



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT DISPATCH

SPRING 2005 ISSUE

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Camp 4 to Host 2005 Department Encampment

On behalf of Major General John Gibson Camp #4, please accept this invitation to the 122nd Annual Wisconsin Department Encampment, to be held this year in Waukesha.

As this year's host, Camp #4 is honored to be the guest of Carroll College's Institute for Civil War Studies. The Director of the Institute, Lance Herdegen, has been very helpful in securing the use of the facilities at the college. He has also agreed to give us a tour of the Institute at McAllister Hall, which is just south of the Campus Center. Lance will also be talking to us about the new regional Civil War Museum, which will soon be under construction in Kenosha.

Carroll College was founded in 1841 and is known as the "Pioneer College". Students and Faculty from the college, served

and died in the Civil War. Among the most prominent was Sidney Bean, professor of mathematics. He was killed in 1863 at the battle of Port Hudson, Louisiana, while serving as colonel of the 4th Wisconsin. The first Sons of Veterans Camp in Wisconsin, based in Waukesha, was named for Colonel Bean.

The registration form is available on page 4 of this issue, and driving directions plus a list of accommodations are available on the Department Website at suvcw-wi.org

Registration should be received by Friday, June 3rd. The Registration Fee is \$14.00 per person (including lunch). A lunch buffet of cold cuts and salads will be provided. If no lunch is needed, the registration fee is \$5.

Department Orders #3 Series 2004-05

1) As this year draws to a close, It is a pleasure to be able to submit this final Order. A report summarizing the year's activities will be made at the Annual Encampment in June.

2) To every member of the Department Staff, my sincere thanks for the manner in which the affairs of the Department have been conducted. Let's strive to continue to improve our service to the Sons and the Department as the Encampment nears.

3) If you have received any recommendations from other Camps or Departments in regard to nominations for National Officers, please forward them to the Department Rules and Recommendations officer Brian Peters, 646 Rays Lane, Stevens Point, WI 54481-9260.

4) All Camp Chaplains are to send an official report to the Department Chaplain, Dean Collins, 2809 N. 70th St., Milwaukee, WI 53210-1224. Please advise the Department Chaplain on the names and dates of members who died during the last year: 6/01/04 to present. If no one in your Camp passed away, send a report noting such. Updates may be made orally at the Encampment.

5) All Camp Commanders are to submit a written report of activities to the Department Secretary, Randy Novak, 641 Bowen St., Oshkosh, WI 54901-4630, either before or at the Encampment.

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SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
SUVCW

(Continued from page 1)

6) All Camp Patriotic Instructors are to provide a written report to the Department Patriotic Instructor, Richard Rohan, W181 S8290 Pioneer Drive, Muskego, WI 53150. A form from the National Patriotic Instructor will be furnished and mailed out soon.

7) The 122nd Department Encampment will be held at Carroll College in Waukesha, WI on June 11, 2005. Packets have or will be sent for registration. I have been advised by Lance Herdegen that parking restrictions will be eased for us that day -- a real bonus.

The anticipated Encampment schedule is:

7:30 a.m.	Doors open
8:30	Final registration
8:45	Opening ceremony
11:30	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Encampment resumes
4:30	Memorial Service

8) Committees will be appointed by the Commander, as appropriate, at the Encampment.

9) The books of the Department will be audited by the incoming Department Council and reported to the Commander at that time. This is because of the difference in the election year and the fiscal year. The Treasurer will make a report of the last year's final account and this year-to-date.

10) During the months of April and May, the Gen. Ulysses S. Grant Awards are presented to worthy Cadets and Midshipmen at Marquette University, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh, and St. John's Northwestern Military Academy in Delafield. Unfortunately this year there were some mix-ups in the ordering of medals and certificates. Just shows how much we miss Brother Tom Johnson. Certificates should have been able to be given out and the medals will be sent to the cadets when they arrive. My thanks and apology to the presenters who may have had to improvise.

11) The Lincoln Tomb Ceremony held in Springfield, IL at Oak Ridge Cemetery on April 15th saw C-in-C Steve Michaels and other dignitaries present, and the Department wreath was presented by Commander Ron Aronis. The Department flag was carried by Department Flag Bearer Pat Kulas.

12) The Camp 1 Patriotic Luncheon was held February 5th at Bluemound Gardens in Wauwatosa, Wis. Before the luncheon, an informal Department Midwinter meeting was held.

13) On May 30th, many Camps are planning to observe Memorial Day in some fashion. Please take the time and effort to participate with your Camp in this worthy activity. We must carry on the traditions of our ancestors and the GAR.

14) Don't forget the 124th National Encampment. Although it is quite far away, visiting New Hampshire will add a state to that list of states visited by many of us. Please make an effort to attend at Nashua on the 4th to 7th of August.



At the Department Mid-Winter Meeting in February, Dept. Treasurer Dale Brassert (foreground) reads his report to the assembled members. Dept. Secretary PDC Randy Novak takes notes on his laptop as DC Ron Aronis presides over the meeting.

15) October 1st is the date of the next Central Region Conference, this time in Lawrence, Kansas. More details will be sent in future mailings.

16) Best wishes to our Auxiliary and the Department President, Gloria Murphy, for a successful Encampment and our thanks for the courtesies shown us during the year.

17) To those members who are ailing, keep in good spirits. We hope and pray for your speedy recovery.

18) Those members who have had hardship or heart-break, our condolences and a wish for better days soon.

19) For our friends and Brothers involved in the Armed Forces, our wish for your safety and a safe return, and our thanks for keeping Freedom alive in the world.

RONALD M. ARONIS
Department Commander

Attest:
RANDY NOVAK PDC
Department Secretary

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

National Graves Registration Database is Now Available Online

National GRO PDC Bob Lowe is pleased to announce that the SUVCW National Graves Registration Database is now "live" on the Internet. It is linked to the SUVCW National Website. Look for it on the "Web Index" page or you may access it directly at www.suvcwdb.org.

This will make all our years of hard work available for viewing by the general public as well as allowing for new registrations to be input through our online program. As hard as we have worked to avoid them, there will be start-up problems requiring our attention, so please be patient during this period. For the time being we will only be entering new graves registrations through the "submitter" area. Once we have assured ourselves of its success, we will deal with the updating of previously entered records.

Hopefully, this online database program will instill increased interest in the SUVCW National Graves Registration Project and take us to an entirely new level of success.

There are three sections/areas in the online program.

Public—for viewing/searching existing database records only. Anyone can search and view records.

Submitter —for those with approved accounts and allowed to enter registrations

Administrative —for complete control of the main database.

Regarding the "submitter area" -

1. A individual, Camp or Department applies for an Account, which is either approved or disapproved by the National GRO.

2. Approved submitters enter a grave registration(s), it is automatically checked for duplication. If OK'd, it is allowed to be submitted, but is not entered in the main database.

3. The submitted record(s) goes to a "holding location", where it is reviewed and either approved or disapproved by the National GRO.

4. Records passing the above criteria still are not part of the main database until the Nat'l GRO or designee enters one additional area and inserts it/them into the database.

Take a look, try it out!

“DESERVE THEIR SACRIFICE PRESERVE THEIR MEMORY”

By SVC Kent A. Peterson

I was looking for some Internet-inspiration for a short article on Memorial Day, and so I tried doing a Google search on the term "Decoration Day." Wasn't I surprised to find that of the first 20 matches, five were about remembering fallen veterans and fifteen were about a southern alt-rock band that I never heard of by the same name.

Not long ago I asked a fellow Son whether he would participate in his Camp's Memorial Day ceremony this year. Nope, he replied, we're having a great big family picnic that day with lots o'guests from outta town.



Congress turned Memorial Day into a three-day weekend in 1971. Soon after the ABC television network agreed to televise the Indy 500 race, but only if the date was changed to the last Sunday in May. The first race on the new schedule was marred by fiery crashes, death, days of rain delays and the first shortened race in years. It may have been an omen.

In the past three decades this 3-day holiday created by Congress has diluted or completely obliterated the true meaning of the day. Cemetery ceremonies are dwindling to a few veterans in overseas caps, survivors and their family members.

It's still the unofficial start of summer and the outdoor barbecue season, but to most Americans it's another in a long list of federal holidays that have lost their significance.

As Sons of Union Veterans, there is no single day during the year that is more significant for our organization. It embodies our reason for being and continuing the mission passed on to us by the Grand Army of the Republic. THIS IS IT, GENTLEMEN — what it's all about. So I have to ask — while excusing those Brothers who are physically or geographically unable to attend — if you don't attend your Camp's Memorial Day ceremony or that of another organization, why did you join? **Your support is needed on May 30!**

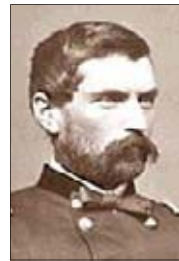
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
122ND ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT
 HOSTED BY MG JOHN GIBBON CAMP #4

Saturday, June 11th, 2005
 Carroll College Campus Center
 Waukesha, Wisconsin



MacAllister Hall - location of the Institute for Civil War Studies at Carroll College

Tentative Schedule	
7:30 a.m.	Doors open
8:30	Final registration
8:45	Opening ceremony
11:30	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Encampment resumes
4:30	Memorial Service



Hosted by
Major General John Gibbon
Camp #4

Camp 4 meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at historic MacAllister Hall.

Registration should be received by Friday, June 3rd. The Registration Fee is \$14.00 per person (including lunch). A lunch buffet of cold cuts and salads will be provided. If no lunch is needed, subtract \$9.00 from the Registration Fee.

The afternoon program will consist of a tour of Carroll College's Institute for Civil War Studies by Lance Herdegen. Mr. Herdegen is also planning to talk about the plans for a new Regional Civil War Museum in Kenosha.

This information plus a map and list of local restaurants is available on the www.suvcw-wi.org Web site or from your Camp Commander.

Remove lower portion and mail to address shown — This form may be filled out online and then printed.

SUVCW DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN – 122ND ENCAMPMENT REGISTRATION

Make checks payable to MG John Gibbon Camp 4, SUVCW and return no later than Friday, June 3, 2005

Mail registration form and payment to:

Bob Mann
2375 Rockway Lane - E
Brookfield, WI 53005

Deadline: June 3, 2005

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Affiliation _____

Number of lunches _____ Total enclosed _____

Waukesha Civil War Memorial Took 24 Years to Erect

The soldiers memorial in Waukesha's Cutler Park was dedicated on September 20, 1911, in conjunction with the annual reunion of the 28th Wisconsin Infantry Association being held there. The Vermont granite monument cost \$3800, which was raised by private subscription under the initiative of William B. Cushing GAR Post 19.

Plans for the memorial began back in 1887, when 480 of the 2,000 Waukesha men who fought for the Union, were still living in the county. Considerably fewer saw it become a reality.

Two years earlier, two Dahlgren 8-inch, smooth bore cannons, which were once used aboard the Federal sloop Portland, were placed not far from the monument. The 11 and 13-foot long guns fortunately escaped the WWII scrap metal drives.

A small 3-inch signal cannon, called the "Railsplitter" because it was used during Lincoln's 1860 campaign, also stands nearby.



Waukesha's Soldiers and Sailors monument in Cutler Park (from a 1919 postcard)



In 1942, the monument was the focus of Waukesha's Flag Day observance. Coincidentally, this was the first day of the Wis. Dept. Encampment, held in Waukesha that year. The Dept. Commander presented a U.S. Flag to the library. Camp #1's Commander recited Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and the GAR Fife and Drum corps, manned by members of the Sons, played "Stars & Stripes Forever." Both the Dept. Secretary/Treasurer and the Auxiliary's Dept. President also attended.

During the 2000, 2001 and 2002 Days of Glories Past Civil War weekend, the monument was again the focus for patriotic ceremonies, when the Sons and Auxiliary held a Union soldier memorial ceremony there.

Waukesha First Hosted SUV Department Encampment in 1919

The first Wisconsin Department Encampment in Waukesha was held June 16-18, 1919 and was hosted by the city's Col. H.M. Enos Camp #16.

Delegates to the 36th annual meeting adopted a resolution, recommending that the Order's name be changed to the "Sons of the Grand Army of the Republic" and Dept. representatives were instructed to use their influence at the National encampment to bring about such a change. (After conferring with the GAR, the move was defeated in 1920.)

On Thursday evening, moving pictures were shown as entertainment and were well attended. The reels present were "The Belle of Yorktown (1913)," a romance set during the Revolution; "Battle Hymn of the Republic (1911 & 1917)," an account of how Julia Ward Howe came to write the famous Civil War marching song; and "Wisconsin's Contribution to the First Ten Thousand," a WWI newsreel. Besides the pictures, there was a community singing and a four piece orchestra presented some lively music. The program was the climax of the encampment, as the old veterans there could see better than they could hear.

Ned Withers, an Ashland courthouse abstractor, was elected Dept. Commander and pledges to increase Dept. membership by 3,000 during the following year.

The Dept. Encampment returned to Waukesha in 1932, 1942, 1963 and 2001.

Welcome New Members!

Camp #1

William Doan South Milwaukee

Camp #8

Jesse Peeters Bonduel

Camp #49

Burdette Coberly Boscobel

Camp #56

Mark Campbell Bloomington

Blacks Who Wore Blue For Wisconsin Honored

By Susan Lampert Smith

The state Legislature paused in its own battles on Feb. 15 to honor African Americans who fought for Wisconsin in the Civil War.

It seemed appropriate, both because it's Black History Month and because we currently have troops fighting in our name in faraway Iraq.

Many of the African Americans who were credited to Wisconsin's Civil War effort never set foot in our state. Those who served in Company F of the 29th Infantry of U.S. Colored Troops, were largely recruited from Illinois and paid by bounty hunters who needed to fill quotas for Wisconsin. They served in the place of Wisconsin men who didn't want to go.

"They're not considered Wisconsin citizens, but as far as I'm concerned they should be honored that way," said Kevin Dier-Zimmel. "They fought for Wisconsin, and they fought for their own freedom."

Dier-Zimmel, a correctional officer who lives in Beaver Dam, has a passion for Wisconsin's African-American history during the era of the Abolition movement, the Underground Railroad, and the Civil War. (He is also a member of Madison's Henry Harden Camp #2)

He pores over old histories, cemetery records, and microfilm from the national archives, and has been sharing his research with staff of Assembly Speaker John Gard, R-Peshtigo, and Rep. Barbara Toles, D-Milwaukee, who are sponsoring the resolution.

It takes some dedication, because the history is murky at best.

"It's like researching a cold case," said Dier-Zimmel, who has uncovered some interesting stories of Wisconsin African Americans in the war.

Pvt. Edward Hunter, an escaped slave who was born in Virginia, died in the war, and left behind a wife and three children who were living near Markesan. Dier-Zimmel wonders if the presence of an Underground Railroad station in nearby Alto made the area more hospitable to African Americans. Another member of the 29th Infantry, Henry Sink, is buried nearby in Rienzi Cemetery in Fond du Lac County.



Peter Thomas
WHI (X3) 21061

Peter D. Thomas was a 14-year-old slave in Tennessee when Wisconsin soldiers liberated his plantation. He enlisted and was sent to train at Camp Randall. Later, he settled in Racine where he was elected coroner.

Henry Revels, born in Virginia, fought in the Civil War, along with his brother, who died at Gettysburg. After the war, Henry

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VETERAN'S MUSEUM OFFERS TO ARCHIVE WISCONSIN SUVCW DOCUMENTS

Imagine it's the year 2105, and your great-great-grandson is researching his Civil War ancestor. He discovers that YOU were a member of the famous Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. He wants to find out exactly what we did a century ago, but is disappointed to discover that the few remaining records from the late 1900's and early 2000's are scattered and hard to find.

If you've run into dead ends while researching your Civil War ancestor, this scenario should sound rather familiar.

We can do something to ensure that our records and accomplishments are available well into the future.

The Wisconsin Veteran's Museum in Madison has made us an offer. They would like to archive Department of Wisconsin SUVCW materials, including documents from individual Camps. Senior Vice Commander Kent Peterson was contacted by one of the museum's archivists last year with the offer.

"Ideally, we would like to serve as the archives for Sons of Union Veterans, Dept. of Wisconsin. That means that we would like hardcopy, original materials. Meeting minutes and proceedings, constitutions and by-laws, newsletters, and anything else that would help a researcher 100 years from now understand the SUVCW" wrote Russ Horton, the Processing Archivist for the Museum.

Gayle Martinson, Archives Collection Manager, added "I would be overjoyed to receive the records from the Dept. of Wisconsin and local Camp records as well! We'd love to be put on the mailing list to receive the Department's newsletter and also all local Camps. We can (also) do a newsletter exchange ..."

The Museum has Sons materials up to about 1900, but nothing after that.

The offer was brought up to the assembled membership at the Dept. Mid-Winter Meeting, where it was determined that individual Camps should decide for themselves whether they would like to start sending their newsletters for archiving. If your Camp would like to do so, please add the Museum to your mailing list at:

Russell Horton
Processing Archivist
Wisconsin Veterans Museum
30 W. Mifflin St.
Madison, WI 53703



Close-up detail of the Robert Gould Shaw/54th Massachusetts Regiment Memorial on Boston's Beacon Hill. The monument was sculpted by Augustus Saint-Gaudens and dedicated on Decoration Day in 1897.

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Revels settled in Vernon County's Cheyenne Valley, a mixed race rural settlement that prospered well into the 20th century. In 1999, I was honored to attend the funeral of Cheyenne Valley's Blanche Bass Arms, who died at 101, and was the daughter-in-law of Samuel Arms, a black drummer boy for the Union Army.

Some of Wisconsin's African American soldiers returned to Madison after the war. Howard Brooks and Dennis Hughes are both buried in Forest Hill Cemetery near West High School in Madison.

Another Civil War soldier with famous black and white heritage has ties to Madison. Lt. Col. John Wayles Jefferson, the grandson of President Thomas Jefferson and his slave, Sally Hemings, owned the American House hotel in Madison before the war. A replica of Old Abe, the eagle that accompanied Jefferson's regiment into battle, looks down over the speaker's platform in the State Assembly.

Dier-Zimmel pointed out that others of mixed race fought for Wisconsin in the Civil War, including members of the Brotherton/Stockbridge Indian tribe, who were termarried with African Americans.

Men from a number of Wisconsin Indian nations fought in the Civil War, as did new immigrants from Scandinavia and Europe, some of whom didn't have time learn English before they were conscripted.

One of the things I find most humbling about Civil War history is that men who weren't treated well by the United States of the time -- slaves, Indians, and brand new immigrants -- were still willing to fight and die for their country.

The Wisconsin Historical Society's Web site has interesting looks at African-American contributions to local history at www.wisconsinhistory.org/blackhistory .

No Such Thing as a Free Headstone In Waukesha

*From the Waukesha Freeman
4 February 2005
Written by Kollin Kosmicki*

After getting a free ride for years on new headstone placements from the city's former cemetery manager, a local Civil War group disputed a policy requiring that it now pay the same fees as other users, which include veterans groups.

Members of the local group, **Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**, were surprised the cemetery commission and new Prairie Home Cemetery Manager Dave Brenner would no longer install the group's headstones for free.

Brenner, who took over permanently in July, said he was surprised they were even getting a deal when the group approached the cemetery about installing headstones for free.

The cemetery, which generates revenues from user fees, ran a \$400,000 deficit in 2003.

"Costs need to be brought under control," Brenner said. "We can't afford it."

Brenner said the group which oversees renovations of old headstones or placement of new ones for Civil War veterans has been cooperative throughout talks. But he emphasized that people buying headstones for other veterans were paying the normal fees.

The head of the Sons group, (Camp #4 Commander) Bruce Laine, approached former manager Mike Wilson a few years ago about foregoing the fees. Laine said Thursday he understands the cemetery's stance.

The issue first came up late last summer, but the two sides recently agreed on a compromise. The group will pay the cemetery's costs to install them of about \$75 per headstone, versus about \$200 to \$300 without a break while Brenner works out a new policy for installation of all veterans' headstones, Brenner said.

The federal government pays for the actual headstones of deceased veterans. But it's up to the person or group requesting them to pay for additional fees from the cemetery, for such services as laying foundation.

Brenner said taxpayers were essentially subsidizing one veterans group and not others.

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 svc@suvcw-wi.org

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

CALENDAR

May 30	Memorial Day ceremonies
4-5 June	Reclaiming Our Heritage, Historic Soldier's Home, Milwaukee VA Center
11 June	122nd Wis. Dept. SUVCW and ASUVCW Encampment, Carroll College, Waukesha
14 June	Flag Day
4 July	Independence Day
4-7 Aug	124th National Encampment, Nashua, NH

IN MEMORIAM: PDC THOMAS L.W. JOHNSON

PDC Thomas L.W. Johnson passed away in Madison, Wisconsin, on January 1, 2005, suffering from deteriorating health for some time. He was 72 years old.

He joined Oak Park, Illinois' Camp 12-100 on December 1, 1950, basing his membership on the service of Pvt. Albert W. Wemble, Co. K, 3rd Iowa Vol. Infantry. Wemble fought at Shiloh and Vicksburg. Another ancestor, Pvt. Demas L. Coe, served in four different Ohio infantry regiments. He transferred to Madison's Henry Harnden Camp 2 and soon served as Camp Commander. He also served two terms as Dept. Chaplain and as member of the Dept. Memorials and Plaques Committee.

PDC Johnson joined the Wisconsin Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers in 1959. After several committee assignments, he served as the association's historian for 18 years from 1978 – 1996. He served as association president, 1991-92, and was editor of the WACRAO newsletter from 1993 until his death. As president and newsletter editor, he was also a member of the Executive Committee, beginning in 1990.

PDC Johnson was a native of Rockford, Illinois, and graduated from UW-Madison with a bachelor's degree in 1954. He earned a master's degree from the University of Kansas in 1959, and served as an officer with the U.S. Army in Kansas and Germany from 1955 to 1957. He began his career at UW-Madison in 1959, working his way up from an assistant to the executive associate registrar, the No. 2 position with office-wide responsibilities. He held the latter position for his last seven years. During his tenure, he led efforts to create a special admissions office for non-degree students and to adopt a "compassionate" refund policy, which became policy in 1991 and provides

tuition refunds for students who have to withdraw for medical or family emergencies. He also served on many university committees and was a member of several state and national groups for registrars. He was a book reviewer for a quarterly journal and belonged to several patriotic organizations, including the Madison Veterans Council. He retired from the registrar's office in 2003.



PDC Thomas L.W. Johnson
(undated photo)

In 1963, during the Civil War Centennial, he was elected Dept. Commander and was re-elected twice. DC Johnson focused the membership on improving the Department by appointing a committee to consider suggestions. He appointed a Chief of Staff to raise Department funds and began the practice of holding Mid-winter meetings to keep the membership better informed about National and Region news. During his tenure, Governor Warren P. Knowles and his brother, State Senator Robert Knowles were initiated into the SUVCW. The Governor later signed a proclamation, designating 1966 as the GAR's Centennial Year in Wisconsin.

PDC Johnson continued to serve on the Dept. Council and was Dept. Counselor for most of his successors. In 1968, he began one of many terms as chairman of the Wis. Dept. Encampment, coordinating the agenda with the facilities in Milwaukee. He also supervised the Department's U.S. Grant ROTC Awards program and continued to serve as his Camp's Secretary/Treasurer until 2001.

His former co-workers at UW-Madison took up a collection of funds and donated it to the Dept. of Wisconsin, to honor Tom's long service. They asked that the money be used as a scholarship to students with the same type of interests as Tom's, that is, history and political science. Department officers are currently developing a system for awarding the funds annually.