



THE DISPATCH

FALL 2021

PUBLISHED BY SUVCW DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

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Commander's Column

Brothers,
Although there are a few items to finish, we are on the verge of completing the Last Soldier Marker program in Wisconsin. The pandemic caused us to curtail large gatherings during 2020, but public dedications were held that year by Camp #8, by Past Department Commander Tom Brown and Camp #1, and by Camp #2, with participation of Sisters of the ASUVCW and of Detached Tent #23 of the DUVCW. Also, during 2020 Past Department Commander Brian McManus conducted fifteen small dedication ceremonies, and I performed another eleven. During 2021, I conducted well-attended public dedication ceremonies in Dunn and Taylor Counties, and Past Department Commanders McManus and Graf held six small ceremonies. Along with the

County Veterans Service Officers I will be conducting public ceremonies in Rusk and Polk Counties on October 30. One more dedication will be held this year, in Waupaca County. Cemetery regulations do not permit the placement of flag holders in the Central Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery, the burial place of last veteran Israel J. Cannon (see his biographical sketch in this edition of the *Dispatch*), so we will donate a marker to the Waupaca Historical Society, to be displayed in the historical "King Cottage", a frame residence moved from the Veterans Home to the society's museum grounds. The date for that event is to be determined.

The last two Wisconsin Last Soldier Markers will be dedicated in late March or early April 2022, at the request of marker purchaser John Dudkiewicz of Company B of the 2nd Wisconsin Infantry reenactors.

One other task remains for Wisconsin veterans, and that is to finish the biographies found on the Last Soldier page of the Department web site. Please contact Department Junior Vice Commander and project leader Robert Koenecke if you are willing to help here.

We also need to give attention to the Last Soldiers of Minnesota. Let me suggest that Wisconsin Camps and Brothers “adopt” a Minnesota veteran, particularly among the several who served in Wisconsin regiments, by purchasing and donating a marker to Camp #56.

I urge every Brother of the Department to participate in ceremonies honoring veterans of all eras, including Veterans Day on November 11, and Wreaths Across America Day, which will be held on December 18 this year.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Department Commander John Decker



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Department of Wisconsin
Department Orders No. 1
(Series 2021-2022)
14 July 2021
Attention to IRS Requirements

1. Brian D. McManus, PDC is appointed Department IRS Compliance Officer to assist the Department Officers in monitoring compliance by the Department and each of the Camps within the Department with respect to the furnishing and filing of Information Returns (IRS Forms 990 and 990-N) and such other documents needed to assure that the Department and Camps retain their status as Tax Exempt Entities, and that contributions are deductible.
2. The attention of Department and Camp officers is directed to Chapter V, Article V of the General Regulations of the Order (C&R pp. 120-121), which constitutes the Document Retention Policy of the Order, and which is binding on all Departments and Camps. Adherence to the Document Retention Policy is an IRS requirement, and will be monitored by the Brother appointed in Paragraph 1 above.
3. Department and Camp officers are encouraged to become familiar with the “Charities & Nonprofits” section of the IRS web site.

SO ORDERED in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

John R. Decker
Department Commander

ATTEST:

Brian G. Peters, PDC
Department Secretary

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Department of Wisconsin
Department Orders No. 2
(Series 2021-2022)
31 August 2021

Attention to Best Practices and Recruitment

1. The attention of Department and Camp officers is directed to the following National Policies pertaining to overall best management practices, which are found under the Governance and Forms section of the National web site, and are binding on all of us:

National Policy on Electronic Communications

Social Media Policy

Whistleblower Policy

Harassment Policy

Conflict of Interest Policy

Policy on Nepotism

Policy on Cash Disbursements

Policy on Minors

2. Commander-in-Chief Mike Paquette has called Zoom meetings for Department Commanders on September 25 and 26, and will hold similar meetings on a quarterly basis. Brothers of the Department of Wisconsin are invited to submit questions, suggestions, or concerns they have about National policies or operations to me in advance, so that I can share them with the C-in-C and other Department Commanders.

3. C-in-C Paquette has also instructed Department Commanders to furnish interim reports on Department and Camp activities in advance of the meeting of the Council of Administration held in conjunction with the Gettysburg Remembrance Day activities. Camp Commanders are asked to furnish me with any information concerning Camp activities or initiatives they would like for information of the Council of Administration by October 15, 2021.

4. The Form 3 Membership Application (revision of May 2021) has replaced all other forms for the purpose. Camp Junior Vice Commanders and Recruiting Officers are requested to download the forms from the National web site and to forward them to each Brother of their respective Camps by email attachment, or by hard copy for those who do not communicate by electronic means. The form is fillable, and the Camp JVC should fill in his name and contact information on the last page of the form before distributing it.

5. Camp Junior Vice Commanders and Recruiting Officers should familiarize themselves with their respective Camp dues structures (including any prorations and effective dates) so that this information can be communicated to recruits in timely fashion.

SO ORDERED in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

John R. Decker
Department Commander

ATTEST:

Brian G. Peters, PDC
Department Secretary

Florence Geneva Pool Last True Daughter



Florence Geneva Pool Wilson peacefully left this world behind and entered Heaven's Glory on Tuesday, Aug. 31, 2021, at the home of her daughter and surrounded by love.

Florence was born on Oct. 4, 1922, to Charles Parker and Clara Bell Straw Pool in Blackburn, Arkansas. She grew up in the hills of the Devils Den area. She had the honor of being one out of five living daughters of a Civil War veteran.

Florence was united in marriage to Harry O. Wilson on Jan. 1, 1946. To this union eight children were born, Jimmy, Bobby, Henry, Irene, Charlotte, Ronnie, Connie and Donnie.

Florence was saved as a young lady and spent her life glorifying God in her daily walk with Jesus. She was truly an example of a Proverbs 31 woman. She was a devoted member of Enon Missionary Baptist Church for over 70 years. She dearly loved her church and her church family.

Florence was a very dedicated homemaker, wife, mother and grandmother.

Second only to the Lord, her family was her life. She was the picture of true contentment; she dealt with whatever life threw at her with her unwavering faith. She showed unconditional love, kindness and genuine warmth to everyone. She had the purest heart, a naivety about her that was so precious, and she was so very humble. Not that she thought less about herself, but that she thought of herself less. She was a delight to her family and friends, with her amazing sense of humor and delightful joy. She was so much fun to tease; she was more fun than any toy her children ever had. She never knew how many

she was feeding until we sat down at the table, and she could pull a meal together with a moment's notice; she loved feeding people. However, the biggest desire of her heart was that all her children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews all be saved and in Church serving the Lord. She didn't want anyone missing on that great reunion day.

Florence was preceded in death by her husband, a granddaughter, Sydney, a stepgrandson, Joe Garretson, five brothers, Raymond and James Booth, Charles, John and Garland Pool, and two sisters, Golda Booth Casey and Viola Booth Turney.

Florence is survived by one brother, Willam "Bill" Pool; five sons, Jim (Missy) Wilson, Bob (Pat) Wilson, Henry (Leanna) Wilson, Ronnie Wilson and Donnie (Susie) Wilson; three daughters, Irene Biellier, Charlotte DeBauche and Connie (Stacy) Sikes; 13 grandchildren, Melissa (Charlie) Choate, Paul (Julie) Wilson, Debby (Jeff) Chronister, Jim Wilson, Jeff (Shawna) Nelson, Summer (Josh) Wright, Dennis Wilson, Gabriel (Amanda) Cotton, April (Brandon) Raymond, Caleb (Dena) Wilson, Nikki Garretson, McKenzi (Kyle) Akers and Bailey (TJ) Bryant; 24 great-grandchildren and seven great-great-grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends.

If you would like to make a memorial donation, it can be made to the Enon Missionary Baptist Church or to the Enon Cemetery.

Services were Friday, Sept. 3, and burial followed in Enon Cemetery in Wishart.



Obituaries

Robert "Bob" Welsh



Robert Earl Welsh of Wauzeka passed away on August 14th, 2021, at his residence after a short illness. Bob was born on June 1, 1938, in Boscobel, the son of Earl S. Welsh and Mae (Payne) Welsh. The family visited California in Bob's early childhood along with his Grandfather Payne and Uncle Paul Payne. Although meant to be only a visit, that visit became a 12 year relocation during which Bob's SISTER and BROTHER were born. Bob loved the land in southern California and especially loved the Pacific Ocean.

Bob's Grandfather Payne then led the family to southern Missouri where Bob and his siblings attended school with Bob graduating from Neosho High School in 1956. Bob always greatly enjoyed his high school reunions and travelled to attend them whenever he could. After graduation, Wisconsin soon called to Bob, and he returned to his birth state and began a family of his own. His children, all of whom were very involved in Wauzeka's "Little Britches Rodeo" and remained so for over a decade. Bob was also happily involved in Prairie Du Chien's Children's Ranch and Villa Louis, as well as the Muskets & Memories Celebrations in Boscobel. For over four decades the children of Wauzeka School District knew and laughed with Bob as he was the driver of their school bus and travelling the country roads twice a day. Bob drove for generations of Wauzeka families and became as much a part of their daily lives as the land itself which Bob so loved.

On September 22, 2001, Bob was united in marriage to Luba Trubnikova in the Sacred Heart of Jesus church in Wauzeka. During their years together, they worked as one on many projects and endeavors including efforts towards war. Bob was also very politically active, and his efforts have been acknowledged and his

memorialization of the Civil War and recognition of those families whose ancestors fought in that war. Bob was also very politically active, and his efforts have been acknowledged and his unwavering loyalty duly noted. In his later years, Bob rose to become the elected Chairperson of the Democratic Party of Crawford County and was active at both the local and state levels.

Bob is survived by his loving wife Luba, of Wauzeka, his children; Robert (Peggy) Welsh of Gillette Wy., Bill (Shonda) Welsh of Texas, Mary Jean (Ramie) Haines of Gillette Wy., Jackie (Darin) Morgan of Gillette Wy., 9 Grandchildren Bobby Welsh, Brian Welsh, Wyatt Welsh, Amanda Welsh, Lane Walsh, Bridgette Harris, Nikki Maly, Ali Morgan, Jay Morgan, 11 Great-Grandchildren. A sister Ethel Biba of Waunakee, a brother Paul Welsh of Wauzeka.

He was preceded in death by his parents and grandson Bo Morgan.

A Memorial Mass of Christian burial will be held on Friday August 27, 2021, at 11:00 A.M. at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Wauzeka. Father Rajan Anandan officiating. Burial in the Wauzeka Cemetery, Wauzeka Wisconsin. Friends may call on Friday August 27, 2021, from 10:00 A.M. until the time of service at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church in Wauzeka. A Celebration of Life service will follow at 1:00 P.M. at Century Hall in Wauzeka

Online condolences can be sent to www.kendallfuneralservice.com.

The family of Bob Welsh politely asks that during this challenging time, that memorial donations be made to:

Luba Welsh
P.O. Box 306
Wauzeka, Wi
53826

Camp 1

Two Brothers from Milwaukee's C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 were recognized recently at the Order's National Encampment in St. Louis. At the Camp's September 8th meeting, the two brothers were congratulated by their fellow brothers for their outstanding service: PCinC Steve Michaels made the award presentations on behalf of the National Organization.



Br. Dean Collins was presented the Chaplain William Corby Award. This award is presented by the Commander-in Chief to a Department or Camp Chaplain for outstanding ministry leadership in the Department or Camp, upon the recommendation of the National Chaplain. Brother Dean has served as Camp Chaplain for 27 years and has planned numerous commemorative and memorial services for several Camps in southeast Wisconsin. He has ministered to the needs of the membership and their families and sets an exemplary example for others.



Br. Thomas Ludka has worked at identifying and marking hundreds of Milwaukee area Union veterans' graves for the last 18 years. He was instrumental in setting up a funding mechanism to pay for setting new government headstones in one cemetery and, with a WRC sister, made presentations to community groups, telling the soldiers' stories and publicizing the marking project. The cemetery has nearly 1200 Union soldier burials. Of these, over forty graves were unmarked or markers were in need of replacement. The second cemetery has over 350 Union soldier burials. Each of these has been entered into the National database. He was instrumental in pressuring a local community to take responsibility for an abandoned cemetery with at least one Union soldier buried there...and then helped with the cleanup.

This is author Mark Twain's record card in Missouri archives – for two weeks, he was in the Marion Rangers, a Confederate militia in his home county, where Hannibal is located. His writer's-license embellished account of his time was entitled "The Private History of a Campaign That Failed," and describes days of sitting around, relocating, hunger, trading ranks, etc. At the end, "we were warned that a Union colonel was sweeping down on us with a whole regiment at his heels. This looked decidedly serious. Our boys went apart and consulted; then we went back and told the other companies present that the war was a disappointment for us and we were going to disband." More at <https://civilwarsaga.com/mark-twains-civil-war-experience/> and <https://muse.jhu.edu/book/12300>

MISSOURI SOLDIERS (1861-1865) WAR BETWEEN THE STATES					
CLEMENTS		SAMUEL I.		Capt	
SURNAME		GIVEN NAME		RANK	
Gen. Price					
SERVICE					
1861		PLACE OF ENLISTMENT			
DATE ENLISTED					
DATE	PLACE	KILLED	PAROLED	DISCHARGED	
CONFIRMATION OF RECORD:					
Page--931 History of Marion Co., Mo. (1881).					

Camp 1



Camp 1 Chaplain Dean Collins delivers a dramatic reading of what his ancestor in the 24th Wisconsin went through at Chickamauga, along with two soldiers from the regiment who received tombstones from the Camp and Auxiliary. They were Commissary Sgt. John Roberts and Pvt. Leonard Hinkley.



(photo by Steve Michaels)

Relatives of Pvt. Leonard Hinkley of the 24th Wisconsin attended the Sept. 26 dedication of his tombstone by Camp 1 and Auxiliary 4 at Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee. At left is Hinkley's great-nephew, John Wood of West Bend, and at right is Lee Tan of Brookfield, Hinkley's g-g-nephew.



Brother Peter Keepman, Camp memorials officer, researched and photographed a dozen monuments, plaques and historical markers, compiling a 19-page report to the Camp and Department. Keepman found that a 1930s memorial rock to Col. Jerome Watrous of the 6th Wisconsin Infantry had been moved in recent years from a grove of trees in Hales Corners to a new veterans memorial in a city park.

The Camp 1 newsletter also ran photos of all seven historical markers, taken or compiled by Keepman and PCC Tom Mueller. The earliest marker was installed in 1972; the latest 2018. Some of the markers are showing some aging.



Hail, hail, the gang was all there!!! Camp 1 and Auxiliary 4 turned out in force at the Menomonee Falls Civil War Encampment in July, the first real public event in a year.



"Children of all ages" got PCC David Howard's briefing about artifacts, and the Auxiliary's canned goods drew lots of interest, just like in the good old days before COVID-19

Camp 15



Camp #15's honor guard commemorated the 114 Civil War veterans buried in the Burlington Cemetery in Burlington, Wis., with a three-volley musket salute on Sept. 26. The salute was part of a "Whispers from the Past – Honoring Our Heroes" commemoration hosted by the Burlington Cemetery Association.

Leading the Camp #15 honor guard salute was Brother Bob Koenecke, just recently appointed to the Burlington Cemetery's board of directors. Standing at the Civil War monument in the cemetery, Brother Koenecke noted that the names of the 114 Civil War veterans buried in the cemetery, including the nine soldiers who died on the battlefield, are inscribed on the monument.

The monument, made of Sutherland Falls white marble from Virginia, was dedicated in May 1880 when two Civil War soldiers, one who had lost a leg, another an arm, unveiled the monument, Brother Koenecke said.

"It was quite an undertaking to erect this monument," he continued. "It is thought to be the first such memorial in southeastern Wisconsin."

After the commemoration, Camp #15 members handed out brochures promoting the SUVCW and Camp #15 at an information table set up in the cemetery.



(Photo by Paul Costanza)

Brother Brian McManus, one of the founders of Camp #15 in Wind Lake, Wis., was married to Michele Bock on Sept. 10th in Burlington, Wisconsin. It was a second chance at love for Brian and Michele – both lost their spouses in 2019 and met at a grief support group where they fell in love.

Seven of Brian's Camp #15 brothers and their wives were on hand at Veterans Terrace to share the joyous day with the happy couple. Brother Jeff Graf, another member of Camp #15 and a former Wisconsin Department commander, served as Brian's best man.

Brother Brian has served as Camp #15's secretary-treasurer since the camp was founded in 2015 and last June finished his second one-year term as Wisconsin Department commander.

A retired training and development consultant at We Energies, Brother Brian lives in Wind Lake, Wis. Michele Bock, a long-time nurse, lived in Greenfield, Wis., before her marriage.

Camp 56

Camp 56 met at the White Bear Lake home of Junior Vice Commander Gary Carlberg on August 14, 2021. The Camp's next meeting will be November 13, 2021 at either the Scottish Rite or JVC Carlberg's home. The meeting agenda will include the nomination and voting for new officers.

Camp 56 conducted its first Last Soldier grave dedication on September 4, 2021 at Round Lake Cemetery in Shamrock, Aitkin County, Minnesota. The ceremony honored Pvt. Lendall Sargent of H Company, 12th Maine Volunteer Infantry. Private Sargent enlisted at age 15 in March 1865 and served until April 1866. He spent the later decades of his life in northern Minnesota, working as a logger camp foreman. Private Sargent died in 1938 at the age of 88.



Members of the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry perform Rest on Arms during the playing of Taps at the Last Soldier dedication ceremony for Private Lendall Sargent. Brothers of the SUVCW, Camp 56, from left to right, are Secretary/Treasurer Mark Campbell, Signals Officer Mark Dittman, two members of the First Minnesota reenactors, Camp Commander Doug Urbanski and Brother Jimmy Johnson. Photo credit: Leila Campbell.

On the same date, September 4, the Camp conducted a Remembrance Ceremony for Private Israel Stephens (1837-1914), Independent Company B, West Virginia Volunteer Infantry Battalion. Private Stephens enlisted in October 1862 and mustered out in April 1864. He served his entire term of service on garrison duty in Wheeling, West Virginia. Private Stephens is an ancestor of Brother Jimmy Johnson of Camp 56. The ceremony was conducted at Private Stephens' grave in Pine Grove Cemetery, Palisade, Minnesota.



Members of Camp 56 and First Minnesota reenactors conduct the Remembrance Ceremony for Private Israel Stephens. From left to right, Camp Commander Doug Urbanski, Brother Jimmy Johnson, Signals Officer Mark Dittman, two members of the First Minnesota reenactors. Camp Secretary/Treasurer Mark Campbell is behind the flag he is holding. Photo credit: Leila Campbell.

Camp 56 is planning its next Last Soldier dedication ceremony for October 9, 2021. To be honored is James A. "Cap" Colehour, who served in Company I of the 92nd Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry. Private Colehour died in 1938 and was the last Union soldier to be buried in Otter Tail County, Minnesota, in Lakewood Cemetery, Battle Lake, Minnesota.

Camp 56 has one remaining date for 2021 for documenting Civil War veteran graves in Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis, on October 16.

High office, high honors at National Encampment



Allison Pollitt of Auxiliary 4 was elected as Auxiliary national president at the 140th National Encampment in St. Louis. Her mother, Danielle Michaels, held this office in the 2003-'04 term, and so did her aunt, Denise Oman (2016-'17 and 2018-'19).



PCinC Steve Michaels receives the Major A.P. Davis Award from outgoing National President Wanda Langdon for exemplary support and service.



Past National President Danielle Michaels receives the Laura Miller Award for exceptional service.

Steering Committee for Col. Heg Ceremony Announced

A citizen committee to work with State agencies in the planning and execution of a rededication ceremony for the Col. Hans Christian Heg statue has been announced. Committee chair Fred J. Campbell is a Past Camp Commander of the Henry Harnden Camp #2 in Madison and is Council #3 at the Department level. He is also the Secretary of the Madison Veterans Council.

Cori Curley is a genealogist and descendant of Col. Heg. She is in contact with all of Col. Heg's surviving descendants.

Kristin A. Risely, Ph. D. is a Professor of Norwegian-American Literature and Culture at UW-Stout and is well aware of the history of Col. Heg and of the 15th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

Rounding out the committee at present is Department of Wisconsin Commander John Decker.

The committee will conduct an initial meeting by Zoom with the following agenda:

- Member introductions
- Committee organization and mission
- Review and discuss what was done at the original dedication
- Discuss objectives of the re-dedication program
- Open discussion: What does a successful re-dedication program look like?
- Family involvement and roles
- Organizations and agencies that should be involved
- Guest speakers
- Music, bands, songs, etc.
- Symposium connection
- Length of ceremony
- Date and time of day
- Name, theme, etc.
- Public communications and promotion
- Administrative items, permits, etc.
- Budget and funding
- Should others be invited to serve on the committee?
- Next steps and member assignments
- Time and date of next meeting

The committee will make an initial public report at the Elks Lodge in Downtown Madison on December 11, 2021.



Workers reinstall a statue of Wisconsin abolitionist Col. Hans Christian Heg outside the state Capitol in Madison, Wis., on Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2021. Protesters tore the 9-foot-6-inch statue down and ripped its head off in June 2020 during a demonstration over George Floyd's death in Minneapolis. (AP Photo/Todd Richmond)

Workers reinstalled a 9-foot-6-inch statue of Wisconsin abolitionist Col. Hans Christian Heg as well as a 7-foot statue of a woman symbolizing the state's "Forward" motto. Neither statue has any racist history associated with them, but protesters said they represented a false narrative that Wisconsin supports Black people and racial equity.

Wisconsin Department Commanders

By PCinC Steve Michaels with research assistance from PDC Kent Peterson



Jessie Drake presided over the 1921 Wisconsin Department encampment, held in Antigo on June 6th through 9th.

Jessie Theodore Drake was born September 26, 1889, in Antigo, the son of James and Cora Drake, the oldest of three children. James was a railroad yard conductor.

His grandfather, Samuel, mustered in Company F, 6th Illinois Cavalry on January 9, 1862, for three years.

Jessie graduated from the Antigo High School Class of 1909.

He married Laura A. Elliboat in 1914, on his 25th birthday, in Plainwell, Michigan.

The following year, he started a 39-year career as an engineer and fireman on the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Company



from Antigo.

After Antigo's Sons Camp, W.H. Blines Camp #7, organized for the third time in May 1910, Jessie Drake signed on.

Drake was elected Dept. Sr. Vice Cmdr. at the 1919 Department Encampment and attended the National Encampment in Columbus, Ohio that year. He was elected Department Commander the following year at the Encampment held in Antigo. He was the first Dept. Commander with a grandfather who had served in the Union forces and one of the youngest to hold the post in recent years.

As the Drakes had no children, they devoted their free time to fraternal societies.

His wife, Laura, was the Auxiliary's Department Patriotic Instructor.

Sadly, the post-World War I depression continued to adversely affect membership in fraternal societies. A membership drive was encouraged in every Camp in the state. The establishment of Auxiliaries was also encouraged. The Commander-in-Chief set Wisconsin's goal at 100% or 1000 new members. Active and interested brothers were commissioned local organizers.

Two Camps were chartered: On August 2nd, Drake installed 16 members of Mary Wood Camp #39 in Ellsworth and presented their charter. On December 2nd, Robert Hughes Camp #19 was organized in La Crosse with 49 members.

On February 19th, Drake presided over the largest class of candidates ever mustered into Madison's Henry Harnden Camp #2. The occasion was a visit by the Sons' Commander-in-Chief, P.A. Barrows, who was also Nebraska's lieutenant governor. Wisconsin governor John J. Blaine provided a welcoming address and Madison Mayor I. Milo Kittleson was among those initiated into the Camp. After the muster service, a patriotic program was held, which included vocal and instrumental music and addresses by Barrows and Drake.

In January 1921, DC Drake suggested the newly created War Medal be presented publicly by Camps to those who served. This would both recognize those recently returned servicemen, attracting more to the Order and call favorable attention to the Sons of Veterans, U.S.A. However, by the 1921 Dept. Encampment, Wisconsin's membership had shrunk to 1,008 members in 31 Camps. On the bright side, the department was back in the black financially.

After his term, PDC Drake served as Dept. Chief of Staff in 1922 and 1923 and as a Camp Organizer in 1927.

As the GAR diminished, so did the SUVCW. Despite surviving the Great Depression, Blines Camp 7 officially disbanded in December 1940.

In 1955, Jessie Drake retired from the railroad and filed for his pension. His retirement was short lived, however.

PDC Jessie T. Drake died November 18, 1958 at the age of 69 and was buried in the Antigo Cemetery. He had also been a member of the Odd Fellows, the Modern Woodmen of America, and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers.

Sources:

Ancestry.com

The Capitol Times (Madison, WI), 18 Feb 1921

Leader-Telegram (Eau Claire, WI), 8 Aug 1920

Press Forward the Good Work, The History of the Wisconsin Dept. SUVCW (Vol. II) by PCinC Steve Michaels, 1998

The Rhinelander Daily News, 20 Nov 1958

Wisconsin Census: 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940

Touring the renovated Milwaukee Soldiers Home

The Milwaukee Soldiers Home and Camp 1's longtime meeting site there have gone from a decrepit, creaky, untouched-for-60-years-or-longer facility to a bright, modern place for homeless veterans or those who were at risk for being homeless.

Building 1 and Old Main were transformed along with four smaller buildings in a \$44 million project.

Camp 1 PCC David Howard, Auxiliary President Toni Howard and Chaplain Dean Collins went on tours led by Laura Rinaldi, one of the mainstays of Reclaiming Our Heritage, which ended in 2012. The goal of the event was to help save the buildings.

Camp 1 was booted from Building 1 in 2014 when the VA's hopes and plans for the housing were beginning to be formulated. Construction did not begin until years later, and the work was finished in the last few months.

Rinaldi is taking small groups to Old Main and Building 1.

Collins says the two buildings are now "a spectacular sight; so bright, clean, and well-designed for the veterans who actually live there."

At Building 1, which was the Administration Building of the Soldiers Home, "the downstairs, where the old post office was, has been restored to include all of the old mailboxes; they look brand new!!! But of course they are decorative only. Adjacent (behind) the mailboxes is a long fully equipped kitchen. The whole thing looks so good, I wish I could move in myself."

David Howard took photos every time he was something neat or important, which was often. "The Camp's old meeting room "is rather nice. No chipped plaster, all painted and new a table and chairs with a game table," he said.

He also saluted the new windows. When the Camp was there, if we opened a window, a book had to be used to prop up the sash. And in our last meeting, the heat and water already had been shut off.

Toni Howard said: "Building 1 was beautifully restored. Everything was so bright and clean. The meeting room that the Auxiliary ladies met in was redone and set up as a lounge. It had several chairs in there and a table. It was a far cry from when we met in there with the chipping and peeling paint.

"The steps leading up to the second floor were really nice," Toni reported. "They seemed nice and solid with no creaking sounds," and no longer tilt to one side.

As for Old Main, David says: "The floor of the first floor is wood, original to the building. Each of the four floors that we toured had impressive windows to the east in the tower section."

Those distinctive windows always were a main feature of the Old Man, and now are better than ever.

Overall, the project provides 101 supportive housing units. It is detailed at <https://milwaukeeveteranshome.com>

Old Main has 70 one-bedroom apartments and 10 two-bedroom apartments; 11 are reserved for women only, in a separate, secure area of the building. Plus flexible lounge areas for gathering, a club room with kitchenette, dining area and billiards, a business center with 12 computers to use, a workforce skills training center, two fitness areas, multiple laundry facilities and offices for on-site building management, security and care coordination services.

Building 1 now has 14 single-room occupancy units, five shared restrooms, a shared laundry room, various lounge areas for gathering, a club room with a foosball table and TV lounge, the shared kitchen and shared dining areas.

The Zablocki VA Medical Center will provide case management and supportive services. All residents will have access to on-site help such as peer-to-peer counseling, benefits assistance, education training, employment assistance and sobriety maintenance.



Old Main and its striking windows now are better than ever.



Auxiliary 4 President Toni Howard checks out Camp 1's former meeting site in the thoroughly remodeled Building 1 of the Milwaukee Soldiers Home. Far nicer than when we were booted in 2014. PCC David Howard and Toni took photos galore in a tour of the home, led by Laura Rinaldi.

SAVE THE DATE:

February 5, 2022

C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 and Auxiliary #4 welcome

Lincoln Author & Scholar

Steven K. Rogstad

to the Patriotic Luncheon, 12:30 pm

Alioto's Restaurant

3041 N. Mayfair Rd.

Details coming soon!





To reach either the Camp's page or its Face book Page, hold curser over the name, hold "Ctrl" and left click

C.K. Pier Badger Camp 1 - Milwaukee
C. K. Pier Badger Camp #1 and Auxiliary #4 meet on the Second Wednesday of the month (except Aug.), at 7 p.m.,
Commander: [Brian Craig](#)
C.K. Pier Badger Auxiliary 4

Henry Harnden Camp 2 - Madison
Commander: [Thomas W. Brodd](#)
Henry Harnden Auxiliary 2

Major General John Gibbon Camp 4 - Waukesha
Meetings @ at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month (except August)
[Commander: H. Craig Wheeler](#)

Old Abe Camp 8 - Fox Cities
Meeting @ 7 P.M. 3rd Monday of odd months
Commander: [Alan Petit](#)
Edward S. Bragg Auxiliary 6
[Face Book Page](#)

Hans Heg Camp 15
Meeting @ 7 P.M. 1st Thursday, monthly
Commander: [Gerry Drought](#)

L.G. Armstrong 49 – Boscobel
Meetings @ 7 P.M. 3rd Thursday, monthly
Commander: [Charles Griesel](#)

William Colville Camp 56 - Minneapolis/St. Paul
Meeting held Quarterly, 10am, April 4, place TBA
Commander: [Douglas Urbanski](#)

	
Dept. Commander	John R. Decker commander@suvcw-wi.org
Sr. Vice Commander	Samuel M. Keith svc@suvcw-wi.org
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<i>Officers were elected at the 5 June 2021 Department Encampment at Elkhorn, Wis. and will serve until the 2022 Department Encampment.</i>	

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SUVCW

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