James Henry Smart of Butternut in Ashland County was a highly patriotic Civil War veteran who died in 1923 at the age of 89. He was a private in the 4th Wisconsin Cavalry, Co. C, enlisting in March 1865 in Plymouth. This photo was found during GRO work.

SUVCW

C. K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1
SERIES 2015 CAMP ORDERS NOVEMBER 2015

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

HERE ARE YOUR OFFICERS FOR THE 2016 YEAR

Commander: PCC Patrick Fallon

SVC: Jeff Lesar

JVC: Brian Craig

Secretary: PCC David Howard

Treasurer: PDC Kent Peterson

Patriotic instructor: Bruce Nason

Council: PCC Tom Mueller, PDC Tom Brown and PCinC Steve Michaels

Some Camp tasks remain to be filled, and can be easily handled even if you are not able to come to meetings. All it takes is to

CC Patrick Fallon

collect information at your convenience and file a report.

These tasks include the job of memorials officer — visiting various plaques and markers and taking pictures, then writing short descriptions.

Taking on these functions will add to your Civil War fields of interest and to your citizenship as a Brother of the Camp.
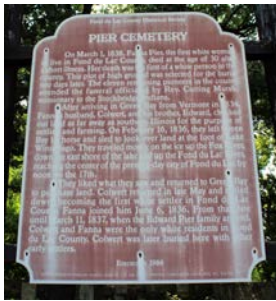
Contact PCC Tom Mueller at thewisconsin3800@gmail.com for more information.

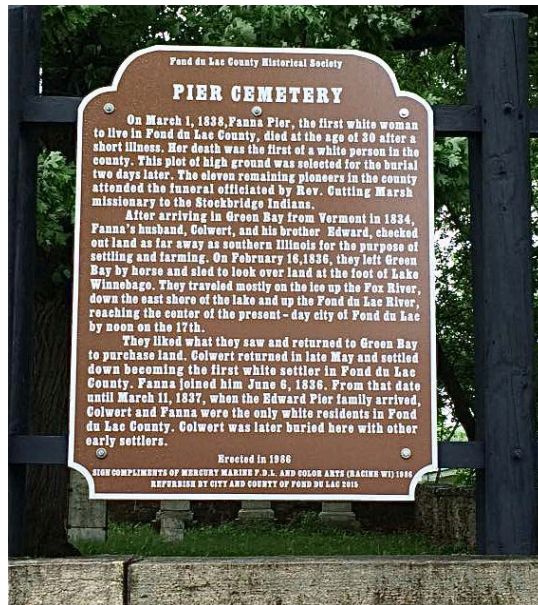### Send in your renewal today, and help Victorious Charge, too

Your member dues notice is attached to this newsletter. A voluntary extra donation will help refurbish the Victorious Charge statue, and to put our Camp name on the permanent donor plaque that will be at the site. The statue was erected in 1898.

The next Camp meeting, along with the Christmas gathering and munchies, will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 2, at the Machinists Union hall at 1650 S. 38th St., Milwaukee. PI Bruce Nason will have the patriotic presentation.

Aged marker replaced at Pier Cemetery in Fond du Lac

Historical groups in Fond du Lac County have replaced the badly deteriorated sign at the cemetery where Col. C.K. Pier, his ancestors and other relatives are buried. Colwert E. Pier and his wife, Fanna, were the first white settlers of the county, arriving in 1836. Other Piers arrrived and then Colwert K. Pier was born in 1841. The new sign appeared on Facebook in summer, as seen at https://www.facebook.com/TheFdLReporter/posts/10153293841440450. The original sign, erected in 1986, was rusting badly in recent years and was replaced by the City of Fond du Lac and the county. The cemetery is near East Pioneer Road and South Main Street. Pier Cemetery was established in 1838, when Fanna Pier died.

2 Camps salute veterans on their special day

A special thank you to the Col. Hans Heg Camp 15 of Wind Point in Racine County for joining C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 in the Veterans Day parade in Milwaukee earlier this month. The joint appearance was a repeat of the two camps uniting in the Fourth of July parade in Union Grove and then in the South Milwaukee parade three weeks later. The founders of Camp 15 originally were in Camp 1. In the photo, the Sons are marching past the Milwaukee County Historical Society near the starting point of the parade.

Remembering Col. Pier: Skills evident, even in boyhood

These monthly articles about our Camp namesake are written by PCinC Steve Michaels. This item first was published in the November 1995 Camp Orders.

Colwert K. Pier grew up on his family's 41-acre farm near Fond du Lac, where he worked during the spring, summer and autumn. In the winter, he attended the district school. There, he excelled in mathematics, composition and elocution. We know these subjects served him well later, as an adult: managing his father's bank, writing articles, editorials and press releases for various newspapers, and organizing and speaking at veterans and political events.

Pier generally was accorded the leadership role by his schoolmates, who usually were older than he was. This, too, would follow him into adulthood. At age 23, he would be elected colonel by a regiment he had helped organize — a group of men generally older than he was.

The speaking schools and debating clubs attracted young Pier, and he participated in several.

Between the ages of 12 and 16, he also was interested in earning some money. Pier industriously peddled apples and popcorn on Election Day, during terms of court, on the Fourth of July and when the circus was in town.

When he was 16, Pier was sent to Lombard University in Galesburg, Ill. He then became interested in law and began studying in the Fond du Lac office of Judge Robert Flint. He was preparing to become a lawyer when the nation was startled by the fall of Fort Sumter.

From History of Fond du Lac Co., Wis.,Western Historical Co., Chicago 1880. Photo from A Photographer's History of Fond du Lac County, by Ray Thornton.

The old Pier home in Fond du Lac reportedly was a log structure started in 1837. It's where C.K. Pier lived before and after his Union Army service.

Fennimore was incorporated as a village in 1886, and became a city in 1919.

Long before that, the area in Grant County consisted of typical westward-moving types that are found everywhere in the history of this nation. And Fennimore played a noteworthy role in the Civil War.

My father, Robert Craig, died Sept. 8 at the age of 79. In the same copy of the newspaper where his obituary ran, there was a column entitled "We Salute Our Veterans." The featured vet was Capt. John McDermott of Company C of the 20th Wisconsin Infantry. So I looked for more about McDermott in the local history book, "Fennimore — Then and Now."

Before the war, McDermott lived on a farm just north of Fennimore. When the call came down, he left immediately and joined the Union forces. Most of Company C, formed in August 1862, came from Fennimore and nearby Boscobel. McDermott was elected captain.

On Dec. 7, 1862, the 20th Wisconsin was at Prairie Grove, Ark. The Union soldiers had marched nearly all night and were near exhaustion. However, the order came that they must attack in the morning.

McDermott led that terrible charge. It took scarcely 20 minutes from the time the first man fell until the regiment withdrew, but in that time, 51 were killed and 100 wounded, and eight were missing in action.

The color bearer was shot and Capt. McDermott seized the flag of the regiment in one hand, stuck his bayonet through his McClellan hat and rushed up the hill, shouting, "give 'em hell, boys! Give 'em hell."

He quickly became a target for Confederate musket balls, and when he was picked up, there were 14 holes in his body. Various accounts say that when his body was found, he still was clutching the flag. McDermott was 41.

Fennimore schoolchildren would later sing:
Bold Captain Mac of Company C,
The colors for to save,
Rushed boldly to the cannon's mouth,
And now lies in his grave!

GAR Post 101 of Boscobel was established on Aug. 15, 1883, and was named for John McDermott.

This is a story about only one of the brave men of Fennimore Center (the area's original name until 1881) who did their share in the war.

The stories of most of the Fennimore men are the same as those of most soldiers during the war — lost, perhaps known only in family legend and folklore. But, over the generations, less and less known.

The point that I found most interesting in researching this bit of my hometown's past was just how many men from the area joined the Union forces. Fennimore was not even a village or a city; just a collection of houses and farms peopled by folks that headed west. Yet, 139 men — including McDermott — answered the call to colors from this unincorporated area.

A slightly longer list is at http://www.fennimore.com/community/pdf/Civil-War-Vet-List-July-2014.pdf More information about the 20th Wisconsin and Prairie Grove is at http://www.secondwi.com/wisconsinregiments/20th_wisconsin.htm

This is the memorial to Capt. John McDermott, KIA at Prairie Grove, Ark., in 1862. The memorial is in Prairie Cemetery at Fennimore. Photo from http://wisconsinhistoricalmarkers.blogspot.com/2015/06/capt-john-mcdermott-memorial.html McDermott is buried at the Fayetteville National Cemetery in Arkansas, at site 573 in section 7.

Service could continue in the Invalid Corps

The Invalid Corps was organized under authority of General Order No. 105, War Department, dated April 28, 1863.

A similar corps had existed in Revolutionary times in Massachusetts.

The Invalid Corps of the Civil War period was created to make suitable use in a military or semi-military capacity of soldiers who had been rendered unfit for active field service on account of wounds or disease contracted in line of duty, but who still were fit for garrison or other light duty.

Those serving in the Invalid Corps were divided into two classes. Class 1 consisted of partially disabled soldiers whose periods of service had not yet expired, and who were transferred directly to the Corps to complete their terms of enlistment. Class 2 was soldiers who had been discharged on account of wounds, disease or other disabilities, but who still were able to perform light duty and desired to do so.

As the war went on, it proved that the additions to the Corps hardly equaled the losses by discharge or otherwise, so it finally was ordered that men who had had two years of honorable service in the Army or Marine Corps could enlist in the Invalid Corps without regard to disability.

By General Order No. 111, dated March 18, 1864, the title Veteran Reserve Corps was substituted for that of Invalid Corps.

The Veteran Reserve Corps had two battalions. The 1st Battalion included those whose disabilities were comparatively slight and who still were able to handle a musket and do some marching, also to perform guard or provost duty. The 2nd Battalion was made up of men whose disabilities were more serious, who perhaps had lost limbs or had some other grave injury. They were commonly employed as cooks, orderlies, nurses or guards in public buildings.

The 1st Battalion furnished guards for some Confederate prison camps and escorted substitutes, recruits and prisoners to and from the front. It also guarded railroads and did patrol duty in Washington.

Civil War Trivia

Q: What device was invented in the Navy in order to see over a high riverbank?

A: During the Red River campaign in Louisiana in 1864, low-lying Navy ships often could not see attackers on the other side of a steep levee. So a Navy engineer, Thomas Doughty, on the ironclad USS Osage, invented what is now called the periscope. The 1917 book "War Inventions and How They Were Invented," by Charles R. Gibson, reports "he fixed a long iron tube, like a mast, from the engine room so that the upper end was right above the deck. With the aid of a mirror at the top and another one down in the engine room, Doughty could see what was going on along the high banks of the river." This also is reported in "The Union Navy," by Arthur Wyllie, published in 2007.

December birthdays

3 – Fred Murphy
21 – Dean Collins
23 – Tom Mauermann
30 – Steven Wortman

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.suvcw-wi.org

Camp Calendar

5 December: Quarterly planning meeting, 11 a.m., site TBA.

12 December: Wreaths Across America, 11 a.m., Wood National Cemetery. See http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/ Followed by gifts to vets at Zablocki VA Medical Center, led by Auxiliary 4.

6 February, 2016: Patriotic Luncheon and mid-winter Department meeting. The speaker will be Wayne Issleb, who portrays Gen. U.S. Grant. Send us the name of a history-oriented person who ought to be invited.