



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT DISPATCH



SPRING 2004

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DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN 2004 ENCAMPMENT KING, WISCONSIN

The Wisconsin Department Commander and Officers would like to encourage you to participate in this years Department of Wisconsin 121st Encampment.

What is a Department Encampment? It is part ritual, with opening and closing ceremonies that pay tribute to the heritage of our organization, and the memory of past veterans. It is part business meeting as it is the primary Department meeting of the year where decisions are made and issues are discussed. It is part educational, provided by the featured speakers and tour of the facilities. It is part fellowship, where you meet and visit with members from around the Department. It is all GAR and SUVCW – a time honored tradition for 121 years! Mark **June 12th** on your calendar!

Camp 8 is the host Camp this year, and they are proud to have the opportunity to showcase an important and unique, Wisconsin GAR Historical feature. The Wisconsin Veterans Home in King, Wisconsin. The GAR conceived of and incorporated the home in 1887. The project was headed up by GAR member, Dr. F. A. Marden. Some of you may already know that the GAR and WRC members from Wisconsin originally organized the home, but others in our Department, or the other Allied Orders are aware of its history and our organization's involvement in it.

For us, as members of the SUVCW, attending will be sort of like visiting the family homestead. Evidence of the GAR, and its' Allied Orders, surround you. From the monuments that pay tribute to the GAR and their founding of the home, to the GAR and WRC cottages and the Sons of Veterans Fountain, historical evidence of

your organization is all around. This is truly one of the most unique GAR locations in Wisconsin. Unlike most other veterans homes around the country, this was a project undertaken by the GAR, a private organization, and was funded by local and member donations, in addition to some legislative funding. Many of Wisconsin's Civil



One of the original cottages built by the GAR and WRC at King.

War Veterans, and their wives, spent their final days at the home. A unique feature of King, was that the veterans wife could live with him, and after his death she was allowed to stay on for the rest of her time. To this day the home remains a benchmark among veterans homes and is something that we, as members of a GAR Allied Order, can be proud of our parent organization and the foresight they had.

Take this opportunity to not only participate in a traditional GAR and SUVCW ac-

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SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
SUVCW

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Job Opening

Help Wanted: Department Secretary PDC Ron Aronis is looking for an assistant who is willing to help with some of the duties and "learn the ropes" for possibly assuming this very important job in the future. Contact RMASUVCW@aol.com or call (262) 284-3654.



This publication is available electronically!

Would you be interested in receiving the Department Dispatch in electronic form? You'll save the Department some money in printing and mailing costs, plus the electronic version is in full color! Forty of your Brothers now receive the electronic newsletter — won't you join them? Please contact Signals Officer Kent Peterson at kapeterson@wi.rr.com.

123RD NATIONAL SUVCW ENCAMPMENT

11-15 AUGUST 2004 CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA SUVCW.ORG/ENCAMPMENT

VON FRANKENBERG RECEIVES 40-YEAR SERVICE AWARD

PCC Ernst Von Frankenberg joined the SUVCW in November 1964, during the height of the Civil War Centennial activities. He had an intense interest in reenacting and had become a member of the Sons of Veterans Reserve two years earlier. In those times, the SVR was largely a reenacting organization and there was no requirement to be a member of the Sons in order to belong to the SVR.

As an Associate Member of the Wisconsin Civil War Centennial Commission, Ernst represented the state, the SVR and the SUVCW at several commemorative battlefield events. He was commissioned at the Gettysburg Centennial in 1963 and given command of the 4th Military District, SVR. The district did not exist, so it was his task to recruit a staff and organize units into the new organization.

He founded the 2nd Wisconsin Vol. Inf. Association and served as president for many years. The association is now a national one. He also organized and equipped Cushing's Battery with artillery pieces from his own personal inventory. He recruited Co. C, 34th Illinois Vol. Inf.; Co. D, 12th Inf. Reg. Ill. Vol.; Co. C, 5th U.S. Cavalry; and Battery I, 1st Missouri Lt. Art. for the 4th Military District.

After he was promoted to colonel in 1973, he served on the National Military Affairs Committee, working to ensure greater authenticity of SVR troops.

In May 1977, Col. Frankenberg organized the 4th Mil. Dist. Headquarters Company for those SVR members not assigned to existing units.

In addition to his position as 4th MD Commander, he served as Chief of Cavalry on the SVR Reenactment Staff. He set up programs for that service branch at the SVR's National

Encampments. The colonel also provided artillery instruction at special schools.

He created a system of recognition for the men in his district, who distinguished themselves in the line of duty. He had several SVR award medals cast at his own expense and presented them to those deserving in public ceremonies.

Attempting to establish a closer local relationship with the SUVCW and build a stronger Order in the state, Ernst organized Alonzo Cushing Camp 4 in West Bend in 1988 and served as Camp Commander for 10 years. The Camp was made up of local SVR members of various units. Previous to this, Ernst had been a member of Milwaukee's C.K. Pier Badger Camp 1.

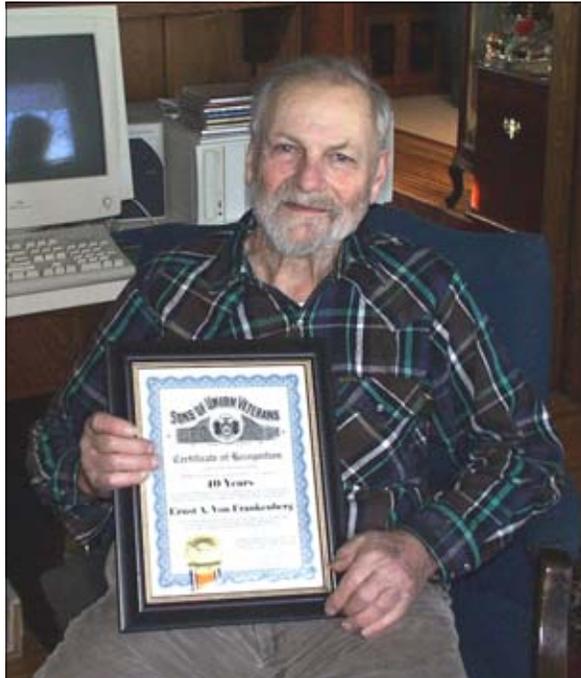
In 1989, he served as SVR Deputy Commander under BG Chester Shriver, the man who initiated him into the SVR 27 years earlier.

Each year, he led uniformed members in the annual West Bend Memorial

Day parade. PCC Von Frankenberg has inspired a generation of men interested in re-enacting and the Civil War. In 1998, he was presented the SVR's Meritorious Service Award for his contributions.

In 1999, Alonzo Cushing Camp #4 became two separate Camps: MG John Gibbon Camp #4 and Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing Camp #5. Ernst attended the chartering ceremonies of both Camps, offering his congratulations.

— *SVC-in-C Steve Michaels*



PCC Ernst Von Frankenberg

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUESTION: *Washington urban legend: President Lincoln ordered that work on the capitol dome continue throughout the Civil War as a symbol of the Union. What was the real reason work continued?*

ANSWER: The hazards of government contracts! In May 1861, engineer-in-charge of the Capitol dome Montgomery Meigs ordered a halt to construction on the Capitol because the government could not guarantee payment. But the workmen continued. Why? There were 1.3 million pounds of iron lying on the Capitol grounds waiting to be cast. If the contractor walked away from the job, it was sure to be stolen before it had a chance to rust. The workmen continued with only a promise to be paid after the war. "The sound of the hammer never stopped on the national Capitol a single moment during all our civil troubles," so wrote the Architect of the Capitol (and Meig's archenemy), Thomas U. Walter. Source: *History of the United States Capitol*, by William C. Allen, page 314.

Department of Wisconsin 2004 Annual Encampment

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tivity, the Encampment, but to also learn something about the heritage of your organization here in Wisconsin. Bro. Kim Heltemes has done extensive research on the home, and has compiled a significant collection of photographs and information. Kim will be presenting educational programs during the Encampment, which will include rare photographs and movie footage. We will also be providing a tour of the historic section of the facility, where many of the original houses and cottages constructed by the GAR and WRC are still used.

Join us on June 12th as we meet in the auditorium in Marden Hall. Attendance need not be limited to only to the guys, as the local Auxiliary 6 and WRC members will be hosting an activities room for members of the other Allied Orders, your family, and guests. We do encourage you to bring your spouse or guest; it seems most appropriate considering the location and the ideals upon which it was founded.

For more information; contact CC Brian Peters at (715) 344-7924 or peters@powercom.net. Camp Commanders have been sent an Encampment registration packet for



copying and distributions. The materials are also available on the Department Web site at www.suvcw-wi.org.

A reminder to all Camps that any matters for consideration by the Resolutions and Recommendations Committee must be submitted to committee chairman PCC Scott Gutzke by June 1, 2004. Contact him at:

PCC Scott Gutzke
1569 South Wolf Road, #206
Prospect Heights, IL 60070-1709
(847) 215-2060
sgutzke@lycos.com

— Tentative Schedule —

8:30 a.m.	Final Registration
8:45	Opening Ceremony
11:30	Lunch Break
1:00 p.m.	Encampment Resumes
4:30	Memorial Service
6:00	Historic Tour, Campfire

SUVCW Department of Wisconsin 121st Encampment Registration

Make checks payable to: **Old Abe Camp 8, SUVCW**

Fill in the information below, and send with the appropriate amount to:

Gordon Moran
P.O. Box 393
Omro, WI 54963-0393

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

— Pre-Registration —

\$8.00 per person
(Lunch Not Included)

Walk-in Registrations the day of the
Encampment are Welcome, at
\$10.00 per Person

Please advise in advance if you will
be bringing a guest.

A BRIEF LOOK AT CIVIL WAR DENTISTRY

The dental profession had gained some standing during the two decades that preceded the Civil War. In the seceding Confederate states, for example, there were about 500 dentists. Jefferson Davis, while serving as Secretary of War under Pierce, was an advocate for a dentistry corps. Perhaps this is why the Confederate Army had a dental program,



"Tooth Key" – And you thought going to the dentist was tough today! This little device (about 4-1/2" long) has a hinged hook that grabs the tooth as the handle is twisted, levering the offending tooth out of the jaw!. Ouch!

while a similar idea by the Union Army was rejected by the War department. Confederate Surgeon General Moore was also quite supportive of the idea of Army dentists, leading one to comment that the dentists owed more to Moore "than to any man of modern times".

Soldiers tended to neglect basic care of their teeth. Toothbrushes were somewhat scarce and the diet left a lot to be desired. Dental operations usually also cost more than the common private soldier could afford... particularly in the Confederacy when inflation set in. Many soldiers, by the way, were

turned down if they lacked six opposing upper and lower front teeth to bite off the end of the powder cartridges used with the muzzle loading rifles of the times.

Dentists were usually accorded the rank of hospital steward, though according to one source, they also could be full surgeons with all the pay and benefits of a surgeon. Medical director William A. Carrington, CSA, commented that dentists "plugged, cleaned, and extracted teeth", in addition to "adjusting fractures of the jaw and operating on the mouth". Another, Richmond dentist Dr. W. Leigh Burton, commented that his days were filled of "twenty to thirty fillings, the preparation of cavities included, the extraction of 15 or 20 teeth, and the removal of tartar ad libitum!"

Dentist Dr. James B. Bean of Atlanta made significant contributions to the treatment of fractured maxillary bones. Bean used an interdental splint made of vulcanized india rubber that had cup shaped indentations for the teeth. Bean's splint was a great success and he was sent to Richmond where his splint was used for treatment at a ward of the Recieving and Way Hospital.

The Confederacy in particular should be praised for its Dental Corps. The act of conscripting dentists in January 1864, gave the Confederate soldier at least that small advantage over his Union counterpart. As before stated, all attempts at the Union Dentistry corps were turned down.

— Most of this info was gleaned from "Doctors in Gray" by H.H. Cunningham

ORIGIN OF THE 21-GUN SALUTE

The tradition of saluting can be traced to the Middle Ages practice of placing oneself in an unarmed position and, therefore, in the power of those being honored. The cannon salute might have originated in the 17th century with the maritime practice of demanding that a defeated enemy expend its ammunition and render itself helpless until reloaded.

In the Anglo-Saxon Empire, seven guns was a recognized naval salute, seven being the standard number of weapons on a vessel. Because more gunpowder could be stored on dry land, forts could fire three rounds for every one fired from sea, hence the number 21. With the improvement of naval gunpowder, honors rendered at sea were increased to 21 as well.

Beginning in our colonial period the United States fired one shot for each state in the Union. This was continued until 1841 when it was reduced to 21 from 26. Although it had been in use for more than 30 years, the 21-gun salute was not formally adopted until Aug. 18, 1875. This was at the suggestion of the British, who proposed a "Gun for Gun Return" to their own 21-gun salute.



— Arlington National Cemetery

New! Exquisite reproduction of the original Milwaukee Soldiers Home Badge. 1 1/2" by 7/8" bronze by ESCO, Inc. Support the Soldier's Home restoration project and pick up your badge at the "Reclaiming Our Heritage" encampment June 12-13 at the Milwaukee VA for only \$5.00.



REAL SON UPHAM SPEAKS OUT WITH OTHERS AT V.A. HEARING

In December, more than 100 concerned people, including members from Camp 1, Camp 4 and the Auxiliary, attended a public hearing on the Soldiers Home historical district by representatives of the Veteran's Administration.

The hearing was the first step in the process of leasing out "underutilized" land and buildings on the VA grounds. The



Wisconsin's Real Son Bill Upham (right) and SVC-in-Chief Steve Michaels (left) spoke at the public hearing and urged VA representatives to save Milwaukee's grandest link to the Civil War.

purpose of the hearing was to seek community input, which was overwhelmingly in favor of keeping the historic district intact and to work with local organizations such as the Soldier's Home Foundation, in deciding the final results. The central issue is money, and the fact that the VA doesn't receive enough funding from the federal government to carry out its assigned task of caring for veterans. Out of necessity they are looking for new revenue sources, and in the process discovered that almost 25% of their costs are going to maintain facilities that are no longer in use. It's hard to argue with the idea that this money ought to be spent on veteran's care instead. But at the same time, there's a tremendous local, state and national history that needs to be told to future generations, starting with the Civil War veterans at the Soldiers Home and veterans of all wars since then.

As was stated at the hearing, "don't cannibalize your (the VA's) history just to find some cash for the present." Well put. We hope to work with the Soldier's Home Foundation and the VA in making this process succeed for all of us.



Dept. GRO Bruce Laine (foreground) typed in the meeting minutes on his laptop as the meeting progressed.

NOTES FROM DEPARTMENT MID-WINTER MEETING

Two dozen members attended this year's Mid-Winter meeting, held in Wauwatosa on Feb. 7

Dept. GRO Bruce Laine reported that lists are available on the Dept. Web site detailing all Civil War veteran's graves in Wisconsin, sorted alphabetically and by cemetery, as extracted from the National Database at the start of the year.

Dept. Secretary Ron Aronis reported that membership is at 225 and an upward trend in new members is expected to continue this year.

SVC-in-C Steve Michaels announced that Wisconsin has the honor this year to host the Central Region Conference in October. Sons from the Midwestern states will gather here for a day of educational programs and tours.

Below, Dept. Sons in session at the meeting.



VA seeks volunteers to inventory cemetery memorials

The Department of Veterans Affairs is seeking volunteers to research and photograph monuments in its 120 national cemeteries and 33 Soldier's lots.

When the project began in May 2002, it was estimated that 300 memorials would be found in the national cemeteries and Soldier's lots. To date, nearly 800 memorials have been identified with help from more than 200 volunteers. About 300 memorials in 20 states remain to be documented.

VA provides volunteers with project instructions, survey questionnaires and film. Volunteers take measurements and photographs, record inscriptions, make notes on a monument's condition and conduct historical research. (Does this sound like a project the Sons are working on?) The information obtained from the project will be made available to the public through the Smithsonian Institution's art inventory database.

For more information about the project or to volunteer, please contact historian Darlene Richardson at (203) 565-5426 or e-mail nca.memorials@mail.va.gov.

Originally published in "Army Echoes"

CAMP NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

L.G. Armstrong Camp 49

Brother Gary Young has been designated by Boscobel Grand Army of the Republic Hall Preservationists, Inc. as their agent for the "Save Wisconsin's GAR Hall Project".

After 130 years, and over 100 years of use as a meeting hall for GAR, WRC #32, and SUVCW members, Boscobel's John McDermott Post #101 GAR Hall is becoming structurally challenged. A failing foundation indicates a major project is necessary if the Hall is to survive in this century. The structure is sagging significantly due to the deterioration of the foundational supports and inadequacy of drainage under and around the structure.

The project concept proposes to place a solid foundation under the Hall, moving the furnace room from the 2nd floor to the basement, adding 8 ft to the first floor of the structure to permit the installation of a stairway to the basement, and repair damage experienced to interior walls and ceilings.

Brother Gary Young's charter calls for him to apply for placement of the Hall on the National Register of Historic Places and to seek grants for the project work necessary to save this wonderful artifact of Boscobel, Wisconsin, and American history.

The need to undertake these major repairs is urgent, with the total requirement estimated at just under \$200,000, but all the bids are not in. If you want to help save OUR GAR Hall, please send donations to the Boscobel GAR Hall Preservationists, c/o Loretta Hooker,

Secretary/Treasurer, 4816 Rothman Place, Monona, WI 53716-2010. The Preservationists are a 501(c)(3) organization and your donations are tax deductible.

For more information or other offers of help, contact Brother Gary Young at gyoung@mchsi.com 1004 Chestnut Street, Boscobel, WI 53805, or call 608-375-5765.



*Boscobel's John McDermott
Post #101 GAR Hall*

restored to its original dimensions after more than 40 years. In this building that once housed the post office, the room is being prepared for our use, along with the Soldier's Home Foundation. Since February, Camp 1 and Auxiliary 4



*Left to right: SVC-in-C Steve Michaels, NP Danielle Michaels,
Mrs. Judy Armstrong, C-in-C Kent Armstrong.*

have been graciously allowed to use the facility for events and meetings

One hundred persons attended the annual Patriotic Luncheon in February, held to honor Presidents Washington, Lincoln and McKinley. This year The Camp and Auxiliary "passed the hat" and came up with \$700 to be used in restoration of the Soldier's Home Chapel. During the Luncheon program, the check was presented to Laura Rinaldi, chairperson of the Reclaiming Our Heritage Committee, who was temporarily at a loss for words!

Special features of this year's Camp and Auxiliary Holiday Party included a reception for Auxiliary National President Danielle Michaels and speech by Pres. Abraham Lincoln (Rev. Robert Rotgers).

Among those special guests joining us were SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Kent Armstrong and his wife, Judy. Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief Steve Michaels completed the rare occurrence of the National command structure coming together for a Camp event. Also joining us were SVR 4th MD Commander, Maj. Jack Grothe and his wife, Central Region Commander, Sr. Maggie Grothe from St. Louis, Missouri. About 36 people attended the event at historic Turner Hall.

C.K. Pier Badger Camp 1

On January 13th, a work crew from the VA made fast work of removing an office wall in Building 1 at the Soldier's Home, restoring the proposed meeting room was

Old Abe Camp 8

The members of Camp 8 and Aux. 6 can take pride in knowing that they have been involved with three significant

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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 at svc@suvcw-wi.org. Editorial deadlines are April, July and October 15.

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

DEPARTMENT EVENTS CALENDAR

- 15 April: Lincoln Tomb Ceremony & Luncheon, Springfield, IL
- 17 April: GAR Founder B.F. Stephenson Ceremony, Rose Hill Cemetery, Petersburg, IL
- 22-23 May: SVR Artillery Safety School, Boscobel
- 30 May: Memorial Day
- 12 June: Department Encampment, King (Camp 8 host)

(Continued from page 7)

monument preservation projects in their area. Two of the projects were completed in 2003, the first being the restoration and re-dedication of the Hick's Soldiers Monument in downtown Oshkosh. The second was the repair of the GAR memorial window in the Christ Congregational Church in Clintonville. The project most recently completed has been in the works for several years — the Camp Bragg Monument located near Menominee Park in Oshkosh. Thanks to extensive efforts by the Camp and Auxiliary, the tract of land on which the monument stands was donated to the city for a park by the owner, a Madison development firm.



Vintage scene of Camp Bragg monument area.

Camp 8 plans to hold a grave dedication service on April 17th in Manitowoc, Wis.. The service coincides with a living history fundraiser with proceeds to go to Woods Veterans Home Civil War buildings restoration effort. Admission is free; proceeds are derived from food sales. Members of the 5th Wis. Inf. re-enactors will be there to help with the honor guard. The soldiers being honored are: Sgt. Joseph Goodwin, Co. A Fifth Wisconsin Volunteers; Pvt. Anthony Cadwell, Co. A Fifth Wisconsin Volunteers; and Lieut. Ferdinand Schultz, Wisconsin Cavalry.

MG John Gibbon Camp 4

The Gibbon Birthday Celebration Dinner has been

scheduled for April 24, 2004 at the Hartland Inn. Members of Camp 4 and Auxiliary #5 are co-sponsoring the activity. Lance Herdegen, of the Carroll College Civil War Institute, will be keynote speaker and deliver a presentation on John Gibbon. The Camp and Auxiliary also plan to give out two of Dr. Herdegen's books as door prizes at the dinner. Members also plan to get together prior to the Gibbon Dinner to register graves in the Hartland Cemetery.

Lt. Alonzo Cushing Camp #5



Cushing's Battery will be the host unit for the 4th Military District, Sons of Veterans

2002 Artillery Safety School at Boscobel.

Reserve Artillery Safety School on 22-23 May 2004, at the Sportsman's Club in Boscobel, Wisconsin. Certifiers and instructors from the NCWAA have again been requested and the event is being finalized. This has been a popular event in past years and the 2004 school is shaping up to be one of the best ever. Crews and guns from the Civil War period and earlier and welcome to attend. The cost is \$15.00 per person, payable to "HQ 4th Military District, SVR".

