



CC Tom Hesse is escorted to place the Camp wreath at the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield, Ill. The April 12 event was days before the 160th anniversary of the assassination. Photo by Danielle Michaels.

C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP #1

SUVCW



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SERIES 2025

CAMP ORDERS

APRIL 2025

CHOSEN AS THE 2022 BEST CAMP IN THE NATION



Soldier school

Department SVC Patrick Fallon, right, and Joe Fallon conduct a special School of the Soldier – teaching the basics of commands such as “present arms,” carrying a rifle and marching in formation. This was March 30 at our meeting site in Wauwatosa. Photo by Steve Michaels

4 WIS. UNITS AT APPOMATTOX SURRENDER

By Tom Mueller, PCC

On April 12, three days after Lee surrendered to Grant, dozens of Union regiments lined the roads at Appomattox for the formal surrender of 27,000 Confederates – the stacking of arms and furling of flags, complete with a touching salute by both sides.

There were four Wisconsin units in the event – the 5th Infantry, 6th, 7th and 36th, as listed at [https://www.civil-](https://www.civil-wararchive.com/unionwi.htm)

[wararchive.com/unionwi.htm](https://www.civil-wararchive.com/unionwi.htm)

How many other Union regiments were lining the roads in the surrender? This not readily found when Googling that question, or in books like “April 1865: The Month That Saved America,” by Jay Wink. The accounts and books instead focus on the number of Confederates surrendering.

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The next Camp meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 14, at the Lions Clubhouse, 7336 St. James St., Wauwatosa. Department SVC Patrick Fallon will have the patriotic presentation.

Surrender – Continued from page 1

A sampling of units were tested from among the order of battle at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Appomattox_campaign_order_of_battle:_Union

Many in the test were there, according to www.civil-wararchive.org – such as the 26th Michigan Infantry, 61st New York Infantry, 20th Massachusetts Infantry, 1st Vermont Cavalry, 69th Pennsylvania Infantry and C.K. Pier's 109th New York Infantry.

The other Wisconsin forces in the massive seven corps of Union troops were not in the surrender – Pier's 38th Wisconsin, the 37th and 19th Wisconsin, and the 4th Wisconsin Light Artillery.

Grant chose Brig. Gen. Joshua Chamberlain to preside over the surrender, and his account is at <http://www.americancivilwarstory.com/joshua-chamberlain.html>

As the Confederates, under Gen. John Brown Gordon, marched forward to relinquish their arms and furl their flags, Chamberlain gave an order that would give the terrible war a fitting end. He ordered his men to stand to attention and “carry arms,” as a salute. Gordon was deeply moved, and ordered his men to return the honor in kind.

Here is Chamberlain's report (with some light editing to make it easier to read 160 years later):

“The momentous meaning of this occasion impressed me deeply. I resolved to mark it by some token of recognition, which could be no other than a salute of arms. ...

“Before us in proud humiliation stood the embodiment of manhood: men whom neither toils and sufferings, nor the fact of death, nor disaster, nor hopelessness could bend from their resolve; standing before us now, thin, worn and famished, but erect, and with eyes looking level into ours, waking memories that bound us together as no other bond.

“Was not such manhood to be welcomed back into a Union so tested and assured?

“Instructions had been given; and when the head of each division column comes opposite our

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Service anniversaries for Camp in 2025

Rich Beggs, 50 years

Ron Aronis, 40 years

Dennis Slater, 25 years

Ken Freshley, 25 years

Robert Nix, 25 years

Tom Mueller, 15 years

Phil Olson, 15 years

Bill Liebert, 15 years

Paul Eilbes, 5 years

Clifford Howard Jr., 5 years



The Camp, and the 1st Brigade Band, applaud your longevity and patriotism!!!

REMEMBERING COL. PIER: 10-YEAR SERIES BEGINS ANEW

These monthly articles about our Camp namesake are written by PCinC Steve Michaels. The following was published in the April 1995 Camp Orders as the first in the decade-long series of articles about C.K. Pier.

Col. C.K. Pier first visited the Col. C.K. Pier Camp during its infancy. He was present at a meeting on Friday evening, May 17, 1889, in which the camp received the annual inspection by Capt. Harry S. 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 that 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), the Pier Camp was “vigorous and full of energy.”

From Milwaukee Sentinel, 18 May 1889



WILMER McLEAN HOUSE SPENT DECADES DISMANTLED



The monthly Camp meeting was on April 9, the 160th anniversary of Lee's surrender at Appomattox. Patriotic Instructor Doug Phillips recounted facts of the event, including Grant's muddy boots and unwashed uniform, Lee's immaculate uniform, their small talk about both being in the Mexican War, and Wilmer McLean, whose house was taken for the site of the meeting.

This saga of the house after the surrender is from <https://www.nps.gov/apco/mclean-house.htm> and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wilmer_McLean

Two years after the Lee surrender, Wilmer and Virginia McLean moved from Appomattox Court House, returning to Mrs. McLean's estate in Prince William County, Va. When Wilmer McLean defaulted on repayment of loans, the banking house of Harrison, Goddin and Apperson of Richmond brought a judgment against him, and the "Surrender House" was sold at public auction in 1869.

On Jan. 1, 1891, the property was sold again, for \$10,000, to Myron Dunlap of Niagara Falls, N.Y. Dunlap and fellow speculators went through two or three plans intending to capitalize on the notoriety of the property; one idea was to dismantle the home and move it to Chicago as an exhibit at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition, the World's Fair.

A later option was to move the house to Washington, D.C., and charge entrance fees. Drawings including elevations and materials specifications were made, and the house was dismantled and packed for shipping – but due to cash flow and legal problems, the plan never was brought to fruition. For 50 years, the home sat dismantled in piles, prey to vandals, collectors and the environment.

On April 10, 1940, the Appomattox Court House National Historical Monument was created by Congress, to include about 970 acres. In February 1941 archeological work was begun at the site, then overgrown with brush and honeysuckle. Historical data was collected, and architectural working plans were drawn up to begin the meticulous reconstruction



Wilmer McLean's house at Appomattox was dismantled for potential movement to other cities in the 1890s, then sat idle in piles until finally being reconstructed after World War II.



process. But the whole project was brought to a swift stop by World War II.

Then in 1947, bids for the reconstruction of the McLean House were opened and on April 9, 1949 – the 84th anniversary of the historic meeting – the McLean House was opened to the public by the National Park Service.

At the dedication ceremony on April 16, 1950, Maj. Gen. U.S. Grant and Robert E. Lee IV, direct descendants of the Civil War generals, cut the ceremonial ribbon. About 20,000 people attended.

The McLeans' first house, near Manassas, Va., was involved in the First Battle of Bull Run, in 1861 – the fight was on the McLean farm, the Yorkshire Plantation. Union artillery fired at the house, which was being used as a headquarters for Confederate Brig. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard, and a cannonball dropped through the kitchen fireplace.

McLean was a retired major in the Virginia militia, but at age 47 he was too old to return to active duty. He made his living during the war as a sugar broker supplying the Confederate States Army. He decided to move in 1863 because his commercial activities were centered mostly in southern Virginia, and the Union army presence in his area of northern Virginia made his work difficult. He undoubtedly also was motivated by a desire to protect his family from a repetition of their combat experience.

So he and his family moved about 120 miles south to the crossroads community called Appomattox Court House.

On April 9, 1865, Lee was about to surrender to Grant, and sent a messenger to Appomattox Court House to find a place to meet. The messenger knocked on McLean's door and requested the use of his home, to which McLean reluctantly agreed.

Later, McLean said, "The war began in my front yard and ended in my front parlor."

McLean died in 1882 in Alexandria, and is buried at St. Paul's Episcopal Cemetery there, along with his wife, Virginia, who died in 1893.

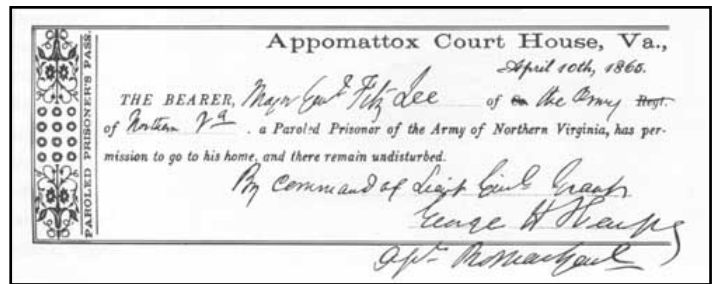
Surrender – Continued from page 2

group, our bugle sounds the signal and instantly our whole line from right to left, regiment by regiment in succession, gives the soldier's salutation, from the 'order arms' to the old 'carry' – the marching salute.

"Gordon at the head of the column, riding with heavy spirit and downcast face, catches the sound of shifting arms, looks up, and, taking the meaning, wheels superbly, making with himself and his horse one uplifted figure, with profound salutation as he drops the point of his sword to the boot toe. Then, facing to his own command, gives word for his successive brigades to pass us with the same position of the manual – honor answering honor.

"On our part not a sound of trumpet more, nor roll of drum; not a cheer, nor word nor whisper of vain-glorying, nor motion of man standing again at the order, but an awed stillness rather, and breath-holding, as if it were the passing of the dead!

"As each successive division masks our own, it halts, the men face inward towards us across the road, 12 feet away; then carefully 'dress' their line, each captain taking pains for the good appearance of his company, worn and half-starved as they were. The field



Multiple presses were set up to print 27,000 parole forms. This is the parole of cavalry Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, nephew of Robert E. Lee. More at <https://www.battlefields.org/.../appomattox-parole-pass>

and staff take their positions in the intervals of regiments; generals in rear of their commands. They fix bayonets, stack arms; then, hesitatingly, remove cartridge-boxes and lay them down.

"Lastly – reluctantly, with agony of expression – they tenderly fold their flags, battle-worn and torn, blood-stained, heart-holding colors, and lay them down; some frenziedly rushing from the ranks, kneeling over them, clinging to them, pressing them to their lips with burning tears. And only the Flag of the Union greets the sky!"

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Q: Which Wisconsin regiment had the highest number of veteran re-enlistments?

A: The 12th Infantry had 519 re-ups. Second was the 13th Infantry, with 392. The numbers come from a complex two-page table in an 1880 Wisconsin history book (p. 90-91). This was series of county histories published by the Western Historical Company of Chicago, each with a section on state data. The total for Wisconsin re-enlistments was 15,784.

MAY BIRTHDAYS



7 – James Cook

29 – Michael Deeken

19 – Douglas Phillips

Camp Commander – Tom Hesse
hesset66@gmail.com

262-707-4629

SVC – Patrick Fallon

262-994-3285

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 Your Banner is not forwarded by the Postal Service, so you need to report a new address to us.

COMING UP

May 18 (a Sunday): Flag-placing in advance of Memorial Day. 1:30 p.m. at Calvary Cemetery. Anyone with a tombstone or holder denoting veteran service in any war gets the flag of our country; the red, white and blue.

May 26: Memorial Day at Calvary Cemetery, complete with new Archbishop Jeffrey S. Grob, Cushing's Battery, 1st Brigade Band, Nic Bur / Abraham Lincoln, rifle salutes and more. See the flyer.

WHERE WE SERVED AND FOUGHT

— A SERIES SALUTING THE ANCESTORS OF CAMP 1 BROTHERS



Photo from Find a Grave

Helmenstine's 49th Infantry was one of the eight regiments mustered in the state in 1865, as the war was heading to a climax. The 49th was organized from Dec. 24, 1864, to March 5, 1865.

The 46th Wisconsin was mustered on March 2 and sent first to Louisville, Ky. The 47th was mustered Feb. 27 and also sent to Louisville. The 48th was organized in February and March and sent to St. Louis.

The 50th was organized in March and April and sent to St. Louis. The 51st was organized from March 20 to April 29. Four companies stayed in the state and were mustered out May 6; the others moved to St. Louis.

The 52nd was organized in April and sent to St. Louis. The 53rd was organized in March and April and sent to St. Louis.

These dates are from <https://www.civilwararchive.com/Unreght/unwiinf3.htm#46thinf>

BROTHER JOHN HELMENSTINE'S ANCESTOR: PVT. WILLIAM J. HELMENSTINE

Served in the 49th Wisconsin Infantry, Co. A, from Feb. 13, 1865, to Nov. 8 of that year.

Was from Ridgeway in Iowa County.

Helmenstine's regiment left the state for St. Louis, Mo., on March 8, then moved to Rolla, Mo., on March 13. It had garrison and guard duty there until August, when it was moved to St. Louis.

See <http://www.civilwararchive.com/Unreght/unwiinf3.htm#49thinf>

E.B. Quiner's Wisconsin history says the 49th escorted trains from Rolla to Springfield. That brief report is at <https://content.wisconsinhistory.org/digital/collection/quiner/id/17131>

Those two sites are in the Ozarks, 116 miles apart; Rolla in central Missouri and Springfield in the southwest. Rolla's population today is about 20,000, and Springfield's 170,000.

Helmenstine was mustered out on the last day of the regiment's service.

Born Sept. 16, 1843.

Died Dec. 16, 1923.

Buried at West Blue Mounds Lutheran Cemetery, at Blue Mounds in Dane County.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR AND AUXILIARY MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Monday, May 26, 2025, at 10 a.m.

At Milwaukee's Historic

CALVARY CEMETERY

5503 W. Bluemound Road

Outdoor Mass followed by a Patriotic Program, featuring:

- **Archbishop Jeffrey S. Grob, Main Concelebrant**
- Keynote Speaker Captain Kendel D. Feilen, U.S. Coast Guard Reserve (ret.)
- Cannon firing by Cushing's Battery A, 4th U.S. Artillery
- Civil War Music by the First Brigade Band playing original instruments
- Procession to graves of Union Soldiers
- Escort of President Abraham Lincoln by 29th Regiment, U.S. Colored Troops (USCT) and Iron Brigade Guard
- Address by Pres. Lincoln (Nic Bur)
- Decoration of soldiers' graves with U.S. flags provided by Camp 1 and Auxiliary 4



For more information, call (414) 712-4655 / E-mail lt.col.sm@gmail.com

In case of inclement weather, ceremonies will be inside St. Vincent Pallotti Church at 5502 W. Bluemound Rd.