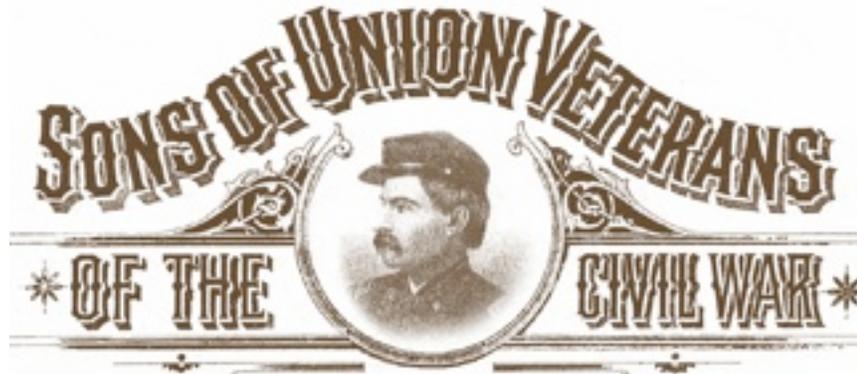




Rich Beggs of Clintonville, our longest-serving member, received his 40-year pin at a special luncheon in the Waupaca County town. More photos on page 2.



C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SERIES 2015 CAMP ORDERS AUGUST 2015

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

HONORING 2 WISCONSIN MOH MEN IN WASHINGTON STATE

In a cemetery 1,800 miles from where they grew up in Columbia County of Wisconsin, two Medal of Honor recipients from the Civil War were honored by their home state this summer.

Sgts. Albert O'Connor and William H. Sickles are buried at the Washington Soldiers Home Cemetery at Orting, Wash. O'Connor died in 1928 while a resident of the home, and Sickles, also a resident, in 1938 – he reportedly was the last MOH recipient of the war to pass into the next world.

I had noticed their faraway location while doing work as GRO for the Wisconsin Department a few years ago, and so I went to their graves while visiting family near Tacoma and Seattle. I took along a small Wisconsin flag, recited

**FROM THE COMMANDER
– TOM MUELLER**



This photo of William Sickles, left, and Albert O'Connor is from the Washington Soldiers Home.

their MOH citations and added: “Your native Wisconsin sends its love and salutes, as do the sons, grandsons, great-grandsons and many nephews of all generations.”

The two earned the medal on March 31, 1865, in the same incident while in the 7th Wisconsin Infantry; O'Connor in Company A and Sickles in Company B.

The citation for O'Connor says that on March 31, he

“recaptured a Union officer from a detachment of nine Confederates, capturing three of the detachment and dispersing the remainder, and on 1 April 1865, he seized a stand of Confederate colors, killing a Confederate officer in a hand-to-hand contest over the colors and

Continued on page 3

Getting back into gear as summer ends

Monthly meetings resume on Wednesday, Sept. 2, at the usual site – the Machinists Union hall at 1650 S. 38th St., Milwaukee. We will have happy news about the Forest Home Cemetery historical marker, and PDC Kent Peterson will have the patriotic presentation.



40 years for Rich Beggs

Rich Beggs of Clintonville received his 40-year pin as a Sons member in July. CC Tom Mueller, DC Kim Heltemes and Camp 8 CC Bill Parker each drove to Waupaca County to do the honors. Beggs, 78, is a dual member of Camps 1 and 8, but began in 1975 as an at-large member while still in the Navy. He moved back to his hometown after retiring from the Navy in 1986. He took us to Civil War graves at two cemeteries, and the photo shows the tombstone of his great uncle, Daniel Bowen, of the 3rd Wisconsin Cavalry. Beggs says he really likes the Trivia column in this newsletter, so in his honor, the topic is Navy this month. See page 4.



Don't shrink from this wool review

The Quartermaster Shop of www.quartermastershop.com says that after every event, hang your garments on individual hangers in a cool, dry place, avoiding direct sunlight. A garage or breezeway is a good choice.

For dry-cleaning, once a year is best. Not more often. Specify NO STEAM at the cleaner. This is because the steaming process can shrink your garment just as bad as if you had washed and dried it!!!

Under extreme conditions, such as getting drenched at a parade or reenactment, never force-dry a wet or damp garment in a clothes dryer or by "fanning" it over an open fire.

Such actions would force the fibers to dry quickly, which curls them tighter and causes most of the shrinkage that is experienced with natural-fiber garments.



REMEMBERING COL. PIER: GAR COMES TO MILWAUKEE

These monthly articles about our Camp namesake are written by PCinC Steve Michaels. This item first was published in the August 1995 Camp Orders.

In 1889, Col. C.K. Pier was serving as general secretary to the National GAR's Executive Council. As such, he was in charge of finding accommodations for the thousands of veterans coming to National Encampment in Milwaukee, Aug. 26 to 29.

Pier warmly supported the plan, "... having each Wisconsin regiment sheltered in tents, pitched in vacant lots, lawns and other available places," and leaving commercial places for the use of those coming from out of state.

"Wisconsin comrades would again be 'tenting on the old camp ground.' Among the fine trees and fountains of the Court House Square alone, tents for the accommodation of at least 10 regiments might be placed ..."

On Monday evening, Aug. 26, the Sons of Veterans held their campfire program. Pier was scheduled to give a five-minute speech, as were 12 others, with GAR Commander-in-Chief William Warner serving as moderator. A later newspaper account does not mention Col. Pier's talk, so it appears that he and several other local speakers were cut from the program in the interest of brevity.

Pier, as a member of the Executive Council of the Encampment, was one of many on the reviewing stand the next morning. Other celebs were Gen. William T. Sherman, Wisconsin Gov. William Dempster Hoard, Mary Logan (widow of Gen. John A. Logan, GAR commander in chief, who had died three years earlier) and Commander-in-Chief Warner.

Six thousand men, representing 130 posts, marched in the Grand Parade. Crowds, eight feet deep, extended from about midway of the sidewalk into the street for a distance of 10 feet. This was an event as was never before seen in Milwaukee, both as to numbers and "picturesqueness," the Milwaukee Sentinel reported.



IN WASHINGTON STATE

BY DEPARTMENT GRO
AND CC TOM MUELLER



From the Commander – continued from page 1

retaining the colors until surrounded by Confederates and compelled to relinquish them.”

Sickles’ citation says that on March 31, “With a comrade, Sergeant Sickles attempted capture of a stand of Confederate colors and detachment of nine Confederates, actually taking prisoner three members of the detachment, dispersing the remainder, and recapturing a Union officer who was a prisoner in hands of the detachment.”

This was at Gravelly Run, Va., near Petersburg. The encounter came 10 days before Appomattox.

Both were from Columbia County – O’Connor from West Point Township and Sickles from Fall River, according to the Wisconsin Civil War roster. Those are on opposite sides of the county. The roster shows that O’Connor enlisted June 12, 1861, at age 17; Sickles on May 11, 1861, at age 16. Both were mustered out on July 3, 1865.

Their Iron Brigade regiment fought in many of the war’s biggest battles – Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Spotsylvania and Bloody Angle. O’Connor was wounded in May 1864 in the Battle of Wilderness.

After Gens. Grant and Lee met at Appomattox, the 7th became one of the four Wisconsin regiments among many others taking the surrender of 27,000 Confederates, and later it marched in the Grand Review in Washington, D.C.

The Washington Soldiers Home says Sickles was admitted there in 1911 and O’Connor in 1915. Sickles is buried next to his wife, Jennie, who died in 1932.

The Medals of Honor were not awarded until 1917, when Woodrow Wilson was president, according to information posted with their citations at <http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=3285> and <http://valor.militarytimes.com/recipient.php?recipientid=59>

Why it took 52 years is not evident, although one can speculate that the 50th anniversary of the action must have inspired some sort of effort to complete and honor the record.

Besides O’Connor and Sickles, only 20 other Wisconsin men received the MOH in the Civil War. There were 1,520 recipients overall.

When Sickles died on Sept. 26, 1938, at age 93, he was the last surviving Civil War Medal of Honor recipient, according to the valor info at the Military Times site. This is not easy to independently confirm, but some Civil War veterans lasted into the 1940s, and the last Union vet to die was Albert Woolson in 1956.

At the Soldiers Home, established in 1891, a newer meeting building is named for O’Connor.

The Soldiers Home Cemetery is a state facility and thus maintained less thoroughly and by fewer staff than any federal one. Home Superintendent Willie Slusarski says the biggest issue is the giant pines that tower over the cemetery, which are a “fall hazard” and would wipe out dozens of tombstones if they were toppled in a storm but also pose a threat to graves during removal because very heavy equipment is required. The trees are as much as 160 feet high and four feet in diameter. They are beautiful and stately, but have posed a hazard for decades.

Slusarski reports that state funding for a project to remove 18 of them finally has been obtained, and the next step is taking bids. A citizen group also aims to raise money for this and other work, and says on its Facebook page: “There are headstones trapped in trees, headstones that you can’t read because a tree has engulfed them or is directly in front of them, headstones that are sunk into the ground, misaligned, or simply so badly cared for that they are literally blank.”



CC Tom Mueller brings the Wisconsin flag to two MOH recipients in Washington state.



NO FINAL ACTION YET BY VA FOR EASING TOMBSTONE RULES ABOUT NEXT-OF-KIN

One year ago this month, the Camp Orders explored the issue of tighter rules by the Department of Veterans Affairs about ordering government tombstones and how a next-of-kin was required. This rule, imposed in 2009, greatly hampered the efforts of Civil War researchers and other historians.

As we later reported, in the fall of 2014, the VA started the long process of backing off on this, proposing to allow genealogists and history researchers to order tombstones for veterans whose service ended before April 6, 1917. The language was "in proposed § 38.600(a)(1)(v)."

The public comment period on the rules change ended in December 2014 and there were 385 comments filed. An updated final rule should be published by the end of 2015, according to those closely following the glacier-like process.

But as of mid-August, the rules listed at http://www.cem.va.gov/hmm/order_instructions.asp still had the next-of-kin requirement. That web page did not note any forthcoming change.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Q: In the Navy, what was a shell whip?

A: This was a device that was used to lift artillery shells up to the gun deck of a ship. As an example of those who worked there, Thomas O'Connell earned the Medal of Honor in the Battle of Mobile Bay on Aug. 5, 1864. He came out of sick bay to man the shell whip, until losing his right hand to a Confederate artillery shell. This was aboard Adm. David Farragut's flagship, the USS Hartford.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

21 – Bob Nix
23 – Jim Brinks

**Congratulations,
Brothers!!!**



**Report any address or e-mail changes to
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Lifeopp@yahoo.com**

**Newsletter editor
Cmdr. Tom Mueller
thewisconsin3800@gmail.com**

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

CAMP CALENDAR

20-23 August: National Encampment in Richmond, Va.

22-23 August: West Allis Settlers Weekend, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and until 4 p.m. Sunday. At 84th and National.

29 August: Event in Delavan honoring designation of the Civil War monument in Spring Grove Cemetery as a landmark, 11 a.m. Held by Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

5 September: St. Francis Days parade, 11 a.m. Form at Civic Center on East Howard Avenue.