



This is Chaplain Dean Collins' badge of the Military Order of the United States, founded days after Lincoln was assassinated.

C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP #1

SUVCW



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SERIES 2024

## CAMP ORDERS

APRIL 2024

CHOSEN AS THE 2022 BEST CAMP IN THE NATION

### PIER'S CAMP SALUTES A WOUNDED PIER OFFICER

By Tom Mueller, PCC

An officer in Col. C.K. Pier's 38th Wisconsin Infantry was wounded in the 1864 Battle of the Crater, died in 1905 and is buried with a humble civilian tombstone at Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee.

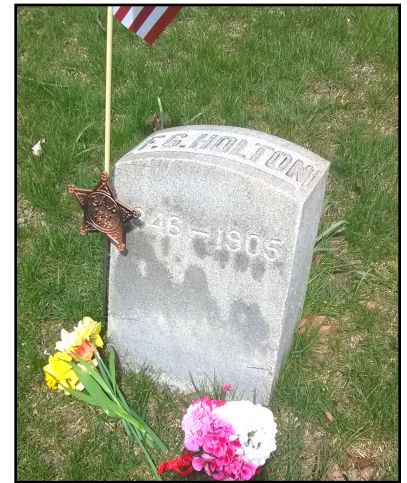
There is no recognition there of the service of First Lt. Francis Gideon Holton – until now:

The Camp this week placed a GAR flag holder on his grave, in accordance with our goals and a special effort to look after men in the 38th – thus, Pier's Camp supporting one of Pier's guys.

Holton was elevated to captain weeks after the battle of July 30, 1864, which was near Petersburg, Va.

Holton's leader in Company E was killed that day – Newton Ferris, who was the only one of Pier's captains in the 38th Wisconsin Infantry to be killed in its year of service. Ferris is buried at the City Point National Cemetery at Hopewell, Va.

Holton long has been in the Sons' national graves database, chronicled by Tom Ludka and Marge Berres along with many helpers in the Camp. PCC Tom Mueller recently noticed the lack of war recognition on his grave while researching the death of Ferris. He looked up E.B. Quiner's history of the 38th and saw the mention of Ferris, noticed it also mentioned Holton – and then Mueller looked for Holton in the national database and on



The grave of First Lt. Francis Holton now has recognition of his Civil War service. He is buried at Forest Home Cemetery.

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The next Camp meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, at the Lions Clubhouse, 7336 St. James St., Wauwatosa. JVC Tom Hesse will have the patriotic presentation.

# LT. HOLTON WAS WOUNDED IN THE CRATER BATTLE

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Find a Grave.

Quiner said in his comprehensive 1866 Wisconsin history of the war (some of the choppy writing is removed with the help of parentheses):

“On the 26th, Company E, Captain Ferris, arrived, which added three officers and 66 men to their available force (some other 38th Wisconsin companies had arrived earlier at Petersburg).

“On the 30th of July, when the order was given for an advance, after the explosion of the mine,” other moves by other units had faltered.

Brig. Gen. John Hartranft “ordered the 38th Wisconsin to take the lead, scarcely numbering 100.

“Company E, but just arrived from Wisconsin, and only four days in the field, under Captain Ferris and Lieutenant Holton, leaped over the works without hesitation, and advanced toward the crater of the blown-up fort, under a terrific fire, which swept through their ranks.

“They reached the crater, but Captain Ferris was killed and Lieutenant Holton severely wounded. They remained in the crater till 4 p.m., when they retired with the brigade.”

Holton, 18 when he was wounded, was from Milwaukee and had been mustered on May 10, 1864. His promotion to captain was made Sept. 6, a week and a month after he was wounded, and he served until the entire 38th was mustered out on July 26, 1865.

Holton died at age 59.

ROSTER OF COMPANY “E.”			
NAME.	RESIDENCE.	DATE.	REMARKS.
<b>OFFICERS.</b>			
<b>Captains.</b>		<b>Rank from.</b>	
Newton S. Ferris.....	New Lisbon....	May 10, '64..	From Co. I, 37th Wis. Inf.; 1st Lieut., Apr. 16, '64; killed in action July 30, '64, Petersburg, Va.
Frank G. Holton .....	Milwaukee ....	Sept 6, '64..	1st Lieut., May 10, '64; wnd. July 30, '64, Petersburg, Va.; M. O. July 26, '65.

The Wisconsin roster gives the similar records of Francis (Frank) Holton and Capt. Newton Ferris.

Holton’s older brother, Edward, a sergeant in the 5th Wisconsin Infantry, Co. B, and then first lieutenant in the 24th Wisconsin, Co. G, also is buried in the family plot at Forest Home. His grave was unmarked until a few years ago, when he got a government tombstone under the Adopt a Soldier

program, led by Ludka and Berres.

Ferris, of New Lisbon, originally was a draftee and mustered on Nov. 17, 1863, serving in the 37th Wisconsin Infantry, Co. I. His rank and promotions there are not in the roster, but he became 1st lieutenant of the Pier’s 38th, Co. E, on April 16, 1864; then was promoted to captain on May 10. Ferris was 32 when killed.

The Crater battle is the infamous tunneling under longtime Confederate lines and setting off of explosives.

As the American Battlefield Trust says: “At that point, everything deteriorated rapidly for the Union attackers. Unit after unit, most of whom were U.S. Colored Troops, charged into and around the crater, where most of them milled in confusion in the bottom of the crater.

“The Confederates quickly recovered and launched several counterattacks led by Maj. Gen. William Mahone. The break was sealed off, and the Federals were repulsed with severe casualties. Most of the black soldiers were badly mauled. Instead of ending the siege, both sides settled in for eight months of trench warfare.”

## REMEMBERING COL. PIER: HEADING INTO THE UNKNOWN

*These monthly articles about our Camp namesake are written by PCinC Steve Michaels. This item first was published in the April 2004 Camp Orders.*

The first battalion of Lt. Col. C.K. Pier’s 38<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry was mustered into U.S. service on April 15, 1864. The unit proceeded to Washington on May 3, arriving about four days later.

The group was encamped on Arlington Heights, where it was furnished with arms and equipment. Camp was laid out and a routine of drill commenced. The minor diseases characteristic of the transition from civilian to military life were overcome, and it was hoped that the battalion might remain there in camp until the rest of the regiment arrived.

Instead, it received orders on May 30, 1864, to move to Alexandria and there embark. Promptly at sunrise, with knapsacks and haversacks packed, the men were in line.

Pier then briefly addressed the troops, telling them they were about to move into unseen and unknown dangers; that they would be called upon to undergo privations, hardships and exposure that would severely tax their patience and endurance.

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## 2 LOOKS AT SLAVERY IN WORLD HISTORY



*At the April Camp meeting, PCC David Howard gave a wide-ranging report about the long use of slavery around the world, dating back to ancient times.*

*Here is a very academic version from the Lowcountry (South Carolina) Digital History Initiative, a project hosted by the Lowcountry Digital Library at the College of Charleston.*

See <https://ldhi.library-cofc.edu/exhibits/show/african-passageslowcountryadapt/introductionatlanticworld/slaverybeforetrade>

Various forms of slavery, servitude, or coerced human labor existed throughout the world before the development of the trans-Atlantic slave trade in the 16th century.

“... almost all peoples have been both slaves and slaveholders at some point in their histories,” author David Eltis says in “The Rise of African Slavery in the Americas.”

But earlier coerced labor systems in the Atlantic World differed – in terms of scale, legal status and racial definitions – from the trans-Atlantic chattel slavery system that developed and shaped New World societies from the 16th to the 19th centuries.

Slavery was prevalent in many West and Central African societies before and during the trans-Atlantic slave trade. When diverse African empires, small to medium-sized nations, or kinship groups came into conflict for various political and economic reasons, individuals from one group regularly enslaved captives from another group because they viewed them as outsiders.

The rulers of these slaveholding societies then could exert power over these captives as prisoners of war for labor needs, to expand their kinship group or nation, influence and disseminate spiritual beliefs, or potentially to trade for economic gain.

Before the trans-Atlantic trade, western European elites focused on owning land as private property to secure their wealth. These elites held rights to

the products produced on their land through various labor systems, rather than owning the laborers as chattel property. In contrast, land in rural Western and Central African regions (outside of densely populated or riverine areas) was often open to cultivation, rather than divided into individual landholdings, so controlling labor was a greater priority.

The end result in both regional systems was that elites controlled the profits generated from products cultivated through laborers and land. The different emphasis on what or whom they owned to guarantee rights over these profits shaped the role of slavery in these regions before the trans-Atlantic trade.

As the trans-Atlantic slave trade with Europeans expanded, however, both non-slaveholding and slaveholding West and Central African societies faced greater demand for enslaved labor.

The rise of plantation agriculture as central to Atlantic World economies led to a generally more extreme system of chattel slavery. In this system, human beings became movable commodities bought and sold in mass numbers across significant geographic distances, and their status could be shaped by concepts of racial inferiority and passed on to their descendants.

New World plantations also generally required greater levels of exertion than earlier labor systems, so that slaveholders could produce a profit within competitive trans-Atlantic markets.

In the centuries before the arrival of European explorers, diverse American Indian groups lived in a wide range of social structures. Many of these included different forms of slavery or coerced labor, based on enslaving prisoners of war between conflicting groups, enforcing slavery within the class hierarchy of an empire, or forced tribute payments of goods or labor to demonstrate submission to a leader.

The history of slavery spans many cultures, nationalities and religions from ancient times. Its victims have come from many different ethnicities and religious groups. The social, economic, and legal positions of slaves have differed vastly in different systems of slavery in different times and places.

Evidence of slavery predates written records; the practice has existed in many cultures and can be traced back 11,000 years ago.

Slavery was used in civilizations including ancient Egypt, ancient China, the Akkadian Empire, Assyria, Babylonia, Persia, ancient Israel, ancient Greece, ancient India, the Roman Empire, the Arab Islamic Caliphates and Sultanates, Nubia, the pre-colonial empires of sub-Saharan Africa, and the pre-Columbian civilizations of the Americas.

Forms of ancient slavery included debt-slavery, punishment for crime, prisoners of war, child abandonment and children born to slaves.

More at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History\\_of\\_slavery](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_slavery)



He said he would trust that their courage, patriotism and manliness would counter any deficiency of discipline that the limited time allotted for instructions had prevented their attaining. And that whether on the march or on the battlefield, he would expect everyone to guard, maintain and defend to the last, the reputation of the regiment, the fair name of our state and the principles for which they fought.

The officers and men were ready and enthusiastic. The march to Alexandria began.

*From Battle Fields and Camp Fires of the 38<sup>th</sup> Wis. Vols. by Lt. S.W. Pierce; Daily Wisconsin Printing House, Milwaukee 1866.*

## Service anniversaries this year

**Kent Peterson, 30 years**

**Dean Collins, 30 years**

**Jim Brinks 25 years**

**Tom Heinen, 20 years**

**Tom Ludka, 20 years**

**Grant Johnson, 5 years**



**Thank you all for your longtime membership and Brotherhood!!!**

### CIVIL WAR

#### TRIVIA

**Q:** How many hired substitutes were there in Wisconsin units?

**A:** Googling this will not get you very far. But a complex two-page table in an 1880 Wisconsin history book (p. 90-91) will tell you this: There were 2,361. The book is a series of county histories published by the Western Historical Company of Chicago, which all begin with the state history. There are lots of other neat things in the table, so the Camp Orders will use it again in coming months.



### MAY BIRTHDAYS

7 – James Cook                      29 – Michael Deeken  
19 – Douglas Phillips

### COMING UP

**Calvary Cemetery:** May 19, TBA in afternoon. On the weekend before Memorial Day, we will be placing flags for veterans. A strong team effort will be needed to keep up this tradition. Help us for a couple hours. Stay tuned.

**Memorial Day:** May 27 at Calvary. The speaker will be Michael B. Koszuta, secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center. He is a retired Army command sergeant major. The main concelebrant of the Roman Catholic Mass will be Auxiliary Bishop Jeffrey R. Haines. See the flyer.

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**We are at <https://www.facebook.com/CKPierBadger>  
and <http://www.suvcw-wi.org>**

The SUVCW is a tax-exempt organization under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)3, as per the Internal Revenue Service. Donors thus are allowed to deduct contributions they make to C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1, if they do not use the standard deduction on their taxes.

Report address changes to editor Tom Mueller, PCC, at [thewisconsin3800@gmail.com](mailto:thewisconsin3800@gmail.com) Your Banner is not forwarded by the Postal Service, so you need to report a new address to us.