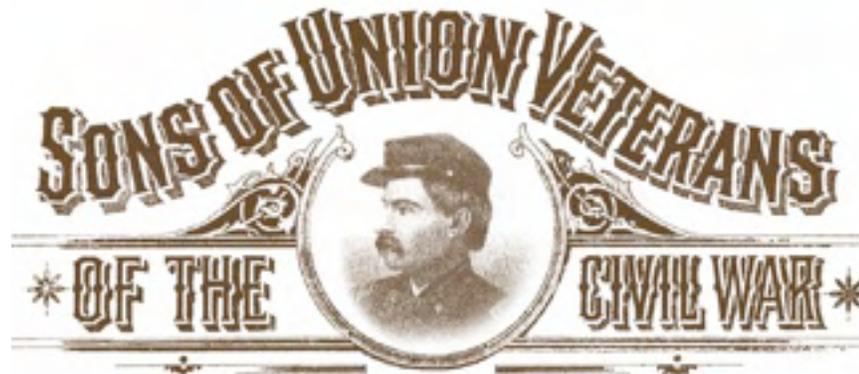




Col. Hiram Berdan was the organizer of Berdan's Sharpshooters, which included one company from Wisconsin. See the trivia on page 4.



**C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1**

**SERIES 2015 CAMP ORDERS FEBRUARY 2015**

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

**PATRIOTIC LUNCHEON RENEWS TIES WITH HISTORY GROUPS**

The Patriotic Luncheon, one of our two biggest events of the year, is now behind us, and we already have begun the planning for Memorial Day, the GAR's most sacred day.

About 100 Brothers, Auxiliary Sisters and people from historical groups gathered on Feb. 7 to mark the birthdays of Lincoln, Washington and William McKinley (the last president who was a Civil War soldier).

The salute is a longtime Milwaukee tradition, and the proceeds go to aiding veterans, honoring Union soldiers and running our Camp. We combine this with the donations that you generously made for veterans relief and Memorial Day when you sent in your membership renewal.

**FROM THE COMMANDER  
- TOM MUELLER**



Without his tall hat and beard but definitely with great expertise, Lincoln presenter Nic Bur tells us about Lincoln at the Patriotic Luncheon.

While many Camp members worked many hours on the Patriotic Luncheon, I particularly want to salute PDC Kent Peterson for guiding the program and its advertising into existence, and Mary Ann Schallock for sending out invitations, making more than a few reminder calls as the event drew closer, handling the reservations and more. Huzzah, both of you.

Thanks also to Lincoln presenter Nic Bur for a thoroughly researched speech about "Lincoln's Leadership: A Lasting Legacy." Bur owns several dozen books about the Great

Emancipator and clearly has chewed through many beyond that. He is a middle school teacher in West Allis and

*Continued on page 4*

**MARCHING INTO MARCH**

Thank you to all who have renewed their memberships and the commitment to their ancestors. Our next meeting is at 7 p.m. March 4 at the Machinists Union hall at 1650 S. 38th St., Milwaukee. SVC Jeff Lesar will have the patriotic presentation.



Longtime Camp 1 members PCC Brian D. McManus, Pat Kulas and Jeff Graf display the charter for the new Col. Hans Heg Camp 15. The charter was signed at the Mid-Winter Meeting by CinC Tad Campbell, and Graf is the Camp commander. The Camp is based at Norway.



Photos here and on page 1 by Kent Peterson and Tom Mueller

**Patriotic Luncheon scenes**



The 45th annual Patriotic Luncheon featured (starting at upper right) a visit by CinC Tad Campbell of California, PDC Fred Murphy, raffle winners making selections from the bounteous prize table, and Allison Graff setting up table displays.



**REMEMBERING COL. PIER: COMMANDING NEW YORK REGIMENT**

*These monthly articles about our Camp namesake are written by PCinC Steve Michaels. This first was published in the February 2005 Camp Orders.*

On March 4, 1865, Lt. Col. Pier was detached from the 38<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry by order of his division commander and was placed in charge of the 109<sup>th</sup> New York Infantry, which had lost all its field officers.

The New Yorkers did not want a youngster from Wisconsin placed over them, and Pier preferred to remain with the command in which he trained and fought previous campaigns. Neither Pier nor the 109<sup>th</sup> had much time to consider their feelings, though. At 4 a.m. the next day, in a surprise attack, a wave of Confederate forces totalling nearly half of Lee's Army captured Fort Stedman and the batteries to the north and south of it with little resistance.

For the Confederates, Fort Stedman was one of the closest spots on the line before Petersburg; there were fewer obstructions and a supply depot was less than a mile away. The Confederates hoped that, by overtaking the fort, they could force Grant to shorten his lines or set them back, allowing them to pull out cleanly.

For four hours, the 109<sup>th</sup> assisted in recapturing the fort with 2,000 of its captors. This quickly ended the discontent between Pier and the 109<sup>th</sup>. Pier, who had demonstrated coolness and control under fire, remained in command of the 109<sup>th</sup> New York.

*From Soldiers & Citizens Album of Biographical Record (Vol. 1), Brown & Brown 1888; the National Park Service; and Wisconsin in the War of Rebellion by Wm. DeVoss Love, Chicago 1866*



## MY RELATIVE AT BALD HILL

BY PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR BRUCE NASON



On July 20, 1864, Confederate cavalry under Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler encountered and opened fire on Maj. Gen. Frank P. Blair's XVII Corps in a contest lasting all afternoon to halt the advance of the Union forces toward Atlanta. As evening neared, Wheeler withdrew west to a treeless eminence known as Bald Hill and dug in.

During the afternoon of the 20th, the XV Corps, Army of the Tennessee, commanded by Maj. Gen. John A. Logan, moved along the Decatur Road and the Georgia Railroad on the right of the XVII Corps, but no unit was ordered to assist the XVII Corps. In the late afternoon, Logan ordered Battery H, 1st Illinois Light Artillery, to fire the first shots on Atlanta.

The two brigades of Brig. Gen. Walter Q. Gresham's 4th Division continued trying to dislodge Wheeler's men positioned on top of Bald Hill. The 1st Brigade, commanded by Col. Benjamin F. Potts, was located about 400 yards east of Bald Hill. While inspecting the front lines, Gresham dismounted his horse and was walking toward Potts' position when a bullet hit him in the left leg. Col. William Hall temporarily assumed command. The 3rd Division, led by Brig. Gen. Mortimer D. Leggett, moved up on the left of the 4th Division.

Leggett sent his aide to ask whether Blair intended to attack. By the time Leggett's aide reached Blair, word had come that the decision was not to proceed yet, because there were only two hours of daylight left. During the night of July 20-21, Confederate Maj. Gen. Patrick R. Cleburne moved his division to support Wheeler's 3,000 cavalymen.

The Union forces facing the Confederates were made up of parts of two divisions. One part consisted of a section of Col. Robert K. Scott's 1st Brigade, 3rd Division, positioned on the Union left (south). This brigade was south of Wheeler's men on top of the hill. The other was a brigade commanded by Brig. Gen. Manning F. Force. To the right (north) were the 3rd Brigade, 4th Division, commanded by Hall, and the 1st Brigade, commanded by Potts, held the Federal right.

Confederate Brig. Gen. James A. Smith's brigade was positioned on the right of Cleburne's division and took position on the north slope of Bald Hill with Wheeler's cavalry on its right.

At 7 a.m., the 1st Iowa battery opened fire on the Confederates. The battery of 10-pounder rifled cannons was positioned on high ground 800 yards northeast of Bald Hill. The rain of canister and solid shot was devastating from such a close range.

Force's brigade was in front of Bald Hill. The 12th Wisconsin and the 16th Wisconsin Regiments were in the front line, with the 12th on the right. As the brigade emerged from the woods, it faced not only the rifle fire of the infantry defending the hill, but also from two batteries from Arkansas and Mississippi that opened fire from their flank.

The men were ordered down and to fix bayonets, then to continue the assault. The 12th and 16th Wisconsin formed the advance of the charging column. Exposed to terrible fire from the entrenchments, the charging Wisconsinites never wavered, rushing the rebel works and over them with a cheer, engaging in hand-to-hand fighting using bayonets and clubbing with their muskets until the defenders were forced to retreat.

The Confederate cavalry on the hill fled and the Union brigade was able to reach the top of Bald Hill and gain the Confederate breastworks. The brigade charged after the rebels for 60 rods, strewing the grounds with Confederate dead and wounded. That advance exposed it to scathing fire from Cleburne's troops in nearby Confederate works. The brigade fell back to the captured works on the high ground, and despite a terrible crossfire from three directions as well as several charges, the Union forces held.

But at what cost: In just 15 minutes, the 12th Wisconsin, out of nearly 600 men engaged, lost 134 killed or wounded. One of those wounded and hospitalized for three months was Pvt. Daniel P. Nason, my great-grand-uncle. But he was released from the hospital in time to rejoin the 12th for Sherman's march through Georgia and the Carolinas.

Also of note is that one of the Confederate batteries firing on the 12th Wisconsin was Stanford's Light Artillery of Yalobusha County, Mississippi. Two members of that battery were Richard and Sylvester Nason. I still am doing research and hope to confirm that these Nasons are distant cousins to my branch of the Nason family tree.

Bald Hill later became known as Leggett's Hill to commemorate the gallant forces that fought under his command. Unfortunately, this historic site was destroyed for construction of a freeway – it is the Interstate 20 and Moorland Avenue interchange on Atlanta's east side.

## From the Commander – continued from page 1

started presenting Lincoln 25 years ago as a way to better connect with his students. He again will present Lincoln at our Memorial Day ceremony.

The luncheon was attended by groups ranging from a local chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution to the Society of Mayflower Descendants to the Wauwatosa VFW Post 1465 to the West Side Soldiers Aid Society.

Kudos, too, to Virgil Matz of Black Earth, the longtime Department GRO guru and now my mentor because I hold that job. CinC Tad Campbell presented him with a Meritorious Service Award “in recognition of many years of exceptional effort and dedication in graves registration and associated research” and as a member of the national committee on that subject.

As your Camp commander, my job was to extend our greetings to the luncheon. I touted the deep special interests of our members – playfully using the word “weird” to describe my own research passions and the expertise of other folks, and offered our Speakers Bureau as a worthy resource for hire in sharing those interests with other groups.

That is something I hope that you will spread the word about, too, in your own circles. You and our other Brothers and Sisters are readily able to talk in

some depth about things like armaments, uniforms, our relatives in the war, painted backgrounds in soldier photos (I did that one), histories of certain regiments or the state in general, Civil War infantry life, monuments, researching and the role of women.

This week on Presidents Day, I spoke as an author at an Oak Creek senior apartment complex about Harry Truman and my own research of the era nine decades after the Civil War. This formed one of my books, published in 2010. But I also made a note to mention how the land north of the apartments once belonged to Pvt. Bernard Stollenwert of the 24th Wisconsin Infantry. He was wounded and captured at Chickamauga along with the ancestor of Dean Collins, our Camp chaplain.

B. Stollenwert owned one farm on the 1876 plat map, and a C. Stollenwert owned a second. Together they made up 187 acres in what is now the heart of Oak Creek, on the west side Howell Avenue.

Some of those who came to the Patriotic Luncheon have been at earlier speeches that I made, and I had made sure to invite them to our event. It was gratifying to see them again. All of us in the field of history can learn from each other, and can help each other – all that networking back and forth builds a great momentum.

### CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Q: Who were Berdan's Sharpshooters?

A: Company G of the 1st Regiment Sharpshooters was from Wisconsin. Capt. Edward Drew of Buffalo, N.Y., was killed at Charles City Crossroads, Va., on June 30, 1862, and was succeeded by Frank Marble of Beloit. Inventor and renowned marksman Hiram Berdan was commanding colonel of the two sharpshooter regiments. An extensive exploration of the Sharpshooters and their rifles is at <http://www.berdansharpshooters.com/tactics.html>

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

5 – John Gilliss  
8 – Tom Remington  
13 – Richard Wade  
16 – Glen Grippen  
20 – Phil Olson

Congratulations,  
Brothers!!!



Report any address or e-mail changes to  
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Website <http://www.suvcw-wi.org>

### CAMP CALENDAR

21 March: Civil War Expo, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
at Civil War Museum, Kenosha.

29 March (Sunday): Member Orientation,  
12:30 to 4:30 p.m. in Delavan for the sake of the  
new Camps in Norway and possibly Janesville. All  
are welcome.

25 May: All of us should be part of our  
Memorial Day event at Calvary Cemetery,  
Milwaukee.

6 June: Department Encampment at Civil  
War Museum, Kenosha. Save the date.

18 July: Dedication of Civil War memorial  
at Camp Randall in Madison.