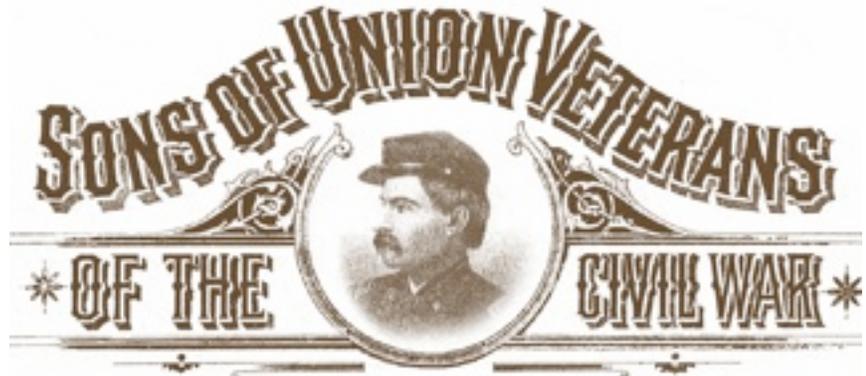




Young Colwert K. Pier enlisted immediately after hearing about Fort Sumter. See page 2.



C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

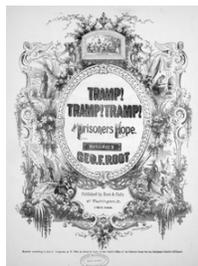
SERIES 2016 CAMP ORDERS MARCH 2016

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

**A PATRIOTIC
PRESENTATION
WITH A LIVELY BEAT**



Brother Billy Cole played and sang several Civil War songs at the March meeting. He started learning them from his grandmother as a young child and became a professional musician. His presentation included "Tramp! Tramp! Tramp!" See page 3. "There are so many different kinds of music from back then that it would be an impossible task to do justice in presenting all of it in one, two or even three one-hour sessions," he says.



Planning for our events resumes on April 6

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

C. K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SUVCW

VA FINALLY EASES TOMBSTONE RULE

At long last, the next-of-kin rule is ended.

The Department of Veterans Affairs this month formally published a rule that relaxes a strict version it had issued a few years ago about who can apply for tombstones for Civil War veterans.

This issue, which hampered the work of Camp GRO Tom Ludka and others around the nation, has been covered in multiple issues of our Camp Orders.

The strict version, issued in 2009, had required that a next-of-kin be found; sparking an outcry by the SUVCW, veterans representatives and other historical groups about how impossible that was, for many veterans who died a century ago or longer.

So that now has been rolled back to “any individual” for a veteran whose service ended before April 6, 1917.

“The Department of Veterans Affairs amends its regulations defining who may apply for a headstone or marker. The rule expands the types of individuals who may request headstones and markers on behalf of decedents,” the VA said March 2 on page 10765 of the Federal Register (where rules are published).

The revision takes effect April 1.

After the hail of criticism from those working to honor long-ago veterans who never had a stone, the relaxation had been proposed for comment in October 2014; after the comment period, the comments were analyzed and the rule finalized.

Such matters are never easy to follow actively or comprehend: The VA said it “added a new 38 CFR 38.600(a)(1)(iv) and re-designated proposed paragraphs (a)(1)(iv) and (a)(1)(v) as paragraphs (a)(1)(v) and (a)(1)(vi), respectively.”

The key passage for the SUVCW is this, from page 10771: Applicants for a tombstone may be “(vi) Any individual, if the dates of service of the veteran to be memorialized, or on whose service the eligibility of another individual for memorialization is based, ended prior to April 6, 1917.”

The VA presumably will be updating its VA Form 40–1330 for seeking the markers. Cemetery approval still will be required, and installation costs are not covered by the VA.

The entire rule and a discussion of the comments and the decision-making process is at http://www.va.gov/ORPM/docs/20160302_AO95_ApplicantsforVAMemorializationBenefits.pdf

Or Google “2016 federal register VA eases tombstone rules.”

HOW YOU CAN BE PART OF THE CAMP ORDERS

Tell us what you have read lately and recommend to others as informative, entertaining, significant, interesting, new, etc.

Ditto for websites, TV and movies.

Send an unusual word or fact that you come across – it could be great for the Trivia column.

Tell us something that you have done to honor Civil War veterans around your home or while traveling.

Contact PCC Tom Mueller – his email is on page 4.



REMEMBERING COL. PIER: THE FIRST TO ENLIST

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

The news that Fort Sumter had been fired upon and had surrendered reached Fond du Lac on Saturday evening, April 13th, 1861, but was not generally disseminated until Sunday, through newspaper extras and from the various pulpits.

On Sunday evening, young Colwert Pier and Christie Klock, a neighbor’s son, spent an hour or more discussing the topic. Both came to the conclusion that it was their duty to enlist.

So early Monday morning, April 15th, they went to the office of Col. S.E. Lefferts and signed the muster roll ... Pier’s name appearing first and Klock’s second. There is no record to show that this young law student, still shy of 20 years old, was not the first man in Fond du Lac County to enroll as a volunteer.

The company soon was filled and was known as Company I, “the Badger Boys,” 1st Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, three-months men. It became a part of Maj. Gen. Robert Patterson’s army.

From History of Fond du Lac County, Wis.; Western Historical Co.; Chicago 1880



**MUSIC'S POWER
IN THE WAR
BY BROTHER BILLY COLE**



In his patriotic presentation at the March 2 Camp meeting, Brother Billy Cole shared some music and analysis of Civil War songs. He says his maternal grandmother knew many of the songs, taught to her by her mother, "and that sparked my interest from when I was about 5 years old. Grandma was born in 1898, so my great-grandmother would have been born very shortly after the war ended."

Cole is a professional musician who performs this and a wide variety of other music for kids, seniors and historical societies.

During the Civil War, music played a prominent role on both sides of the conflict.

On the battlefield, different instruments, including bugles, drums and fifes, were played to issue marching orders or sometimes simply to boost the morale of one's fellow soldiers. Singing often was employed as a recreational activity, but also as a release from the inevitable tensions that come with fighting in a war.

In camp, music was a diversion away from the bloodshed, and helping the soldiers deal with homesickness and boredom. Soldiers of both sides often engaged in recreation with musical instruments, and when the opposing armies were near each other, the bands from each side of the conflict sometimes played against each other on the night before a battle.

Each side had its particular favorite tunes. And some music was enjoyed by Northerners and Southerners alike, as exemplified by President Abraham Lincoln's love of "Dixie," the unofficial anthem of the Confederacy. To this day, many of these songs are sung when a patriotic piece is required.

One such item is "Tramp! Tramp! Tramp! (The Prisoner's Hope)."

The words and the music were written by George F. Root, who published it in 1864 to give hope to the Union prisoners of war. Root created many other songs that were sung by both the North and South.

Any soldier who was a POW can relate just how deplorable conditions were during his time of captivity. To say that the POW, especially in the South, lived under horrifying conditions is a gross understatement. To the soldiers, and passed down to us in the SUVCW today, the prison called Andersonville in Georgia brings to mind things such as starvation and a myriad of diseases that would take several pages of manuscript to describe. About

13,000 Union soldiers died there, and it did not even open until February 1864.

The lyrics to "Tramp! Tramp! Tramp!" are:

***In the prison cell I sit, thinking Mother dear of you,
And our bright and happy home so far away***

And the tears, they fill my eyes, spite of all that I can do

Though I try to cheer my comrades and be gay

(Chorus) Tramp, Tramp Tramp, the boys are marching

Cheer up comrades, they will come

And beneath the starry flag, we shall breathe the air again

In the free land of our own beloved homes.

***In the battle front we stood,
With their fiercest charge they made,
And they swept us off a hundred men or more***

***But before they reached our lines,
They were beaten back dismayed,
And we heard the cry of vict'ry o'er and o'er***

(Repeat chorus)

***So, within the prison cell,
We are waiting for the day
When our men shall open wide the iron door.***

***And the hollow eye grows bright,
And our poor hear almost gay,
As we think of seeing homes and friends once more.***

(Repeat chorus)

The song is written from the prisoner's point of view. The chorus tells his fellow prisoners that hope is coming. The lyrics really capture the mindset and the despair of the Union soldier as he wasted away in the Confederate prison.

It is also one of those pieces of music to which the Confederates changed the words to fit their feelings as POWs in the Union prisons.

FISHER HOUSE VET FACILITY WILL BE DEDICATED IN APRIL

Construction of the Fisher House at the Clement J. Zablocki VA grounds is complete, and a dedication ceremony is being planned for 11 a.m. April 23, a Saturday.

Details about the event still are being planned, Fisher House said on its website of <http://www.fisherhousewi.org/>

A Fisher House is a place where military and veterans' families can stay at no cost while a member is receiving treatment at VA facilities. It offers a "home away from home" place for families, and is built through donations and the Fisher House Foundation. There are 67 around the nation.

The Milwaukee facility is just northwest of Lake Wheeler, within walking distance of the medical center. The 13,000-square-foot facility has 16 suites, all professionally furnished and decorated.

The Camp has donated to this project over the years.

Also at the Soldiers Home, our former meeting site of Building 1 is in the VA's recent request for developers to submit proposals to restore it and five other buildings such as Old Main into housing for homeless veterans. Our Camp has heard such ideas many times over the years, including when we were given notice to leave Building 1 and the entire grounds in the summer of 2014. We had been promised in the fall of 2013 that the VA would help us



The Fisher House will have 16 suites when it is finished in April. Here is the artist's rendering.

find another place on the grounds because of our historical ties to the Soldiers Home.

When we were told to leave, the VA had sought "formal Expressions of Interest" in revising the dilapidated buildings.

The actual request for proposals, issued in late February 2016, said the VA would let developers lease Soldiers Home buildings for up to 75 years if they finance a restoration that will put buildings back into use.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Q: What were gabions and sap rollers?

A: A gabion was a cylindrical wicker basket that was filled with rocks and dirt, often used for field fortifications or temporary fortified positions. A sap roller was a very large, bullet-resistant gabion that was used to protect soldiers from enemy fire as they constructed trenches. This is from <http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/glossary/glossary.html#S>

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Dennis Slater
- 9 – Mikko Lagunero
- 13 – Dave Howard



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.suvw-wi.org>

CAMP CALENDAR

9 April: Quarterly planning meeting, 11 a.m. at Sister Liz Craig's worksite of Watertech of America at 5000 S. 110th St., Greenfield.

14 May: Sister Susan Fallon invites all Camps to help dedicate the grave of her relative, Pvt. Ludwig Marks, 18th Wisconsin Infantry, near Chilton, Wis. He died in 1889. Event is at 11 a.m.

12 June (Sunday): Dedication of our Camp's historical marker at Forest Home Cemetery, Milwaukee, 1:30 p.m.