



The Sons initiation script says, "You will now grasp the standard of the Flag with your right hand," and Wayne Issleb proudly did so during his recent ceremony. The stirring ritual also includes, "Let us then entwine each thread of its glorious fabric around our hearts ..."
Photo by PCC Tom Mueller.

C. K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SUVCW



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SERIES 2017 CAMP ORDERS MARCH 2017

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

FROM MILWAUKEE TO KENOSHA, BOSCOBEL AND BEYOND

Greetings,
Brothers and friends!

I'm so proud of the strong start that Camp 1 has had in 2017.

Our Patriotic Luncheon again was the Milwaukee area's premier Abraham Lincoln birthday event. Since 1890, Lincoln's birthday or "Union Defender's Day" has been a Sons tradition nationwide. Our Camp Brothers and Auxiliary Sisters did another stellar job, raising awareness with an informative speaker program and an entertaining raffle and silent auction, which raised money for historic preservation and veterans relief. We were indeed fortunate to have so many loyal friends and supporters attending, and I hope this number will continue to grow for the next extravaganza, on Feb. 3, 2018.

At the Wisconsin Department mid-winter meeting, just prior to the luncheon, our Br. Wayne Issleb was initiated into the Order. Wayne's friend



**FROM THE
COMMANDER
- PCINC
STEVE
MICHAELS**

SVC Billy Cole talks up the Camp to visitors at the Civil War Expo in Kenosha.

James Schilz accompanied him, and a month later, we welcomed James as a Brother. James, who lives in Monroe, does an impression of Gen. Phil Sheridan, while Wayne's alter ego is Gen. U.S. Grant. We hope James is the first of several additions to the Camp this year.

Wayne and James both were with us at the 7th annual Civil War Expo at the

Kenosha Civil War Museum on March 11. They were among the 15 Brothers who spoke to the public about various present-day Civil War organizations, including three Wisconsin Camps and one from Illinois.

Two Member Orientations, one last Saturday at the GAR Hall in Boscobel and the other coming in April at Camp 8's meeting place in Oshkosh, continue to provide a strong foundation for our Brothers in those areas. We have an

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The next Camp meeting will be Wednesday, April 5, at the Machinists Union hall at 1650 S. 38th St., Milwaukee. SVC Billy Cole will have the patriotic presentation.

BUSY SLATE FOR TOMBSTONE DEDICATIONS

The Camp is planning four tombstone dedications this year, including unmarked graves, correcting the wrong last name on a stone and honoring the Last Soldier of Milwaukee County.

Here is an overview and the general timing of the events.

Oak Creek tombstone: As reported a few months ago, family told PCC Tom Mueller about the unmarked 1885 grave of Pvt. William Kolbow of the 28th Wisconsin Infantry, saying it was somewhere at St. John's Lutheran Church, South 27th Street and West Oakwood Road. Brother Tom Ludka, Marge Berres and Mueller, who lives in the neighborhood, figured it out within a few days.

The dedication is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, June 4, the day after the Department

Commander – Continued from page 1

obligation to share our knowledge and experience with others in our Order, and I hope we'll hold more orientations later this year.

Just ahead, our Camp and Auxiliary will be talking up our Orders at the Milwaukee County Genealogical Society's biennial workshop on April 22. Two similar activities are a Soldiers Home anniversary event on June 3 and Salute to Freedom at the Kenosha Civil War Museum on June 10.

We're just two months from another of our annual signature events: Memorial Day at Calvary Cemetery. We're called to remember the promise we made at the time of our initiation – to keep sacred the day set aside by the Grand Army of the Republic

Encampment. SVCinC Mark Day of Lynchburg, Va., is scheduled to attend both events.

Kolbow has relatives locally (including Elroy Honadel, the former Oak Creek mayor who ran the longtime Honadel apple orchard), and more kin will be coming from Minnesota.

Kolbow was killed by a train on Aug. 7, 1885, little more than a mile from the cemetery. He was age 38 and left a wife and eight children to run a 38-acre farm. Kolbow was in Co. K of the 28th Wisconsin for three years, starting on Aug. 21, 1862.

Corrected tombstone at Wood National Cemetery: This is for Pvt. Michael Carroll of the 9th

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as Decoration Day. Over the last 22 years, Br. Dean Collins has developed a truly beautiful and moving program. I hope you'll choose to be a part.

On Feb. 26, we lost a true friend and gifted lady. Alvina Merzrath passed away at the age of 103. Mrs. Merzrath made our Camp flag in 1996 for the low price of \$75. She later made our Auxiliary's flag, and the Department flags for each. She worked by herself to complete these and many other sewing jobs. I often remarked that because of her low rates, she had enough work to keep her busy for the next 20 years. Little did I know ... God bless you and keep you, Alvina!

Fraternally,
Steve



REMEMBERING COL. PIER: HELPING RUN SOLDIERS ORPHANS HOME

These monthly articles about our Camp namesake are written by PCinC Steve Michaels. This item first was published in the March 1997 Camp Orders.

C.K. Pier's banking and law experience plus his concern for veterans were tapped early by state government. In 1872, he was appointed a trustee of the Soldiers Orphans Home in Madison, a position of great responsibility. That year, \$30,000 had been appropriated by the legislature to run the home, where about 150 children lived.

Pier's old commanding officer from the 38th Wisconsin, James Bintliff, had been chosen president of the Home's trustees. It seemed a natural fit that the two former colonels run the institution.

The Soldiers Orphans Home had opened in 1866, and during its nine years of operation cared for 683 children. The children also were educated and brought up with habits of industry. Twenty of them who wanted to teach were given a full course at state Normal Schools. One was sent to the U.S. Naval Academy. None stayed past age 14. Homes were found for many and some were returned to their mothers.

By March 1876, the Home remained in name only. There may have been a need to dispose of remaining property and follow-up on placement of children. The Home's trust fund did need to be managed until the account was finally closed on Dec. 31, 1879.

From History of Dane County, edited by Judge E.W. Keyes; Milwaukee Sentinel, 18 Oct. 1872 and 1 April 1876; and Madison, A History of the Formative Years, by David V. Mollenhoff



SOME TRIVIA FAVORITES

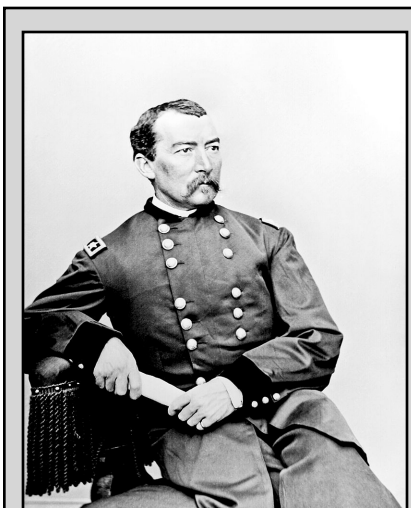
BY PDC TOM BROWN



These questions come from the book “Civil War Quiz and Fact Book,” a 1985 compilation by Rod Gragg.

Q: What engagement was preceded by a battle of the bands?

A: On Dec. 30, 1862, the night before the Battle of Stones River in Tennessee, Union and Confederate musicians positioned within easy hearing distance competed with each other with performances of “Yankee Doodle” and “Hail Columbia” vs. “Dixie” and “The Bonnie Blue Flag.”



Q: Why was Union Gen. Philip H. Sheridan known as “Little Phil?”

A: He was was 5-foot-5 and 115 pounds. The veteran commander at Perryville, Stones River, Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge was named commander of U.S. Grant’s Cavalry Corps in 1864.

Abraham Lincoln described Sheridan’s appearance in a famous anecdote: “A brown, chunky little chap, with a long body, short legs, not enough neck to hang him, and such long arms that if his ankles itch he can scratch them without stooping.”

Q: In March 1863, Ulysses S. Grant’s troops were forced to make a hazardous night march in the Steele’s Bayou Expedition in the campaign against Vicksburg. How did the federal forces see to find their way through the bayous at night?

A: They mounted candles in the muzzles of their rifles, which lit the way and enabled them to see their route as they marched.

Q: What two future American presidents were in the Battle of Antietam?

A: Lt. Col. Rutherford Hayes and Sgt. William McKinle, both of the 23rd Ohio Infantry.

Q: Who received this pre-battle pep talk: “You volunteered to be killed for love of country, and now you can be.”

A: Reluctant Union volunteers received these words of encouragement from Gen. C.F. Smith, a crusty veteran of the Mexican War, in February 1862 before the Battle of Fort Donelson, Tenn.

Q: Who was “Johnny Shiloh,” also known as “the Drummer Boy of Chickamauga”?

A: He was John L. Clem, who left home at age 9 and became a drummer boy in the Union Army. His drum was destroyed by an artillery round at Shiloh. At age 12 he shot a Confederate officer at Chickamauga, later was wounded twice, remained in the Army after the war, and retired from service on the eve of World War I as a major general.

Q: What was the full name of Confederate Gen. S.R. Gist, who was killed at the head of his troops at the battle of Franklin, Tenn.?

A: He was known as States Rights Gist. His name was based on the nullification politics of his father, Nathaniel Gist. Nathaniel was a disciple of John C. Calhoun and named his son to reflect his own political sentiments.

Q: On what day of the week did Stonewall Jackson try to avoid battle?

A: Jackson, a devout Christian, would neither march nor fight on Sunday if he could avoid it.

Q: What Confederate artillery officer was the grandson of one famous American explorer and was named after another?

A: Col. Meriwether Lewis Clark of Missouri, a West Point graduate who commanded artillery for Sterling Price and Braxton Bragg, was the grandson of William Clark and was named for Meriwether Lewis – both from the famous 1804-’06 Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Q: What was memorable about the photograph that Mathew Brady made of Abraham Lincoln on Feb. 9, 1864?

A: It was the image still used on the U.S. \$5 bill.

Q: What did Confederate Gen. George E. Pickett – made infamous by Pickett’s Charge at Gettysburg – do after the war?

A: He was an insurance salesman in Norfolk Va.

Tombstones – continued from page 2

Indiana Infantry, Co. H, who died in 1913 and whose tombstone inexplicably gave his last name as Curran.

PCC Mueller found this flaw while cross-checking about 300 graves on-site after spending 15 months working on the cemetery for the Sons graves registration database.

The new stone was quietly installed in early March.

Carroll was in the 9th Indiana for 10 months beginning Feb. 28, 1862, and then the 4th U.S. Cavalry for the rest of the war. He was age 66 when he arrived at the Milwaukee Soldiers Home in October 1893.

St. Francis: Ludka and Berres learned of two Civil War graves at tiny Lake Cemetery in St. Francis, at East Norwich and South Barland Avenues. This is a short distance to the east of where the crowds begin when we march in the St. Francis Days parade.

The soldiers are Sgt. William W. Thompson of the 24th Wisconsin, Co. K, and William Beal of the 88th Illinois, Co. I. Thompson has a weathered private stone and Beal does not have anything.

“Marge and I attended a lecture on cemetery art and met a person from the St. Francis Historical Society,” Ludka says. “We were discussing the cemetery and I inquired if any Civil War veterans were buried there. She stated that they had information on two. So I offered to compile the necessary forms to order the headstones.”

Thompson died in 1912 at the age of 80. He was in the 24th for six months and received a disability discharge on Feb. 16, 1863. He was a hometown boy, from the Town of Lake. Beal died in 1910 at the age of 86 at the Milwaukee Soldiers Home. He was wounded on May 17, 1864, at Adairsville, Ga. He was a native of Carterville, Mich., and was in the war for three years, mustering out on July 19, 1865.

Forest Home Cemetery grave of Last Soldier of Milwaukee County: Charles Blanchard, 96, died Sept. 5, 1942 – so this year is his 75th anniversary. Early plans are to place a Last Soldier marker sometime that month.

Blanchard was from Madison and enlisted at the age of 18 on May 13, 1864, serving in Co. D of the 40th Wisconsin Infantry, one of the state’s 100-day units. He was a private.

Welcome, Brother!!!

James Schilz of Monroe has joined our Camp as an associate member.

Whether as associate or lineal member, we eagerly look forward to enlarging our roster. Spread the word about us to friends and colleagues.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Q: What leading Confederate was very familiar with Wisconsin?

A: An 1828 West Point graduate named Lt. Jefferson Davis was assigned to Fort Crawford in Prairie du Chien, and camped on the site of present-day Madison in an 1829 expedition. “Nothing, as I think, was known to the garrison of Fort Winnebago about the Four Lakes before I saw them,” he wrote. “Indeed, sir, it may astonish you to learn ... that I and the file of soldiers who accompanied me were the first white men who ever passed over the country between the portage of the Wisconsin and Fox Rivers, and the then village of Chicago.” This is from “Wisconsin: A History,” by Robert C. Nesbit, published in 1973 and 1989.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

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



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CAMP CALENDAR

15 April: Lincoln Tomb memorial in Springfield, Ill., and B.F. Stephenson ceremony in nearby Petersburg, Ill.

22 April: Milwaukee County Genealogical Society workshop. Begins at 9 a.m. at Best Western Plus Milwaukee Airport Hotel, 5105 S. Howell Ave.

29 May: Memorial Day at Calvary Cemetery, featuring Archbishop Jerome Listekci, the 1st Brigade Band and Jon Christensen, a Vietnam vet and VA readjustment counseling therapist, as the keynote speaker.

