



THE DISPATCH

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Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
SUVCW

Commander's Column



Brothers,

I hope you all are having a good 2021

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, many Camps are meeting remotely via Zoom.

Several Camps have not met either in person or via Zoom in nearly a year.

These Camps need to make arrangements to keep in contact with their Brothers so the Camps don't wither on the vine, and die off.

Camps 4 and 15 will host an in person Department Encampment on June 5th at the Lafayette Church. in Elkhorn. W3465 Church Rd, Elkhorn, WI (County Road D and Hwy ES).

The National Installing Officer will be JVCinC Bruce Frail Registration will begin at 8 AM, with the meeting starting at 8:45

We are working on having a simultaneous Zoomcast as well. More on that will follow as we work out the details. We anticipate having the business conducted in the morning with a few short breaks.

After the business meeting we will meet at a local restaurant for lunch.

I have no idea what restrictions may still be in place by that time.

Please use your best discretion regarding mask wear and social distancing.

If you do not feel comfortable in a group setting, please stay home.

A crew has made molds of the Col. Heg statue in the Town of Norway, WI for the purpose of recasting a bronze head to replace the one torn off the Heg statue in Madison. Their estimated time for final repairs to the Madison statue is Fall 2021. It is hoped that the statue will then be placed back on it's pedestal next the State Capitol.

Work continues on the "Last Soldier Project" with PCC Bob Koenecke, DSVC John Decker, and me leading the marker installations. This Spring we will start the project back up and move toward completion in 2021. We are now at 80% complete in the State of Wisconsin. Minnesota has been researching their State and is making progress on their "Last Soldiers".

Thank you all for your work this past year.

I look forward to you continuing the efforts this year.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

Brian D. McManus

Commander

Obituaries
Kerry John Calba



As the sun rose on the morning of Wednesday, May 13th, 2020, Kerry John Calba passed away peacefully after a hard fought battle with ALS. Kerry was born on July 19, 1958 in Green Bay, Wisconsin and graduated from Southwest High School. He attended the University of Wisconsin- Eau Claire where he completed a degree in Geography and later attended NUTC earning a degree in Computer Science. On October 5, 1991, he married Carolyn Weber at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Green Bay, Wisconsin. He was employed at Bellin Health in the IT Department, retiring this past April after 35 years. Kerry passed away at Bellin Hospital, the place that was an essential part of his life, where he left a meaningful impact and formed many wonderful friendships. He was a lifelong sports fan, but was most passionate about the Green Bay Packers and the Minnesota Twins. He had a special interest in Civil War history through family connections, along with a love for trivia, taking part

in the Stevens Point Trivia Contest for over 30 years. One of his greatest joys was softball, and he loved both watching and coaching his daughters. He was the head of the Southwest Area Girls Softball League in Green Bay for many years and took pride in the ability to coach a sport he loved. He was an active member of the Green Bay Elks Lodge No. 259 and enjoyed volunteering in his church and community.

He will be deeply missed by his wife, Carolyn, daughters Kendall (Zachary) Lawson and Jacqueline Calba, mother and step-father, Gloria and Kenneth Krueger, brother Michael (Philomene) Calba, sister Mary Francois, and step siblings Sue (Chuck) Schrader and Kim (Ellen) Krueger. He will also be missed by Carolyn's family, with whom he shared a special bond, along with nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father and step-mother, Norval and Linda Calba. Due to the current restrictions, a private memorial service will be held, with a celebration of Kerry's life planned at a later date.

Memorial donations can be made in Kerry's name to the Wisconsin Chapter of the ALS Association and Southwest Area Girls Softball (SWAG).

"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened"- Dr. Seuss

Glenn Kiecker



Brother Glenn Kiecker, Past Junior Vice Commander and Camp Councilor for Colvill Camp 56, passed away on January 4, 2021 after a long battle with cancer. Glenn was 77 years old.

Brother Glenn became an associate member of Camp 56 in 2013 on the service record of his great great grand uncle Robinson Huartson of Co. A, 121st New York Infantry. Huartson lost his life on December 31, 1862 at White Oak Church, Virginia in service to the Union. Glenn's ancestors settled in the Fairfax, Minnesota area around the time of the Civil War and shortly thereafter.

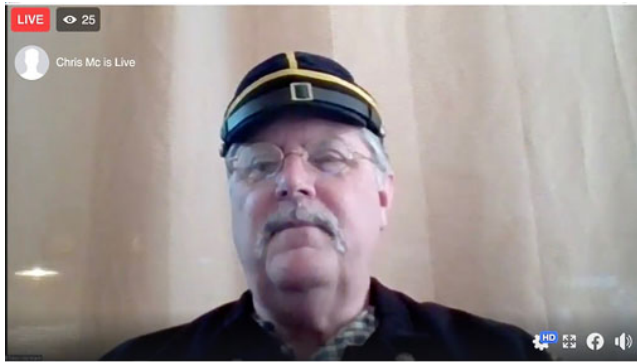
Glenn served Camp 56 in several roles in his time with the Sons. His particular strength was in assisting members and prospective members with genealogical research and he was an expert evaluator of applications for hereditary memberships. Glenn considered himself a professional genealogist, conducting research nearly every day of his life since 1985.

Glenn served our county in the United States Air Force from 1961-1964 and spent several years thereafter in the Army Reserve. His studies at the University of Minnesota, Duluth earned him degrees in accounting, business administration and economics. When he took a job in Minneapolis as an environmental officer, he furthered his studies at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis in Environmental Sciences and the emerging field of ecology. Glenn served the City of Minneapolis as its Environmental Officer in the 1970's and '80s. He spent some years as an independent financial advisor and a teacher in technical colleges offering classes in financial management and environmental sciences. Glenn has one daughter, Kathleen.

Glenn was an active Mason, joining several rites and lodges. He was also a member and two-term president of the Minnesota chapter of National Sojourners, an organization of Masons who are United States veterans.

Brother Glenn dedicated his retirement years to charitable causes, giving both his time and his money. He supported Minnesota Masonry through Minnesota Masonic Charities. He supported Feed My Starving Children and their efforts to provide basic nutrition around the world. Glenn gave resources of all kinds to Simon Says Give, a charity by children for children. And he regularly supported the Wounded Warrior Project, supporting the needs of United States veterans.

Camp 1



Today's speaker will be Dr. Trevor Steinbach of Illinois, a longtime Civil War medical re-enactor and author who will discuss illnesses in the Lincoln family and how they were treated, compared with modern techniques.

Trevor Steinbach, well-known Civil War medical speaker and re-enactor from Illinois, was the presenter for the videoconference event, displayed among silent auction items and a place to ask questions. The usual fine meal and fun raffle were not going to be possible this year, because of COVID, and neither was the networking that always is a highlight, but the Camp 1 team improvised – and carried the day with the Patriotic Function event on Feb. 6. The team decided to move the 51st annual Patriotic Luncheon to the web, get a primo speaker with web expertise, and seek voluntary donations toward Camp 1's tombstone preservation, educational work and more. The event drew a viewer in Germany, another in Texas and one more in Arizona. There were weekly meetings about the technical details, mapped by JVC Grant Johnson, PDC Kent Peterson and PCinC Steve Michaels. Chris McLean, the IT provider for Responsory, which is Johnson's Brookfield-based multichannel marketing agency, was vital in this planning and on the day of the event. McLean and Johnson provided a web hosting location, domain name and email hosting, and created a website exclusively for the event. They also worked with Peterson and Michaels to define the script and rehearsals for the presentation in an online format. McLean then worked with everyone to produce a live feed that integrated Zoom into an easy-to-view format for the viewers via the website and Facebook. A registration form was set up for the site to collect contact information for verification of viewing. They created a system for viewers to submit questions for the presenter. This, along with providing live support and production during the event for everyone, helped to create a "seamless integration of technology for the viewer," McLean said. The presentation was by Trevor Steinbach, well-known Civil War medical speaker and re-enactor

from Illinois. Steinbach examined illnesses in the nation and the Lincoln family and how they were treated, compared with modern techniques.

For the second year in a row, the Camp has had to cancel its Memorial Day commemoration, which would have been held on May 31 and attended by 400 or so people, led by Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome Listecki. Instead, it will have a small, private Decoration Day event on Sunday, May 30. This will be held at Calvary Cemetery, the same as always, and will continue our unbroken string of commemorations for Memorial Day. That began nearly a century ago, in 1927, and probably even before that. Some members of the First Brigade Band have offered to play several patriotic tunes. The entire band had been scheduled to appear at the larger event. We, of course, will be in masks, and socially distanced as required. The gathering is not being advertised beyond the SUVWCW. – Camp GRO Tom Ludka reported that at least nine more Civil War unmarked graves have been found at Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee; facts verified once the snow melted. Ludka and Marge Berres of the Woman's Relief Corps have been checking lists shared by other researchers. Ludka also said six more unmarked graves have been added at Calvary Cemetery; the total unmarked there is 77, but many of those 77 have no precise location, appearing only in general cemetery records. Camp 1 placed historical markers at each cemetery in recent years highlighting the large numbers of Civil war vets buried there. – The Camp looked back at its year of patriotic presentations at meetings, worthy of a history symposium. They ranged from a training manual for how to survive the sinking of a ship to when Irish Civil War vets invaded Canada to a surgeon's kit – from borers to bone saws – to the sad case of Maj. Henry Rathbone, witness to the assassination of Lincoln but who battled mental illness for decades



Camp 2

DANE COUNTY'S OTHER LAST SOLDIER



Camp #2 Officers (left to right) John Decker, Fred Campbell, Alan Hembel, and Tom Brodd at Mazomanie Cemetery for the Charles Moulton marker dedication. Photo by Scott Schable.

Camp #2 honored Mazomanie's Charles Moulton with the placement and dedication of a Last Soldier marker, as he was the last Union Civil War veteran to be buried in Dane County.



Often, but not always, the last veteran to be buried was the last surviving Civil War veteran in the county. Newspaper files and Civil War articles of the Wisconsin Historical Society show that Dr. Hervie A. Dobson was the last surviving Union Civil War veteran of Dane County. But he is buried elsewhere.



DR. HERVIE A. DOBSON

His is a unique story. Dobson was a resident of the Washington, D.C. area for most of his life, but his last years were spent in Madison, where he was the last surviving member of the Lucious Fairchild

Post #11 of the Grand Army of the Republic. Charles Moulton was his comrade in the Post. They, and a small handful of elderly members, drew newspaper attention due to their longevity, continued activity, and the knowledge that the Post would go out of existence upon the death of the last member.

An industrial accident before the Civil War resulted in the loss of one of Dobson's legs. He worked as a political reporter in the Capital, and claimed he was personally known by presidents Lincoln, Johnson, and Grant. He became an employee of the federal government, but it is unclear whether he was a member of the Secret Service.

Remarkably, despite his disability, he was mustered into the Regular Army during the Civil War and was assigned to the Veteran Reserve Corps as his first and only service. This service is confirmed by the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors Database of the National Park Service. After the war Dobson became a medical doctor, and practiced as such in the Washington, D.C. area, and later in Dane County. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery

Camp 2

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA PROGRAM DRAWS PARTICIPANTS NEAR AND FAR



Bro. Ben Hobbins (left) with SAR members Wm. Haines, Gary Bruton, and Ed Oehler. Photo credit: Coachella Valley Chapter, California SAR.

The Henry Harnden Camp has been a staunch supporter of the Wreaths Across American program, and has been a leader of the wreath placements and observances each December for the past twelve years at Madison's historic Forest Hill Cemetery.

While the coronavirus pandemic affected 2020's program, it went on with active participation of members of the public. Camp Commander Fred Campbell served as master of ceremonies for the programs at the Soldiers Rest section of the cemetery, and at Union Rest. Korean War veteran and Camp Patriotic Instructor William Raftery commanded the Honor Guard, and Camp Chaplain Tom Brodd delivered the invocation and benediction at both ceremonies.

With direction from the Daughters of the American Revolution, members of the public placed wreaths at the Veterans Monument at Soldiers Rest to honor members of each branch of the Armed Services and POW/MIA personnel. Members of the public also placed wreaths at individual gravestones in both sections of the cemetery. Volleys were fired by uniformed representatives of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Sons of the American Revolution, and by living historians depicting soldiers of WWII, WWI, more recent conflicts, the Civil War, and even the War of 1812.

WISC Channel 3 in Madison covered the event. Video and text are available on the Channel 3000 web site. Camp #2 was also represented by Bro. Ben Hobbins in the Wreaths Across America programs conducted at the Desert Memorial Park and Palm Springs National Military Cemetery in California. Bro. Hobbins is the Secretary of the Coachella Valley Chapter of the Son of the American Revolution

NEW CAMP OFFICERS ELECTED



New Camp Commander John Decker (right) at Memorial Day observances at Liberty Pole Hill Park, Town of Brooklyn, Green County, in 2010. Photo by Dan Wietecha

At the conclusion of the Wreaths Across America programs on December 12, Henry Harnden Camp #2 conducted its annual meeting of members. A new slate of officers, nominated at the Camp's November meeting, was elected by unanimous vote.

The Camp officers elected were Commander John Decker, Senior Vice Commander Tom Brodd, Junior Vice Commander Ben Hobbins, and Secretary-Treasurer Alan Hembel. Bro. Decker is a recent graduate of the SUVCW's Memorial University officer training program.

The new Camp Council members are Fred Campbell, William Raftery, and Scott Schable. The Council serves as our audit committee and board of directors, and appoints officers in the event of a mid-term vacancy.

Incoming Commander Decker announced that he will appoint the following non-elective Camp Officers: Patriotic Instructor William Raftery, Chaplain Tom Brodd, Graves Registration Officer Scott Schable, Historian John Decker, Civil War Memorials officer John Decker, Eagle Scout Coordinator Ben Hobbins, and Signals Officer Fred Campbell.

In other business, Brothers of Camp #2 unanimously recommended the restoration of the rank and designation of Past Camp Commander to Bro. Bill Parker, who recently transferred from Camp #8 to our Camp. Inter-camp transfers automatically cause loss of rank, but restoration is permitted on recommendation of the new home Camp and approval by subsequent Department Encampment. Bro. Alan Hembel was congratulated on the award of the rank and designation of Past Department Commander in recognition of his more than ten consecutive years' service as Department of Wisconsin Treasurer.

Other Camp #2 members serving at the Department level are Department Senior Vice Commander John Decker and Department Council Member Fred Campbell. Bro. Campbell now has the rank and designation of Past Camp Commander, and congratulations from the News for his outstanding leadership during his now-completed terms of office.

All officers and council members were formally installed by Department of Wisconsin Commander Brian McManus at the Camp's January 16, 2021 meeting, which was held as a combined in-person and Zoom meeting.

Camp 2

THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER- HERO OF TWO NATIONS

Born August 3, 1823 in Waterford, Ireland, son of a successful merchant, Meagher was educated in Roman Catholic and Jesuit schools. He developed oratorical skills which later distinguished him as a leader in the Irish nationalist movement.

In 1844 he joined the Repeal Association which sought to repeal the Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland.

In 1848 he returned from France after studying that country's revolution. With him he brought the first Irish Tricolor flag. Continuing his efforts for Irish freedom he joined the Young Irish Rebellion of 1848 for which he and others were tried for sedition. The insurgents were sentenced to death, but the sentences were commuted to penal servitude in Australia.

Escaping from exile in 1852 he arrived in New York City where he studied law and established the Irish News, a weekly paper dedicated to Irish nationalist issues.

After the shots were fired on Fort Sumter, Meagher recruited what became Company K of the 69th Regiment of New York Militia. The 69th fought at Bull Run, where its first commander was captured and Meagher assumed command.

He returned to New York to rally the Irish to the Union cause and to expand the Irish military commitment.

Through his efforts Secretary of War Simon Cameron authorized formation of the Irish Brigade. At first the Brigade included the 63rd, the 88th, and the 69th New York.

A non-Irish unit, the 29th Massachusetts was added, but after Antietam was replaced by the mostly Irish 28th Massachusetts. Meagher went on to lead the Brigade to distinguished service at numerous engagements at which the Brigade suffered heavy losses. At the Battle of Antietam, the Brigade led an attack on Bloody Lane where it lost 540 men and Meagher's horse was shot.

Following the Battle of Fredericksburg, which the Brigade entered with 1200, only 240 mustered the next morning. After the Battle of Chancellorsville Meagher requested permission to return to New York to raise

replacements because the Brigade was down to a few hundred effectives. His request was refused but Meagher was promoted to Brigadier General.

He served in mostly administrative posts for the balance of the war. After the war Meagher was appointed Secretary of the Territory of Montana and soon designated Acting Governor.

His term was troubled by political wrangling and his attempt to gain support for a State constitution and statehood failed to gain support.

On July 1, 1867 on a trip to Fort Benton he fell overboard from a steamboat and was never recovered. Meagher is remembered in both of "his countries" by a statue at the Montana State Capitol and a similar statue in Waterford, Ireland near his boyhood home. –

- William Raftery



Irish Brigade Monument at Antietam National Military Park. Photo by John Decker

Sources; A History of Ireland, Peter & Fiona Somerset Fry Wikipedia. Thomas Francis Meagher Wikipedia. The Irish Brigade (Union Army)

Camp 15



This is a picture of Col. Hans C. Heg, the namesake of Camp #15, on horseback before the battle of Chickamauga, the 1863 fight in northern Georgia where Heg was killed. Ironically, Heg was on horseback leading The picture is from Robert N. Halsted, a great-great nephew of Heg who lives in Monroe, Wis. Halsted, who is 93 and lives in a retirement home, provided Camp #15 with the picture of Heg on horseback as well as half a dozen other pictures, including one of Heg's home in Waterford, Wis., and the home of Heg's parents in Wind Lake, Wis.

The painting of Heg on horseback is by the well-known Norwegian-American artist Herbjorn Nilson Gausta, noted for recording Norwegian immigrant life in his paintings.

Heg was the highest-ranking Wisconsin officer killed in the Civil War. On the eve of the battle of Chickamauga, Heg's commanding officer was ready to pin the star of a brigadier general on Heg for his skillful handling of both regimental and then brigade commands in the war.

When the Civil War broke out, Heg, a rising political figure in the Muskego settlement in Norway Township in Racine County, Wisconsin, raised a regiment for the Union, the 15th Wisconsin Infantry, famous as the "Norwegian Regiment" because so many sons of Norway joined up.

At the battle of Chickamauga in northern Georgia in September 1863, Heg was everywhere in the thick of

the fighting, on horseback, waving his hat, urging his soldiers to follow him forward. Heg's men begged him to dismount – an officer on horseback was a prime target. Heg refused and finally a Rebel bullet struck him in the abdomen, and he died a day later.

Heg's great-great nephew, Robert N. "Bob" Halsted, is descended from Sophia Heg Halsted, Col. Heg's sister. Sophia lived with Heg's wife, Gunild, and his young family in their home in Waterford, Wis., when Col. Heg went off to war.

Our Caps Are Off to Brother Jon Rupp

Brother Jonathon F. Rupp, the Monroe, Wis., member of Camp #15, donated another \$100 in March to help pay for the restoration of the camp's Lafayette Church. That brings Brother Jon's total donations to the Lafayette Church restoration fund to \$700 in the last six months.



Our collective caps are off to you, Brother Jon. Your generosity and your dedication to the cause of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is an example for all of us to follow.

Brother Jon is 72 and works as a sample coordinator at Colony Brands in Monroe, the Green County seat. In Green County, Brother Jon is known as "Mr. Civil War" for the work he has done over the years identifying some 2,000 Green County men who served in the Civil War. Brother Jon's research helped finish the "Wall of Honor" veterans memorial in Green County.

Brother Jon also helped us in January when he made contact with Robert N. "Bob" Halsted, a great-great nephew of our Col. Hans C. Heg. Bob Halsted lives in a retirement home in Monroe and through the local library, Brother Jon met Bob. Through that contact, Camp #15 was able to obtain from Mr. Halsted a copy of a magnificent color painting of Heg on horseback before the battle of Chickamauga in northern Georgia in 1863, as well as photos of Heg's home in Waterford, Wis., and the home of Heg's parents in Wind Lake, Wis.

Mr. Jonathon F. Rupp, all the brothers in Camp #15 say thank you, brother.

Camp 15



Hanging in the home of Camp #15's Bob Koenecke is a chalk drawing of G. Edward Fuller, one of the forty-seven soldiers still standing after the 262 men in the First Minnesota Infantry Regiment charged close to two-thousand Rebels at Gettysburg.

The charge decimated the First Minnesota – 215 men lay dead or wounded afterwards. But the charge saved the day for the Union army – and likely the three-day battle itself, the turning point in the Civil War.

The heroic charge of the First Minnesota at Gettysburg is an amazing story – and almost as amazing is the story of G. Edward Fuller and how the chalk drawing of Fuller ended up with Brother Koenecke.

The son of a prominent Michigan banker and businessman, Fuller ran away from home at age 15, traveled across two states and on April 29, 1861, two weeks after the Rebels fired on Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, joined the First Minnesota Infantry Regiment in Hastings, Minnesota.

Fuller enlisted under the alias Edward L. Wood, apparently hoping to avoid detection should his well-to-do father send detectives to locate him. Fuller did well in the First Minnesota, serving as a private and then promoted corporal in the regiment's Co. H. Two years into the war, the First Minnesota marched onto the battlefield at Gettysburg – and into history.

Late on the second day at Gettysburg, the First Minnesota was positioned in reserve in the middle of the long Union line that stretched from Cemetery Hill, just south of the village of Gettysburg, down along Cemetery Ridge to Little Round Top three miles away. Close to two-thousand Rebels were coming at a trot toward a gap in that Union line and panicked troops were fleeing to the rear but the First Minnesota stood fast.

Union General Winfield Scott Hancock was desperate – he needed five minutes to bring up reinforcements to plug the hole. Spotting the First Minnesota, Hancock pointed at the Confederate flag flying over the long line of advancing Rebels and shouted at the regiment's commander, "Charge those lines!"

To a man, the 262 men in the First Minnesota charged with leveled bayonets – and in twenty-three minutes of fighting, were shot to pieces. Two-hundred and sixty-two men made the charge – afterwards, two-hundred and fifteen of those men lay dead or wounded on the battlefield, an 82 percent casualty rate, the highest casualty rate of any Union regiment in the Civil War.

But the First Minnesota had stopped the Rebels long enough for Gen. Hancock to bring up reinforcements.

One of the wounded was Corporal G. Edward Fuller, one of only twelve men standing in his Co. H. Fuller was promoted on the spot to sergeant.

After the war, Fuller lived a long, colorful life, merchandising coffee, tea and spices in Chicago and serving as a food expert and judge at two world fairs where he rubbed shoulders with the rich and famous, including Chicago meat-packing tycoon Philip Danforth Fuller, who became a personal friend.

By the turn of the century in 1900, Fuller was traveling the world as a coffee, tea and spices merchant, collecting books and information on the foods of the countries he visited. Fuller died in 1928 at the age of 83. Fuller's papers, books, and other memorabilia – including a chalk drawing of himself in his sergeant's uniform on the battlefield at Gettysburg – passed on to his granddaughter.

That granddaughter, Ann Chubb Fuller, was an unmarried schoolteacher in Evanston, Illinois who lived with another unmarried schoolteacher, Edna Schulze. After Ann Fuller's death, her personal effects – including her grandfather's papers – passed on to Schulze. Schulze, in turn, was an aunt of Camp #15's Bob Koenecke, and after her death, Schulze's personal effects – including G. Edward Fuller's papers and chalk drawing – eventually came to Brother Koenecke. And the rest, as they say, is history.



Camp 15



The city of Muskego burned off Luther Parker Cemetery on Sunday, March 21, 2021. Camp #15's chaplain, Jerry Coveney, was on hand to photograph the burn-off which took about an hour and a half, says Chaplain Jerry.

Still unclear is how much damage the flames are doing to fragile, 150-year-old marble and granite tombstones. One geology expert says the flames and heat from repeated burnings will, over time, degrade the rock structure of tombstones. Muskego is now at least letting Camp #15 Commander Gerry Drought and his fellow camp brothers clean the graves of the more than thirty relatives Commander Gerry has buried at the cemetery, including the last resting places of three Civil War soldiers.

The city of Muskego refuses to mow the cemetery, calling the half-acre graveyard a plant sanctuary for wild flowers and native prairie grasses. That means tall grass and weeds cover the sixty or more graves in the cemetery. The only maintenance done by the city is an annual burn-off which has been performed intermittently over the past two decades.

Camp #15 sued the city to enforce a state law that requires the graves of veterans to be maintained with "proper and decent care." The camp lost the lawsuit two years ago when a judge ruled, in effect, that the city of Muskego was immune from such lawsuits and could determine itself what was proper and decent care.

Camp 56

Camp 56 has been asked by Major Sullivan Ballou Camp #3 of the Department of Rhode Island to plan and conduct a gravestone dedication for Civil War veteran George Woodruff at Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis. The date for this ceremony has been set for April 17. George Woodruff is an ancestor of Ballou Camp 3 member Laurie Woodruff.

The Camp has been asked by the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, a reenactment organization, to conduct a gravestone dedication ceremony at St. Mary's Cemetery in Minneapolis in May or June. The ceremony will honor Michael Shay, an 1861 member of the First Minnesota who transferred to the U.S. Cavalry in late 1862.

A gravestone dedication ceremony is being planned for this summer or fall at Arkansaw Memorial Cemetery in Arkansaw, Wisconsin. The veteran being honored is Moses Basil Bashaw, Co. G, 53rd New York Infantry. This will be the second gravestone dedication in this cemetery conducted by Camp 56, the first one being the dedication of new stone for John Furnia of Co. I, 60th New York Infantry in October 2018.

A standard procedure for the Last Soldier project for Camp 56 is being put together now. The Camp has started conducting research for Ramsey and Hennepin Counties and will begin the project with one of those counties as soon as research and planning allow.

Wisconsin Department Commanders

By PCinC Steve Michaels



John F. Smith 1909-1910

John F. Smith, a traveling salesman from Bloomer (Chippewa County), was elected Department Commander at the June 1909 Dept. Encampment, held in Eau Claire. Br. Smith had helped reorganize Bloomer's Sons Camp as Gen. Lucius A. Fairchild Camp #15 on February 7, 1903 and served as its commander. The Camp was formed to support of the town's Nathaniel P. Lyons GAR Post 147. Terms on the Dept. Council in 1906-07 and as Dept. Sr. Vice Commander in 1907-08 followed. Smith was born Johann Fred Schmidt to German immigrants Johann Friederich and Elizabeth (Papenhagen) Schmidt, the oldest son of ten surviving children. Johann, Sr. had served as a private in Co. D, 44th Wisconsin Infantry from September 1864 to July 1865. The unit took part in the Battle of Nashville and provided garrison and guard duty at Nashville and Paducah, Kentucky. The younger Johann was born in Watertown on October 17, 1864, while his father was serving in the Army. Later, the family anglicized its name to "Smith." Br. Smith married Augusta Wilhelmina Kruse of Hubbleton (Jefferson County) on May 17, 1888. They had five children, three of which survived to adulthood: Eva Dorothy Schnoor (1890-1957), Leticia Louise Erickson (1895-1962), and Rollin Detain (1901-1937). They raised one foster daughter, Dolores. The Smith family resided in Appleton, Sun Prairie, Meredosia, Illinois, and Duluth before settling in Bloomer in 1899. There he clerked in a store for a year before becoming a traveling salesman. Camps were instituted at Amherst (A.J. Smith Camp #3) on December 3, 1909; Appleton (W.H. Chilson Camp #30) on December 15th; Platteville (James A. Garfield Camp #9) on /January 11th 1910; Plainfield (R.H. Ruscom Camp #4) on March 25th; and Clinton (Lincoln Camp #6) on April 29th. Additionally, DC

Despite his efforts and the new Camps, Department membership varied little between 1908 and 1911. However, this attention to the Order's membership helped minimize the impact of the Panic of 1907. CD Smith presided over the 1910 Dept. Encampment, held in Fond du Lac. After his term as Department Commander, Smith served on the Camp #15 Council. His father passed away in 1912, which took his attention away from Sons activities. The Camp soon fell on hard times. Camp #15 was suspended and reinstated in both 1914 and 1915. It was reorganized in 1924, but finally disbanded in 1928 when Post 147 went dark. PDC Smith was a member of the United Brethren Church and was an active member of Bloomer's Odd Fellows Lodge 151. And interestingly, he raised chickens, competing in his community's poultry shows, beginning with the first one in 1912. He regularly took several awards. In the 1918 show, benefiting the Red Cross, he took 1st place in white shelled eggs! After he suffered a stroke on one of his sales trips, he was brought home, where he suffered a second, which proved fatal. He died March 12, 1932 and was buried in the Bloomer City Cemetery, where his wife was buried the preceding October. During the service, music was provided by the male quartet that Br. Smith was a member of. Written by PCinC Steve Michaels with research assistance from PDC Kent Peterson Information Sources: Press Forward the Good Work: The History of the Wisconsin Dept SUVCW (Vol. 2) by PCinC Stephen A. Michaels (1998) Ancestry.com Eau Claire Leader-Telegram, March 16, 1932 Roster of Wisconsin Volunteers in the War of Rebellion, 1861-1865, Adjutant General, 1868



Members in Action

As Son of Union Veterans we have always held our American Soldiers in high regards, they are our hero's, our past, and our future. Military collectors are the same way; every soldier has a story to tell through the artifacts they have left behind. What collectors do with their collections well that's they're own business, with me for the past 10 years I have displayed mine at the South Wood County Historical Museum in Wisconsin Rapids Wisconsin, my hometown. For me it an opportunity for me to show and educate others on our nations past and if possible maybe get a someone interested in history as well.

My connection to the South Wood County Historical Museum came in 2011, kind of funny actually by attending my 10 year high school reunion. It was a camping trip and as a civil war re-enactor I took my period tent. One of my classmates told the museum administrator about it and told them about the re-enactments they were looking for an American Civil War display and was wondering if could help. I did and for the first 3 years displayed things pertained to the American Civil War in our feature gallery.

Beginning in 2015 I have been relegated to smaller display on the second floor of the building but have 4 display cases to feature anything I want to from all wars.

This year 2021 marks a major display change for pretty much everything has been changed out normally the only thing I change is in one display witch I call the feature uniform display case. This year we are featuring the military uniform of Kathi Havitz a local business leader who was one of the first combat trained lady Marines, who rose to the rank of sergeant has deployed overseas to Okinawa and South Korea and served with FMF Atlantic in the G-3 operations section during the Grenada operations.

Another case is my World War 1 case which features the uniform of Corporal A. J. LaPelle of the 500th Aero Squadron, patched jacket; painted gasmask bag and overseas hat are on display. Along with that an item belonging to local Dr Francis Pomainville including his painted helmet photos and a syringe he used to vaccinate soldiers this is from the museum archives almost everything else is from my private collection. The other 2 cases I have pretty much fee hand to display what I want to and feature hats, medal, dog tags, and uniforms from all era, but I would like to point of 3 things my dog tag shelf has a dog tag to a Pearl Harbor veteran as well as a World War 2 1st Infantry division Silver star dog tag, a Vietnam officers uniform grouping belonging to LTC Hillyer a USAF veteran from Rome Wisconsin, and a shelf dedicated to UW Madison ROTC from Spanish American War through World War 2. For those wishing to explore the South Wood County Historical our open season begins Memorial Day weekend Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 1-4 pm and runs through Labor

day weekend. Our 2 biggest weekends though are the first 2 full weekends in December which is our Christmas Tree Walk. For the Past 3 of 4 years I have done tree featuring military patches dog tags and photographs. Although cancelled in 2020 it will be back for 2021 and I have a special WW1 uniform tree planned for that. For hours and museum information please check out our facebook South Wood County Historical Museum.

William Parker

Military Historian South Wood County Historical Museum

Henry Harnden Camp 2 – Madison

Display case 1



Display case 2



Display case 3



Kathi Havitz Marine Corps uniform, one of the first combat trained marines

**Wisconsin ROTC top shelf dog tag shelf with the Pearl Harbor veteran
s dog tag 3rd shelf Ivan Tenpas grouping Lt
Bottom Colonel Hillyer USAF Vietnam
grouping**

**World war 1 case kids can see what's in a
gas mask bag bottom shelf next to the
uniform of Corporal A. J. Labella 500th aero
squadron top shelf has a world war 1 Purple
Heart grouping with the soldiers dog tag and
middle shelf few items belonging to Dr
Frances Pomainville**

Members in Action (cont.)



Few world war 2 visors top shelf 2 shelf world war 1 through Vietnam holiday menus and cards 3rd shelf world war 2 era trench art include a mess kit lid from CCC camp petenwell bottom shelf is naval items including Admiral Charles S. Abbotts' naval academy coat



Lt Colonel Hillyer USAF Vietnam grouping



Middle shelf few items belonging to Dr Frances Pomainville

Trivia

Where was the nation's first Soldiers Home located?

In 1865 near end of the war, President Lincoln signed an act creating the National Asylum (later changed to Home) for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers. The Eastern Branch, at Togus, Maine, was the first to open, in November 1866. The Milwaukee Soldiers Home (first named the Northwestern Branch) and another at Dayton, Ohio (Central Branch), opened the next year. The facilities were for soldiers who were disabled through loss of limb, wounds, disease or injury.

More about Togus at <https://www.benefits.va.gov/togus/history.asp>

What health term coined during the war still exists today?

The term 4-F originated in the Civil War and was used to disqualify Army recruits who did not have four front teeth with which to tear open gunpowder packages. Naturally, a "code" was needed to designate why the registrant was unfit for service. So the Army came up with: 4-F (lacks 4 Front Teeth).

See <http://directionsindentistry.net/?s=4-f> &

<http://www.ora-band.com/blog/dental-health-care-during-the-us-civil-war/>

Why were women a priority at ammunition plants?

The U.S. Army Ordnance Corps says this was because of the contemporary perception that a woman's nimble and petite fingers worked better at assembling paper rifle cartridges. In the Allegheny Arsenal explosion in Pennsylvania on Sept. 17, 1862, the same day as the battle of Antietam, 78 workers were killed – 71 of them women.

See <https://goordnance.army.mil/history/ORDhistory.html> and

<https://www.historynet.com/explosion-at-the-allegheny-arsenal.htm>

What were some treatment methods used by doctors?

For bowel complaints, open bowels were treated with a plug of opium. Closed bowels were treated with the infamous "blue mass" – a mixture of mercury and chalk. Camp itch could be treated by ridding the body of the pests or with poke-root solution. Much more at

<https://ehistory.osu.edu/exhibitions/cwsurgeon/cwsurgeon/introducti on>

What were a glacis and a loophole?

These involve fortifications. A glacis was a gentle slope leading up to the ditch in front of the fortification – created to prevent attackers from having cover while approaching the ditch. A loophole was an opening in the fortification through which small arms could be fired.

More at <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/glossary-fortification-terms>

What kinds of conditions did soldier eye surgeons treat at places like the Eye and Ear Infirmary in Washington, D.C.?

Among many other cases, a splinter perforated the cornea and wounded the lens of a soldier from Maine. The splinter and fragments of crystalline were extracted, and "protruding parts of iris excised. Form of eye well-preserved but vision lost." Others had ophthalmia, which was an inflammation of the eye, especially of its membranes or external structures.

See <https://www.civilwarmed.org/surgeons-call/eye-surgeon>



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

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

Henry Harnden Camp 2 - Madison
Commander: [John Decker](#)
Henry Harnden Auxiliary 2

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

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

Hans Heg Camp 15
Meeting @ 7 P.M. 1st Thursday, monthly
Commander: [Gerry Drought](#)
L.G. Armstrong 49 – Boscobel
Meetings @ 7 P.M. 3rd Thursday, monthly
Commander: [Charles Griesel](#)

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

	
Dept. Commander	Brian D. McManus, PDC commander@sucw-wi.org
Sr. Vice Commander	John R. Decker svc@sucw-wi.org
Jr. Vice Commander	Sam Keith jvc@sucw-wi.org
Council 1	Jeffrey M. Graf, PDC council1@sucw-wi.org
Council 2	Fred Campbell council2@sucw-wi.org
Council 3	Robert F. Koenecke, PCC council3@sucw-wi.org
Secretary	Brian Peters, PDC secretary@sucw-wi.org
Treasurer	Alan Hembel, PCC treasurer@sucw-wi.org
Patriotic Instructor	Rich Kallan pi@sucw-wi.org
Graves Registration Officer	Thomas S. Mueller, PCC gro@sucw-wi.org
Department Genealogist	PDC Jeff Graf council1@sucw-wi.org
Eagle Scout Coordinator	Sam Keith scouts@sucw-wi.org
ROTC Award Coordinator	David D. Daley rotc@sucw-wi.org
Iron Brigade Hwy Officer	Robert F. Koenecke, PCC highway@sucw-wi.org
Last Soldier Project Officer	Robert F. Koenecke, PCC lastsoldier@sucw-wi.org
Civil War Memorials	Robert F. Koenecke, PCC memorials@sucw-wi.org
Chaplain	Gerry Drought chaplain@sucw-wi.org
Counselor	Kent Peterson, PDC counselor@sucw-wi.org
Historian	Bruce Laine, PDC historian@sucw-wi.org
Camp Organizer	Kim Heltemes organizer@sucw-wi.org
Guide	David D. Daley guide@sucw-wi.org
Color Bearer	Robert J. Mann, PCC guard@sucw-wi.org
Signals Officer	Kent Peterson, PDC webmaster@sucw-wi.org
<i>Officers were elected at the 13 June 2020 Department Encampment at Boscobel, Wis. and will serve until the 2021 Department Encampment.</i>	

[Department Facebook Page](#)



SUVCW

NOTICE

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johnson@newnorth.net

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