Wisconsin
Department Dispatch

Spring 2010 Issue **Published by the SUVCW Department of Wisconsin**

Inside —

Department Pioneers……..2

Secretary's Report……3

Dept. Encampment….5

Medal of Honor for Alonzo Cushing……7

Camp News and Activities……....8-10

Events Calendar……..8

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

SUVCW

Comments From Your Wisconsin Department Commander

Greetings Brothers and Friends,

I hope you are all well, and finally enjoying our Spring weather! Our busiest time of year is upon us. In about a month, we will all be attending Memorial Day ceremonies and doing our best to keep the memory of "The Boys in Blue", alive.

Also coming up, we will have our 127th Encampment of the Department of Wisconsin, in King at the Wisconsin Soldiers Home. There is a registration form included in this issue of the Dispatch. It is very helpful for planning, that you pre-register. I look forward to seeing everyone there!

Last night, I had the pleasure of attending Camp #4's Annual Gibbon Dinner, along with Department Senior Vice Commander Tom Brown. This event is the Camp's celebration of it's namesake Major General John Gibbon's birthday. It was an enjoyable dinner, and the guest speakers, Tom and Terry Arliskas, spoke about the 29th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and the Union victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg.

In February, we had our Mid-Winter Meeting, which was well attended. We given reports by all officers in attendance, it was very informative. Department Secretary PDC Brian Peters has provided a copy of the minutes which you will find included in this issue. One topic of discussion, led by PCinC Steve Michaels, was hosting the National Encampment in 2013, in Milwaukee. The Wisconsin Department has not hosted the national body since 1943. Brother Steve has submitted the preliminary proposal to the National Encampment Site Committee. They will be making their decision on the Encampment location later in October.

Looking at the National Website, there are 44 graduates of Memorial University, and only one from Wisconsin! I know I have mentioned this before, but please take some time and go through this worthy program. It is a great way to get to know the Constitution and Regulations and Ritual of the order. It should be a requirement for all officers! Memorial University can be found at: http://www.suvcw.org/memuniv/memorialuniv.htm . There is no time limit, that I am aware of, so take your time and go through it, one chapter at a time (there are 13 chapters).

I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events, and especially at our Department Encampment at King on June 12th!

Yours in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Bruce C. Laine

Commander

Department Pioneer Martin A. Grasse

When the 1901 Wis. Dept. Encampment opened in Sheboygan on June 19th, the *Milwaukee Sentinel* accurately predicted that 33-year old Martin Amos Grasse would be elected Commander, despite a local movement for the city's Gustav Geisler. One Sheboygan member said Geisler's nomination was done only as a compliment. There must have been more to the story because Grasse won by a single vote over Geisler. Racine's F.H.B. McDowell withdrew his name before the ballot was taken.

Grasse, a former Sheboygan boy, was now living in Milwaukee and working as a passenger agent on the Wisconsin Central Railroad. He probably garnered support from both areas. He was the first Dept. Commander who had previously served as Dept. Adjutant (1899). This gave him a unique perspective on organizing the Order's work.

THE GOLD CROSS.

Martin Grasse was the son of Sheboygan's Charles (Carl Wilhelm) and Louise Sophia Grasse, the eldest of five children. He graduated from Sheboygan High School in the class of 1884.

The elder Grasse enlisted in Co. H, 26th Wis. Inf. in August 1862. After receiving a gunshot wound in the left leg at Chancellorsville and being furloughed, he returned to the regiment. He served in the defense of Washington and was mustered out as a corporal on October 16, 1865. After the war he worked as a cooper and in 1884, became a charter member of Sheboygan's Gus Wintermeyer GAR Post 187.

Enthused by the GAR National Encampment coming to Wisconsin, Martin Grasse joined Sheboygan's Carl Witte Camp #37 in 1889 and served as Camp Commander. After moving to Milwaukee, he served as C. K. Pier Camp #35's commander in 1892.

On December 27, 1892, Br. Grasse married Minnie Buehner. They had four children: Arnold (1893), Arthur (1897), Irma (1902) and Beatrice (1904). A fifth, Madeline L (1899), died in infancy.

Wisconsin Dept. Headquarters in Milwaukee was destroyed by fire on December 11, 1901. The entire correspondence of Grasse's administration and a beautiful banner just presented by the Milwaukee area Woman's Relief Corps were lost. Fortunately, the Dept. Encampment proceedings of the previous years and the membership record were saved. A temporary headquarters was established in downtown Milwaukee.

When Milwaukee's Badger Camp #1 and C. K. Pier Camp #35 decided to consolidate, Br. Grasse became a charter member of the new Camp, C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 (chartered on December 4, 1901).

By the 1902 Dept. Encampment, there were 502 members in 18 Camps at Berlin, Blaine, Butternut, Ellsworth, Endeavor, Jefferson, Hayward, Kenosha, Keshena, Madison, Mayville, Milwaukee, Plover, Racine, River Falls, Sheboygan, Stockbridge and Thorpe.

Br. Grasse ran for re-election in 1902, but lost. However, by vote of the convention, the gold cross of the Order was conferred upon him. The gold cross (the design later used for the Past Dept. Commanders' badge) was one of two presentation decorations bestowed upon officers who, "by special adherence and devotion to the principles and objects of the Order, the exercise of particular discretion and vigilance in the discharge of their duties, coupled with long and faithful service in the Order, merited some special reward."

At the 1904 Dept. Encampment, Br. Grasse served as chairman of the Department's important Constitution & Laws Committee. That year, the Nat. Encampment published its constitution and laws and the SVR approved its own directives. The same year, he was appointed Dept. Inspector and in 1905, he served as a Dept. Mustering Officer,

PDC Grasse moved to Chicago in 1906 to take a job with the Wabash Railroad and eventually let his Sons membership lapse. When the GAR National Encampment came to Wisconsin in 1923, he reinstated his Sons membership. PDC Grasse was also a member of the Sheboygan Men's Club of Chicago, returning to his hometown often to socialize with others who had moved to the windy city and to visit relatives and friends.

Br. Grasse died suddenly on January 19, 1941 at the age of 73 and was buried in Chicago's Mt. Hope Cemetery.

From: Ancestry.com; Press Forward the Good Work, The History of the Wis. Dept. UVCW by PCinC Stephen Michaels; and Sheboygan Press Gazette, Jan. 22, 1941.

Secretary's Report

Greetings to all Wisconsin Department Officers and Brothers. My Mid-Winter Meeting report will be brief with just a few important points for your consideration.

1. Timely processing of membership transactions is extremely important!
2. Get reports to me **EARLY**, not in a last minute rush.
3. Use the latest report forms found on the National Website. All reports must be typed.

The problems I have dealt with during my first 8 months as Department Secretary stem mostly from unwarranted delays and lack of follow-through on membership transactions at the Camp level. Most of the Camps do an excellent job, but occasionally there are problems that should not be occurring. We cannot afford to lose members because transactions were not processed quickly, or not processed at all. There are instances where this has happened. Where improvement is needed, let's all work together to eliminate delays and to make sure that our Brothers receive the Fraternal treatment and respect that they deserve, by handling each membership application and transaction with due speed and diligence.

1. If you have not yet submitted your Camp Election of Officers Report (Form 22), please do so right away!
2. It is time to start working on the Camp Annual Report (Form 27A). Do not wait until the deadline to submit your report. Get them to me as soon as possible please.
3. Send me Camp Status Reports (Form 30) for all membership transactions! The only exception is New Members who join from January 1 until your Camp Annual Report is submitted each year. Those new members are to be reported with the annual report. I do need copies of ALL new member applications, but not their ancestor documentation.
4. I have been working to keep the Department Roster updated. A preliminary roster will be available to the Camps and Department Officers. I suspect there will be errors, where information may not have risen above the Camp level.
5. Each Camp needs to E-file their annual IRS Form 990-N online.

Respectfully Submitted,

PDC Brian G. Peters, Department Secretary

VA Gravesite Locator for Mobile Use

The Department of Veterans Affairs has made the gravesites of more than 6.7 million Veterans easier to locate using handheld devices with Internet capability, such as "smart phones."

The latest improvement builds upon a service begun in 2004, when VA introduced an online nationwide gravesite locator, linked to its electronic burial records, that helps people find the cemetery in which their loved one is buried. The grave locations of Veterans and eligible family members buried in national cemeteries, or whose graves are marked with a government headstone, can already be found with desktop computers and at national cemetery kiosks.

The new Web site - **http://m.va.gov/gravelocator** -- is enhanced for viewing and browsing on "smart phone" devices such as an iPhone. The Web site will provide the name of the cemetery and a grave location, offer a link to a Google map and driving directions to the cemetery and, if the deceased is buried in a national cemetery or state Veterans cemetery, provide a link to a cemetery map to help find the section where the grave is located.

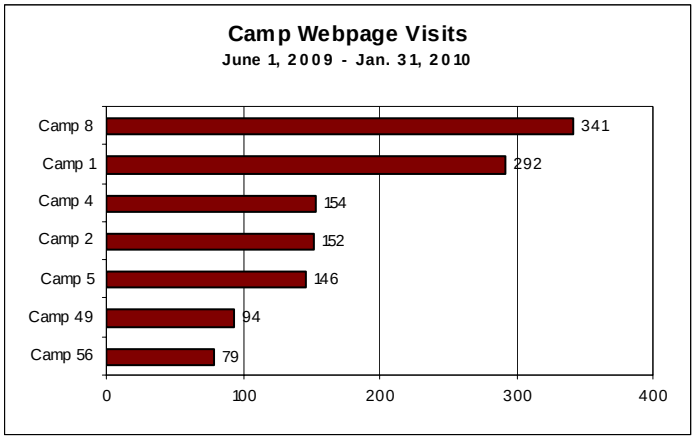
In addition to the more than 6.7 million records now available, VA continues to add approximately 1,000 new records to the database each day.

In 2005, VA added to its database of national cemetery burial records the locations of 1.9 million veterans whose graves were marked with a government headstone since 1997. These are mostly private cemeteries. Burial records with cemetery maps available are for burials in VA national cemeteries, state Veterans cemeteries and Arlington National Cemetery if the burials occurred since 1999.

Signals Officer's Report

Web Site Statistics

As of the first of June 2009, we switched our Web site statistics program to Google Analytics, a free service which provides much useful information about visitors to our Dept. of Wisconsin site. We can know track details for any given web page, such as the number of times it was viewed, where the viewers were located (city, state and country), how viewers found the page, the web browser they used, and more.



From June 2009 through January 2010, we received 375-400 visitors per month, consistent with last couple of years. We have 164 pages on our site that were viewed a combined 10,747 times by 7,354 individuals. Our most popular pages, after the homepage, include the Civil War Monuments and Memorials page, Camps page, ASUVCW page, Camp 8 page, and the News and Events page.

***Department Dispatch* Access**

The Summer 2009 issue of the *Department Dispatch* was distributed electronically to most members, that is, everyone with a known e-mail address was directed to the newsletter file on the Web site. I do not have a solid way to track the number of times the PDF file was downloaded, but we can see from our analytics data that the News and Events page was visited by 100 people between Oct. 1, 2009 (the date of issue) and the end of the year. The Issuu version of the newsletter found on the News and Events page was seen 527 times by 152 viewers.

When e-mail notification that the Summer 2009 issue was ready to be viewed, we had about 30 bounces due to out-of-date e-mail records being used. I sent a follow up e-mail listing those bounces to Camp Commanders and Secretaries, asking that they provide me with updated info. At this time (Mid-Winter Meeting on Feb. 6) , about half have been updated.

Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield

The Dept. of Wisconsin was represented at the April 17 Lincoln Tomb Ceremony by the following who presented wreaths during the ceremony (seen below): PCinC Steve Michaels (Camp 1), PCC Alan Hembel, (Camp 2), Kirby Scott (Camp 8), PNP Danielle Michaels and PDP Anne Michaels (Aux. 4). Also attending included PCC Tom Brown, Mikko Lagunero, PAP Linda Brown (Aux. 4), PCC Alan Petit (Camp 8), Craig Wheeler (Camp 4), Alan Keinert (Camp 4), Bob Wetter (Camp 2).

127TH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

June 12, 2010

Wisconsin Veterans Home in King (Waupaca) at Marden Hall

Doors open at 8 a.m.!

8:30 a.m.	**Final Registration**
8:45 am.	**Opening Ceremony**
12 noon	**Lunch**
1 p.m.	**Encampment resumes**
4 p.m.	**Conclusion**
4:15 p.m.	**Service at Chapel**
	Tour of Home follows

A Memorial Service will be held at the Chapel afterwards. A tour of the Home will be made available for those who want to stay and learn some of the Home's history.

(left- the Chapel's stained glass windows in memory of the GAR and WRC)

Above, Fairchild Hall seen with the Son's fountain from 1894. At right, Wisconsin's last Civil War soldier, Lansing Wilcox, at his 105th birthday at King.

Remove lower portion and mail to the address shown

SUVCW Department of Wisconsin 127th Encampment Registration

Registration must be received by Tuesday June 1st. Registration fee of $12 per person (including lunch). A sandwich bar will be provided to make your own. The King's Table Restaurant is also next door. Registration fee without lunch is $5.

Fill out and send it with the proper fees to:

Alan Petit, PCC
E7602 Cutoff Rd.
New London, WI 54961

Make check payable to:
Old Abe Camp #8, SUVCW

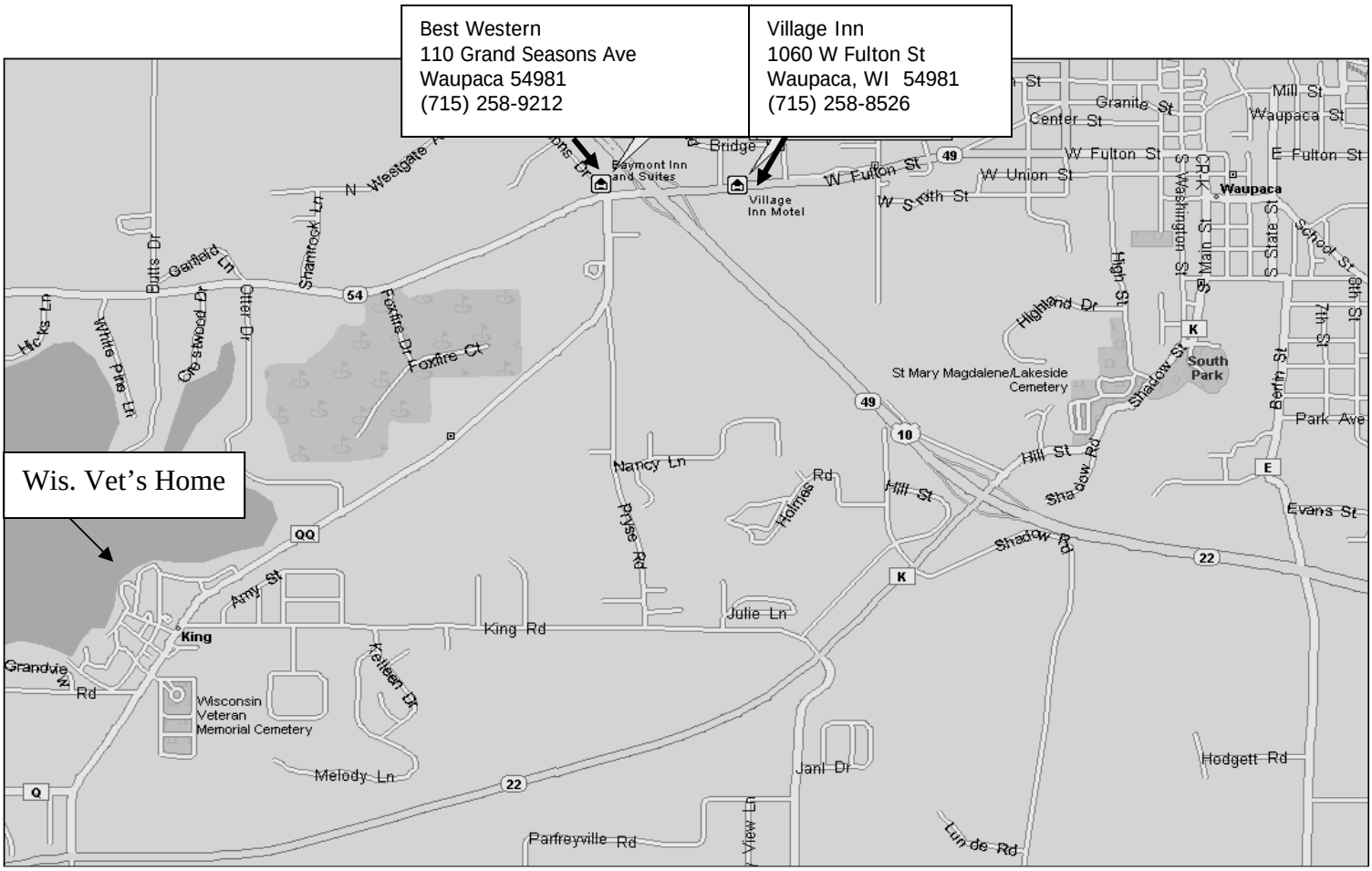
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE _____

ZIPCODE _____ **PHONE** _____

AFFILIATION _____



Depart Milwaukee on US-18 [N Milwaukee St] (South)
Keep STRAIGHT onto US-18 [SR-32]
Turn LEFT (East) onto US-18 [E Michigan St]

Turn RIGHT (South) onto N Jackson St, then immediately bear RIGHT (South-West) onto Ramp
Merge onto I-794
At exit 1A, take Ramp (RIGHT) onto I-94 [US-41]
At exit 305B, take Ramp (RIGHT) onto US-45 [Zoo Fwy]
Road name changes to US-41 [US-45]

At exit 120, keep RIGHT onto Ramp
Keep LEFT to stay on Ramp

Keep STRAIGHT onto Local road(s)
Turn LEFT (North) onto US-45 [Algoma Blvd]
Bear LEFT (North) onto Local road(s)

Take Ramp onto US-10 [US-45]
Keep RIGHT onto Ramp
Turn LEFT (South-West) onto SR-22 [CR-K]
Turn RIGHT (North) onto CR-QQ
Arrive King

Depart Green Bay on SR-29 [SR-54] (South-West)
Keep STRAIGHT onto SR-54 [SR-57]
Bear RIGHT (South-West) onto SR-57 [S Monroe Ave]
Turn LEFT (East) onto Local road(s)

Take Ramp onto SR-172
Turn RIGHT onto Ramp

Take Ramp (LEFT) onto US-41

Resurfacing between Appleton and Kaukauna (SB) (July 31, 2009 - April 12, 2010)
At exit 145, take Ramp onto SR-441
Road name changes to US-10 [SR-441]

Keep RIGHT onto Ramp
Turn LEFT (South-West) onto SR-22 [CR-K]
Turn RIGHT (North) onto CR-QQ

Arrive King

Depart Rhinelander on SR-17 [N Stevens St] (South)
Keep STRAIGHT onto SR-17 [S Stevens St]
Bear RIGHT (South) onto SR-17 [S Pelham St]

Bear LEFT (South) onto SR-17, then immediately turn RIGHT (West) onto US-8 Bus [SR-17]
Turn LEFT (South) onto SR-17 [Boyce Dr]
Keep STRAIGHT onto SR-17

Turn RIGHT (West) onto SR-64

Turn LEFT (South) onto Local road(s)

Take Ramp onto US-51
Road widening near Rothschild (SB) (August 10, 2009 - September 30, 2010)
Road name changes to I-39 [US-51]
At exit 151, turn RIGHT onto Ramp
Turn LEFT (South-East) onto US-51 Bus [SR-54]
Road name changes to SR-54 [Post Rd]
Keep STRAIGHT onto SR-54
Keep STRAIGHT onto SR-54 [CR-K]
Keep STRAIGHT onto SR-54
Turn RIGHT (South) onto CR-Q
Turn LEFT (North) onto CR-QQ
Arrive King

Hotel Accommodations

The best deal for a motel/hotel is the Village Inn on Fulton Ave across from Culvers. Village Inn, 1060 W Fulton St., Waupaca, WI 54981 (715) 258-8526. The next best is the Best Western at the corner of Hwys 10 and 54. It is more expensive. Best Western, 110 Grand Seasons Dr., Waupaca, WI 54981 (715) 258-9212

Alonzo Cushing to be awarded Medal of Honor

By Kelly Smith
March 3, 2010

City of Delafield — Alonzo Cushing - one of four brothers for which an elementary school and city park are named for - will be posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for gallantry during the Battle of Gettysburg in which he was killed on July 3, 1863, according to U.S. Sen. Russ Feingold (D-Wisconsin).

Secretary of Army John McHugh notified Feingold's office last week that Cushing would receive the country's highest military honor, according to Matt Nikolay, veterans' affairs case worker and regional coordinator in Feingold's La Crosse office. Nikolay credited local historian Margaret Zerwekh with initiating a campaign seven years ago to have Cushing awarded the medal posthumously. Nikolay said several other constituents had also urged Feingold to recommend Cushing for the award. "It was a big surprise. It has been a slow process," Nikolay observed.

Margaret Zerwekh with Dept. Commander Kent Peterson in 2004

Zerwekh, who prepared the application submitted by Feingold, said the 22-year-old lieutenant deserved the medal because of his efforts to stall confederate forces during Pickett's Charge, despite being seriously wounded three times during the battle. She said she decided to seek the award on Cushing's behalf in 2003 after noticing that an organization honoring Civil War veterans was successfully gaining posthumous awards for other civil war heroes. The Congressional Medal of Honor was established in 1862, a year before Cushing's death. Of the 3,448 awards, 618 have been awarded posthumously.

Nikolay said he is not sure when and to whom the medal will be presented. The Army is seeking the nearest next of kin to Cushing. Zerwekh said there are no living family members. "I would like to see some kind of ceremony in Delafield," she said

Cushing was born in Delafield Township on Jan. 19, 1841. He was raised in Fredonia, N.Y., and was a graduate of West Point. His brother William was a Navy hero in the Civil War. Another brother, Howard, survived the Civil War and became a leading frontiersman. A fourth brother, Milton, served as a Navy paymaster. Cushing Park and Cushing Elementary School are named after the brothers.

Alonzo Cushing's 'A' Battery 4th US Artillery at the Bloody Angle on Cemetery Ridge.

C. K. Pier Badger Camp #1, Milwaukee

The 2010 Patriotic Luncheon was again a rousing success, with representatives from 41 hereditary and patriotic organizations in attendance. At right, Prof. James Marten delivered his presentation on "Lincoln Provides for the Veterans."

Member Orientation was again was hosted by Camp 1 and Auxiliary 4 at the VA Soldier's Home on Feb. 21. *Below*, left new members G.T. Regan (at left) and Jeff Lesar (far right) are joined by Paul Johnson of Camp 4. *Center*, PNP Danielle Michaels presented Auxiliary information and historical ephemera.

Henry Harnden Camp# 2, Madison

Civil War Ancestor Located

Bro. Fred Campbell of Camp 2 visited Jefferson Barracks on his way to the Lincoln Tomb ceremonies in Springfield recently. Fred reports that it was an emotional moment to be able to pay his respects to his long lost great-great Grandfather, Cpl. John Campbell. He relates, "I suspect I may be one of just a few of his descendants who have been able make the personal journey. It was quite an honor for me and something I never would have done had Alan Hembel not encouraged me to join the SUVCW 7 or 8 years ago." Campbell enlisted in Company C of the 2nd Wis. Calvary Regiment along with his oldest son Charles, who was 18 years old. He left behind 9 children ranging in age from 17 to 9 months. John died February 20, 1863 in the General Hospital at St. Louis, Mo., and was buried at Christ Church Cemetery, later re-interred at Jefferson Barracks.

At left, PCC Alan Hembel visits with General Robert Erffmeyer and his wife Helen. He has been a member of Camp #1 and also Wisconsin Commandery of MOLLUS.

Bro. Hembel stopped by to visit him after the Mid-Winter meeting on 6 February. The General is fine, albeit a bit forgetful and Helen was very pleased that we still remember him. His ancestor was in the 6th Wis., and accordingly part of the Iron Brigade.

ROTC Award Presentation

PCC Alan Hembel attended the US Army ROTC Military Ball and Awards Banquet at UW-Stout, Menomonie, Wis. on Saturday, March 6, 2010, where he presented an ROTC Award to Cadet Tasha Urban. She is the great-great granddaughter of John Jacob Urban of the 1st Ohio Light Artillery, Battery L during the Civil War. Tasha will be commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the US Army - Ordnance Officer on May 15, 2010. Her older sister, 1st LT Emily Urban will administer the oath to her.

The event included a banquette for The North Woods Battalion, followed by the awards ceremony and the awards, followed by a DJ dance for the cadets. At right, Bro. Hembel attended wearing a circa 1890-1910 GAR uniform that seemed to be quite interesting to all the attendees.

MG John Gibbon Camp # 4, Waukesha

USS Carondelet Ship's Company, which is comprised of Camp 2 and Camp 4 members, posed for a Daguerrotype-like photo recently.

Row 1—reclining, Craig Wheeler (Camp4), Bruce Mayhugh (Camp 2 Ill).

Row 2—Eric Theissen, Jon Theissen, Josh Schlapp, Bob Wetter (Camp2), Kevin Zimdars.

Row 3—Mitch Baker, Sam Marien, Alan Keinert (Camp 4), Bill Balgiger, Jim Craw (Camp 4), David Von Kannen, Paul Barnhardt.

Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing Camp #5, Saukville

Civil War Expo at the Germantown Library.

On Saturday March 6, 2010 Camp 5 and Cushing's Historical Association hosted our annual Civil War Expo. Those who attended include members of, Camp 8 SUVCW, Auxiliary #4, SVR unit *USS Carondolet*, Historical Timekeepers, Mr. Lincoln (Bob Rotgers), Tom Stotz, Sisters of the Compass Rose, Woman's Relief Corps, Rick Gross of the US topographical engineers, and Cushing's Battery.

This was our 3rd annual Expo in Germantown, and was considered by all participants a success. We plan on being there again next year.

C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP #1

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 Tom Brown at svc@suvcw-wi.org.

Editorial deadlines are April, July and October 15.

Visit us on the Web at

http://www.suvcw-wi.org

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: SVC THOMAS BROWN

DEPARTMENT CALENDAR

May 15	Armed Forces Day
May 30 May 31	Memorial Day—traditional Memorial Day Ceremonies in your community
June 12	SUVCW and ASUVCW Dept. Encampment, hosted by Camp 8 at King, Wis.
June 14	Flag Day
July 4	Independence Day
Aug. 12-15	129th Allied Orders National Encampment, Overland Park, Kansas
Sept. 11	Patriot's Day

Camp 5 News *(continued)*

Camp 5 at the Civil War Museum, Kenosha.
On January 30th & 31st Camp 5 and Cushing's Battery participated as interpreters at the Civil War museum. Our task was to interact with the museum guests. The questions asked could be about the ordnance, modern day re-enactor, Sons of Union Veterans, life during the Civil War, or any on a wide variety of topics. A coloring page of cannons, and Civil War word search were given out to the children. We were able to do some modified drilling to educate how the piece would be operated. Children were brought in to perform as cannoneers.

At right, Keith Knapp, PCC Tom Brown, PDC Ron Aronis, and PCC Dick Rohan around the Ames 6 pounder at the Civil War Museum.

Old Abe Camp # 8, Fox Cities

Camp Commander Kim Heltmes presents Brad Larson of the Oshkosh Public Museum a check for $500, with Kurtis Kirk, Alan Petit and Randy Novak.

Col, John Hancock Letters Preserved
Old Abe Camp 8 has pledged to help the Oshkosh Public Museum defray the costs involved with the Museum's purchase of the collection of some 140 letters written by Colonel John Hancock of the 14th Wisconsin to his wife, Jennie Reardon Hancock, from May of 1861 to Jan. 1863 – Col. Hancock wrote Jennie once a week and sometimes more, letters she carefully saved, tied in bundles with scraps of fabric and kept in a tin document box.

This very important collection cost the Museum dearly ~ Old Abe Camp 8 has done what we can to help financially. This is our second contribution for this good cause!

Copies of the Colonel Hancock letters are available for inspection and study online at the Oshkosh Public Museum's website – Scott Cross has transcribed a number of these, and it is very interesting reading. The Museum also offers pictures of CDVs and artifacts in their collection.