



Set for loading: This cartridge is ready to be ripped open and the gunpowder poured down a rifle barrel, a projectile inserted and rammed home on top of the charge to seat and compress everything prior to firing a salute to the Boys in Blue. This is the hand of PCC Patrick Fallon.

C. K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SUVCW



C. K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SERIES 2015 **CAMP ORDERS** OCTOBER 2015

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

THE END OF 2 YEARS WITH THE SILVER BADGE

I am ending my two terms as commander by paraphrasing the same words with which I began: "Brothers: It was my great thrill"

A new commander will be elected on Nov. 4 and utilize his own package of personal, management and organizational skills to guide our Camp. It is time for me to retire and to be on the Council. I will remain a very active Camp member, including a fifth year as editor of your Camp Orders.

The new commander should have an active SVC and JVC as his right hands, but I will be glad to be on the left.

The most-tangible highlight of my two years stands at the front gate of Forest Home Cemetery: the new historical marker telling all passersby that nearly 1,000 Civil War veterans are buried there. Five of us worked on this project and more from the Camp and Auxiliary 4 in the research long before that.

FROM THE COMMANDER

— TOM MUELLER



Being at the helm was all about building on the long traditions and projects of the Camp, ranging from Memorial Day to the Patriotic Luncheon, to parades and history events, to helping get donations to our projects and veterans relief, to compiling our reports about the condition of the many Civil War memorials in the Milwaukee area. Each takes organizational skills, and fostering / praising the leadership of others.

Beyond that, there were the giant curveballs thrown at the Camp in terms of finding a new home when the VA told us to vacate Building 1 and helping make a smooth transition when several of our members departed to form Camp 15 at Norway in Racine County, far closer to their homes than Milwaukee is.

Our work is done by all of us, but I especially want to salute Treasurer PDC Kent Peterson, Chaplain Dean Collins,

Continued on page 4

Elections and installations are Nov. 4

Officers for the new term will be elected at the next Camp meeting, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4, at the Machinists Union hall at 1650 S. 38th St., Milwaukee. JVC Brian Craig will have the patriotic presentation.

Marker tells our story of Civil War vets

Here is how our historical marker is placed at the front gate of Forest Home Cemetery on West Forest Home Avenue in Milwaukee. The marker was installed in September, and we will hold a dedication next spring or summer. Photo by CC Tom Mueller



Various Camp members have reported finding these interesting items in recent weeks and now refer them to you. Thanks, Brothers!!! These URLs do get a bit long, so try putting some of the key words into Google.

– War pictures and shots made at the same sites today: <http://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/ng-interactive/2015/jun/22/american-civil-war-photography-interactive>

– Newsreels of veterans' reunions at Gettysburg: <http://www.29thusct.com/> and

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vH3hITUeEM>

– Inspiring sequence of photos and music: <http://www.saukcountyhistory.org/civilwardisplay.html> Go to bottom of the page.

– The updated Wisconsin Blue Book has a 74-page history of the state in Civil War: http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/misc/lrb/blue_book/2015_2016/300_feature.pdf Written by Michael Telzrow, Russell Horton and Kevin Hampton, Wisconsin Veterans Museum / Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs.



REMEMBERING COL. PIER: A MERRY 1876 REUNION IN MILWAUKEE

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

Milwaukee's reunion of 400 Wisconsin soldiers and sailors on Sept. 4, 1876, was considerably augmented by a delegation from Fond du Lac, led by Col. C.K. Pier.

The reunion had been postponed a day because of heavy rain. Now the vets took an uneventful excursion to the State Fair. In the afternoon, a special train conveyed them to a program at the National Soldiers Home (today's VA Center). There were numerous trains on the line, and the special trains stopped several times. Some of the vets grabbed tomatoes and pumpkins from fields along the road and pelted them at the more staid and sober vets who remained in the cars.

After some entertaining speeches, a sumptuous banquet was served. Telegrams from President Grant, Generals Sherman and Hancock, and others were read. The National Home's coronet band played and then, Col. Pier was called on for the first of the after-dinner speeches.

Pier spoke briefly and happily, dwelling especially on the pleasures of reunion and the desirability of continuing the custom. Even in the hereafter, he said, he would ask St. Peter where the Boys in Blue were and make his way to them. There was great applause.

Pier reported that the last time he spoke to the soldiers here, he had said something about his mother-in-law and it got into the papers. He said she had made it pretty hot for him ever since. He gave a humorous description of the weather in Fond du Lac that week, and told some funny anecdotes to the delight of the listeners. He spoke highly of the reception given to the soldiers and proposed three cheers for Gen. E.W. Hincks (military governor of the Soldiers Home from 1872 to 1880) and the planning committee, which were heartily given.

The reunion concluded with the visiting veterans giving a vote of thanks to the local vets. The Glee Club sang "John Brown" and the audience joined in.

From: Milwaukee Sentinel, Sept. 15, 1876



MY RELATIVE'S OWN STORY

BY PI BRUCE NASON



For his patriotic presentation at the Oct. 7 Camp meeting, PI Bruce Nason submitted this account narrated by Andrew J. Smith, a private in Companies D and A of the 99th Illinois Infantry. Smith died in 1929 at the age of 97 and is buried in Marinette, Wis.

I was living in Monroe County, Missouri, when the war broke out. My wife, one child and myself lived on a small farm. My friends, the James and Younger boys, and I spent every Saturday practicing target-shooting. I was what you could call almost an expert shot with a pistol. Before the war they were fine fellows.

When the war broke out, notorious Bill Anderson, sheriff of Monroe County, came to me with papers to sign. If I signed, I was considered a Rebel soldier for the state of Missouri. If I refused to sign, I was considered a Yankee. He came to me several times and threatened to shoot me.

The James and Younger and boys signed these papers and therefore were Rebel soldiers for the state of Missouri. So our friendship ceased.

(Smith feared being attacked.) At night I laid out in the corner of a fence with a shotgun and two pistols and had my mind made up to shoot as many as I could before they got me. (One) Saturday night my livestock failed to come home. While looking for my animals, I met my neighbor Mr. Fields and asked him if he saw my stock. He said there is no use looking for them; the Quantrels men drove them off. This gang was composed of the James, Younger and Ford boys. (This may be a general reference to bushwhackers inspired by William Quantrill. However, Quantrill's ruthless raiders were mainly in western Missouri and eastern Kansas, far from where Smith lived).

One day my neighbor John Jeffers came to me and said. you are my prisoner, and I asked, by what rights do you take me prisoner? He said he joined Quantrels men and they sent me after you. I hit him, knocking him down and also taking his gun and breaking it.

On Aug. 5, 1862, I enlisted at Barry, Ill., in Company D, 99th Illinois. Near Hartville, Mo., is where we lost our first man. We were traveling at night, going to reinforce some forces at Springfield. They opened fire and killed Clark Beebe, a man from our battalion. We fought all day behind a big rail fence.

On May 1, 1863, we fought at Port Gibson, Miss., from 3 in the morning until evening. This is where I downed my first man. I did not know this until after the war. This man was talking about being shot and they said that it was (done by) a Smith, a man living about three miles in the country. He came out to see me and made sure that I was the right man. He asked a great many questions and was finally convinced that I was the man who shot him.

We were great friends thereafter.

I will mention a number of places where we fought; 14 Mile Creek, Raymond, Jackson and Champion's Hill, Miss. Closed lines at Vicksburg; we fought at Vicksburg for 47 days. They surrendered on the Fourth of July. Then we went to Jackson and fought another battle.

From Jackson we went to New Orleans across the Gulf of Mexico up the Rio Grande to Brownsville, Texas. From the Rio Grande we went back to Matagorda Island. From there back to New Orleans up the Mississippi up to White River, the Arkansas River and the Red River to DeValls Bluff in Arkansas.

Later we went up to Memphis and divided companies, guarding the railroads. Sterling Price's men run in on (us and) captured two and took them to their camp and killed them. We followed them but found that they had abandoned their camp and also found two graves.

From Memphis, back to New Orleans and to Mobile Bay, Ala. We captured the Spanish Fort in 1865. We had a hard battle. This was the greatest bombardment I ever heard or saw. You could feel the ground shake under your feet 12 miles from the fighting lines. From there we went to Spring Hill and camped. We were mustered out and sent to Springfield, Ill., where we were paid and discharged.

From the time I left home to the day I returned, I was gone three years and 12 days. There were a few little fights we had that were of no account. All during the war we had about 20 different battles. The only two scars I received were a graze on the cheek and a graze on the leg. I had my gun shot out of my hands, but that did not matter because there were many that were not in use.

I came to Marinette, Wis., in 1871 before the Peshtigo fire. In the 1880s, I bought nine forties of timberland where I started a sawmill. After that I cruised for several lumber companies. I was still cruising when I was 84 years of age.

From the Commander
– continued from page 1

PCinC Steve Michaels and PDC Tom Brown for their vital roles in any or all of the above. From freely discussing ideas with some, to others knowing what to do at a tough time, you guys are the tops. And a special nod to Auxiliary President Denise Oman.

I was a college teacher of newswriting for nearly a decade, and saw how every student has a different skill to bring to the table, although many do not yet know it at age 19. And in the past two years, I also got an up-close look at each Brother and what he does very well. That is great, and hopefully we all will find more to stand with us.

My debut column in the November 2013 newsletter also talked about how I am a researcher who has written four

books, but that those skills had grown in the Sons and especially when Brown urged me to become Department graves registration officer.

In the past month, I have inventoried all who were from my home of Oak Creek in the Wisconsin roster, and the total is about 140. A total of 27 did not survive, with some buried in faraway places like North Carolina, Maryland, Georgia, Louisiana and Mississippi. Others are MIA.

Amid that work, I found that a few Oak Creek vets are buried at Wood National Cemetery but were not in the Sons database of graves. Further investigation showed that while the database had 2,000 for that cemetery, the real number at Wood is three times higher, or even more.

So recent weeks have been spent entering nearly 700 more names (so far) that the 1905

Wisconsin veterans census said were living at the National Home, after triangulating those vets with Find a Grave for burials at Wood along with the national VA database and rosters of their native states.

Not to wax overly poetic here, but a metaphor is in order. Each piece of work that we do puts another shining star of information in the sky about Civil War veterans, and our Camp has made several constellations with its efforts. If each vet in the database is a star, we have a galaxy.

The first President George Bush had a giant effort to promote volunteerism and called it “a thousand points of light.”

Brothers, we have many more than a thousand stars. Let's all keep putting them in the sky. I will be with you.

**CIVIL WAR
TRIVIA**

Q: What was the
Milwaukee Cavalry?

A: This company of about 100 men was raised in Milwaukee and became Co. G of Missouri's Benton Hussars in September 1861 and then Co. M of the 4th Missouri Cavalry in November 1862. The 4th was consolidated into a battalion in August 1864. Max Van Unruh of Oak Creek moved from M to become captain of Company H on June 5, 1863. He died in 1889 and is buried at Wood National Cemetery.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Tom Mueller
- 2 – Billy Cole
- 9 – Everett Nylund
- 12 – Skylar Brown
- 13 – Steve Dornbos
- 17 – M. Hans Liebert



**Congratulations,
Brothers!!!**

**Report any address or e-mail changes to
Secretary David Howard
Lifeopp@yahoo.com**

**Newsletter editor
Cmdr. Tom Mueller
thewisconsin3800@gmail.com**

Website <http://www.suvcw-wi.org>

CAMP CALENDAR

7 November: Veterans Day parade, 11 a.m. in downtown Milwaukee.

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.

Feb. 6, 2016: Save the date: Patriotic Luncheon and mid-winter Department meeting. Send us the name of a history-oriented person who ought to be invited to this event.