

160 years
ago

The Camp's Facebook page is re-running some of the newsletter's past stories about the days leading up to Appomattox. We'll post a story every few days. See <https://www.facebook.com/CKPierBadger/>

C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP #1

SUVCW



C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SERIES 2025

CAMP ORDERS

MARCH 2025

CHOSEN AS THE 2022 BEST CAMP IN THE NATION

PUBLIC MEETS ALL 5 ALLIED ORDERS IN KENOSHA

For the first time since 1951, all five Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic worked together under one roof in Wisconsin. All five also had participated in a short cemetery event in Racine last fall, but Saturday's event at the Kenosha Civil War Museum was a comprehensive, hours-long effort to educate the public.

Members spoke about their organizations and staffed exhibits showing their patriotic and public service work.

The Allied Orders are the Woman's Relief Corps, the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Auxiliary to the SUVCW.



Front row – Linda Poole (LGAR), Auxiliary Department President Susan Fallon, Past Tent President Patricia Blackmer (DUVCW). Second row – Past Auxiliary national President Danielle Michaels, national chaplain Denise Oman (WRC), National President Erin Mongelli (LGAR) and Charlene Staples (DUVCW). Third row – PCinC Steve Michaels, Camp 1 CC Tom Hesse, PDC Tom Brown, Brian Staples, Jim Matthew and Camp 1 JVC Will Ammann.



Jim Matthew discusses the Camp 1 display with visitors.

The next Camp meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 9, at the Lions Clubhouse, 7336 St. James St., Wauwatosa. Brother Paul Eilbes will have the patriotic presentation.

TREASURE TROVE OF GAR INFO WILL HELP IN SEARCHES

A recent search about the GAR post in Chippewa Falls was greatly assisted by a comprehensive website of the University of Wisconsin – Madison Libraries, via the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

The site includes a comprehensive list of the state's GAR posts by number – from E.B. Wolcott Post 1 of Milwaukee to J.E. Tourtellotte Post No. 280, Ladysmith – and what is available from each. Sometimes a lot; sometimes only a bit.

After seeing what the site has for each post, a researcher then can ask the museum for its assistance; the materials themselves are not online.

The overall site is a UW entity that hosts finding aids from different state institutions, such as the Veterans Museum, the Wisconsin Historical Society and all the UW archives around the state. The GAR material was created by the Veterans Museum and has been on the UW site for a decade or more.

You can find the site by Googling this phrase:



UW Libraries Grand Army of the Republic Department of Wisconsin records. You will arrive at a search-results list; the first one is entitled Archival Resources in Wisconsin: Descriptive Finding Aids. Click on that and you are taken to a page inside the University of Wisconsin Digital Collections, although the logo is small and says UW DC.

The Summary Information says: "Administrative, or-

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REMEMBERING COL. PIER: APRIL 2, 1865

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

On April 2, 1865, Gen. Grant ordered a general assault along the entire line before Petersburg, Va.

The rebel lines had been stretched and originally terminated at a large defensive work named "Fort Mahone," which faced its Union counterpart, "Fort Sedgewick." The two forts hammered each other continuously, firing mortar shells so often that wandering around exposed inside their walls was a potentially fatal mistake. Both sides named Fort Mahone "Fort Damnation" and Fort Sedgewick "Fort Hell."

The 1st Brigade, made up of five regiments, was assigned the assault of Fort Mahone. It rendezvoused at Fort Sedgewick and formed into three lines. The 109th New York and two companies of the 38th Wisconsin, all under Lt. Col. C.K. Pier, formed the second line of the assaulting column. At dawn, the Union forces emerged under a rain of enemy bullets.

Pier gallantly led his troops in the assault and, by his influence, did much to inspire the men with steadiness and bravery. His troops pushed over the picket line, over the rebel works, tearing away two lines on *chevaux-de-frieze*, a formidable line of abatis, into the ditch, up the embankment and into the fort. There they found the rebels hurriedly vacating.

Rebel artillery in the surrounding works kept up fire on them all day and was answered by the fort's Union occupants. Six different assaults were made by the rebels to recover the lost works, but they were repulsed every time, and the visitors spent the night in the captured works. They awoke the next morning to find the enemy had abandoned his entire line and was fleeing to the southwest.

April 2 marked the de facto death of Lee's attenuated army and the country it sustained. Lee surrendered to Grant at Appomattox a week later.

Pier's conduct was such as to win the heartiest of high praise, from both officers and men of the 109th.

From Battlefields & Camp Fires of the 38th Wis. Vols., by Lt. S.W. Pierce, Daily Wis. Printing House, Milwaukee 1866; Military History of Wisconsin, by E.B. Quiner, Clarke & Co., Chicago 1866; and Siege Warfare Before Petersburg, by George V. Goebel.



THE STORIES OF 2 DRUMMER BOYS



At the March meeting of the Camp, junior member Lucas Nguyen gave a patriotic presentation about these two drummer boys. He relied on a 2006 book, "Boy Soldiers and Soldier Boys: Children in the Civil War Armies," by Robert P. Broadwater.

Somebody I found interesting when I started reading was the story of a boy in the 8th Michigan Infantry, Co. B. Robert Henry Hendershott (1850-1925) was a waiter. One day, he had heard a soldier mentioning the 8th Michigan. Robert soon enlisted, at age 12.

He served in six major battles. At one point, Robert attempted to get on a boat but was told to get off or he would get killed, and he obeyed. Not entirely though – he hopped onto the stern and floated across the Rappahannock River in the icy, December water. He eventually got to the shore and found and grabbed a musket!

In search of souvenirs, he found MANY things. He even found a torn Confederate flag! In one house, he opened the door to find an injured Confederate soldier. He ordered the man to surrender and brought him back to the lines. Soon, the general ordered the boy to come and talk with him. The general said, "You keep that up, you will be in my place!"

Sure enough, years later Hendershott became a general.

Robert was given a disability discharge on Dec. 27, 1862.

He died on Dec. 26, 1925, at age 75. He is buried in Forest Park, Ill., near Chicago, at Forest Home Cemetery.

A Wisconsin drummer boy was John D. Walker, born in 1851. He was in the 22nd Wisconsin Infantry, joining in Racine on Sept. 1, 1862.

Walker was captured by the Confederates two times. In March 1863 he and the 22nd were captured by Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest's cavalry. When Walker saw his whole regiment was surrounded, he



John Dearborn Walker was less than 12 years old when he enlisted in the Union Army, the youngest soldier to be mustered into service. Later, he met President Lincoln.

destroyed the drums to prevent them from being captured.

Due to his young age, it was noted he could pass through the Confederate lines back to Union forces. Gen. Braxton Bragg, however, was not happy and ordered that he be sent to Libby Prison in Richmond, Va. Five days after Walker arrived, he was released.

He was given a disability discharge a few months later, on Dec. 28, 1863, because the experiences took a toll on him.

He died in 1913 at age 62 and is buried at Belvidere Cemetery in Belvidere, Ill.

More material about Robert Henry Hendershott (above left) is at https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/68783111/robert_henry-hendershott

More material about John D. Walker is at <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/117413035/john-dearborn-walker>

Photos from Find a Grave.

GAR info – Continued from page 2

ganizational, financial and program materials pertaining to the Wisconsin state and local units of the Grand Army of the Republic ... Includes national and state encampment registers and records; materials concerning patriotic instruction in the schools, Memorial Day and patriotism; administrative and financial materials of the state department and its relations with local posts; Easel-Shaped Monument certificates ...'

(The Easel Monument is explained at <https://www.theconservationcenter.com/articles/2016/10/28/the-easel-monument>. The Easel Monument was the GAR's plan for a national monument, "dedicated to the Grand Army of the Republic and Kindred Societies in acknowledgement of the good work accomplished by these organizations toward keeping alive the flame of patriotism which brought victory to the Union Army during that memorable struggle for the preservation of our Union." The group decided to fund the project by selling lithographs. But the monument never was built.)

Back to the libraries website: "Many records pertain to individual Wisconsin local posts; including

reports, membership records, charters, minute books, financial records, resolutions, and scattered correspondence. War reminiscences can be found in several "Personal War Sketches" volumes. Most complete are records for Post No. 11 (Madison), Post No. 20 (Janesville), and Post No. 68 (Chippewa Falls)."

The Wisconsin local posts also are on the left; a long numerical list.

For example, clicking on Post 35, Prairie du Sac, will show the libraries have a descriptive book, 1891 to 1905; members account book, 1882 to 1902, and an undated roster.

Chippewa Falls Post 68 has so many folders that a reader must scroll down to see the entire list. Things such as membership applications 1883 to 1900, and meeting minute books, 1883 to 1908.

Ladysmith Post 280 has three items, including the minute meeting book 1906 to 1909.

Googling also shows a separate collection for the Woman's Relief Corps, at <https://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/cgi/f/findaid/findaid-idx?c=wiarchives;cc=wiarchives;view=text;rgn=main;didno=wvm-mss00002>. This is not listed on the GAR site.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Q: How many Wisconsin monuments are there at Gettysburg?

A: There are seven – to the 2nd Wisconsin Infantry, the 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 26th and to Co. G, the Wisconsin part of the 1st U.S. Sharpshooters. See <https://gettyburg.stonesentinel.com/union-monuments/wisconsin/>. In addition, there are five small stones marking positions held by the 2nd Infantry, Co. F of the 2nd, 6th Infantry, 7th Infantry and Co. G. Those markers are in various guidebooks.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2 – Dennis Slater	19 – John Helmenstine
9 – Mikko Lagunero	23 – Ken Freshley
13 – David Howard	25 – J. Philip Walthers

Camp Commander – Tom Hesse
hesset66@gmail.com
262-707-4629

SVC – Patrick Fallon 262-994-3285

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.

Report address changes to editor Tom Mueller, PCC, at thewisconsin3800@gmail.com Your Banner is not forwarded by the Postal Service, so you need to report a new address to us.

COMING UP

March 30 (Sunday): PDC
Tom Brown has organized a special School of the Soldier – learn the basics of commands, formations, carrying a rifle and marching in formation. From 1 to 3 p.m. at our usual meeting place in Wauwatosa. Sign up ASAP by emailing tjbcarver@sbcglobal.net

May 26: Memorial Day at Calvary Cemetery, complete with new Archbishop Jeffrey S. Grob, Cushing's Battery, Nic Bur / Abraham Lincoln and much more.

WHERE WE SERVED AND FOUGHT



Photo from Find a Grave

This is the battle flag of the 2nd Wisconsin that was used after Gettysburg. The unit's various flags are at <https://wisvetsmuseum.com/2nd-wisconsin-infantry-regiment-2/>



After the battle of Laurel Hill, Va., on May 8, 1864, immediately after Schneider was wounded in the Wilderness, the 2nd Wisconsin had less than 100 men present for duty. Because of this, they soon were permanently detached from their brigade and assigned to duty as provost guard of the 4th Division of the Fifth Army Corps. This is from the above site at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

Non-veterans were ordered to Madison, Wis., June 11, and mustered out July 2, 1864. Schneider and the rest eventually were made part of the 6th Wisconsin Infantry.

BROTHER MIKE DEEKEN'S ANCESTOR: FIRST SGT. PETER CHRISTIAN SCHNEIDER

Was from Madison. Enlisted on Jan. 6, 1862, in the 2nd Wisconsin Infantry, Co. K. Was a sergeant.

Wounded in Battle of the Wilderness, which was May 5-7, 1864.

Transferred to the 2nd Wisconsin's Independent Battalion, Co. B, on June 10, 1864; became First Sergeant. Veterans and recruits were consolidated to a battalion of two companies and assigned to duty as provost guard until September.

On Nov. 30, 1864, Schneider's battalion was consolidated with the 6th Wisconsin Infantry as Companies G and H. Schneider was in H.

He was mustered out Jan. 20, 1865.

Schneider's two Iron Brigade regiments were in a long list of major battles, including Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and the Appomattox campaign. The 6th was one of the many regiments taking the surrender of Robert E. Lee's forces on April 12.

See <http://www.civilwararchive.com/Unreght/unwiinf1.htm#2ndinf> And <http://www.civilwararchive.com/Unreght/unwiinf1.htm#6thinf>

E.B. Quiner's history of the 2nd is at <https://content.wisconsinhistory.org/digital/collection/quiner/id/16283>. Schneider is listed among the wounded on page 469.

Born in 1830.

Died April 27, 1892.

Buried at Mount Greenwood Cemetery in Chicago, Ill.