



# THE DISPATCH

SPRING 2022

PUBLISHED BY SUVCW DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

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Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

SUVCW

Brothers,



Greetings from Alaska where I am on an extended family vacation celebrating among other things the 50th anniversary of my days working as a Brakeman on the Alaska Railroad.

I refer you to Department Orders No. 3, found on the "What's New" page of the Department web page. It details the various approaching deadlines for submission of reports and nominations, which I won't repeat here.

We also have a flurry of events coming up this spring. The following dates and times are set, and I will give highlights as of the March 5th deadline for this edition of the Dispatch.

Saturday, April 16, 10:00 AM, 66th Annual Lincoln Tomb Observance, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, IL; 12:30 PM, Observance Luncheon, President Lincoln Hotel, Springfield, IL; 3:30 PM, Dr. Benjamin Stephanson Memorial Ceremony, Rosehill Cemetery, Petersburg, IL.

Wednesday, April 27. 6:00 PM reception, 7:00 PM dinner, 200th Anniversary of the Birth of President Ulysses S. Grant, Union League Club, New York City. Contact Department Recruiting Officer Ben Hobbins for further information.

Late April-Early May, Waupaca County Last Soldier dedication ceremony, TBD, King and Waupaca

Saturday, May 14, rain or shine, 10:00 AM, La Crosse County Last Soldier dedication ceremony, Fairview Cemetery, Bangor, WI; noon, Monroe County Last Soldier dedication ceremony, Woodlawn Cemetery, Sparta, WI.

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**All stories and pictures should be sent to the Newsletter Editor: [johhnson@newnorth.net](mailto:johhnson@newnorth.net)**

General Order#7 Revised, Series 2021-2022, & March 2022 Individuals attending events hosted by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, by virtue of their attendance, agree to the usage of their likeness in the Banner, any Camp or Department Newsletter, any SUVCW website and/or on any Social Media outlet, promotional brochures, or any other SUVCW material  
General Order#7 Revised, Series 2021-2022, & March 2022

Sunday, May 15, rain or shine, 1:00 PM, Ramsey County Last Soldier dedication ceremony, Union Cemetery, Maplewood, MN.

Sunday, May 29, rain or shine, 1:00 PM, Statue of Col. Hans C. Heg re-education ceremony, King Street entrance and walkway, State Capitol grounds, Madison, WI. Sponsored by Department of Wisconsin, SUVCW, Henry Harden Camp #2, SUVCW, Wisconsin Veterans Museum, and the Madison Veterans Council.

Governor Evers and Assembly Speaker Vos to represent the State of Wisconsin.

Edvard Grieg Men's Chorus of Stoughton, WI and 1st Brigade Band of Watertown, WI to perform.

Public invited. Contact PCC Fred Campbell for updates.

Monday, May 30, various locations and times, Memorial Day observances. Contact Camp Commanders for details.

Saturday, June 4, 9:00 AM, Department Annual Encampment, Wisconsin Veterans Museum, 30 W. Mifflin Street, Madison, WI. CIC Mike Paquette will attend. Contact Host Camp Commander Tom Brodd for further information.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Department Commander John Decker



Trivia's from camp 1

**Q:** What was a tompion?

**A:** Also spelled tampion, it was an iron or brass stopper that fit in the muzzle of artillery pieces and small arms, to protect the bore from weather or foreign materials. On larger guns, the tompions have been made from wood. See many other terms at <http://www.civilwarartillery.com/glossary/glossary.htm>

**Q:** What problem did Robert E. Lee spot while proofreading U.S. Grant's draft of the surrender document at Appomattox?

**A.** A missing word. One sentence said, "... not to take up arms against the government of the United States until properly and each company or regimental commander sign ...." Lee asked whether Grant had inadvertently missed using the word "exchanged," after "until properly," and Grant readily agreed. This is on page 491 of "Lee," a 1991 condensation of a four-volume work by Douglas Southall Freeman.

**Q:** What was remarkable about the 23rd Ohio Infantry?

**A:** It had two future presidents of the United States: Lt. Col. Rutherford B. Hayes and Sgt. William McKinley. Hayes was 39 when he was seriously wounded at South Mountain, Md., in September 1862, and McKinley was 19 at that time. Hayes was president from 1877 to 1881 and McKinley from 1897 to 1901, when he was assassinated.



## Camp 1

### Camp 1 roundup, with photos from luncheon



The 52nd Annual Patriotic Luncheon returned to being an in-person event, with a presentation by President Abraham Lincoln (Max Daniels).

At the Feb. 5 event in Wauwatosa, Lincoln spoke about constitutional conundrums during his time: the right to secede, provisions to put down a rebellion, the writ of habeas corpus, the Emancipation Proclamation, the 13th, 14th and 15th Amendments, and much

more.

It was a “wow” day all around, with the presentation, seeing old friends for the first time in two years, fine food and of course the fundraising raffle.

Daniels’ spouse, Donna, was the keynoter at the 2019

Patriotic Luncheon, discussing “My Side of the Story – Mrs. Lincoln on the first lady’s much maligned image.”

Their website is

<http://abeandthebabe.com>

It says: “Max and Donna have an extensive background in community theatre and have been portraying Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln professionally since 1988. They are past vice presidents of the National Association of Lincoln Presenters and have received its awards for ‘Best Abraham,’ ‘Best Mary,’ ‘Best Abraham and Mary Lincoln Team,’ and ‘Lincoln Legend.’”

They have performed at the Lincoln Home Visitor Center in Springfield, Ill., and at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. They participate in Memorial Day ceremonies at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

They are attractions at Civil War Reenactments throughout the Midwest and make appearances at schools, libraries, and other organizations.

A second man is getting a tombstone from Camp 1 via a long and noble trail extending back to a soldier who was wounded and captured at Gettysburg, Pvt. John Afton of the 7th Michigan Cavalry.

Afton died at the Milwaukee Soldiers Home in 1871 and was the first man buried at what is now Wood National Cemetery. The Camp honored him last May, and several descendants from his hometown of Grand Rapids and elsewhere gladly attended.

They gave the Camp a generous donation, and it now has used it twice to honor soldiers who share his background.

The first is Pvt. Claude Oellrich of the 9th Michigan Infantry, who died in 1888 and was buried at Calvary Cemetery. His stone finally should arrive this spring. Oellrich was from Grand Rapids, the same city as Afton. Oellrich died at age 62, and is buried a short walk from Afton; Calvary is next to Wood.

The second man getting a stone will be Pvt. Carl Scherer of the 26th Wisconsin Infantry, who was wounded at Gettysburg and received a disability discharge three months later. Scherer, of Milwaukee, died in 1886 at age 49 and was buried at Forest Home Cemetery – and has been a blank spot in the grass ever since.

His status recently was discovered by another researcher; he told Brother Tom Ludka and Marge Berres of the Woman’s Relief Corps, they confirmed it – and the Camp acted in double-time fashion.

Scherer enlisted on Aug. 20, 1862, and served in Company C of the 26th. The regiment’s story was told thoroughly in the 1998 book “The Sigel Regiment: A History of the 26th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, 1862-1865,” by James S. Pula.

PCC Tom Mueller marked a full decade as editor of the Camp Orders, which a few years ago earned its third national Marshall Hope Newsletter of the Year Award. He was a mere JVC in January 2012 for his first issue, but also a longtime veteran of news publishing. Mueller has researched and written stories galore for the newsletter, several of which became Camp events.



## **Camp 1**

### **Camp 1's patriotic presentations run the gamut of topics**

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Camp 1's long tradition of wide-ranging and sometimes unique patriotic presentations was stronger than ever in 2021, adding to our general knowledge and to Milwaukee's annals of history.

**January:** The Grand Army's Grand Legacy in Wisconsin, rippling across areas of society including schools and housing for veterans.

**February:** The return of Old Glory to Fort Sumter in 1865.

**March:** Boston Corbett, the soldier who killed John Wilkes Booth.

**April:** Michigan cavalry Pvt. John Afton, the first man buried at Wood National Cemetery, and how he was wounded and captured in Custer's charge at Gettysburg.

**May:** South Carolina cadets and U.S. Marines in the war.

**June:** The Burnside carbine.

**July:** Touring the remodeled Building 1 and Old Main at the Milwaukee Soldiers Home.

**August:** Cataloging the seven Civil War historical markers in Milwaukee, erected between 1972 and 2018. Three of the seven were erected by the Camp.

**September:** Wisconsin and the presidential election of 1860.

**October:** Drummers, their music and field maneuvers.

**November:** Spying and scouting.

**December:** How some current Camp members had relatives in the very same regiments as the 1901 Camp founders, such as in the 4th Wisconsin Cavalry, 1st Infantry (3 months), 6th Infantry and more.



## Camp 2

### National Prayer Ceremony Memorial 5 Sept 2021 in Indio, CA



John Bell Chapter, Madison, WI  
Junior Ashley-Anne Hobbins  
Organizer, Coordinator



Photo courtesy of Riverside Sheriff's Association



Photo courtesy of Riverside Sheriff's Association



## Camp 2

250<sup>th</sup> Proud America Days Independence Day© America's 1<sup>st</sup> Veterans Liberty Tree©!!



## Camp 2

The NFALTP July 4<sup>th</sup> event was conducted with involvement of local govt officials of the Village of Oregon (Wis.), the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, Allied Orders of the SUVCW, Madison Veterans Council leadership, chaplain, firing squad, the local Posts of the American Legion and VFW, Daughters of 1812, Madison Elks Lodge, Oregon Public Safety, and Scouts. Coverage by local, state medias, ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX. SUVCW WI Department was involved with Madison Elks Lodge's traditional Flag Day celebration, with Dept and Camp #2, MVC Leadership, presenting our SUVCW Colors at the event along with the Sons of the American Revolution, our Veterans present and Elks Lodge membership. We all enjoyed a wonderful Flag Day event buffet! SUVCW involvement with Elks Lodges on their traditional Flag Day event is an easy win-win America 250<sup>th</sup> patriotic, social and networking event.

Heroes Natl Prayer Ceremony Memorial. DUVCW Tent #23 daughter Ashley-Anne Hobbins and I had the distinct honor privilege to lead, organize and participate in the ceremony honoring America's 13 lost Kabul Afghanistan heroes, in particular to honor lost Marine Corps hero, Hunter Lopez - a young Marine who sacrificed his life in the evacuation of the airport at Kabul, Afghanistan who attended Ashley-Anne's own high school in La Quinta, CA. Specifically, we organized a National Prayer Ceremony Memorial on SUVCW HQ, WI Dept's and partners' behalf in Indio, CA. Ashley-Anne prepared 4 bunches of Yellow Ribbioned Roses and accompanying cards that were presented at the moving prayer and wreath laying ceremony







## H. J. RES. 58

To provide for the appointment of Ulysses S. Grant to the grade of General of the Armies of the United States.

### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

Mrs. WAGNER (for herself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. STEFANIK, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mr. GUEST) submitted the following

joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

## JOINT RESOLUTION

To provide for the appointment of Ulysses S. Grant to the grade of General of the Armies of the United States.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This joint resolution may be cited as the “**Ulysses S. Grant Bicentennial Recognition Act**”.

### SECTION. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) **FINDINGS.** —Congress finds the following:

- (1) On March 3, 1799, Congress created the grade of “General of the Armies of the United States” as the commander of the Army of the United States (5th Congress, Session III, Chap. 48, Section 9).
- (2) On March 16, 1802, Congress effectively dissolved the grade of General of the Armies of the United States when it passed the Military Peace Establishment Act without reference to the grade (7th Congress, Session I, Chap. 9, Sec. 3).
- (3) On July 1, 1843, Ulysses S. Grant graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, and, on July 31, 1854, Grant resigned from the Army at the grade of Captain.
- (4) Following President Abraham Lincoln’s April 15, 1861, proclamation calling for 75,000 volunteers to suppress Confederate forces, Ulysses S. Grant rejoined the Army and helped recruit and train volunteer soldiers for the Union.
- (5) Over the course of the American Civil War, Ulysses S. Grant commanded a cumulative total of over 620,000 Union soldiers and achieved major victories including Fort Henry (February 1862), Fort Donelson (February 1862), Shiloh (April 1862), the Vicksburg Campaign (November 1862-July 1863), Chattanooga (November 1863), the Wilderness Campaign (May 1864-June 1864), the Petersburg Campaign (June 1864- April 1865), and the Appomattox Campaign (April 1865).
- (6) On February 29, 1864, Congress reestablished the grade of “Lieutenant General of the United General.



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States Army” and authorized the President to appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, an officer who was “most distinguished for courage, skill, and ability” (38th Congress, Session I, Chap.

14, Sec. 1; that same day, President Abraham Lincoln nominated Ulysses S. Grant to be Lieutenant-

(7) On March 10, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln formally appointed Ulysses S. Grant to the grade of Lieutenant-General of the Army, a position previously held by only George Washington and Winfield Scott, although Scott’s promotion was a brevet appointment.

(8) On July 25, 1866, Congress established the grade of “General of the Army of the United States” (39th Congress, Session I, Chap. 232), and Ulysses S. Grant was appointed, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to General of the Army of the United States for his role in commanding the Union armies during the Civil War.

(9) On March 4, 1869, Ulysses S. Grant was sworn in as the 18th President of the United States.

(10) Throughout his two terms as President, Ulysses S. Grant secured the ratification of the 15th amendment to the Constitution, the creation of the Department of Justice, and the passage and implementation of the Civil Rights Act of 1875.

(11) On October 11, 1976, Congress enacted Public Law 94–479, which re-established the grade of “General of the Armies of the United States” to posthumously request the appointment of George Washington to General of the Armies of the United States and made clear that this grade has “precedence of all other grades of the Army, past or present”.

(b) PURPOSE. —The purpose of this joint resolution is to—

(1) honor Ulysses S. Grant for his efforts and leadership in defending the union of the United States of America;

(2) recognize that the military victories achieved under the command of Ulysses S. Grant were integral to the preservation of the United States of America; and

(3) affirm that Ulysses S. Grant is among the most influential military commanders in the history of the United States of America.

### **SEC. 3. APPOINTMENT.**

The President is authorized and requested to appoint Ulysses S. Grant posthumously to the grade of General of the Armies of the United States, such appointment to take effect on April 27, 2022

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## **Camp 56**

Camp 56 met at the Minneapolis Scottish Rite Center on January 29 and March 12, 2022.

At the January meeting Clarence James Parsons, Jr. was elected to membership. Initiated at this meeting were Brothers Mike Larson, Ken Kalish and Mike Huttner. Efforts are being made to locate and document GAR and Civil War monuments throughout the state of Minnesota. Our Camp’s work on the National Graves Registration program will continue in 2022 by meeting up to three times to finish Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis and then begin work in Oakwood Cemetery in Saint Paul. Onsite cemetery meetings are planned for the third Saturday of each month from April through October. Junior Vice Commander Gary Carlberg reported that our request to establish a Sons of Veterans Reserve unit has been approved and he has been appointed Lieutenant of the unit. Several Camp members have since joined the reserve unit.

At the March meeting JVC Carlberg reported on progress for up to 10 Last Solder Project dedications that could take place in 2022. Scheduled to date are the following Minnesota counties: Murray County (Slayton) on April 30, Rock County (Luverne) on May 1, Ramsey County (Maplewood) on May 15, and Renville County on August 20. The Camp is grateful to Brothers Gary Carlberg, Chuck Lursen and Mike Larson, and Stephanie Chapell for their research and leg work on planning these ceremonies.

The Camp’s next meeting is scheduled for Decoration/Memorial Day, May 30, at Camp Headquarters in Litchfield, Minnesota. The Camp will provide a color guard in the Memorial Day parade and conduct its meeting at either the Meeker County Museum (formerly the GAR Hall) or at Central Park across the street from the museum.



## Camp 8



Camp 8 met Jan 15<sup>th</sup> At the Butte des Morts Lions Club building.



Camp officers were sworn in virtually by Department Commander John Decker



David Melancon is sworn in as an associate member



### Echoes of the Past

Camp 8 members that were there on Saturday were Kim Heltemes, Kirby Scott, and Kurt Kirk. On Sunday Camp 8 members were Kim Heltemes and Kirby Scott. Even though the event was smaller than in years past we had a good turnout for Saturday. Sunday was quite a bit slower but we were to answer several people's questions and handed out recruiting information for our Camp. Even with the weather being sunny and above freezing

# **Patriotic Instruction**

## **Bruce Nason, Camp 1**

**Compiled from "April 1865: The Month That Saved America," a 2001 book by Jay Winik.**

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On April 9, 1865, Palm Sunday, at 5 a.m., just beyond Appomattox Court House, Gen. John Gordon's men let out a fierce rebel yell and attacked Union cavalry, driving them back and capturing several guns, then swept forward to the crest of a hill.

Suddenly, below them in the woodlands, they saw a solid wall of blue-clad infantry. Two full Corps of infantry, a blue line stretching nearly two miles wide, were advancing. So were another two Corps, closing in on Lee's rear.

Just after 8 a.m., Gordon admitted that "I fear I can do nothing." An ominous choice finally was set before General Robert E. Lee: Surrender or throw his life into one last murderous fight.

Lee called a meeting with Generals James Longstreet, Bill Mahone and Porter Alexander, Lee's chief of artillery. Talk of another battle soon turned to talk of surrender. Alexander was pleading with Lee not to give up and proposed another tactic, a Confederate trump card, the one most feared by Lincoln, Grant, and Sherman: That the Confederates take to the hills and become guerrillas.

That plan was, in fact, proposed by President Jefferson Davis himself.

Guerrilla warfare started before the Civil War even began. John Brown and his band murdered five Southern settlers in Kansas. Confederate Sam Hildebrand roamed southern Missouri, killing dozens of Unionists, and Champ Ferguson terrorized middle Tennessee, knifing, mangling and bludgeoning more than a hundred Federals before he was captured and hanged.

Throughout the war, Missouri was called "the war of 10,000 nasty battles," but it was much more than that – it became a killing field. Missouri produced, perhaps, the most bloodthirsty guerrillas of the war. Topping the list was a 24-year-old teacher named William Clarke Quantrill.

early 1862, Quantrill and his "bushwhackers" all but paralyzed Kansas, culminating with the infamous raid at Lawrence. Starting at 5 a.m., the raid began with screams of "Kill! Kill!" Within hours the city was in ashes, 200 homes burned, and more than 150 men and boys were murdered in cold blood.

Federals and Kansas militiamen pursued the bushwhackers but by the next day they had retreated to the safety of the hills of Missouri. Federal retaliation was perhaps the harshest by either side during the war, General Order 11. Four counties were "de-populated;" all homes, farms and crops burned. No list of how many people died in the process was kept – although estimates place the number at more than the carnage at Lawrence.

All along in Richmond, Confederate leaders were watching these events carefully. In 1862 they passed the Partisan Ranger Act to legitimize guerrilla organizations. However, as time went on, many Confederate generals and authorities thought the guerrilla tactics distasteful, dishonorable, offensive, and injurious to the cause. It was one thing to kill Yankees in battle; another to kill innocent civilians.

However, the day after Richmond fell on April 2, Jefferson Davis called for the Confederacy to shift from a conventional war of defense to a dynamic guerrilla war of attrition designed to wear down the North and force it to conclude that keeping the South in the Union was not worth the pain and sacrifice.

In effect, Davis was proposing that Lee disperse his army before it was finally cornered.

These were the thoughts that played heavily on Lee's mind on April 9. What is honorable? What is right? What is proper?

Lee was confronted with one last chance, one last opportunity. If he were to succeed in guerrilla warfare, his place in history would be assured. However, recalling what had been happening in Missouri, he no doubt realized that a guerrilla war would make a wasteland of all that he loved.

Brother would be set against brother for generations. Such a war would not only destroy Virginia but also the country. For Lee, that was too high a price to pay no matter how much he believed in the cause. He told his council that "the only dignified course for me would be to go to General U.S. Grant and surrender myself and take the consequences of my acts."

Thus, by disregarding the wishes of Davis and his inner circle of advisers, Lee – who surrendered his army later that day – began the process of restoring the Union.

The ultimate fate of nations is often measured and swayed not by large events, but by tiny ones, small and symbolic gestures. Having defeated the gallant Army of Northern Virginia, Grant let his vaunted foe choose the time and place of surrender. It spoke clearly that the North may defeat the Confederate armies, but Grant would not



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## Wisconsin Department Pioneers

### Frederick W. Graff

#### *"Faded from View"*

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Brother Frederick William Graff was elected Department Commander at the 1906 Wisconsin Dept. Encampment, held at Marinette's Amaden's Hall. One hundred delegates were there.

Br. Graff was the middle child of German and Swiss immigrants Herman Adolph Grafe and Julia Jankow. He was born in Port Washington in November 1871.

His father, Herman Adolph Grafe, served in Co. I, 27<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry, enlisting in November 1862. He was likely injured by heavy Confederate resistance during the Red River campaign. He was transferred to Co. E, 23rd Veterans Reserve Corps a year later and mustered out in September 1865. He died in November 1873, when Fred was two.

Fred moved to Sheboygan, where he married Laura Louisa Seiber on December 23, 1891. Together they had three children: Edwin E. (1893—1983), Esther Clara (1895—1961), and Frederick W. Jr. (1898 – 1965).

In 1893, he organized the Sheboygan Chair Citys, a local baseball team, and coached it successfully for two years.

In 1897, he started as a postal delivery clerk. Over the next ten years, he worked his way up to assistant postmaster.

Sheboygan's Carl Witte Camp #37 was organized in 1889. The Camp continued to have the largest or one of the largest memberships in Wisconsin. It yielded significant influence, propelling several brothers to the highest state post, including Martin Grasse, Rev. Walter J. Patton, and Gustav Geissler.

As the 1906 Encampment was held in northeast Wisconsin, Graff drew more votes than his opponent, Madison's Felix Kremer, who was elected Dept. Senior Vice Commander. Graff had only served on the Dept. Council previously.

By the 1906, department membership had dropped to 448 brothers in 15 Camps. During his term, Br. Graff organized Geo. W. Stevenson Camp 66 in Darlington, Lincoln Camp 55 at Omro, and reinstated Camp 7 in Watertown. A Camp was established at Reedsburg. When the 1907 Dept. Encampment was held in Oshkosh. Dept. membership had climbed to 524 brothers in 19 Camps. After his term as Dept. commander, PDC Graf served as a Dept. Mustering Officer for the next four years. In 1910, he was his Camp's delegate to the Dept. Encampment. Additionally, he was appointed National Asst. Inspector.

Brother Graff was also active in the Odd Fellows and was elected Grand Noble (head) of Sheboygan's Lodge #13 in 1909. That same year he was elected secretary of United Aid Branch 37.

Surprisingly, in July 1914, Graff was relieved of his duties as Sheboygan's Assistant Postmaster, a position he held since 1907. The following April, he was charged with embezzling \$733.65 from the post office. He steadfastly maintained his innocence. For nearly two years, he was out on bail. Public opinion and that of his family took their toll on him. Finally, at his trial in 1916, worn and haggard, he was persuaded to make a plea deal, pleading guilty to seven of the 15 charges and receiving a lenient sentence, which included six months in Milwaukee County's House of Correction. He had continually claimed innocence and yet, it did not appear that the postal inspector actively investigated other scenarios or suspects. Graff had avoided his friends and coworkers. This continued throughout the rest of his life.

Graff was able to work as a bookkeeper for a garage for a time, but in 1920, filed for bankruptcy and moved to Milwaukee. He returned to Sheboygan in 1930 and little is known afterwards. By 1940, Mrs. Graf was living with their son, Fred Jr., and his family.

Frederick Graff died on January 13, 1950, and was buried in the family plot (Sec 4, Lot 21) at Port Washington's Union Cemetery

His wife, Laura, passed in 1956 and was buried with her husband. The Graffs had six grandchildren and several great grandchildren and great, great grandchildren.

#### **Sources:**

**Darlington Farmer**, 27 Mar 1907

**Oshkosh Northwestern**, 27 May 1907

**Sheboygan Press**, 8 and 18 Dec 1909, 28 Oct 1910, 10 Apr 1911, 8 Jul 1914, 29 Feb 1916, 16 Apr 1920, 16 Jan 1930, 19 Sep 1956

**Watertown News**, 27 Apr 1915

Researched and written by PCinC Steve Michaels and PDC



# *Department Recruiting Officer's Report*

## *Department Mid-Winter Meeting*

### *February 5, 2022*

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I have the honor to report as follows:

As Department Recruiting Officer, I have worked to increase the Order's involvement in very public, collaborative efforts with other patriotic, civic, governmental, and historical organizations in honoring our veterans of all eras.

I was the principal organizer of the first annual "Proud America Days Independence Day©" celebration and USA's first "Veterans Liberty Tree©" dedication –honoring ALL 250 years of American veterans. The NFALTP July 4<sup>th</sup> event was conducted with involvement of local govt officials of the Village of Oregon (Wis.), the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, Allied Orders of the SUVCW, Madison Veterans Council leadership, chaplain, firing squad, the local Posts of the American Legion and VFW, Daughters of 1812, Madison Elks Lodge, Oregon Public Safety, and Scouts. Coverage by local, state medias, ABC, CBS, NBC, FOX. (Pls see article in DUVCW *National General Order 1, October 2021 Issue*)

SUVCW WI Department was involved with Madison Elks Lodge's traditional Flag Day celebration, with Dept and Camp #2, MVC Leadership, presenting our SUVCW Colors at the event along with the Sons of the American Revolution, our Veterans present and Elks Lodge membership. We all enjoyed a wonderful Flag Day event buffet! SUVCW involvement with Elks Lodges on their traditional Flag Day event is an easy win-win America 250<sup>th</sup> patriotic, social and networking event.

The "America 250<sup>th</sup> Social©". I am principal organizer for the December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022 11am-3pm event at Elks Lodge Madison with patriotic, civic, government and historical organization partners. The 2021 event was postponed due to covid. Our WI Department is on the Planning Cmte for the America 250<sup>th</sup> Social© event, giving us strong presence and visibility.

Heroes Natl Prayer Ceremony Memorial. DUVCW Tent #23 daughter Ashley-Anne Hobbins and I had the distinct honor privilege to lead, organize and participate in the ceremony honoring America's 13 lost Kabul Afghanistan heroes, in particular to honor lost Marine Corps hero, Hunter Lopez - a young Marine who sacrificed his life in the evacuation of the airport at Kabul, Afghanistan who attended Ashley-Anne's own high school in La Quinta, CA. Specifically, we organized a National Prayer Ceremony Memorial on SUVCW HQ, WI Dept's and partners' behalf in Indio, CA. Ashley-Anne prepared 4 bunches of Yellow Ribboned Roses and accompanying cards that were presented at the moving prayer and wreath laying ceremony. (See article in last issue of the *Department Dispatch*; also, in *Detached Tent 23 Sept '21 Vol 10, Issue #9 Newsletter*)

I am VERY honored to have been selected as one of five members of the Order's National Special Committee on the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the USA (2026). It has been my honor to supply SUVCW HQ CIC Paquette, Allied Orders and WI Dept Commander Decker with vintage GAR-era photos I have digitally remastered and restored, and various GAR logo series.

As SVC of Camp #2, I am closely working with our Camp JVC in the recruitment of prospective members from local patriotic, civic, and reenactment organizations.

In coming months, I will review submitted Form 22 Reports to obtain current information on names of Camp officers, to submit to the Department Signals Officer for web site listing, as well as Camp contact information and meeting schedules to the editor of the *Department Dispatch*.

Also relying on the information from the latest Form 22 Reports, I will customize the Form 3 Membership Application Form for each of our Camps, to include the contact information for the Brother who is to receive the application, and the applicable dues and application fee amounts, with the hope the customized forms can be distributed to each Brother of each Camp.

Respectfully, and in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

DRO, Bro. J. Benjamin Hobbins





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: [Tom Brown, PDC](#)  
C.K. Pier Badger Auxiliary 4  
[Facebook Page](#)

Henry Harnden Camp 2 - Madison  
Commander: [Thomas W. Brodd](#)  
Henry Harnden Auxiliary 2  
[Facebook Page](#)

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

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

Hans Heg Camp 15  
Meeting @ 7 P.M. 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, monthly  
Commander: [Gerry Drought](#)  
[Facebook Page](#)

L.G. Armstrong 49 – Boscobel  
Meetings @ 7 P.M. 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, monthly  
Commander: [Charles Griesel](#)  
[Facebook Page](#)

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

	
Dept. Commander	John R. Decker <a href="mailto:commander@suvcw-wi.org">commander@suvcw-wi.org</a>
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Officers were elected at the 5 June 2021 Department Encampment at Elkhorn, Wis. and will serve until the 2022 Department Encampment.

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SUVCW

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