



**Brother John
Thielmann,
1952-2024**

Whether at German Fest, other expos or in an Honor Guard, John Thielmann served with distinctiveness and distinction. See page 5.

C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP #1

SUVCW



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SERIES 2024

CAMP ORDERS

JUNE 2024

CHOSEN AS THE 2022 BEST CAMP IN THE NATION

THE SACRED DAY, THEN PARADES & EXPOS

Memorial Day at Calvary Cemetery was full of pomp and rituals honoring our ancestors who saved the Union.

The Camp and Auxiliary now turn their attention to July events: parades in Milwaukee and South Milwaukee, and the encampment in Menomonee Falls plus German Fest.

Summer = the busy season.

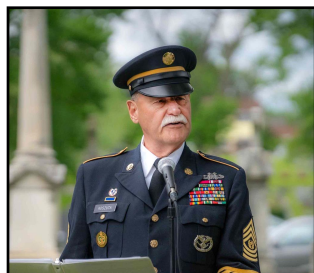


President Lincoln (Nic Bur) joined in a portrait with the large Memorial Day contingent after the commemoration. The placing of flowers by the newest generation of patriots always is a highlight. Photos by Kent Peterson and Tom Mueller. More on page 2.

The next Camp meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 10, at the Lions Clubhouse, 7336 St. James St., Wauwatosa. Patriotic Instructor Paul Eilbes will have the patriotic presentation.

Memorial Day scenes

Archdiocesan Auxiliary Bishop Jeffrey R. Haines (far right) led the Roman Catholic Mass, with Camp Chaplain Dean Collins playing a big role. About 300 people came to the Mass and our event.



The main speaker was Michael B. Koszuta, secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center. He is a retired Army command sergeant major.



President Lincoln gave his 1865 inaugural address. It was the first Memorial Day organized by Patriotic Instructor Paul Eilbes (right) in the wake of Dean Collins' retirement. Thank you, Paul!!!

REMEMBERING COL. PIER: STUDYING LAW WITH JUDGE

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

In 1860, at the age of 19, C.K. Pier began reading law in the office of the Honorable Robert Flint of Fond du Lac. Pier had completed local schooling and two years at Lombard University in Galesburg, Ill.

Flint, who had been elected county judge that spring, was a well-read and able legal adviser. He had a fine law library and Pier was one of several aspiring young attorneys who were welcomed there to study.

Flint was born and raised in Wyoming County, N.Y. He practiced in Buffalo before coming to Wisconsin about 1850. He settled in Fond du Lac and formed a law partnership with Edward S. Bragg, which lasted for five or six years. Flint was remarkably well-read on many other subjects, although he never sought a vain display of his knowledge.

Pier's study of law at Judge Flint's office came to an end in spring 1861, with the firing on Fort Sumter. Colwert immediately enlisted in the 1st Wisconsin Infantry (3 months). After his service, Pier attended law lectures at the Albany Law School in New York.

Flint's wife died in 1861, and one of his sons died of disease in the South during the war. Pier returned to Fond du Lac in late 1862 and resumed his studies in another law office before being commissioned lieutenant colonel of the 38th Wisconsin Infantry.

By the time that Flint died in 1877 at age 69, Pier had stopped practicing law in favor of assuming duties in his father's banking business. He also had tried his hand at newspaper ownership and been a trustee of the State Soldiers' Orphans Home. In the years to come, he would become active in politics, run for public office, take a leadership role in the GAR and veterans affairs, and manage a lumber business and a local businessman's association.

It seems likely that C.K. Pier had learned much from those days of studying with Judge Flint. In later life, he certainly emulated the judge's example of public service, diverse interests, thirst for knowledge, and modest demeanor.

From History of Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, Western Historical Company, Chicago 1880; Milwaukee Sentinel, Feb. 19, 1877; The Flint Family: Robert Flint, (the Pioneer) and his Descendants, by C.E. Flint, The Enterprise & News, St. Johnsville, N.Y. 1932



THE SOFT PACK

BY DSVC PATRICK FALLON



In previous talks, I have covered such things as the Sharps rifle and the varied styles of fatigue jackets commonly called the sack coat. My subject now is another common item, the double bag knapsack, also called the soft pack.

It was called the soft pack because once you got rid of the wooden frame that could be put inside it to provide rigidity, it became much more comfortable to carry. There was a knapsack that was basically a box with straps, and it was as cumbersome and uncomfortable as the description sounds.

The name double bag is because it is divided into two compartments.

In the first compartment, made of four flaps and two straps, regulations stated that the soldier was to store "all public property," the government-issued equipment that he was expected to return at the end of his enlistment.

Not only did the regulations specify which items were to be kept in this compartment, they also stated the order in which they would be packed: First the blanket; followed by the ground cloth, a supposedly waterproofed cloth sheet; and then the individual half of the shelter half tent that each soldier was issued.

There actually is a practical reason for this order of items. When the

soldiers were setting up their temporary bivouac, first they would put up their shelter half tents, then lay out their ground cloth, followed by placing their packs and blankets on top of that.

The other compartment was where the soldiers would keep their personal items: bibles, diaries, letters, etc.; personal hygiene items like razors, combs, soap, towel and toothbrush.

They also would put extra clothing, socks, shirts and drawers in that compartment.

It is common misconception among us modern folks that some of that stuff would be carried in your haversack. The haversack actually is only for your rations and eating utensils; nothing else. Would you want your bacon to taste like



This sample of a soft pack is one of the many items at <https://www.ccsutlery.com/store/civil-war-canvas-accessories.html>

soap?

On top of the knapsack, there are some loops through which two straps can be placed. Another mistaken belief is that those straps are there to hold your rolled-up blanket. In fact, that is where the soldier would secure his rolled-up overcoat.

I tried that once and found it to make for a badly balanced pack. Very uncomfortable. According to the period accounts of the first day's march when the Army was leaving winter encampments, the soldiers of that time found it every bit as uncomfortable as I did, based upon the numbers of discarded overcoats along the roadside.



Patrick Fallon, PCC, was elected earlier this month as Department senior vice commander. He is the highest officer from Camp 1 since Tom Brown was DC for three terms ending in 2014. Fallon had just finished his second term as Department junior vice commander.

Brown again will serve on the Department Council.

DC Robert Koencke is serving a third term. He had planned to step down, but the death of DSVC Sam Keith in May changed all that. Camp 56 CC Gary Carlberg was elected Department junior vice commander.

LATEST TOTALS AT CALVARY, FOREST HOME AND ALL OVER

Graves registration work, one of the main efforts of the Sons, never ends. Across the nation, every day, hundreds of records are added to the database – <https://www.suvcwdb.org/> – or tweaked. And Milwaukee is no exception.

At Calvary Cemetery in Milwaukee, the number of known Civil War veterans has grown over the months and years to 390, according to Camp GRO Tom Ludka.

Ludka, who teams up with Marge Berres of the Woman's Relief Corps at Calvary and Forest Home Cemetery and others, says 90 of the Calvary men are in graves that are unmarked, or in graves that are not even specified in available cemetery records beyond the names. Precise records are missing for several older sections of Calvary.

At Forest Home, the total of Civil War vets now is 1,111, Ludka says. That includes 41 men who were cremated there and or moved or the ashes scattered. The Camp and Auxiliary earlier this year each

funded a tombstone for newly found veterans; a story ran in the March newsletter.

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee also has funded stones for two other newly found graves.

PCC Tom Mueller, the longtime Department GRO and a member of the national graves registration committee, provides these other figures of note from the national database, as of mid-June:

Wood National Cemetery: 5,831 after recently tweaking – trimming out duplicate entries.

Milwaukee city total: 7,560

Milwaukee County total: 7,705

Wisconsin soldiers buried in Wisconsin: 23,755

Wisconsin soldiers buried outside Wisconsin: 18,426

Soldiers in Wisconsin units total: 42,181

National database total (including some burials in other countries): 836,185

CIVIL WAR

TRIVIA

Q: How many from Wisconsin served in the U.S Colored Troops?

A: A total of 224, according to a complex two-page table in an 1880 Wisconsin history book (p. 90-91). The book is a series of county histories published by the Western Historical Company of Chicago, which all begin with the state history. The USCT total breaks down to 171 in 1864, 46 in 1865, 21 via substitute, plus 5 via draft in 1864 and one via draft in 1865. We also quoted some stats from this book in April, and will have more categories in coming months.

JULY BIRTHDAYS



2 – Steve Michaels	14 – Ron Washburn
9 – Patrick Fallon	16 – Tom Brown
12 – Clifford Howard Jr.	25 – Ron Aronis

COMING UP

Fourth of July, 9 a.m.:

The Camp and Auxiliary again will march in the Humboldt Park parade. Hail to the small clan of regular, hardy, marchers, and a call to those who can join. The parade is for only a few blocks.

Two July festivals: We

again will be deployed at Old Falls Village in Menomonee Falls, which is July 20-21, and German Fest, July 26-28.

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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.

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IN MEMORIAM: BROTHER JOHN THIELMANN

We are sehr, sehr sad to report the death of Camp 1's Herr John Thielmann, a prime proponent of Civil War history, German Fest, school-children and more.

Thielmann, 71, of Hales Corners, died in a hospital on June 2. The longtime educator had multiple forms of pneumonia during COVID, spending substantial time in the hospital, and had been on portable oxygen ever since.

Thielmann died just a few days before receiving an award for meritorious service at the Department Encampment.

The nomination, filed by Camp 1 in the spring, said "Thielmann and friends have run a private Civil War booth at German Fest for several years, complete with many artifacts. But as helpers faded away, it became more and more of a project in which he carried the brunt of the load.

"In 2023, amid his own health challenges, he called in the cavalry, campaigning for the active support of Camp 1 and then organizing the three-day schedule."

The Camp now is working to carry on Thielmann's efforts at this year's fest, July 26-28.

Thielmann was a Camp member since 2007. He taught in Milwaukee Public Schools for more than 25 years.

After graduating from Milwaukee's James Madison High School, he attended Dominican College in Racine (1970-'74), majoring in History and English. He graduated from Cardinal Stritch University (1976-'78) with a bachelor of arts degree in History. Thielmann returned to school in 1990-'92, receiving a master of divinity degree at the Sacred Heart School of Theology. He attended Cardinal Stritch again (2005-'07) to receive his Wisconsin educator license.

In addition to serving as secretary of



Company K, 2nd Wisconsin Infantry Association, Thielmann was a board member of the Milwaukee Substitute Teacher Association, and a sub at the Milwaukee German Immersion School.

He was an avid Milwaukee Brewers fan and often worked as a stadium usher. He umpired youth baseball for more than 20 years, and "knew every little nook and cranny park that held a baseball game" across southeastern Wisconsin, his obit said. "He advised actors about umpiring for the movie 'Mr. 3000' filmed in Milwaukee and appeared in the film

calling the star 'out' at first base." The movie is from 2004 and starred Bernie Mac.

In Camp work, Thielmann led the way with anything German, or was telling stories about German soldiers anyway. He provided vital translations a year ago for the Camp report about the men on the Civil War monument at Turner Hall. In 2017, when the relative of a vet of the German 26th Wisconsin Infantry asked the Camp to put a GAR marker on the grave in Glendale, Thielmann joined in and sang German marching songs.

The German Immersion School said on its Facebook page:

"With great sadness, the MGIS Family shares the passing of one of our extraordinary substitute teachers, Herr John Thielmann.

"Herr Thielmann was ... a staunch believer in the benefits of language immersion Students and staff were both delighted when he was in the building to sub, as he always had a smile to share. Students were especially excited when he would sub for gym class, because that meant that the parachute would be used that day!"

The complete obit is at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/john-thielmann-obituary?id=55248991>



John Thielmann tutored a young fan in Cudahy in 2019.