



German Fest fans of all ages enjoyed our displays. In a blitzkrieg of nine days, the Camp and Auxiliary appeared in two multi-day expos and a parade. See pages 2 and 4 for event photos.

C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP #1

SUVCW



C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SERIES 2024

## CAMP ORDERS

AUGUST 2024

CHOSEN AS THE 2022 BEST CAMP IN THE NATION

### STATUE IN MONROE HONORS 38TH WIS. MAN

By Tom Mueller, PCC

The statue that is atop the Civil War monument at the Courthouse Square in Monroe, Wis., honors one of C.K. Pier's men in the 38th Wisconsin Infantry.

Cpl. William R. Hawkins was killed near Petersburg, Va., on April 2, 1865. He was from Clarno, which is just south of Monroe. The statue at the Green County Courthouse was donated 50 years after the war by the captain of Hawkins' Co. H, Benjamin Frees, who was from Monroe. The statue has Hawkins' face on it, according to a brochure posted on Find a Grave, apparently created by the Green County Historical Society.

The plaque at the base of the monument says of Hawkins:

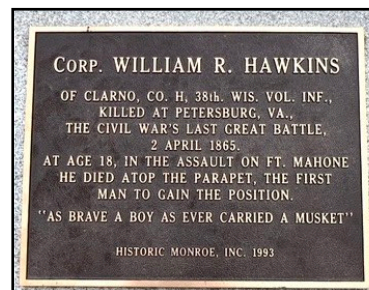
"At age 18, in the assault of Ft. Mahone

*Continued on page 3*

The story of the statue is from a brochure about the historic Green County Courthouse. The plaque about the death on April 2, 1865, is at the base of the monument. Photo by Laura Mueller.

A statue on the courthouse lawn serves as a fitting memorial to the approximately 2,500 men from Green County who fought with the Union Army during the Civil War. Cast of bronze and placed

on a base of pink Wisconsin granite, it was dedicated on Memorial Day in 1913 as a gift of "B.M. Frees, Capt., Co. H, 38th Wisc. Vol. Inf." The face on the statue was created from an actual portrait of Corporal William "Billy" Reese Hawkins, an infantryman from nearby Clarno Township who padded his age in order to enlist when he was only about 16 years old. Hawkins served under Captain Frees, and was among the last of the soldiers killed in the war.



The next Camp meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 11, at the Lions Clubhouse, 7336 St. James St., Wauwatosa. Brother Doug Phillips will have the patriotic presentation.



## Lots of teaching in a short time

In a nine-day period in late July, the Camp and Auxiliary appeared at two multi-day events (plus the set-up days) and in a parade – the Menomonee Falls encampment, German Fest and the South Milwaukee march. Two such duties overlapped on July 27. Danielle and Steve Michaels give a taste of weaponry to a German Fest patron, and JVC Tom Hesse presents the flag to encampment leaders after it was solemnly lowered. A parade photo is on page 4. Photos by Kent Peterson and Danielle Michaels.



## National Encampment in Louisville, Ky.



The Department of Wisconsin delegation joins new CinC Kevin L. Martin (center) at the 143rd National Encampment, which was in Louisville, Ky. The CinC is from Maryland. Below, delegates PDC Tom Brown of Camp 1 and Kirby Scott of Camp 8 await floor action. Photos provided by Scott.



## REMEMBERING COL. PIER: A RUMOR BECOMES TRUE

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

The U.S. Army was always rampant with rumors and gossip. Occasionally, these turned out to be true.

In a reminiscence that C.K. Pier wrote in 1889 for the Milwaukee Sunday Telegraph, he recalled a man from Company A, 38<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry. Sgt. Isaac Burch had quickly risen from company clerk to regimental, brigade and division headquarters, and finally to special detail at Corps Headquarters. Pier did not know that prior to coming to Fond du Lac in 1863 and enlisting in the 38<sup>th</sup>, Burch had served as lieutenant and adjutant in the 4<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Cavalry (U.S.).

Nevertheless, Burch became welcome and acquainted everywhere. He was almost always on special duty. Whenever he returned to the 38<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin on a visit, the regiment pumped him for headquarters news. He was said to have been always generous in generalities.

On March 24, 1865, Burch made such a visit and indicated to Col. Pier that he wanted to meet with him privately, which of course was granted. Burch said there was something in the air, that his detail was revoked, and he was to return to duty with his company. He also stated that Col. Pier was to be detailed for another command, and hell would be to pay before long.

While they were talking, an orderly rode up with orders detailing Pier to the 109<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry. The next morning, the enemy assaulted and captured Fort Stedman.

*From Milwaukee Sunday Telegraph, Nov. 24, 1889*





## UNIQUE HONOR FOR 38TH WIS. MAN



### Monroe statue

*Continued from page 1*

He died atop the parapet, the first man to gain the position.

‘As brave a boy as ever carried a musket’ ”

There is no attribution for the quote, although logically it came from Capt. Frees.

The plaque is dated 1993 and was put up by Historic Monroe Inc.

The story of the face and the statue is on Hawkins’ page at <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/209008147/william-rezin-hawkins>

The statue “was dedicated on Memorial Day in 1913 as a gift of ‘B.M. Frees, Capt. Co. H, 38th Wisc. Vol. Inf.’ The face on the statue was created from an actual portrait of Corp. William ‘Billy’ Reese Hawkins, an infantryman from nearby Clarno Township ... Hawkins served under Capt. Frees ....”

The account comes from a formal brochure about the Courthouse, which also is on Hawkins’ page. The statue depicts Hawkins clenching the nation’s flag.

Hawkins enlisted on Aug. 9, 1864. He likely is one of the unknowns buried at the Poplar Grove National Cemetery near Petersburg. It has 6,718 remains, but only 2,139 (32 per cent) were positively identified, according to the National Park Service, which runs the cemetery.

Fort Mahone was nicknamed “Fort Damnation.” It also was known as Battery 29, part of the extensive Confederate defenses at Petersburg, where the 292-day-old siege of the area ended on the very day that Hawkins was killed. Appomattox and Lee’s sur-

Colonel Harriman, commanding the brigade, placed Colonel Bintliff in command of the assaulting column, that officer having requested leave of absence from the brigade to which he had been appointed, in order to lead the brave boys he had so carefully and diligently drilled. The force rendezvoused at Fort Sedgewick, from whence, at about dawn of the morning of the 2d of April, they emerged, the Thirty-eighth in advance, led by its brave Colonel. They were soon under a rain of bullets from the enemy, but they pushed on over the picket line, over the works of the rebels, tearing away two lines of *chevaux de frise*, a formidable line of abatis, into the ditch, up the embankment, and into the fort, where they found the rebels just vacating in a hurry, on whom the gallant boys of the Thirty-eighth turned the guns of the fort, many of them, in their awkwardness in the handling of artillery, making narrow escapes from shooting our own men. An artillery company soon came to their assistance, when the guns of the fort were more effectively handled against their late owners. The rebel artillery in the surrounding works, opened on them, and a fire was kept up all day, which was replied to by the occupants of the fort. Six different assaults were made by the rebels during the day, to recover the lost works, but they were repulsed every time, and the victors spent the night in the captured works, and awoke in the morning to find that the enemy had abandoned his entire line, and was fleeing to the southwest. In this battle at Fort Mahone, the Thirty-eighth suffered severely, as the list of casualties will show.

The list of killed and died of wounds, is from the Adjutant General’s records; the wounded, from the monthly reports:

KILLED OR DIED OF WOUNDS.—Company B—Privates Ira Connolly and William H. Richardson. Company C—Private John B. Coyhis. Company D—Sergeant J. Wyatt. Company E—Privates Erasmus D. Stearns, John Dwyer and Antoine Wesner. Company F—Privates Frank Arkush, John Dwyer, Thomas James and Charles Trues. Company G—Privates Sanford Perrigo, Albert Byorn and Win. Haynes. Company H—Corporal Wm. R. Hawkins, Private Nelson Dunn. Company I—Private A. A. Ballinger—17.

The attack on Fort Mahone by the 38th Wisconsin and other units is described on page 851 of E.B. Quiner’s 1866 history. This page is at <https://content.wisconsinhistory.org/digital/collection/quiner/id/17147>

Capt. Benjamin Frees of Co. H of the 38th Wisconsin, who funded the statue in Monroe, died in 1920 in San Diego, Calif., and is buried at Whitewater, with a memorial stone at Fort Atkinson. Photo from Find a Grave.



render came a week later.

In his epic “Military History of Wisconsin,” E.B. Quiner gives this account of April 2 in the chapter devoted to the 38th Wisconsin:

“It was one of the enemy’s strongest works. ... Eight companies of the 38th formed the first line ... the 109th New York, and two companies of the 38th, under Lt. Col. Pier, formed the second line, the 8th Michigan forming the third line.”

The 38th fought its way to the fort, which the Rebels began evacuating. “Six different assaults were made by the rebels during the day, to recover the lost works, but they were repulsed every time ...”

Quiner then lists the dead that day from the 38th, by company, including Hawkins.

The Fort Mahone attack is discussed in depth at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third\\_Battle\\_of\\_Petersburg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Third_Battle_of_Petersburg) and <https://emerging-civilwar.com/2017/10/13/mapping-the-attack-on-fort-mahone-april-2-1865/>

Fort Mahone was a small part of what Wikipedia calls it the massive “Third Battle of Petersburg, also known as the Breakthrough at Petersburg or the Fall of Petersburg.” It says Gen. U.S. Grant wrote to

his wife on the night of April 2:

“I am now writing from far inside of what was the rebel fortifications this morning but what are ours now. They are exceedingly strong and I wonder at the success of our troops carrying them by storm. But they did it and without any great loss. Altogether this has been one of the greatest victories of the war.”

Union forces lost 3,936 men on April 2, some accounts say.

James Matthew of St. Francis and junior Lucas Nguyen of Greenfield have joined the Camp.

Matthew's relative of record is Pvt. John Jones, 15th Michigan Infantry, Co. A. Matthew is a Coast Guard veteran.

Nguyen's relative of record is Pvt. John Farber, 35th Wisconsin Infantry, Co. C.

Welcome, Brother Jim and Lucas!!! And thank you, Jim for your service!!!

A few months ago, Will Ammann of Shorewood and Jerry Reick of Glendale also joined the Camp, but somehow the Camp Orders overlooked a welcome.

Ammann's relative is Lt. Col. John Fox Means, 13th Regiment Pennsylvania State Militia, F&S Co.

Reick's relative is Cpl. Hulbert Duane McQueen, 23rd Wisconsin Infantry, Co. C. Reick is an Army veteran.

A belated welcome, Brothers Will and Jerry!!! And thank you, Jerry, for your service!!!!

Changing of the guard:  
New Auxiliary member Kara Nguyen and recently new Camp member Will Ammann carried the colors in the South Milwaukee parade on July 27.



#### CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

**Q:** We know that four Wisconsin units (5th Infantry, 6th, 7th and 36th) were at the stacking-arms surrender ceremony at Appomattox on April 12 (Lee had formally surrendered to Grant on April 9). How many were at the next surrender, on April 26 at Bennett Place near Durham, N.C.?

**A:** A total of 13 are listed – 5th and 12th Light Artillery, and these infantry regiments – 3rd, 12th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 21st, 22nd, 25th, 26th, 31st and 32nd. This is from <http://www.civilwararchive.com/unionw.html> But details of any ceremony are very sparse. At Bennett Place, Confederate Gen. Joseph E. Johnston met with Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman and surrendered his army of 90,000 in four states. See <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/bennett-place-surrender> and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bennett\\_Place](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bennett_Place)



#### SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

21 – Bob Nix  
21 – Dale Bepalec  
23 – Jim Brinks

**Camp Commander – Grant Johnson**  
[grant.johnson@responsory.com](mailto:grant.johnson@responsory.com)

414-940-3113 or 262-432-0183

SVC – Michael Benton 414-659-3767

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.

#### COMING UP

**St. Francis parade:** Saturday, Aug. 31, 11 a.m. The last march of the season; we thank the hardy paraders of the Camp and Auxiliary, old and new. Parades earn vital funds for each group's programs.

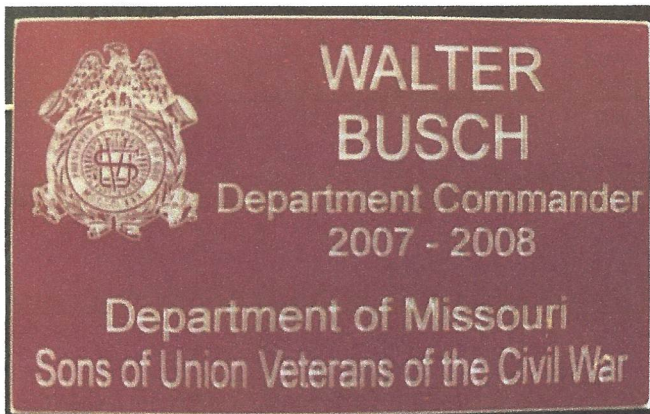
**Forest Home tombstone dedication:** Saturday, Sept. 21, 2 p.m. These are for Pvt. Theodore Carl, 18th Wisconsin Infantry, and 1st Sgt. Thomas J. Franey of the 1st Wisconsin Infantry (3-month unit) and then the 19th Wisconsin.



# US GRANT CAMP ORDER FORM

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