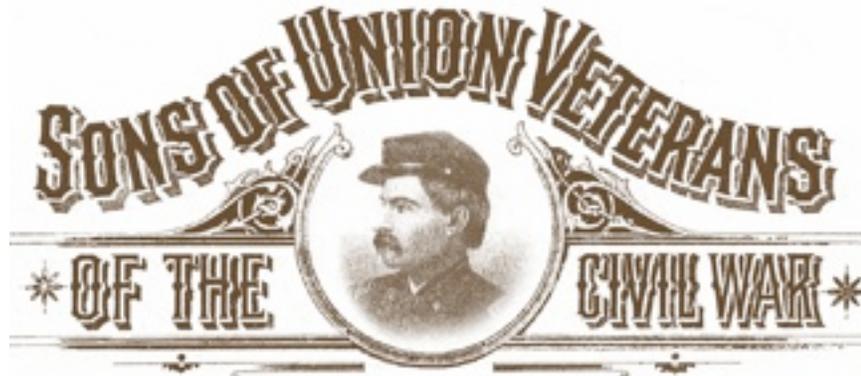


facebook

The Camp has marched onto Facebook, which stands to connect us to many more patriotic, history-minded people than keep up with us now. See page 2. Go to <https://www.facebook.com/CKPierBadger> and give us a "Like," and ask your friends to do the same.

C. K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SUVCW



C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SERIES 2017 **CAMP ORDERS** MAY 2017

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

**REMEMBER YOUR SACRED OBLIGATION, AND PARTICIPATE IN OUR WORK**

Greetings, Brothers and friends!

I've often said that if belonging to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was as easy as sitting in one's easy chair and watching the History Channel, more men would certainly join.

However, it's not that easy. Each of us pledged to "promote actively its objects and interests always and everywhere" and to "always observe the day set aside by the Grand Army of the Republic as Memorial Day and to persuade others to do the same."

That's a tall order ... difficult, if not downright impossible to do ... especially from the comfort of one's chair at home.

The lightly attended recent cleanup at Oak Hill Cemetery and the flag placement at Calvary Cemetery lead me to believe that some of our Brothers have become distracted, lost their focus, or have forgotten their obligation.

Gen. John Logan's General Order 11, establishing Decoration Day in 1868,



**FROM THE COMMANDER – PCINC STEVE MICHAELS**

calls us to keep well *the solemn trust*, as long as the light and warmth of life remains in us. Is his order just a collection of highly romanticized 19<sup>th</sup> century words or does it prescribe for us some core values, some guiding principles: volunteer service, respect and integrity?

Years later, the general's widow, Mary, reflected, "It is the saddest thought I know, that so many of the old soldiers are gone. In the very nature of things, the younger

men who have come in their places will not have their enthusiasm for this ceremony, unless the press and the pulpit use their influence to keep it alive."

Our Memorial Day observance is days away. Additionally, there are educational and commemorative events this summer that also require your active support. I call on every Brother to re-examine the solemn oath he signed on his application. I cannot go it alone, nor can I get it done sitting in a chair at home. I need your support. Can I count on you?

**The next Camp meeting will be Wednesday, June 7, at the Machinists Union hall at 1650 S. 38th St., Milwaukee. PCC David Howard will make the patriotic presentation.**

## BE OUR FRIEND ON FACEBOOK; AND TELL ALL OF YOURS

Our Camp, which has been a proud Milwaukee citizen since being established in 1901, now is a citizen of the world of Facebook.

Our page was launched in early May after several weeks of discussion about various recruiting steps in general, and then testing what our content would be and how often it would be updated. It will be at least weekly.

The goals are twofold: First, to keep our name in front of various patriotic and history groups all year long, rather than just our mailing list for the Patriotic Luncheon and whoever sees the Memorial Day flyer, or whoever sees media stories that mention us.

Second, to be an accessible place that attracts people who soon or eventually might wish to join as lineal members or as associates. The thought is that having weekly updates about our work or topics about Wisconsin and the Civil War eventually will bear some fruit.

Our address is <https://www.facebook.com/CKPierBadger>

We invite you to check it out, and then tell your friends. The early “Likes” for our page came from family and acquaintances, and soon spread to



friends of family and friends of acquaintances. Thus a strong network grows.

PCC Tom Mueller set up the Facebook page as a voluntary expansion of his long-time duties with the Camp Orders (the page will have one or two other administrators to step in when needed). PDCs Kent

Peterson and Bruce Laine had led discussions in the Department about several Facebook issues starting with being consistent in how a Camp page is named and what its settings are. Other Camps shared their experience and views, and all benefitted from the discussion.

The “About” area on the left of the page allows our Camp good flexibility compared with previously printed materials in saying we do much broader work than Civil War re-enactors per se; plus how nobody needs a uniform in order to be a member.

Our page also provides an email address for people to request an application, which will be quickly answered. When the dues amount falls in the middle of the year, we will tout the pro-rated figure, which is in effect through Dec. 31.

We also plan to take photos of spectators at events and quickly post them on the page for the benefit of those groups.



### REMEMBERING COL. PIER: THE FAMILY MOURNS

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

Colwert and Kate Pier had four daughters: Kate H., Carrie H., Harriet H. and Mary H. They all were sweet, loving and lively girls, though Mary was a bit weaker physically. She was only 8 years old when she became sick and died suddenly two days later, on June 2, 1885.

Mary was buried in her mother’s family plot at Fond du Lac’s Rienzi Cemetery. The tragic event overshadowed Colwert’s 44<sup>th</sup> birthday five days later and the wedding anniversary later that month for Colwert and Kate.

The Piers, as did most Americans of that time, mourned in public. Men, who had the more public life, did not have the same mourning guidelines as women. Colwert resumed his normal routine shortly after the funeral. Because his mourning attire did not differ greatly from his business suit, his grief was more private than that of the family’s women.

Outwardly, the colonel was described as having an upbeat outlook. We know that this clearly hid an inner pain and sense of loss.

*From Wisconsin Women: A Gifted Heritage, edited by Andrea Bletzinger and Anne Short, Wisconsin Division AAUW, 1982; Sentiment, Sorrow & Sepulcher: Victorian Mourning Traditions (Museum Memo, Dec. 1991 / Jan. 1992), State Historical Museum, Madison; Milwaukee Sentinel, June 5 and 7, 1885*



**WILLIAM H. CARNEY, FIRST  
BLACK MOH RECIPIENT**



*For his patriotic presentation at the May meeting, PDC Kent Peterson compiled this report from multiple sources, including <http://www.historynet.com/william-h-carney-54th-massachusetts-soldier-and-first-black-us-medal-of-honor-recipient.htm> and <http://nbhistoricalsociety.org/Important-Figures/sergeant-william-h-carney/>*

Of all the men who wore blue uniforms in the Civil War, perhaps none felt more keenly the purpose of his service than the African-American soldier. U.S. Colored Troops were consistently good fighters, performing well in every engagement in which they fought. And Sgt. William H. Carney was the first black to be awarded the Medal of Honor.

Carney was born a slave in 1840, at Norfolk, Va. His father, also named William, had escaped slavery via the underground railroad and then worked hard to buy the freedom of the rest of his family. The free and reunited family settled in New Bedford, Mass., in the late 1850s. Young William learned to read and write, and by age 15 he was interested in becoming a minister.

When the Civil War broke out, he decided the best way he could serve God was by serving in the military to help free the oppressed. In February 1863, at age 23, Carney heeded the call for African-Americans to enlist. Forty volunteers from the New Bedford area, including two sons of famed abolitionist Frederick Douglass, joined the local Morgan Guards militia. That unit later would serve as Co. C of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment.

The 54th Massachusetts proved its courage in the July 18, 1863, Battle of Fort Wagner outside of Charleston, S.C. This figured prominently in the 1989 movie "Glory."

Fort Wagner guarded the entrance to Charleston harbor. The 600 men of the 54th Massachusetts would spearhead the Federal assault from a strip of sand on the east side of the fort, which faced the Atlantic Ocean. Federal land and sea artillery shelled the fort all day long. By nightfall, orders were passed for the 54<sup>th</sup> to attack.

As the men advanced, they immediately were hit by a barrage of canister, musketry and shelling from the fort. A bullet struck the 54<sup>th</sup>'s color sergeant, John Wall, and as he fell, Carney seized the flag and moved to the front of the ranks. He reached the walls of the fort, turned to wave the flag and rally the troops, then realized he was the only member of his company to reach the fort.

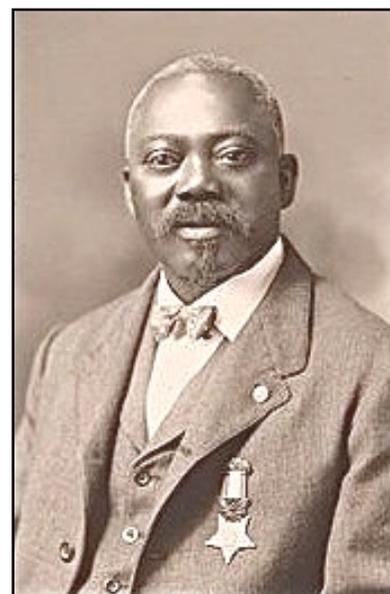
He saw a large force of Confederate soldiers advancing down the ramparts of the fort and so he made his way to a water-filled ditch. He rose to get a better look around. As he later wrote: "The bullet I now carry in my body came whizzing like a mosquito, and I was shot. Not being prostrated by the shot, I continued my course, yet had not gone far before I was struck by a second shot."

Two more balls soon grazed his arm and head. When the Union troops were forced to retreat under fire, Carney struggled back across the battlefield. He eventually made his way back to his own lines and turned over the colors to another member of the 54th, modestly saying, "Boys, I only did my duty; the old flag never touched the ground!"

Company C was able to capture a small section of Fort Wagner for a short time. The 54th suffered 272 killed, wounded or missing out of the 600 in the battle, including Col. Robert Shaw, who was among the dead.

Carney recovered from the four wounds, and word soon spread of his actions. When commanders heard about his bravery, he was promoted to sergeant. He was discharged because of the wounds a little more than a year after the battle.

Carney's valor was honored on May 23, 1900, when he was awarded the Medal of Honor. That was almost 40 years later; many soldiers did not receive this honor until decades after the war. Because his actions came before those of other black recipients, he is considered the first black to be so honored.



The medal citation for William H. Carney says: "When the color sergeant was shot down, this soldier grasped the flag, led the way to the parapet, and planted the colors thereon. When the troops fell back he brought off the flag, under a fierce fire in which he was twice severely wounded."



## We're working all over

Camp members and Boy Scout Troop 61 teamed up for the spring cleaning of Oak Hill Cemetery in Wauwatosa, and troop committee chair Gene Genal freshened up the entrance posts.



JVC Billy Cole helps place flags at Calvary Cemetery to prep it for Memorial Day.



PDC Kent Peterson talks with a patron at the Milwaukee County Genealogical Society workshop. At left, PCC David Howard gives out the Sons Junior ROTC award to Elizabeth (Ellie) Krasovich at Greenfield High School.

### CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

**Q:** How many Confederate graves are known to be in Wisconsin?

**A:** There are 139 at the well-known Confederate Rest at Forest Hill Cemetery in Madison, all prisoners from the siege and April 1862 surrender at Island No. 10 in the Mississippi River south of Cairo, Ill. Beyond that, there are 17 elsewhere in the state in the Sons database, including four in Forest County. On occasion, a Confederate is found during graves registration work.

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 16 – Eric Sprengle
- 21 – Tom Heinen
- 23 – Joel Schanning



### CAMP CALENDAR

3 June: Department Encampment, Saukville, with Camp 5 as the host. Starts at 9 a.m. Information was emailed to you. Mail in your RSVP by May 27, but please act NOW, not then.

4 June: Dedication of tombstone of Pvt. Michael Carroll, whose stone had said Michael Curran since 1913. Wood National Cemetery, 2:30 p.m.

4 July: Parade in Union Grove in support of Camp 15. 9:15 a.m.

29 July: Heritage Days parade, South Milwaukee. 11 a.m.

Report any address or e-mail changes to newsletter editor PCC Tom Mueller  
[thewisconsin3800@gmail.com](mailto:thewisconsin3800@gmail.com)

Camp Commander – PCinC Steve Michaels  
 (414) 712-4655  
 SVC Billy Cole (414) 545-7323  
<https://www.facebook.com/CKPierBadger>  
<http://www.suvew-wi.org>