

**'Tis the
season
for ghost
stories**

Some Civil War sites and battlefields long have had reports of weird things going on. See page 3.

C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP #1

SUVCW



C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SERIES 2024

CAMP ORDERS

OCTOBER 2024

CHOSEN AS THE 2022 BEST CAMP IN THE NATION



'... I, in the presence of the Great Creator and witnessing members of this Camp, hereby voluntarily and solemnly pledge myself ...'

Brother Andrew Sabin was initiated at the October meeting of the Camp, accompanied by his PTSD service dog. Sabin, of Kenosha, is an Army veteran who served in Iraq from 2006-'08. Photo by Paul Eilbes.

More info about the vital role of service dogs in helping veterans is at many websites, including <https://canine.org/service-dogs/our-dogs/veterans-initiative/>

EVENT IN RACINE TO HONOR 1898 DEATH

All five of the Allied Orders are expected to gather Saturday in Racine to honor a veteran who died in 1898 amid a controversy between his church and the GAR.

The event will be at 2 p.m. at Mound Cemetery, 1147 West Blvd., Racine. Auxiliary 4 President Susan Fallon, of Mount Pleasant, is organizing the event along with husband Patrick Fal-

lon, Department SVC.

It is for Pvt. Stephen Keiser, 16th Wisconsin Infantry, Co. D, who was a GAR member and buried amid a controversy that was covered in the newspapers. He has a civilian stone, and recently received a GAR flag-holder marker

Continued on page 2

The next Camp meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 13, at the Lions Clubhouse, 7336 St. James St., Wauwatosa. And we'll have another great patriotic presentation.

RACINE – Continued from page 1

from the Fallons.

The national president of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, Erin Mongelli of Joliet, Ill., has committed to attend, Susan Fallon says. So has the Woman's Relief Corps and the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War – Susan is past president of Mary Chesebro Detached Tent 23.

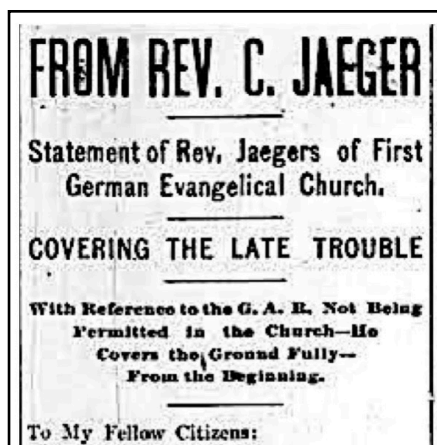
Camp 15 will provide the Honor Guard.

Keiser's church, First German Evangelical, would not allow Racine's Gov. Harvey Post 17 to put its banner on his coffin. Pastor Conrad Jaeger explained his decisions in a newspaper article later – the deck headlines said "Covering the late trouble" and "With References to the GAR not being permitted in the church – he covers the ground fully – from the beginning."

Jaeger said that "under the rules and regulations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church we deemed it improper that the coffin should be draped by the post ..."

He added, "In our church no banner other than that of our country is recognized, and on appropriate occasions it is unfurled within our church edifices."

His piece concluded, "I simply desire to repel with all of the force I can command, the insulting imputation that I am not a patriotic American citizen. I



This was the newspaper headline on the church pastor's letter explaining his decisions about the funeral of Stephen Keiser. See the entire article on page 5.

respect my country's flag and those who fight its battles, and greatly regret that an entirely innocent, straightforward and manly course should be tortured into an attempt to heap insult upon the flag of my county."

Like Keiser, Jaeger is buried at Mound Cemetery.

Keiser was a draftee from Racine and served from Sept. 22, 1864, to June 2, 1865. In his time, the 16th Wisconsin was in Sherman's March to the Sea and the siege of Savannah, Ga. Then the Carolinas campaign, including the battle of Bentonville, N.C., on March 19-21 and the surrender of Gen. Joseph Johnston to Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman at Bennett Place at Durham, N.C., on April 26, 1865. The regiment marched in the Grand Review in Washington, D.C., on May 24.

REMEMBERING COL. PIER: SEEKING DISABILITY PENSION

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

It was June 14, 1890, almost 26 years to the day since C.K. Pier was injured during an afternoon charge on the enemy's works in front of Petersburg, Va. Now, at age 49, he was filing a pension claim, appearing before the clerk of circuit court in Fond du Lac.

Pier had an innate ability to turn a phrase, which was apparent during his deposition. He declared that in addition to the enforced privations, irregularities, fatigues, privations and exposures experienced by all who actively and continuously participated in the Virginia campaigns of 1864-'65, he was permitted under orders of his superior officers and while in line of duty, to run up against rebel lead and iron, whereof he took several doses – because he HAD to.

On June 17, 1864, he was wounded by a musket ball, which passed through his left leg above the knee. The following day, an exploded shell struck the instep of his left foot, as Federal lines pushed toward Petersburg in a horseshoe formation.

During the winter of 1889, Pier had become sore lame and disabled in his left foot and leg, requiring the attention of a physician. Rheumatic pains and weakness seemed to increase every day. By early spring, he could not walk without pain. Pier was compelled to give up his law practice, except for work that could be done at home.

Dr. Samuel S. Bowers of Fond du Lac advised that the disability and pain could be traced to Pier's military service and injuries during the war, and that the pain would not decrease.

Pier completed his application to be added to the pension rolls as an invalid. He died five years later.

From C.K. Pier's Claim for Invalid Pension, June 18, 1890



HAUNTING TALES FROM SITES AND BATTLEFIELDS



At the October meeting of the Camp, PDC Kent Peterson presented this seasonal, tongue-in-cheek piece from the Blue and Gray Education Society, at <https://blueandgrayeducation.org/2020/09/where-to-find-civil-war-ghosts/>

Halloween is nigh, and with it, the perfect time to talk about ghosts. Are they real? Who knows. What we do know is that, if they are, the Civil War and the gruesome deaths that it doled out provide plenty of ghostly fodder. Lots of places are said to be haunted. Here are some of the scariest— visit only if you dare!

Beauregard-Keyes House, New Orleans: Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard resided only two years in a house in the French Quarter after his second wife, Caroline, died. Nevertheless, some say the general's ghost has been spotted wandering its rooms in full-dress uniform. Fallen soldiers who fought alongside Beauregard in the Battle of Shiloh also are said to haunt the rooms. One guest even reported having a full conversation with one soldier at a garden party, only to later learn that no one matching his description was in attendance.

The eerie sounds of orchestra music and dancing feet also are heard, said to be the echoes of a grand ball that Caroline had planned but was never to be – Beauregard had gone off to fight at Fort Sumter, and she died of illness, never to be reunited with her love again.

Kolb's Farm, Marietta, Ga.: Almost as soon as the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain ended in June 1864, people began reporting stories of ghostly soldiers on the battlefield and hearing the sounds of gunshots and cannon fire. Sometimes visitors whiff the metallic smell of blood and death.

One father and son driving through the battlefield park were confronted by a uniformed man on his horse. The father slammed on his brakes as the apparition approached them, getting so close the pair could see his Union uniform and his saber, before he vanished through a fence across the road. In one housing development built on the battlefield, the ghosts of soldiers are claimed to have visited in the darkness of night, while one moved into a house, making his presence known by slamming doors and dropping coins on a floor.

Bloody Lane, Antietam: Bloody Lane was the centerpiece of the war's bloodiest day, Sept. 17, 1862, on Antietam Creek near the small town of Sharpsburg, Md. The lane is always church-quiet, no

matter how many people are around. Visitors walking along hear phantom gunfire and smell gunpowder, and some have reported seeing Confederate soldiers who seem to be re-enactors – until they disappear. The most famous sighting was by schoolboys who heard singing that sounded like a Christmas carol – later determined to be a Gaelic battle cry, "Faugh A Ballagh," (FAWK A BALLACH) or "Clear the way!"

Fort Monroe, Hampton, Va.: This imposing fort in Virginia evaded Union capture throughout the war, although afterwards, it was where Jefferson Davis was imprisoned. Every evening he was escorted for a walk along the ramparts, where his wife watched from a nearby house, to ensure he was OK. Today, visitors have reported seeing Davis' ghost strolling those very ramparts, while the window from which his wife stood vigil vibrates. He's also been spotted in his cell, while she has been seen roaming the grounds, in search of her husband.

Gettysburg: Reports of phantom apparitions, bone-tingling cries of wounded soldiers, ghostly Civil War music, even the eerie sound of hoofs in places where horses fell victim (apparently horses can be ghosts, too) are common.

Hunters who became lost in the boulder maze of Devil's Den have reported a soldier pointing out the way out for them. An unkempt, hippie-like man has been seen, asking people if they need help; it's said he's a soldier from Texas. Another man appears, suffering from a gigantic chest wound.

Devil's Den is a major attraction for both tourists and ghost-hunters alike; many of whom often bring cameras and recording devices. But the whole hill seems to become a dead zone for electronics at random intervals.

One of the most famous stories from the war is that of Col. Joshua Chamberlain and his 20th Maine Infantry Regiment. The regiment made a dramatic charge down Little Round Top, likely preventing a total Union loss. Instead of Chamberlain, however, many soldiers in the regiment claimed to have seen the ghost of George Washington in full Revolutionary War regalia, giving the order to charge.

Asked about the alleged specter after the war, Chamberlain reportedly said, "I have no doubt that it had a tremendous psychological effect in inspiring the men. Doubtless, it was superstition, but who among us can say that such a thing was impossible?"

Well, indeed, who among us can say that such things are impossible?

Patriotic Instructor
Paul Eilbes has
gone from an as-
sociate member to
lineal.



Help Wreaths, help Camp

His relative –
tracked down by
PCC Steve
Michaels – is Cpl.
Andreas (Andrew)
Schmidt, 9th Wis-
consin Infantry, Co.
G. Schmidt was
from the Town of
Barton in Washing-
ton County and is
buried at St. Mary's
Cemetery in West
Bend.

Congrats, Brother
Paul!!! And thanks,
Steve!!!

The Camp once again is a designated fundraising group to help provide holiday wreaths for Wood National Cemetery on National Wreaths Across America Day – Saturday, Dec. 14.

Sponsor wreaths for veterans' graves at Wood, at \$17 each. In doing so, you are honoring all veterans and active military members by placing live, balsam wreaths on the headstones of our nation's service members.

The Camp's sponsorship page is at <http://www.suvcw-wi.org/camp1/waa>. When you sponsor a wreath, \$5 comes back to the Camp.

Please pass the word to any of your friends or relatives to join us in remembering and honoring our veterans.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Q: How did
Wisconsin soldiers
cast absentee votes in
the 1864 presidential
race?

A: In fall 1862, Wisconsin had become the second state in the Union to pass legislation that allowed soldiers to vote while in the field. The law ordered the three highest-ranking officers in each company to act as election inspectors – ensuring the eligibility of voters, collecting and tallying their votes, and forwarding the results back home. The final tally for all Wisconsin troops was 11,372 votes for Lincoln, to 2,458 for George McClellan. This is from a 2020 article by Russell Horton of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum at <https://wisvetmuseum.com/origins-of-absentee-voting/>



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Tom Mueller
- 2 – Billy Cole
- 12 – Skylar Brown

Camp Commander – Grant Johnson
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 Your Banner is not forwarded by the Postal Service, so you need to report a new address to us.

COMING UP

Dec. 14: Wreaths Across America, 11 a.m., Wood National Cemetery. Right afterwards, we will join the Auxiliary's distribution of blankets and goods in the palliative care unit of the Zablocki VA Hospital, plus making visits to patients.

Feb 1: Planning for the 55th Patriotic Luncheon is well under way. Racine author Steven Rogstad will speak about Lincoln and Temperance. The luncheon again will be at Alioto's, 3041 N. Mayfair Rd., Wauwatosa.

Racine pastor wrote about his reasoning after friction with GAR over 1898 funeral

FROM REV. C. JAEGER

Statement of Rev. Jaegers of First
German Evangelical Church.

COVERING THE LATE TROUBLE

With Reference to the G. A. R. Not Being
Permitted in the Church—He
Covers the Ground Fully—
From the Beginning.

To My Fellow Citizens:

In view of the statements which have been made through the public press, and otherwise, reflecting upon my patriotism as an American citizen, and my conduct as a man, I deem it to be my duty to address you briefly and finally as to the circumstances connected with the burial of a former member of my church, Mr. Stephen Keiser.

Mr. Keiser had long resided in this city, was one of its honored citizens, and a consistent member of my congregation. During the war of the rebellion he became a soldier and fought for his adopted country. When he died his comrades in arms who yet survived, desired to do his memory honor by attending his funeral. I was advised that the Governor Harvey post, G. A. R., desired to take part in the exercises at the funeral. As a part of those exercises, I was further informed, that the post desired to drape the coffin with a banner.

As a minister of the Evangelical Lutheran church I make no rules personally for its government. It is my duty, as I understand it, to simply and faithfully carry out the rules and regulations adopted for the control of church affairs. I do not need to say to you that when a member of our church dies, it is a part of our religious teaching and practice and creed that he should be buried with certain ceremonies, and that certain services should be held in connection with his interment.

After Mr. Keiser died, and after I had

learned that the Governor Harvey post desired to take part in his burial, I thought the matter over, and it seemed to me that it would be quite impossible under the rules of the church that the post should be permitted as such to drape the coffin with a banner. I did not want any misunderstanding about it or any ill-feeling or unkindness. With one of the church trustees I therefore went to the office of the commander of the post, Mr. Laing. I found that he was absent. We were directed to the place where the vice commander was employed. We found him, Mr. Guthrie, and talked the matter over with him. Mr. Guthrie seemed to entirely understand the conditions and circumstances, and it was arranged with him that the Governor Harvey post should attend the funeral; that the funeral procession should pass between their files in open order; that they should salute the coffin, and that space in the church should be reserved for them. This understanding, so far as I know, was entirely agreeable to Mr. Guthrie, and I supposed that it was entirely satisfactory to the Governor Harvey post. After that and before the funeral or at the funeral, I had no conversation with any member or officer of the Governor Harvey post concerning the funeral, or the exercises or services connected therewith. No banner or flag was brought to the house of the deceased that I saw, and so far as I know no refusal was made to admit it to the home. No banner or flag was brought to the church, or near it, so far as I know, nor did I at the church refuse to permit any banner or flag to be brought into the building. No application was made at the church for permission to bring a flag into the building, and so far as I know no refusal was there made concerning the bringing of a banner into the church edifice. All that there was to it is that it was understood in our conversation with Mr. Guthrie that under the rules and regulations of the Evangelical Lutheran church we deemed it improper that the coffin should be draped by the post as a part of their services over the remains.

As to the published reports that under my direction members of the G. A. R. were refused permission to enter the church, wearing badges, I wish to say, that badges were not spoken of in any conversation in which I engaged, and no such order or suggestion given. I supposed from my talk with Mr. Guthrie that the members of the post would attend in a body, wearing their funeral badges, and know of no reason why they should not have done so and be freely admitted.

As to the alleged refusal to permit the country's banner to be brought into the church at the funeral of John Schmidt, I wish to say that I took no part in making the arrangements for that funeral, gave no directions in connection therewith and knew nothing of the plans made by the German Veterans' society until after they were made. So far as I know the arrangements made by that society were carried out to the letter.

It is possible that in construing the rules of my church I have made a mistake. I do not, however, think that this is so. Of one thing, however, I am certain, nothing was done or said by me in

connection with the funeral of Mr. Keiser in any manner resulting from unpatriotic motives. I have lived in America more than thirty years. I am as proud of it as any citizen native born. In our church no banner other than that of our country is recognized, and on appropriate occasions it is unfurled within our church edifices. I have tried to teach patriotism and love of country to those who look to me for guidance. When my days are numbered I expect, and know, that here will be my last resting place. I simply desire to repel with all of the force I can command, the insulting imputation that I am not a patriotic American citizen. I respect my country's flag and those who fight its battles, and greatly regret that an entirely innocent, straightforward and manly course should be tortured into an attempt to heap insult upon the flag of my country.

C. Jaeger.

From Racine Journal Times