the latter severely.” On June 18, the 38th “advanced across an oat field” and to the railroad cut.

Pier was wounded on each of the three days of the assaults, PCinC Steve Michaels has reported in his years of work on the colonel. Quoting the 1888 Soldiers & Citizens Album, Michaels reported that “Pier was grazed by a bullet on the forehead, was shot in the fleshy part of the leg, and an ugly fragment of a shell hit him on the instep, the latter giving him much pain.”

The buddies that Dippel honors in Watertown are from places like Marinette, Janesville, La Crosse, Prairie du Chien, Menasha, Green County and more.

But a real mystery man is Theobald DuNavarra. He is not in the Wisconsin roster or the National Park Service database under this name or under several variations that were attempted; the private stone at the site gives his name only as Theobald and says he was in Co. I, and wounded on June 17. It does not give a rank for him.

There also is a plaque in French by his stone that gives his name as Theobald Du Navarra and says he was wounded in the right arm. There were seven in Co. I hit on this day, but nobody even close to that name.

Possibly he was someone who was around the camp and befriended Dippel’s group, but was not a soldier or was using a false name. Possibly this was a nickname that Dippel knew him by; possibly the fog of years got Dippel confused about his name.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Q: What was imprecise with the recent trivia answer about a thumbstall?

A: The answer said “this was the device used by an artillery gunner,” but PDC Tom Brown of Cushing’s Battery says that was too general and that the position called gunner is the No. 8 man on the crew, the commander. The answer should have said the thumbstall was used by the No. 3 man on the crew. It protects his thumb while placing it on the vent to create a vacuum to extinguish any embers in the breach of the artillery piece, during sponging or ramming.

MAY

BIRTHDAYS

- 7 – James Cook
- 19 – Tom Myers
- 23 – Brian Craig
- 25 – Bill Seaman



Report address or e-mail changes to PCC Tom Mueller at thewisconsin3800@gmail.com
Your Banner is not forwarded by the Postal Service, so you need to report a new address to us.

Camp Commander – PCinC Steve Michaels
(414) 712-4655

SVC Billy Cole (414) 545-7323

<https://www.facebook.com/CKPierBadger>
<http://www.suvcw-wi.org>

CAMP CALENDAR

28 May: Memorial Day at Calvary Cemetery.

1 July: Dedication of historical marker at Calvary Cemetery, 2 p.m.

15 July: Camp members will do presentations on various topics at the Oak Creek Historical Society, at East Forest Hill Avenue and South 15th Avenue in Oak Creek, near Forest Hill Memorial Park cemetery.

28 July: Heritage Days parade in South Milwaukee.