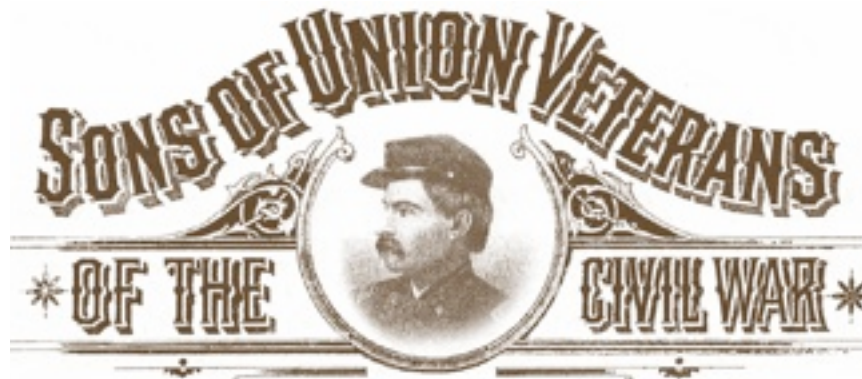




Portraying U.S. Grant, Wayne Issleb of Racine County will be the speaker at the Patriotic Luncheon on Feb. 6. Issleb owns History Explored, which authenticates and sells documents and other artifacts. His website is <http://www.historyexplored.com/> Photo by Gary Porter for Milwaukee Journal Sentinel.

C. K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE
CIVIL WAR



C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SERIES 2015 CAMP ORDERS DECEMBER 2015

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

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY
HOLIDAYS TO ALL,
AND WE PROUDLY
MARCH INTO 2016**



Whether it was in parades like at St. Francis, at Memorial Day, or at events, C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 proudly carried out its missions all year long. Enjoy the photos of the year here and on page 3.

Send in your member renewal, and help Victorious Charge, too

Thank you to the Brothers who already have renewed!!! Please also make a donation to help refurbish the Victorious Charge statue, because we are striving to donate enough to put our Camp's name on the permanent donor plaque that will be placed at the site. The statue was erected in 1898, only three years before our Camp was established.

The next Camp meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, at the Machinists Union hall at 1650 S. 38th St., Milwaukee. PCC Tom Mueller will have the patriotic presentation.

UNWRAPPING A FEW OBSCURE FACTS FROM THE WAR

At the Dec. 2 Camp meeting, the patriotic presentation by PI Bruce Nason included these topics from the 1982 book "The Civil War – Strange and Fascinating Facts," by Burke Davis.

The Civil War was the "breeding ground" for modern warfare. The author lists more than 45 "firsts," including a successful submarine, flamethrowers, repeating rifles, a workable machine gun, the U.S. Secret Service, conscription (the draft), the bugle call "Taps," the first Negro officer (Maj. Martin Delany) and the Medal of Honor.

There were more than two dozen names for the war, including the War for Southern Independence, the Great Rebellion, the War Against Slavery, the War Against Northern Aggression, the Brothers War and Mr. Lincoln's War.

Firing on both sides was so inaccurate that soldiers surmised that it took a man's weight in lead to kill a single enemy in battle. In 1860, federal ordnance officers turned down the Spencer repeating rifle, which did not get into the hands of the Union army until late in the war. Their reasoning was that soldiers would fire too fast and waste ammunition.

Despite the phrase "The Blue and Gray," uniforms often varied and were confusing. At the start of the war, most Federal troops wore "Standard Gray," and troops from 3rd New York, 1st Vermont and most Indiana soldiers wore gray uniforms with

black facings just like Confederate troops from Georgia. The 1st Iowa's uniforms mirrored those of Louisiana. Men from Maine, Kansas and Nebraska also wore gray.

Pay always was an issue. In Virginia in 1863, slaves could be "hired" for \$30 a month but a Confederate private's pay was only \$11 per month. In 1864, the pay rate was raised to \$18. Union privates drew \$16 a month but their pay was worth seven times that of a Confederate dollar.

No personality of the war generated more gossip than Gen. Ulysses S. Grant. Rumors said Grant was a slave owner who voted Democratic and married into a pro-Southern family. True – in 1858 he bought a mulatto but set him free in 1859. Grant married Julia Dent, who owned at least three slaves. And he voted for James Buchanan, thinking the Union could be held together by compromise.

Another rumor was that as a young officer Grant was a drunkard and was ousted from the army. Half-true and exaggerated – he did have a problem with alcohol and some called him a "four fingers" drinker. Finally, when scolded by friends, he promised to quit and he did. Grant resigned from the Army in 1854; the story goes that he was "tipsy" when

Continued on page 4



REMEMBERING COL. PIER: FIRST TEST WAS AT FALLING WATERS

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

C.K. Pier's first military fighting experience came as a member of Company I of Col. John Starkweather's 1st Wisconsin Infantry at Falling Waters in Virginia, on July 2, 1861.

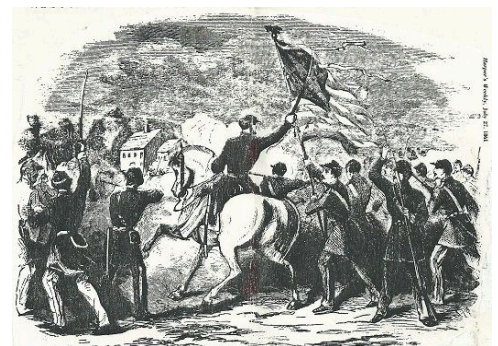
Pier was one of 14,000 Union soldiers in the battle. The majority of these men were partially trained, inexperienced volunteers in a three-month unit whose enlistments would expire in August. Despite the newness to military life, the men seemed in excellent spirits.

Falling Waters was a wild, harum-scarum battle, but the boys thought it was a big thing. For an hour, "galling fire" was kept up from each side of a wheat field. Pier wrote home that he saw two of the enemy stretched dead in a field.

In the men's minds, it was a big campaign. But a year later, Falling Waters (also known as Hoke's Run, Hainesville and Martinsburg) would rate only the designation of a skirmish and would be a standing joke among the now-hardened veterans.

Pier, 20, came through the fighting unharmed. But the 1st Wisconsin did lose one boy, 18-year-old George Drake. Later, the story would go around the campfires that he had told a companion, "We are going into battle and I expect to be among the first that fall." Drake was the first Wisconsin soldier to be killed in the Civil War.

From "Wisconsin in the War of Rebellion," by Wm. DeLoss Love: Church & Goodman, Publishers; Chicago 1866



Col. Starkweather deploys the 1st Wisconsin as skirmishers during the Battle of Falling Waters



2015 PHOTOS OF THE YEAR AND ALL OUR F, C AND L



DC Kim Heltemes and CinC Tad Campbell sign the charter for Camp 15 at the Department mid-winter meeting in February. Camp 15's officers, who had been members of Camp 1, record the historic moment in the background.



Memorial Day featured a patriotic crowd and the color guard at attention.

Steve Michaels assists Jan Van Rens, executive director of Forest Home Cemetery, in finalizing the site of the historical marker after it was delivered. It was installed in September.



In April, CC Tom Mueller researched and honored Medal of Honor recipient Milton Matthews at the very hour of his heroism 150 years earlier. Milton is buried at Wood National Cemetery. He seized the flag of the 7th Tennessee Infantry near Petersburg, Va.



Camps 1 and 4 join military groups and vets for Wreaths Across America at Wood National Cemetery in December. And Mary Ann Schallock touts the Auxiliary's canned goods for customers at the West Allis Settlers Weekend in August.

Photos by PDC Kent Peterson, PCC Tom Mueller and PCinC Steve Michaels. Each made great efforts with the lens throughout the year.

The Green Sheet recently featured a figure from our Camp history: Alvina Merzrath, now 102, sewed our beautiful Camp and Department flags in the 1990s. Merzrath was born only 12 years after our Camp was founded. The Milwaukee Sentinel featured her embroidering the Department flag in a 1997 story, so the Journal Sentinel did an update. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel photo by Angela Peterson. Story at <http://www.jsonline.com/greensheet/after-a-century-of-lifes-bumps-shes-ready-to-celebrate-birthday-no-102-b99611823z1-347270642.html>



UNWRAPPING OBSCURE FACTS — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

on duty and his unfriendly commander asked him to resign or face charges. His resignation letter was accepted by Secretary of War Jefferson Davis.

Music played an unusual role in some events. In the fighting before the fall of Atlanta, there was a cornet player in a unit of Georgia Sharpshooters. Each night he would come to the front lines and play for his fellow Confederates. Across the lines the Federal pickets would shout, "Hey Johnny, we want that cornet player." Confederates answered back that he was afraid they would shoot his horn. "We'll hold our fire," came the reply. The cornetist then would mount the works and play solos from operas and popular tunes. Confederate Col. James Nisbet later said, "How those Yanks would applaud." When the music stopped, the firing would resume.

One of the most striking battle victories of the war was won by a 19-year-old Confederate captain, Richard Dowling of the Davis Guards. With 43 men, armed with only rifles and six small cannon, he defended Sabine Pass, Texas, in September 1863 by driving off a Federal fleet that tried to land about 15,000 men.

As we all know, the Civil War had a greater loss of American lives than all of our other wars

combined. An official count stands at 618,000, although some estimate that the number is greater than 700,000. The Union Army had as many as 2,750,000 men and best estimate of losses are 360,222. The Confederate Army is said to have as many as 1,250,000 men and its losses are put at 258,000 (less accurate because of lost records).

The worst one-day battle losses were, of course, Antietam with a total of dead, wounded and missing of 26,134. The dead figure is a staggering 4,807.

Horses, too, paid a big price. At Gettysburg, more than 3,000 were killed.

Perhaps the most unusual casualties of the war were summed up in a newspaper headline, "Confederate Shell Kills Two Yankee Soldiers 80 years After It Was Fired."

In the 1940s, the Civil War Fort Macon on the North Carolina coast was occupied by US troops for the first time since its capture from the Confederates in 1862. Fireplaces provided the only heat and unsuspecting soldiers rolled cannon balls into position as andirons, mistaking them for solid iron shot. The powder-filled balls exploded, killing two and injuring several.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Q: What were mantlets and sabots?

A: A mantlet was a bulletproof shield made of wood, rope matting or metal used to protect cannon crews at the embrasures, according to <http://www.civilwarartillery.com/glossary/glossary.htm>. This site defines hundreds of artillery terms. It says a sabot served as the driving band for the projectile, and was made of wood, brass, copper, lead, papier-mache, leather, rope or wrought iron.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

8 – Dave Curran
22 – Jeremy Brown
31 – Emmett Jordan

Congratulations,
Brothers!!!



Report any address or e-mail changes to
newsletter editor PCC Tom Mueller
thewisconsin3800@gmail.com

Camp Commander
Patrick Fallon

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

CAMP CALENDAR

23 January: Deadline for running an ad saluting your relative in the Patriotic Luncheon program. Deadline for event RSVP is Jan. 29.

6 February: Patriotic Luncheon and mid-winter Department meeting. The speaker will be Wayne Issleb, who portrays Gen. U.S. Grant. Send us the name of a history-oriented person who ought to be invited.

12 June: Dedication of our historical marker at Forest Home Cemetery, Milwaukee. TBA.