



Fraternity,

Charity,

Loyalty



C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SERIES 2016 **CAMP ORDERS** JULY 2016

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

AUG. 7 EVENT TO HELP COL. PIER'S CEMETERY

The little Fond du Lac cemetery that is the final resting place of Col. C.K. Pier has become overgrown with tall trees, weeds and brush, and its stone wall is deteriorating in places – but help is on the way.

PDC Tom Brown, a descendant of Pier, has reached out to the Fond du Lac County Historical Society and local government to prioritize the needs and launch a recovery plan for the Pier Family Cemetery, which has 17 graves as listed on Find a Grave.

The society is holding its 60th annual ice cream social from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 7, which will include seeking donations from attendees to help the cemetery. Several of us from Camp 1 will be on hand to tell Col. Pier's story, take a closer look at the cemetery and honor our namesake.

Brown had visited the cemetery in May and took pictures when he saw the problems, and in June he led a few Camp members there for a closer assessment and to meet with the historical society. He has joined the



society, which is based at the Galloway House & Village at 336 Old Pioneer Road, a living-history museum. The cemetery is at 132 Old Pioneer Road, four-tenths of a mile away.

Last summer, the rusting historical marker at the cemetery was removed and a new one appeared in its place, with the sign saying "refurbish

by City and County of Fond du Lac." So someone had been taking steps on behalf of the historic site.

Graves in the cemetery date to 1838, for Fanna Kendall Pier. The historical marker says she died at age 30 and that her husband, Colwert E. Pier, was the first white settler in the county.

Colwert K. Pier, son of Edward Pier and Harriet Kendall Pier, was born in 1841 and died in 1895.

Brown says he has been telling the family story to the historical society and seeking to educate those who run the Pier Elementary School, 259 Old Pioneer Road.

The historical society's website is <http://www.fdlhistory.com/>

The Camp 1 and Auxiliary 4 picnic will be noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 24, at Oakwood Park, Menomonee Falls. This is south of Good Hope and west of Lilly Road. Come and partake!!!

C. K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SUJVCW

LOOK WHERE WE ARE!!!

We are listed at the very top of the top tier of donors to the project that includes Victorious Charge.

The drive is led by Milwaukee's Westown Association, and you can see this at <http://www.westown.org/courtofhonor/>

Donors

[« Court of Honor Restoration](#) [Donors](#) [Monuments for Restoration](#)

The Court of Honor on Wisconsin Avenue in downtown Milwaukee features several bronze monuments memorializing heroes of three American Wars in a wonderful garden setting. However, the statues of George Washington with woman and child, Union Soldiers advancing to victory in the Civil War and a single foot soldier in the Spanish American War are all in need of restoration work.

Thank you to these generous donors who have enlisted to help with this great cause:

Founding Father (\$2,500.00 or more)¹

- C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 and Auxiliary #4, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
- Kathleen Ryan (In memory of Bernard J. James)
- Marquette University
- Milwaukee Downtown BID #21
- Westown Association
- Wisconsin Club
- Zilber Property Group

Reminder: The Camp Orders next month will run stories based on your relative of record, as listed on our roster. Let us know where and when your relative of record served, whether he was KIA, MIA, wounded, disability discharge, etc.

Send this ASAP to PCC Tom Mueller at thewisconsin3800@gmail.com, or to 320 W. Oakwood Road, Oak Creek, Wis. 53154.



REMEMBERING COL. PIER: A MOTHER'S LAST WORDS

These monthly articles about our Camp namesake are written by PCinC Steve Michaels. This item first was published in the July 1996 Camp Orders.

The Weldon Railroad fight in front of Petersburg took place in late August 1864. It was during this battle that Col. Pier received a letter from home, announcing his mother's death on Aug. 21 at the age of 56.

Harriet Newell Kendall had been born and raised in Rochester, Vt., where she married the colonel's father, Edward Pier, at age 21.

Five years later, they made a trek to Green Bay. They made several trips to Fond du Lac to supply Edward's brother and Harriet's sister, the first white settlers in the county. On one such trip in 1835, Harriet rode to Fond du Lac in a cutter with a 4-week old infant (Col. Pier's older sister, Ruth) in her arms. Edward and Harriet moved to Fond du Lac in 1837 and lived with their brother and sister until their own home could be built. The pioneer life was a difficult one, and Harriet's sister, Fanna, died the next year.

Col. Colwert K. Pier was Harriet's only son, an idol. After his 100 days' service in the 1st Wisconsin Infantry at the start of the war, he followed her wishes. He stayed home and studied law for two years. His mother's health had been failing for some time when Wisconsin's governor offered Pier a commission as a lieutenant colonel of the 38th Infantry.

Pier approached his mother, who was sick in bed, and read the governor's dispatch. Her eyes filled with tears. With a trembling voice, she said, "Do as you think best, my boy; I will be satisfied with your decision." The colonel was gone within days. Six months later, his mother was gone. But her example of generosity and unselfishness would live on in her son.

From History of Fond du Lac County, Wis., Western Historical Company, 1880; History of Fond du Lac County, edited by Maurice McKenna: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago, 1912; and Soldiers & Citizens Album, Brown & Brown, 1888



HARRIET PIER



'HELLMIRA' PRISON CAMP IN NEW YORK

BY PDC KENT PETERSON



Editor's note: PDC Kent Peterson made this presentation to the Camp July 6, which that very day was the 152nd anniversary of the opening of the prison camp for Confederates at Elmira, N.Y. Elmira is in southern New York, not far from the Pennsylvania state line.

The Elmira camp would become infamous for its brutality and mortality rate. Originally built as a Union Civil War training facility named Camp Rathbun, it was converted into a camp for captured Confederate soldiers.

Four hundred POWs marched into the prison camp on July 6, 1864, the first of more than 12,000 who would come there.

The camp was poorly prepared and under-supplied for prisoners. The barracks buildings could house only 4,000 men, and perhaps another 1,000 could be kept in tents. In addition to that, the kitchens could feed only 5,000 a day and the mess room could seat only 1,500. While the camp technically had a hospital, it was merely a tent, and did not have an assigned surgeon, relying on the services of a local doctor for the first few months. Outbreaks of measles, scurvy and waterborne diseases overwhelmed the hospital.

A stagnant pond of water called Foster's Pond posed a significant sanitation problem in the camp. The latrines were located on the edge of the pond and it became a cesspool of human waste, spreading illness and fouling the water in the camp wells.

Food was poor. Sgt. G.W.D. Porter of the 44th Tennessee wrote, "The strong sustained life on four ounces of sour light bread and three ounces of salt beef or pork for breakfast. For dinner, the same amount of bread was allowed, and, in lieu of the meat, a compound called soup, but in reality nothing more than hot salty water, in which bags of peas or beans had been boiled ..."

When rats became a problem at the camp, a medium-sized black dog was used to catch them. Rat meat was sold to prisoners for 5 cents, but few could afford it. Captured rats were used as a trading commodity among the prisoners. Eventually, two Rebel soldiers from North Carolina were sent to the guardhouse for 30 days after they captured and cooked the dog.

The prison camp was about 40 acres in size, surrounded by a 12-foot wall. A raised platform complete with chairs and binoculars was built next to the camp by enterprising locals who charged visitors 10 cents to gawk at the prisoners. Neighbors sold lemonade, cake, peanuts, crackers and beer to spectators while the prisoners slowly starved.

By New Year's Day 1865, the harsh winter, poor sanitation, shortages of food and supplies and a smallpox outbreak pushed prisoner deaths to 1,264. Temperatures fell to 18 degrees below zero twice during the winter, and a February storm dumped nearly two feet of snow. The spring thaw brought record flooding. On March 15, prisoners retreated to the barracks' top bunks as waters rose, washing away 2,700 feet of the stockade wall.

With the word of General Lee's surrender in April, the prison camp began to shut down. The last inmates left on July 11, 1865. Of the 12,147 prisoners held at the camp, 2,961 never returned home. That 25 percent mortality rate ranks Elmira as one of the deadliest Civil War prison camps in the North.

The sexton for a nearby cemetery, John W. Jones, a former slave who arrived in Elmira via the Underground Railroad, buried each Confederate soldier who died in the camp. The federal government declared the burial site a national cemetery in 1877. The Department of Veterans Affairs says in its information for Woodlawn National Cemetery that Jones "kept a meticulous record of each Confederate burial so that when, in 1907, the federal government was authorized to erect a small marble headstone at each grave, it was possible to inscribe them with the soldier's name, company regiment and grave number."

The miserable conditions for the prisoners in the camp were depicted in the 1982 CBS miniseries "The Blue and the Gray."

The prison camp was torn down after the war. Today the site is mostly a residential area, but a small monument and the camp's original flagpole stand in the area to mark the site. A few buildings that were once officer's quarters were converted into residential housing and are still standing.

Peterson found out on the day of his presentation that a groundbreaking ceremony was held that morning on a vacant parcel of land in the neighborhood to begin reconstruction of an original camp building that was disassembled and placed in storage years ago. The reconstructed building will be used as a learning center and museum to house period artifacts donated by people who have found them on the former prison camp site.



Our patriotic efforts range far and wide



PCC David Howard presented the Sons Junior ROTC award to Cadet Erica Lenhart of Bravo Squadron in a spring event at Greenfield High School.

Three of us from Camp 1 again marched in the Fourth of July parade in Union Grove, home of Camp 15 CC Jeff Graf. Bugler Bill Seaman also joined in the fun, and entertained crowds with patriotic music and the old baseball rally cry of "Charge!!!" as we headed toward the immense flag hanging across the street at the end of the parade.

In 98-degree heat, PCC Tom Mueller visited Newtonia in southwestern Missouri to walk on the battlefield where dozens from the 9th Wisconsin Infantry were killed, wounded or captured on Sept. 30, 1862. One of those captured was his possible relative, Pvt. Joseph Mueller of Company D, who was from the Town of Honey Creek in Sauk County. Tom's great-grandparent Muellers are buried near Denzer in Honey Creek, and he is investigating whether Joseph was a distant relative.



CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Q: What were the Wisconsin 100-day units?

A: These were formed in 1864, at a time when the three-year enlistments in units formed in 1861 were coming up. The Wisconsin 100-day men were the 39th, 40th and 41 Regiments. Many other states had 100-day men, too.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- 3 – Tom Ludka
- 8 – Tom Trimble
- 11 – Bill Liebert
- 15 – Ed Deutsch
- 17 – Bill Doan
- 20 – John Thielmann
- 22 – John Woolley
- 23 – Bruce Nason
- 28 – Rich Beggs



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

- 30 July: South Milwaukee Heritage Days parade, 11 a.m.
- 11 to 14 August: National Encampment in Springfield, Ill.
- 27 and 28 August: West Allis Settlers Weekend.
- 31 August: Camp meeting. This is one week early because of hall availability issues.
- 3 September: St. Francis Maritime Days parade, 11 a.m. This is during Labor Day weekend.