



# WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT DISPATCH



Spring 2003

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**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**  
**SUVCW**

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★  
 ★ Having been chartered by Congress as a patriotic and fraternal Order, one of ★  
 ★ the principle objects of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) ★  
 ★ is to proudly honor "all who have patriotically served our country in any war." ★  
 ★ Therefore, as thousands of our nation's volunteer military personnel serve us ★  
 ★ again in harm's way, the SUVCW National Council of Administration, on behalf ★  
 ★ of our entire membership, hereby formally declares our gratitude for, and ★  
 ★ support of, all who bravely serve our country in its armed forces. ★  
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

**SUPPORT OUR TROOPS**  
 Dept. Commander Randy K. Novak

As some of our country's troops move into their second week of fighting in Iraq, I ask you to keep their well being in mind. Whether or not we agree with the reasons for being in Iraq, we should all be able to unanimously agree upon the importance of supporting the men and women, the individuals, who have been called upon to serve.

There are various ways for us as individuals to show our concern and support. Many local veterans groups around the country have organized support rallies. One such event was quickly organized here in Oshkosh, where about 250 local veterans and families gathered. Camp 8 and Auxiliary 6 members were invited and attended to show their support. It was not a pro-war rally, indeed the veterans made it quite clear that they did not want to see anyone go to war. Their purpose was to remind everyone that the soldiers in the field need our moral support, and our wishes for a safe return home.

There is also an internet website, <http://www.defendamerica.mil/nmam.html>, that is operated by the Department of Defense. It has a sign up sheet where you can indicate your support. It also contains information on several programs and other suggestions for individuals who wish to do something to support the troops or their families here at home. Some of the programs are operated privately and benefit the soldiers or their families directly, such as the Fisher House program, Commissary Gift Certificates, USO Care Package Program and more.

These are examples of what you can do to help. You can also check with your local veterans groups to see if there is some way you can aid their efforts to support the troops.

There is one more thing I would ask you to do. Please do let us know of any Camps members who are serving in the armed forces, and whether or not they have been called-up for active duty. Also, please let us know if any of your members have sons, daughters or spouses who are

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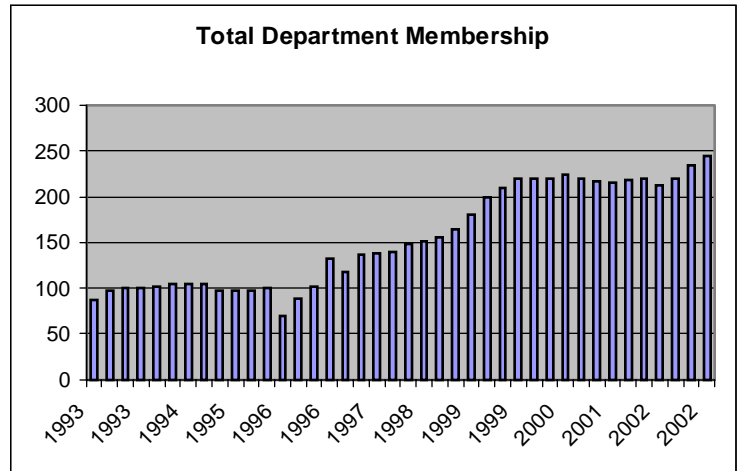
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## DEPARTMENT MID-WINTER MEETING



At the Department Mid-Winter meeting in February, Dept. Secretary PDC Ron Aronis reported a recent trend of increasing membership within the Department. This didn't happen by itself — it requires constant recruiting effort and “getting the word out.” Let's keep it up!

Twenty-five members attended the meeting in Wauwatosa, including (left to right) CC Lyman Elliott, Treasurer Dale Brassler, PDC Ron Aronis, DC Randy Novak, CC Jim Johnson and Jeremy Johnson.



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serving. Please send this information to me as soon as possible. I would like to then provide this information to our Dept. Sr. Vice Kent Peterson for a future *Department Dispatch*.

Please pass this message along to others in your Camp either electronically, or by regular mail. Thank you.

Fraternally,  
Randy Novak, PCC  
Department Commander

## DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDERS SERIES 2003

### Department General Orders 2003-1

REF: L.G. Armstrong Camp 49, Boscobel, Wisconsin

On January 25<sup>th</sup>, the Wisconsin Department had the honor of presenting a charter to this new Camp. The organization of this Camp was initiated a few years ago when PDC Steve Michaels was Dept. Commander, and I was Jr. Vice.

The new members of Camp 49 of Boscobel, Wisconsin requested the name and number of a Camp that met in the same location generations earlier. The Hall has been a part of Boscobel history since 1888, and the first SOV Camp was organized there in 1897. The evening of the charter presentation, Bro. Young mentioned that some of the Camp 49 members in the room that night were continuing a family tradition. Some of the members who live in the area had previous generations of G.A.R., SOV and SUVCW members in their families who had met in that same Hall.

Camp 49 should prove to be a good companion to John McDermott Woman's Relief Corp #32 which has cared for the Hall for many years. Without their persistence, the Hall may very well not have survived to this day. The Camp has pledged to support the Hall and together with the WRC will represent the G.A.R.'s interests well. This should serve as a good example of how cooperation and mutual support between the Allied Orders can benefit our organizations.

It takes a lot of dedication and time on the part of the Organizer to pull a new Camp together. If you should ever have the opportunity, please congratulate the Camp Organizer Gary Young, and Commander Dan Chroninger, and all of the members of Camp 49, on their accomplishment.

Fraternally,  
Randy Novak, PCC  
Department Commander

### Department General Orders 2003-2

REF: Wisconsin Department 120<sup>th</sup> Encampment.

This Year Col. Henry Harnden Camp #2 will be the host Camp for this our 120<sup>th</sup> Encampment.

It will be on June 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Inn on the Park (Best Western), located on Capitol Square, Madison. The Encampment itself is planned to run from 8:30 a.m. till 4:30 p.m. Beginning at 6 p.m. there will be a special guided tour of the nearby Wisconsin Veterans Museum. The museum has an extensive collection of Civil War, G.A.R. and Allied Order artifacts, some of which came from G.A.R. Museum collections.

If you decide to spend an evening at the Inn on the Park, reservations must be made **prior to May 6<sup>th</sup>** by calling the Hotel at (800) 279-8811. Mention that you are with the Sons of Union Veterans group. Mr. Jason Salus is our contact at the Hotel.

Lunch is not part of the registration fee. The Hotel contains a fine restaurant where a limited menu will be available, with a typical cost of about \$10.00 per person.

A pre-registration form and associated information will be provided to each Camp Commander, either electronically or by regular mail. The information is also on our Dept. Website at [suvcw-wi.org](http://suvcw-wi.org). I ask that you make this information available to your Camp membership. The form and information will also be provided to each member in the next Department Dispatch.

Please note that the deadline for pre-registration is **May 15<sup>th</sup>**. Pre-registration is needed for planning purposes, however last minute walk-ins will be welcome.

Fraternally,  
Randy Novak, PCC  
Department Commander

## Department General Orders 2003-3

REF: Membership Application Forms

I received a letter from Commander-in-Chief Robert Grim calling attention to his General Orders No. 11 that was recently written. These instructions pertain to the membership application form and others that we use. Wisconsin Dept. Camps have or will be receiving copies of the new forms from Dept. Secretary Ron Aronis.

General Order #11 is repeated here:

1. Effective May 1, 2003 all Camps and Departments are directed to use only the most current version of authorized SUVCW forms when filing membership applications and reports with the National Secretary and Executive Director. The most current version of all SUVCW forms are available on the SUVCW website (suvchw.org) and can easily be downloaded. Those who cannot access the website may request a copy of the necessary application or form from the Executive Director.
2. All applications, forms and reports must be legible and completed in accordance with the directions or instructions pertaining to the application, form or report.
3. Any application, form or report that does not meet this directive will be rejected by the National Secretary or Executive Director and returned to the originating Camp or Department.

Ordered this Thirteenth day of March, 2003.

By Order of:  
Commander-in-Chief

Robert E. Grim

The form that affects most of us would be the membership application form. Make sure your personal and Camp stock of the older style application form is purged, and the new forms are in use, before May 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you.

Fraternally,  
Randy Novak, PCC

## PATRIOTIC FUND REMINDER

As the fiscal year winds down, I'd like to remind each of our Camps to again consider making a contribution to the Department's Patriotic Fund.

Among other things, this fund provides financial support for the Department's Eagle Scout recognition program, the annual U.S. Grant (ROTC) Awards, an annual contribution to one of five local VA hospitals, and part of the *Department Dispatch* newsletter.

Please make checks payable to Treasurer, Wisconsin Department SUVCW and mail to:

Dale Brassler  
1201 Hillcrest Dr.  
Manitowoc, WI 54220

Personal contributions are also welcome. Many thanks for your timely response.

Fraternally,  
PDC Steve Michaels  
Dept. Council #3



**The Cof A gathers at the Soldiers & Sailors monument at the Ohio Veterans Home in Sandusky on March 8th.** L to R: CinC Grim, Home Museum curator, PCinC Andrew Johnson, PCinC Dave Medert, CofA member PDC Bob Petrovic, Nat. Counselor PDC Jim Pahl, Chief of Staff H. Scott Baker, SVCinC Kent Armstrong, me, Nat. Sec. PCinC Ed Krieser, Nat. Treas. PCC Max Newman, CofA member PDC Don Darby, and CofA member Ron Gill.

## REDEDICATION OF THE OSHKOSH SOLDIER'S MONUMENT

By CC Brian Peters

As Commander of "Old Abe" Camp # 8, I want to thank everyone who attended the Hicks Soldier's Monument Rededication Ceremony in Oshkosh on April 5<sup>th</sup>. It was certainly a memorable day. I am very pleased that so many Brothers and Sisters of the Sons and Auxiliary were able to attend, representing their respective Camps and Auxiliaries.

I believe that we fulfilled our purpose of Honoring Union Veterans by our rededication of this wonderfully restored monument, which will serve to remind all who see it of the sacrifices made by the "Boys in Blue". We also remembered the sacrifices of all veterans up to the present day. I made the following statement at the ceremony: "As we rededicate the memorial today, we also rededicate ourselves to the support of all veterans and their families. We pay tribute to, and pray for the men and women of the United States and coalition armed forces, who are at this moment, in harm's way. We thank them, and we thank all past veterans, for their sacrifices in defense of freedom and liberty, both here at home and throughout the world."

I also want to acknowledge and thank the re-enactors who attended or participated in the ceremony, with a special thanks to Company E of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. I'm sure all in attendance appreciated the excellent period music provided by the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Band. I thank them for their service. Thank you to the color guards from the local veteran's organizations. Thank you to the planners, organizers, patriotic council, city and library officials for their efforts. Thank you to Randy and Terry Novak for heading up the coordination and planning effort for Camp 8 and Aux. 6.

Dedication ceremonies such as this are one way that we can accomplish our mission. There are also many other ways that you can be involved in Camp and Auxiliary projects. I truly appreciate your dedication and involvement.

In the photo above, Edward S. Bragg Auxiliary #6 and Old Abe Camp #8 at the April 5, 2003 re-dedication of the Hicks Civil War Memorial, Oshkosh, Wisconsin. All ID's front left to right: Front row, Virginia Temme, Jennifer Arndt, Lisa Arndt, Sue Waid, Lucy Peters, Angela Peters, and



Laurie Shawhan. 2nd row, John Byers, Don Shawhan, Vince Barker, Ian Peters, John Mark, Dave Dresang, Mike Arndt, Jim Waid, and Kim Heltemes (Dept. and Camp #8 Patriotic Instructor). 3rd row, DC Randy Novak, Brian Peters (State Junior Vice Commander and Camp #8 Commander), Alan Petit (Camp #8 Senior Vice Commander), Ron Arndt (Camp #8 Chaplain), Aaron Novak (Camp #8 Junior Vice Commander).

## CIVIL WAR SUTURES

After the war, 1861 - 1865, the medical doctors from North and South came together in an attempt to exchange what they had learned. This information was to be used in the emergency treatment of civilians.

One glaring difference was the substantially higher number of ancestors who survived major surgery in the South than in the North, where the post treatment infection rate caused high numbers of fatalities.

The doctors of the North (often called "sawbones" for all the amputations done) used imported silk thread for stitching wounds. It was strong, light and "slick" , making use much easier during stitching.

Because of the naval blockades, there was no silk thread in the South, for even the most prominent of patients. Cotton thread was not a success as it broke down before the wound had healed sufficiently. Horse hair was tried. But because it was

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## 120TH ANNUAL DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT TO BE HOSTED BY HENRY HARNDEN CAMP #2

The 2003 encampment will take place right in the heart of our state capitol city of Madison and you will find the Inn on the Park Hotel quite accommodating for the event.

The Inn on the Park is a Best Western Hotel located on Madison's Capitol Square. If you plan on making hotel reservations, we have set up a block of rooms at a special rate. **Make reservations directly with the Hotel before May 6, 2003 by calling (800) 279-8811** and be sure to mention you are with the "Sons of the Union Veterans" group.

All participants of the Department Encampment are cordially invited to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum commencing at 6 p.m. Saturday, at which time our group will tour the National Guard Exhibit along with the Archives Library, accompanied by museum director Dr. Richard H. Zeitlin himself. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is dedicated to the citizen-soldiers of our state. The museum commemorates the achievements and sacrifices of Wisconsin's veterans in America's military past. This will be an educational and rewarding experience for all of us..

### WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT 120TH ENCAMPMENT PRE-REGISTRATION

Registration fee is \$10.00 per person. Lunch is on your own. Inn on the Park has a fine restaurant with noon luncheons in the vicinity of \$10.00. Fill in the information below and send, with the appropriate amount.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, St.: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

I am registering as an: SUV \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary \_\_\_\_\_

I will have lunch at the hotel restaurant: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Although pre-registration is needed, last minute walk-ins will be welcome. Make checks payable to Henry Harnden Camp #2, SUVCW and mail to:

**James H. Cook  
104 Terrace Ct.,  
Mt. Horeb WI 53572**

**Pre-registration MUST BE RECEIVED  
NO LATER THAN May 15, 2003**

## Camp News and Activities

How does your Camp come up with the money needed to operate? Do you depend on dues collection, or have other methods of raising cash for operations? Here are some ideas (or opportunities) from some of the Camps.

According to DC Randy Novak, Camp 8 has gotten all of its non-dues money from an annual raffle. Their Camp dues cover fixed expenses, while fundraisers are done to raise money for all other activities. This does require effort from more members to get sufficient tickets sales, but the Camp has had good success with it. It is necessary to get a state license to run a raffle, as not having one and getting caught can result in severe penalties on the Camp officers. The license

purchased by Camp 8 allow them to conduct not one, but many raffles, even one day events, so it is well worth the \$25.00 fee per year for the license. For this year, the Camp Welfare Committee is working on ideas for raffle prizes. Past prizes have included a musket and pistols.

Camp 4's Bruce Laine reports a new series of items available for sale. Navy blue sweatshirts with and your ancestor's state, regiment and company embroidered are \$25.00. Baseball caps with the same are \$10.50. The sweatshirts are a nice quality 50/50 cotton/polyester blend. Contact Bruce for ordering information at (262) 594-2081.

Camp 49 is planning a fundraiser at the Boscobel Hotel Saturday, May 3rd. It will be a taste of the

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South...Louisiana Crawfish boil complete with potatoes, corn on the cob, sausage, mushrooms, etc. \$15 a platter. Cold beer will be available for purchase. Folks should come early as I've only 40 lbs of live crawfish coming.... something less than 40 platters to be sold. Louisiana music and Sons for servers.



*A custom embroidered sweatshirt available from Camp 4*

P D C R o n Aronis of Camp 5 reports his Camp holds a Brat Fry at Sentry and Piggly-Wiggly stores in the West Bend area. They usually run two per year and make \$300 - \$500 per fry if the weather is good.

Camp 1 is currently selling replacement GAR grave markers. These are identical to the originals in appearance, and are available made in aluminum as well as bronze. The Camp also has a speaker's bureau in which members conduct presentations at events — no fee is charged but honorariums are happily accepted.



*Replacement grave markers for GAR and SUV members.*

The Camp Color Guard also marches parades during the summer and some of the larger ones pay units for participating.

### **In other Camp News ...**

For the February "Gods and Generals" premier weekend, Camp 4 set up an exhibit at West Town Cinema in Waukesha. They were joined by members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Co. K, Berdan's Sharpshooters, Auxiliary 5 and Battery B. (See their March newsletter on the Website for photos). Camp 1 and Camp 5 cooperated in developing a large display at Wauwatosa's Mayfair Mall (photos available in newsletter). The Camp 1 information booth along with

Camp 5's cannon and several large framed movie posters drew a stream of curious visitors and many prospective members.

Camp 4 has begun working with the Eagle Historical Society on a stone or memorial for Civil War veterans, possibly to be placed near the Town Hall. Brothers Bruce Laine, CC Jim Johnson and Jeremy Johnson along with Sr. Susan Johnson of Aux. 5 have been meeting with the EHS and are planning to take their plans to the Village and Town Boards once finalized.



*Camps 1 and 5 collaborated on a "Gods and Generals" display at Mayfair Mall in Wauwatosa. The booth was a popular attraction all weekend for mall-goers.*

Bruce Laine of Camp 4 reports that Camp JVC Tom Sobottke underwent heart surgery on March 28 at Waukesha Memorial .

PDC Steve Michaels reports that he recently visited Brother Bob Wiesian of Camp #1 at Joseph's Hospital. It seems Br. Bob has been there continuously since we were first informed of his condition a couple of weeks ago. In a period of 6 days, Bob underwent five operations for circulation problems. Despite this, he's doing fairly well, but has a long road to recovery ahead. He still has at least two more weeks of rehab at the hospital before his condition might allow him to return home.

Both of our Brothers, and others who may be ill, would appreciate a visit or a phone call, as a long hospital stay must certainly drag down one's spirits. Cards may be sent to Tom Sobottke, 329 Evergreen Lane, Pewaukee, WI 53072 and Bob Wiesian, 5011 W. Custer Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53218-3410. Please keep Bob and Tom in your prayers, as well as other Brothers or family members.

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The *Wisconsin Department Dispatch* is published three times per year for members of the Wisconsin Department, SUVCW. Articles, photos and news items may be submitted to SVC Kent Peterson, 6024 South Kirkwood, Cudahy, WI 53110 or e-mailed to kapeterson@wi.rr.com. Editorial deadlines are April, July and Oct. 15.

Visit us on the Web at  
<http://www.suvcw-wi.org>

## CALENDAR

26 May	Memorial Day Ceremonies
31 May-1 June	"Old Soldier's Home" Open House Weekend, Veteran's Administration, Wood
7 June	120th Wis. SUVCW and ASUVCW Department Encampment, Madison
7-10 August	122nd National Encampment, Fort Mitchell, KY
4 October	Central Region Conference, Grand Rapids, MI
15 November	Remembrance Day, Gettysburg, PA

## "DESECRATED MILK"

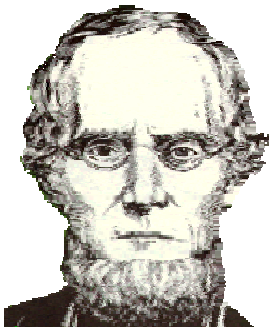
Wandering from his native New York to the West, Gail Borden invented what he called a "meat biscuit" in 1851. Two years later he devised a way to reduce the bulk and increase the shelf life of milk. His 1856 patent for condensed milk evoked little or no interest; however, it is worth noting in April 1861 that Captain Gustavus V. Fox included air-dried or "desiccated" food in his attempt to resupply Fort Sumter. (The soldiers quickly



standard kitchen practices would be inadequate. Within months Borden's 1856 patent took on an importance beyond anything the inventor had envisioned. Anticipating an enormous demand, he opened a large "condensary" at Wassaic, New York.

Although initial interest was not as great as Borden had anticipated, following the September 1862 battle at Antietam, the U.S. Sanitary Commission initiated an order for twenty-six hundred pounds. At the May 1863 battle of Chancellorsville, Robert E. Lee sent a supply of condensed milk and whiskey for the relief of wounded men in blue who were lying on the field and starving. By the time the conflict was three years old, inmates of Richmond's Libby Prison regarded Borden's product as a necessity.

Hundreds of thousands of soldiers were introduced to condensed milk during the Civil War. Once veterans shed their uniforms, the innovation adopted as a military necessity became a staple in civilian life.



**GAIL BORDEN**  
 Father of the Modern Dairy Industry

adopted the slang term "desecrated" for foods processed by this particular method.)

More than seventy-five thousand volunteers answered Lincoln's call for troops. Yet once they began to assemble, it became obvious that

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too stiff to make sutures in it's natural state, it was boiled in water to soften and become more pliable. The result was that the Northern silk thread had been handled by countless unwashed hands from several continents and introduced all the pathogens it carried right into the wound. The horse hair was sterile when it came from boiling, and handled by significantly fewer numbers of people. Far fewer pathogens were introduced right into those wounds.

With antibiotics and sterile procedural practices still years away, many folks owe their ancestral branches to the boiled horse hair sutures, and to the women and men who devised that method of softening the fibers.

(Camp News ... continued from page 7)

Camp #49 has been continuing with a survey of the 171 Civil War veteran's graves in the Boscobel Cemetery. This is preparatory to August's Muskets & Memories when Camp #49 will be the theme for 2003. Camp members expect to conduct cemetery tours of the veterans' graves for the public. If the Department has a recruiting booth this year, they hope to help staff it.