

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT Published three times per year by the SUVCW DISPATCH

Published three times per year by the SUVCW Wisconsin Department

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War -- SUVCW

Summer 2005 Issue



The gavel has passed from out-going Department Commander Ron Aronis to our new Department Commander Kent Peterson.

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At the 122nd Annual Wisconsin Department Encampment held at Waukesha's Carroll College campus on June 11, members representing the various Camps conducted business, listened to an interesting presentation by author Lance Herdegan on the new Regional Civil War Museum planned for Kenosha, and elected Department Officers. Brother Kent Peterson will serve as Department Commander for 2005-2006. After the meeting and memorial service, members were able to tour the Institute for Civil War Studies in MacAllister Hall. The Civil War Institute will be closing and its references and artifacts will be moved to the new Regional Civil War Museum. We were the last group to visit the Institute in historic MacAllister Hall. Thank you to the members of Camp #4 for your excellent job hosting the Encampment.



MEET THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

About the Department Commander

PCC Kent A. Peterson was elected our Department Commander at the Department Encampment held June 11 at Waukesha. He previously served as Department Senior Vice Commander.

Br. Peterson's interest in the Civil War began when he was researching his family history in the early 1990's and discovered he had an ancestor who fought for the Union. His ancestor, Cpl. Henry Grob of Co. H, 28th Wisconsin Inf. Vols., was a Swiss immigrant from Brookfield, Wis.

Br. Peterson joined the SUVCW in 1994 and was assigned to Ammi Hawks Camp #3, ostensibly because his own Civil War ancestor fought alongside Ammi Hawks during the war. In 1999, he received a telephone called from someone he had not seen in more than 25 years - Fred Murphy, one of his former teachers from high school. Brother Fred invited him to attend a Camp 1 meeting and even volunteered to drive him there. Brother Fred's Irish charm proved impossible to turn down, so they went to a meeting. At the time, Camp 3 was preparing to disband, so he transferred into Camp 1.

Soon thereafter, he accepted the position of Camp Patriotic Instructor when asked by his Camp

Commander, Fred Murphy. He also served as Camp Senior Vice Commander before being elected Commander in 2002. Brother Peterson has also been Department Patriotic Instructor and Senior Vice Commander, publishing the Department Dispatch newsletter since 2001. At the same time, he developed the Department Web site and continues to maintain it as Dept. Signals Officer, and he has also just completed two years as National Webmaster. He is a member of the Sons of Veterans Reserve.

Brother Peterson is a graduate of Milwaukee Area Technical College with an Associate Degree in Photography, and a graduate of Milwaukee School of Engineering with a Bachelor's Degree in Management Systems. He has been employed at MSOE since 1977, and currently works in the marketing department managing the university Web site.

He is a member of the Milwaukee County Historical Society, Wisconsin Historical Society, and Civil War Preservation Trust, and is a member of the board of directors of the Higher Education Cable Consortium, which operates an educational cable television channel.

Brother Peterson and his wife, Luanne, have been married for 25 years and have a son, Kevin, who is about to enter his junior year at UWM as a music major. As an accomplished trumpet player, Kevin has played "Taps" at several Camp 1 events.

A Message From Brother Dick Rohan

Talking to the Kids

At many of the Civil War Living History events, members of Alonzo H. Cushing Camp #5, SUVCW of Wisconsin and Cushing's Historical Association participate together. Often times the public tours the camp. This is a great opportunity for each Son to promote the SUVCW. Everybody is a salesman.

Most often the family groups who stroll through skirt the outside of the camp area, too shy to approach the reenactors. In many cases, I will walk up to the people and invite them into the camp. As soon as the invitation is initiated, they eagerly come closer to my tent and begin to ask questions. If the parents come in, so will the kids.

Once in camp, we exchange names and interests. Sometimes, I will show them my tent and accourrements, cooking utensils and soldiers' games. A challenging game of checkers completes the tour of my camp.

3 DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN Dick Rohan

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Department Orders #1 Series 2005-06

Kent A. Peterson, Department Commander 6024 South Kirkwood Ave. Cudahy, Wis., 53110-3106 (414) 614-3690 commander@suvcw-wi.org

1) Upon election and installation at the 122nd Encampment of the Department of Wisconsin, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, command is hereby assumed and headquarters established at the address above. I will do my best to merit the confidence you have expressed in my ability to lead our organization. I am very pleased with our new group of officers and staff and look forward to accomplishing many goals together.

2) Officers, elected and appointed for 2005-06 are as follows:

Commander Kent A. Peterson, PCC 6024 S. Kirkwood, Cudahy 53110-3106 Sr. Vice Cmdr Brian Peters, PCC 646 Rays Lane, Stevens Point 54481-9260 421 S. Sherman St., Eagle 53119 Jr. Vice Cmdr Bruce Laine, CC Andy Bollen III, PCC 621 Sheridan Dr., West Bend 53095 Council 1 Council2 Fred Murphy, PDC 4462 S. Lake Drive, Cudahy 53110-1249 W2570 Archer Ave., Pine River 54965 Council 3 Kim Heltemes Secretary Randy Novak, PDC 641 Bowen St., Oshkosh 54901-4630 Treasurer Dale Brasser 1201 Hillcrest. Manitowoc 54220 Patriotic Instructor Tom Brown 5025 N. 105th St., Milwaukee 53225 Steve Michaels, C-in-C 6623 S. North Cape Rd., Franklin 53132 Counselor 7760 S. 51st St., Franklin 53132 2809 N. 70th St., Milwaukee 53210-1224 Chaplain Rev. Maurice Felton, PCC Eagle Scout Coordinator Dean Collins 2375 Rockway Lane East, Brookfield 53005 Color Guard Bob Mann GRO Virgil Matz 1215 Spring St., Box 425, Black Earth 53515 Patrick Lynch 5830 S. 92nd St., Hales Corners 53130 Guard Guide Alan Hembel Box 620-203, Middleton 53562-0203 Historian James L. Johnson, PCC 100 E. Main St., Waukesha 53092 R&R Comm. **Brian Peters** 646 Rays Lane, Stevens Point 54481-9260 2809 N. 70th Street, Milwaukee 53210 Eagle Scout Coord Dean Collins Daniel Chroninger, CC 117 S. 3rd St., Readstown 54652 Iron Brig. Hwy U.S. Grant Award Alan Hembel, PCC Box 620-203, Middleton 53562 C. W. Memorials Rich Beggs 210 Fairway Dr. Clintonville WI 54929-1063 Signals Officer Kent A. Peterson 6024 S. Kirkwood Cudahy WI 53110-3106

My congratulations and best wishes are extended to this dedicated group of Brothers for a successful year.

- 3) To Auxiliary Department President Christine Zahn and her new team of officers, I extend my best wishes and pledge the support of the Department to promote our joint interests and goals during the ensuing year.
- 4) To the members of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Women's Relief Corps, and the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War and all other Allied Orders, I extend the hand of friendship and support of the Wisconsin Department.
- 5) To Past Department Commander Ron Aronis I extend our thanks and grateful appreciation for his years of dedicated service to our Department. I know he will continue to serve the Order with distinction in the coming years.
- 6) Congratulations and thanks for a job well done to MG John Gibbon Camp #4 and Ammi Hawks Auxiliary #5 for a successful and productive encampment on the campus of Carroll College at Waukesha.
- 7) The *Constitution and Regulations* of our Order are the cornerstone on which our organization operates. All officers and members should read and become familiar with the C & R. A copy of this document is available from the National Quartermaster or it can be downloaded from our National Web site at suvcw.org/ftp.htm.
- 8) Our *Rituals and Ceremonies* are our connection to those who have gone before us. The use of our *Rituals and Ceremonies*, while not required, is to be encouraged. All Camps are requested to use them whenever possible. The booklet is available from the National Quartermaster.
- 9) All Camps are reminded that an annual donation to the Department Patriotic Fund would be appreciated to keep up the works of the Department such as the U.S. Grant award and Monuments and Grave registration programs. Contributions are usually \$25.00 or more, as Camp funds allow. Send to Department Treasurer Dale Brasser at the above address marked "For Patriotic Fund."

5 DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

- 10) The Department also has a separate fund for accepting donations for reconstruction of the GAR Hall in Boscobel. Please have your Camp and members consider donations to this fund this landmark is important to us all. Send to Treasurer Brasser marked "For Boscobel GAR Hall."
- 11) I encourage Department Officers to promote their activities and update the membership by writing articles for the *Department Dispatch* newsletter. Letters have gone out to officers expressing this request.
- 12) All Camp Commanders are respectfully instructed to assure that their Camp Web site information is up to date. An ever-increasing amount of the public forms its first impression of the SUVCW through what is posted on the Internet. Your effort to provide current information and keep links in working order will help assure that a website visitor's first impression is positive. Send your update information to webmaster@suvcw-wi.org
- 13) Camps are encouraged to add the Wisconsin Veteran's Museum to their newsletter mailing list if they have not done so already. The Museum has an outstanding archives of Wisconsin's military history and they have volunteered to archive our newsletters, meeting minutes and other documents for future research by historians. Please see the Spring 2005 issue of the *Department Dispatch* for a mailing address, or contact me.
- 14) A major goal this year will be building the membership of the Department. Overall membership has been flat in the last few years. When was the last time you asked someone to join the Sons or attend a meeting? I ask each Camp to set a goal of increasing its membership by 3 new members. If each camp will bring in just 3 new members by the next Dept. Encampment, we will have increased Department membership by nearly 10%. Please feel free to exceed this goal!
- 15) Retention of current members is also important. Most of what we do to honor Union soldiers and sailors happens at the Camp level. Therefore, Camps are encouraged to develop and promote a variety of activities. This will not only help attract new Brothers, but will more importantly allow varied contributions of time and talent from current Brothers. The Graves Registration Program, Civil War Memorials Assessment Project, and the search for GAR records are just a few of the many activities that our membership can make a valuable contribution toward.
- 16) The public observance of Memorial Day 2006 will occur on May 29th. In anticipation, I encourage all brothers to contact their Congressional representatives, regarding the permanent return of this holiday to May 30th. Do your part to restore Memorial Day to May 30th. This is a special day for members of our Order and we should not allow it to simply become part of a three day week-end.
- 17) Please keep your Camp Secretary informed of any address, e-mail and/or phone number changes so you can continue receiving information uninterrupted.
- 18) To those Brothers and their loved ones who are ill, I wish them a speedy and complete recovery. To those who have lost loved ones, I extend my deep and abiding sympathy. May you be comforted by the memories of lives well spent and by personal experiences to be treasured always.
- 19) I look forward to visiting each Camp during the year, and attend other functions as time will allow.
- 20) Best regards to all, in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty as we begin another year in our unending efforts to maintain the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) and to promote public pride toward all who honorably served the Union in 1861-1865.

Ordered this Fourth Day of July, 2005.

KENT A. PETERSON Department Commander

Attest:

RANDY NOVAK PDC Department Secretary

Department Officers for 2005-2006 were elected and appointed at the Department Encampment held June 11 in Waukesha (not all officers are pictured).

Left to right:

Dan Chroninger, Iron Brigade Highway Officer (Camp 49);

CC Bruce Laine, Jr. Vice Commander (Camp 4); Virgil Matz, Graves Registration Officer (Camp 2); CC Ron Knaus, Guide (Camp 2); Alan Hembel, US Grant Award Coordinator (Camp 2); Dale Brasser, Treasurer (Camp 2); Andrew Bollen, Council (Camp 5); PCC Kent Peterson, Dept. Commander (Camp 1 and 4); PCC Brian Peters, Sr. Vice Commander (Camp 8); PDC Randy Novak, Secretary (Camp 4 and 8); Tom Brown, Patriotic Instructor (Camp 1); Kim Heltemes, Council (Camp 8); PDC Fred Murphy, Council (Camp 1)





Silver Loving Cup presented to the Wisconsin Department on 20 August 1963 for having the largest membership increase. The Cup was presented by U.S. Grant III. Shown are Herman Black and PDC Edward Biering after accepting the Cup at the 82nd National Encampment in Miami Beach, Fla.

Reaching for the Cup

By CinC Steve Michaels

As I complete my term as your Commander-in-Chief and reflect on my visits to other Departments across the country, I am reminded of our Wisconsin Department's positive attributes: its dedication, enthusiasm, and its great potential for the future.

These were brought home to me in a report that the Executive Director recently forwarded to me. It listed our own Wisconsin Department as one of eleven departments, which had submitted its annual report on time. This is no small feat, as the annual report requires the cooperation of Camp and Department Secretaries and Treasurers for it to be compiled and filed in a timely manner.

Additionally, of those eleven Departments (there are 26 in all), our Wisconsin Department was one of only five, which showed a membership increase. Of the five, Wisconsin was fourth in highest percentage increase.

A couple of our brothers brought a new man into our Order over the last year and that's terrific, but I know our Department can do much better. How many of you will follow Br. Gary Young's example? Br. Gary, of L.G. Armstrong Camp 49, recruited three new brothers this past year. For his work, I was pleased to appoint him a National Aide and so, Gary now proudly wears a ribbon of the SUVCW's National colors behind his membership badge.

The Department in first place this year? You may be interested to learn that Kansas had the largest percentage increase (18%). Despite limited resources (only 97 brothers in four Camps), it's determined to grow. How determined? This is the second consecutive year that Kansas will be recognized for significant growth by receiving the U.S. Grant Cup at the National Encampment.

The last time that Wisconsin was awarded the U.S. Grant Cup was in 1963. That year, our Department tied with Indiana and we got to keep the trophy for only six months. The work we do is very important, but it sure would be nice to be recognized as the top Department again, wouldn't it?

We have a great potential for the future...all we have to do is reach for it.

A Note From Brother Bruce Laine

Brothers -

At the 122nd Wisconsin Department Encampment in Waukesha, I had the honor of being asked to be the Department's Junior Vice Commander for this year. I will endeavor to live up to everyone's expectations.

This year, I want to gather information from the Camps in the Wisconsin Department on current methods of recruiting. Also, we need to look at our current membership, put together a database of how each Brother in Wisconsin found out about the SUVCW, why they became a member and what they feel are the reasons they have continued their membership. Lastly, we need to track the reasons why people leave the organization. Once we have all this information, we should be able to put together an effective recruiting plan. I will be asking all the Camp Junior Vice Commanders and Camp Commander to assist me in gathering this information and putting together a plan.

The Recruitment Guide, available on the National Website @ http://suvcw.org/ftp/recruitment.pdf, is a great source of information about the organization, recruitment and retention. If you are unable to go online and get a copy, please let me know, I will send you a copy. The Recruitment Guide also has an important message, it is EVERY Brother's responsibility to recruit.

I look forward to serving the Department of the next year. If you have any suggestions, on the above, or how I can better serve the Department, please call me 262-594-2081 or e-mail bcl58@wi.rr.com.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Bruce C. Laine Junior Vice Commander Department of Wisconsin

From The Secretary's Desk

by Randy Novak

Camp Secretaries:

I would like to again thank all of you for doing a good job in getting your Annual Reports into me this past spring. The whole process came together very well.

As the rest of the year goes by, please use the Camp Status Report forms to advise me of address changes (even if it's just an e-mail address or phone number change) within your Camp membership. That is the usual method, but if nothing else drop me an e-mail with the same information as normally required on the Status Report and I'll take care of it. The important thing is to get the information to me so that we can keep our Department records and the National records updated.

Also – FYI – if you have any Junior Members in your Camp; I've been told by National that their membership status automatically changes to "Full Member" when they turn the proper age. You will not need to send in a Camp Status Report to indicate this, as it is automatic; however, you will need to plan accordingly with regard to the annual per capita payment.

Department Officers:

Don't forget to use the Department re-imbursement form and process when requesting funds from the Department. The process is to fill out the form, include your receipts as applicable, and send everything to Department Commander Kent Peterson for review and approval; Kent then forwards the forms on to Department Secretary Dale Brasser. Not only is it the required method (per the C&R), but also it helps Dale. If you need a copy of this form, drop me an e-mail and I can supply it electronically.

NEWS FROM CAMP # 4

On Monday, June 6th, 2005 the Camp 4 Color Guard, an SVR unit representing Co. B of the 28th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, presented the Colors at Miller Park during pre-game ceremonies at a Milwaukee Brewers baseball game.



Color Guard members are (left to right): Patrick Lynch, Timothy Grover, Trevor Grover, PCC James Johnson, Bob Mann, Jeremy Johnson, JVC Michael Jones, Al LaMott, Don Palama.



A Miller Park scoreboard message recognized the Camp 4 Color Guard.



Good Weather for Memorial Day in Oshkosh!

Oshkosh - This year's weather was apparently trying to make up for last year. It couldn't have been much better for this year's Memorial Day Procession and observances in Oshkosh. The public seemed to notice as well; as we had good crowds along the entire parade route and for the ceremony.

This year we saw Camp 8 becoming more involved in the Memorial Day planning and ceremony. Randy Novak helped prepare the general program booklets, and was the reader of the Gettysburg Address, and Alan Petit was the reader of Logan's Orders. At the conclusion of the regular service Camp 8 conducted a grave memorial service at the site of the newer soldiers monument. The service was re-worded slightly so that it applied to all veterans buried in the cemetery. This service occurred immediately following the main service, and was well attended by the public and veterans organizations present. Our friends in Co E functioned as the rifle squad for the graveside service, led by Dave Dresang. Both the regular program and the graveside service were covered by local television.

Following the service, the members of Camp 8 and Co. E retired to the GAR section for our potluck picnic, where as always there was plenty of food to go around and we had an opportunity to relax.

Camp 8 appreciates the support we have always received from Co. E, 2nd Wisconsin Infantry. We thank them for again participating with us in this year's Memorial Day observances. We would also like to thank the Oshkosh Patriotic Council for allowing us to be a part of the observances. Thanks to Mary (and Jim) Schumann for providing the photos seen here.





From Tom Brown, Department Patriotic Instructor ---

Battles are decided on battlefields; campaigns are decided by logistics. As the Union Army of the Potomac moved south toward Richmond in the spring and summer of 1864, its soldiers required tons of food, clothing, forage, ammunition, and other equipment to function and survive. An interruption even for a few days could spell disaster.

Union control of the Chesapeake Bay and Virginia's navigable rivers in 1864 gave the Union high command the ability to move vast amounts of supplies by water to rapidly moving soldiers. Huge Union river bases at BeJle Plain and Aquia Landing (potomac), the White House (Pamunkey), and City Point (James) were established as the army moved south. In order to maintain contact with his bases, Grant had to keep his back to the rivers. Consequently, he always moved by the left flank, to the east, when maneuvering around Lee's army. From those depots, miles of wagon trains and railroads delivered supplies to the front lines.

Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia relied on railroads for supply during the 1864 campaign. Lee fought to protect his rail lifelines at Hanover Junction (the intersection of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac and the Virginia Central lines) and at Petersburg. But the weight of Union provisions skillfully brought to bear by Federal officers - and the tenuous nature of Confederate supply lines proved decisive.



A legion of 4,800 supply wagons followed the Union army as they moved south into The Wilderness Battlefield

From Department Graves Registration Officer Virgil Matz ---

The lists below show grave registrations for each county and also the number of Civil War Veterans living in each county in 1885. This shows that the number of living in 1885 plus the number that died before 1885 leaves many graves that need to be registered. Dane Co. shows a county that has been done with the exception of one cemetery.

I became GRO for Col. Henry Harnden Camp #2 in 1996. At this year's Encampment I was honored to be made Department GRO.

The goal of SUVCW National Grave Registration Project is to locate the final resting place of all Union Civil War Veterans and entering them in the National Grave Registration Database, http://www.suvcwdb.org/home The 1885 Wisconsin Soldiers Census states that there were almost 30,000 Civil War Veterans living in Wisconsin. Many had died before the census and are buried in Wisconsin. So far there have been 10,383 burial registrations. This is great, but it shows that a lot more work needs to be done. To meet the goal it takes many volunteers. I have done over 3,000 and I know Brother Don Strube from Old Abe Camp #8 has done many more than that.

I plan to correspond with all Camps offering suggestions on how to document, hints and help if they need it. I will also try to make some of their meetings. I can be reached at gro@suvcw-wi.org or ymatz@tds.net or Virgil O. Matz, P.O. Box 425, Black Earth, WI 53515-0425 (608) 767-2305.

In F. C. & L

Virgil

Registered		Census			Registered		Census
County	Graves	1885 Sold	liers Notes	(County	Graves	1885 Soldiers
ADAMS	154	266			MARINETTE	0	143
ASHLAND	1	73 1	1885 includes part	of Iron Co.	MARQUETTE	200	242
BARRON	0	357			MILWAUKEE	1975	3100
BAYFIELD	1	60			MONROE	1.	641
BROWN	49	542			OCONTO	3	254
BUFFALO	1	293			ONEIDA	. 0	
BURNETT	0	26			OUTAGAMIE	116	662
CALUMET	43	338			OZAUKEE	116	145
CHIPPEWA	1	484	ncludes Rusk Co.		PEPIN	98	186
CLARK	8	483			PIERCE	1	482
COLUMBIA	537	599			POLK	4	274
CRAWFORD	1	517			PORTAGE	425	482
DANE	1203	900			PRICE	0	63
DODGE	93	559			RACINE	62	493
DOOR	2	229			RICHLAND	550	800
DOUGLAS	6	23			ROCK	550	930
DUNN	10	532			RUSK	1	
EAU CLAIRE	6	593			ST. CROIX	64	504
FLORENCE	0	27			SAUK	979	819
FOND Du LAG	0 1	667			SAWYER	0	32
FOREST	2	9			SHAWANO	3	231
GRANT	699	996			SHEBOYGAN	55	638
GREEN	N/A	613			TAYLOR	0	100
GREEN LAKE	151	279			TREMPEALEAL	1 3	273
IOWA	409	355			VERNON	89	701
IRON	0				VILAS	0	
JACKSON	91	343			WALWORTH	31	668
JEFFERSON	213	554			WASHBURN	1	89
JUNEAU	13	487			WASHINGTON	126	272
KENOSHA	29	197			WAUKESHA	265	494
KEWAUNEE	10	176			WAUPACA	785	717
LaCROSSE	3	434			WAUSHARA	273	565
LAFAYETTE	36	342			WINNEBAGO	264	882
LANDGLADE	0	168			WOOD	140	287
LINCOLN	0		1885 includes One	eida, part of			
			Iron Co. and Vilas				
MANITOWOO	20	524					
MARATHON	3	367					
MENOMINEE	_		Was Menominee I				
TOTAL						10383	29686
TOTAL						10000	20000
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	22						



On a very warm evening in June, five new Civil War markers were set in place at the Crystal Lake Cemetery on Hwy. K just south of Waupaca. Members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Old Abe Camp #8 - Brian Peters. Jim Waid, and Kim Heltemes, and members of the Cemetery Association, as well as the Stag Club helped in placing the markers. Vince Barker and Jim Waid researched the Cemetery 2 years ago and Vince ordered the needed Markers. The photograph shows Brian Peters and one of the helpers struggling to pick up the 240 lbs. marker for placement as another of the helpers watches.

Photograph by Kim J. Heltemes

COMING UP

**24-25 September—Wade House Civil War Weekend, Greenbush **1 October—Central Region Conference, Lawrence, KS **11 November—Veteran's Day **19 November—Remembrance Day 4 Feb. 2006 – Dept. Mid-Winter Mtg.

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Articles, photos and news items may be submitted to SVC Brian Peters, 646 Rays Lane, Stevens Point, WI 54481 or emailed to svc@suvcw-wi.org
Visit us on the web at http://www.suvcw-wi.org