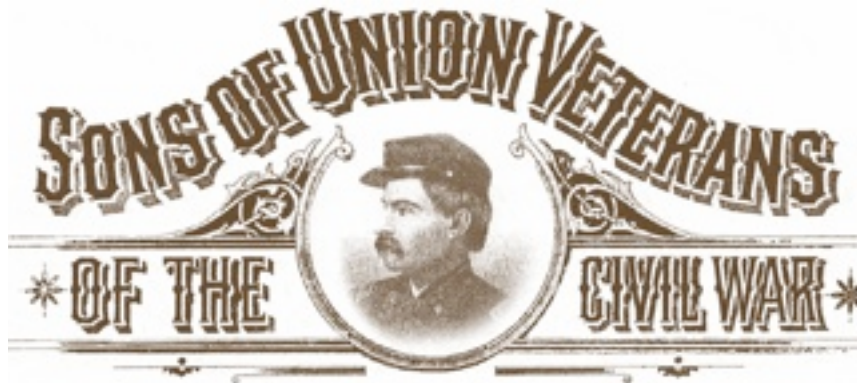




Department SVC  
Sam Keith died  
on May 9 after a  
hospital stay of  
nearly two  
months. Keith,  
77, of Camp 15,  
lived at Salem in  
Kenosha County.  
See <https://www.strangfth.com/obituary/samuel-keith>

C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP #1

SUVCW



C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SERIES 2024

CAMP ORDERS

MAY 2024

CHOSEN AS THE 2022 BEST CAMP IN THE NATION

## WE'LL SEE YOU ON MEMORIAL DAY

We are primed, loaded and ready for the most solemn day of the year for the Grand Army of the Republic, and to us, their Sons.

The Camp and Auxiliary 4 have held Memorial Day observances at Milwaukee's Calvary Cemetery since at least 1927 and likely earlier.





**Sons of Union Veterans  
of the Civil War and Auxiliary**

**Memorial Day Service**

Monday, May 27, 2024 at 10 a.m.  
at Milwaukee's Historic  
**CALVARY CEMETERY**  
5503 W. Bluemound Road

Outdoor Mass followed by a Patriotic Program:

- Bishop Jeffrey R. Haines, Main Concelebrant
- Keynote Speaker Michael B. Kosuta, Command Sergeant Major (retired), 88th Regional Support Command
- Cannon firing by Cushing's Battery A, 4th U.S. Artillery
- Iron Brigade Guard musket salute
- Rifle salute and Taps by American Legion Milwaukee Police Post #415
- Civil War Music by the First Brigade Band playing original instruments
- Address by Pres. Abraham Lincoln (Nic Bur)
- Procession to graves of Union Soldiers
- Decoration of soldiers' graves



For more information, call (414) 719-4084 or pelibes@gmail.com

*In case of inclement weather, ceremonies will be held in St. Vincent Pallotti Church at 5502 W. Bluemound Rd.*

CC Grant Johnson put up the promotional banners at Calvary Cemetery, which the Camp bought last year for the Milwaukee Archdiocese.

The next Camp meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 12, at the Lions Clubhouse, 7336 St. James St., Wauwatosa. Department JVC Patrick Fallon will have the patriotic presentation.

## ANCESTOR'S FARM GETS A BIG CHANGE

The Oak Creek farm that was the home of the soldier ancestor of Chaplain Dean Collins has entered a new chapter.

Pvt. George Verhalen of the 24th Wisconsin Infantry, Co. K, was from that land. It is on the 1876 plat map at the Oak Creek Historical Society (spelled Verhalen there and on his gravestone, Verhaalen in the roster).

Work recently began on turning the 19-acre property at 517 E. Rawson Ave. into a business development. The huge barn and old house were removed during the winter; the huge willow trees along the street were felled a year ago.

The land will be "a flex commercial / light manufacturing development by St. John Properties. There will be four multi-tenant buildings once fully constructed," says Kari Papelbon, senior planner for community development of the City of Oak Creek.

Over the years, St. John has developed many other properties in Oak Creek, the Milwaukee area and other states.

Collins says his great-grandfather "came to America at age 13, arriving in New York and ending up in Oak Creek Township. His father, Peter, bought land on May 31, 1854." The 1876 plat map has the farm and another parcel across the street and a little to the east as "B. Verhalen."

George Verhalen was an apprentice for a local blacksmith and was 21 when he enlisted. Co. K had a



Here is what is left of the Verhalen farm in Oak Creek. Photo by PCC Tom Mueller. Mueller wrote about Verhalen and two other soldiers from this neighborhood in his 2013 book, "Duty, Honor, Country and Wisconsin."

total of 38 soldiers from Oak Creek.

Verhalen was wounded and taken prisoner at Chickamauga, Ga., on Sept. 20, 1863. He was shipped to Richmond, Va., but eventually escaped.

He was mustered out on June 10, 1865.

Verhalen lived Saukville after the war and died there of tuberculosis at the age of only 37, on July 10, 1879. He left a pregnant widow and nine other children. Verhalen and his wife, Elizabeth, are buried at St. Mary's Cemetery in Saukville.

## REMEMBERING COL. PIER: TALE ABOUT COURT MARTIAL

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

During most of October 1864, Col C.K. Pier was detached from the 38<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry, serving as president of a general court martial. Years later, he related an interesting case that came before him:

"... a Michigan soldier was tried, charged with having been found asleep while on picket duty. The proof was overwhelming and the charge undenied. He was a new recruit and after marching long, weary miles, was placed on duty and had slept.

"The court, while willing to recommend mercy (a most doubtful expedient those times), must of necessity find a verdict of guilty. The proof showed the accused to have been a most exemplary soldier up to the time arrested. He had twice attempted to enlist before (coming) of sufficient age, and as soon as he arrived at majority, joined the first squad of recruits leaving for the front, and in fact, joined them at the railroad depot. The court took a short recess before voting ..."

An enterprising judge advocate clerk, who also had been detached from the 38<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin, passed a slip of paper to Pier, which said, "ask the prisoner if he was ever mustered into service."

"It turned out that in the hurry of departure, (the soldier) had never been mustered into service, and therefore, could not be convicted under the charge preferred. (Interestingly), he was (later) promoted for gallantry at Five Forks," the battle of April 1, 1865.

*Compiled from Milwaukee Sunday Telegraph, Nov. 24, 1889; Wisconsin in the War of Rebellion, by William DeVoss Love*



## THE FIELD DESK OF OFFICERS

BY JVC TOM HESSE



I became interested in officer's field desks after a visit to the Virginia Military Institute Museum in Lexington, Va., which displayed the one that Stonewall Jackson used up until the time of his death in 1863. This field desk most likely was crafted by local furniture makers in Lexington around 1850.

Officer's field desks varied in size, shape and level of intricacy, and were essential to the internal operations of field headquarters.

The armies kept records of every weapon issued to soldiers, of soldiers themselves, and of each movement made by the many regiments. In attempting to keep all these records, officers essentially were creating a handwritten database from which they could pull information when developing new plans and strategies.

Having this information could mean the difference between implementing an informed tactical strategy that won the day, and a blunder that caused the loss of thousands of soldiers' lives.

During the war, with communication and transportation methods so limited, disorganization and mismanagement of troops and supplies could lead to defeat. (And some scholars believe, in the Confederate case, it did.)

Officers also wrote personal correspondence to loved ones at their field desks.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when most people thought of a desk they envisioned a small, vertical cabinet with a drop-down front. Inside were several small cubbyholes, a few vertical or horizontal slots for papers or ledgers, and maybe a drawer or two. These desks were meant to be set on tables; the drop-down front was

the writing surface.

Some men who used desks of this type before the war took them along when they became officers, and as such, they were never really intended for field use at all. These desks often were among the nicest and most elegantly crafted, and usually were considerably larger than the average field desk. Jackson was an instructor at VMI, and took his desk with him to war.

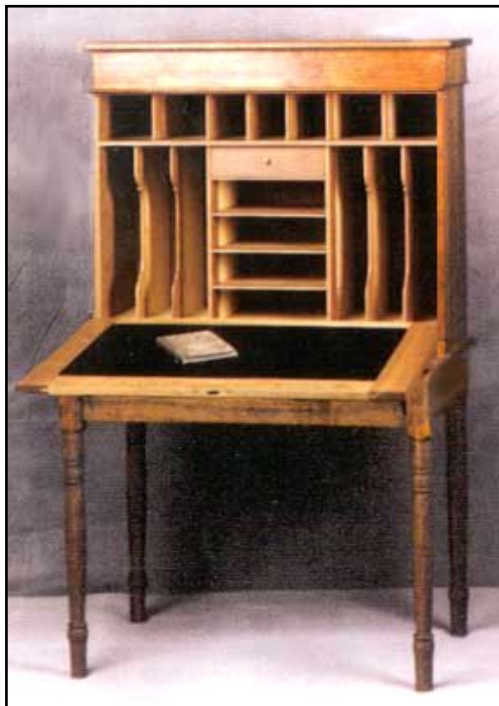
The second type of field desk often was a hurried, makeshift affair constructed in the field. Made with whatever wood was available, these were cobbled together and usually extremely basic.

Often, they were just wooden boxes with a hinged door, and some shelves and cubbyholes inside. Some were made from a hardtack crate by the company woodworker. Not pretty, but these desks got the job done.

Given the vast distances that armies traveled and the sheer quantity of troops involved, the successful communication and execution of operations was incredibly impressive, and proved crucial to war efforts. The officer's field desk was perhaps the simplest, but most effective, tool in this quest for efficiency.

I learned, during my visit to the VMI Museum, that handcrafted reproductions of Civil War field desks are available (if you've got the money). They range from \$3,000 to \$8,000. The museum website of <https://www.vmi.edu/museums-and-archives/vmi-museum/museum-shop/> offers to make Jackson's desk and table for \$5,650, under a licensing program with benefits going to the school's museum.

I'm going to make my own (I've been saying that for the past five years).



Stonewall Jackson desk from [https://www.logancreekdesigns.com/?page\\_id=10](https://www.logancreekdesigns.com/?page_id=10) The VMI Museum contracts with Logan to make this. Below is a desk made from a crate. From <https://www.manmadediy.com/3534-timeless-inspiration-the-military-field-desk/>

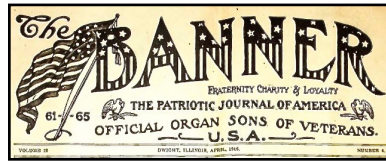


## Vintage issues of The Banner are now available online

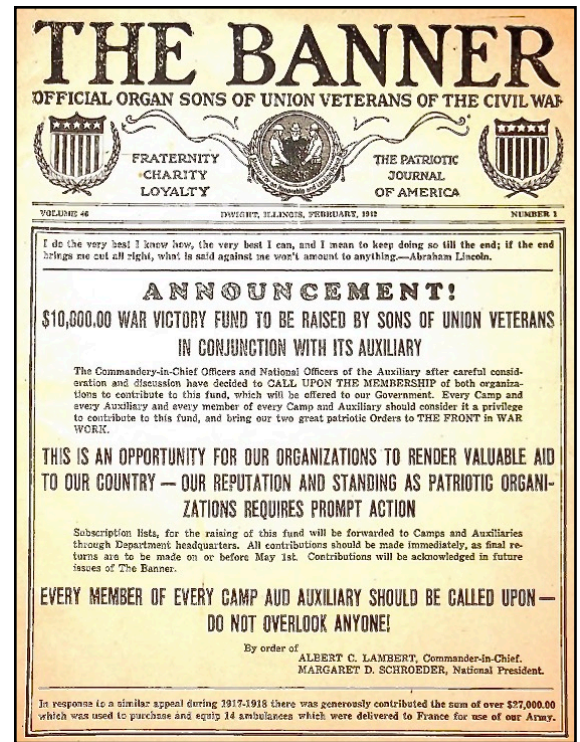
More than 300 full issues of The Banner, dating back to 1916, are now available on the national website, at [www.suvcw.org/Banner-Editions](http://www.suvcw.org/Banner-Editions)

The SUVCW national assistant executive director, Susan Mitchell, scanned and uploaded every issue of The Banner that is on hand at headquarters.

Check out this link!!!



At top is the logo of the earliest issue of the batch – April 1916. This was Volume 20, No. 4. In February 1942, The Banner was leading patriotic efforts in the nation's new war. The bottom of the page noted that the SUVCW and Auxiliary funded ambulances in World War I.



### CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

**Q:** What were some specifications for ammunition boxes?

**A:** Packing-boxes for field ammunition were made of well-seasoned wood (generally white pine), 1.25 inches thick, dovetailed with the tenon on the ends. The top of the box was fastened with six 2-inch screws; the box has two handles of 1 3/4 inch rope, attached to brackets at the ends. The boxes were painted on the outside in different colors to indicate the contents – those containing shot were painted olive; shells, black; spherical case-shot, red; and canisters, a light drab. The kind of ammunition was marked on each end in large white letters. Much more at <http://www.civilwarartillery.com/glossary/glossary.htm>



### JUNE BIRTHDAYS

21 – Tom Heinen      25 – Bill Seaman  
23 – Joel Schanning      28 – Will Ammann

**Camp Commander – Grant Johnson**  
[grant.johnson@responsory.com](mailto:grant.johnson@responsory.com)

**414-940-3113 or 262-432-0183**

**SVC – Michael Benton      414-659-3767**

**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](mailto:thewisconsin3800@gmail.com) Your Banner is not forwarded by the Postal Service, so you need to report a new address to us.

### 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.

# NEW, OLD PLACES FOR HONORING OUR ANCESTORS

Activities of Camp members this spring have run the gamut from Fond du Lac to a trip to Gettysburg to locally – flags, cemetery damage and secrets. Everything the Camp does, old and new, is a way of honoring our ancestors. And we SURE do!!!



Col. Pier's tiny cemetery in Fond du Lac, and the tombstones, got a thorough cleaning from PDC Tom Brown, PCinC Steve Michaels, seven students from Trinity Lutheran School, Wauco-  
sta, and their two leaders. Kudos to local pastor David Wege of the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee for organizing this.



Patriotic Instructor Paul Eilbes makes a presentation at Gettysburg on a bus trip by the Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee. At center is historian / author Carolyn Ivanoff, who spoke about the mural of the Brickyard Fight behind them.



These flags and hundreds of others were placed on the graves of veterans at Calvary Cemetery in Milwaukee in advance of Memorial Day. Eight from the Camp and Auxiliary did the work.

Camp GRO Tom Ludka personally turned over this fallen tombstone at Calvary Cemetery because he knew John Starkey was a Civil War veteran. The stone turned out to be engraved with his unit, the 28th Wisconsin Infantry, Co. A. The stone probably fell over years ago.



Dean Collins made an inspection of winter damage at Oak Hill Cemetery, and found this huge issue. He alerted the Wauwatosa Public Works Department, which quickly sawed it up. The Camp has been cleaning up Oak Hill since 1997, with Scout Troop No. 61.



Photos from David Wege, Tom Mueller, Dean Collins and Tom Ludka