



Wisconsin Department Dispatch



Summer 2007

Inside —

PDC George Wing..... 2
124th Dept. Encampment Commemorative Badge...3
Department Orders #1..... 4
124th Department of Wisconsin Encampment.....5
126th National Encampment.....6
In Memoriam.....8
Camp News and Activities.....8

Department Commander's Comments

Brothers,

Your delegates to the 124th Wisconsin Department Encampment in Boscobel have honored me with re-election to the office of Department Commander. I most humbly thank them, and you, for your confidence and support. Let us together continue our good work and steady progress toward our goals. Let us continue our worthy efforts, honoring Union Veterans, preserving and perpetuating the GAR and fostering patriotic education. Let us fill our ranks with new Brothers and encourage active participation in our various projects. You, and we, are the front line in the battle to preserve and to keep alive the memory of the "Boys in Blue". This is the purpose of our Order. Will you stand shoulder to shoulder with your Brothers? Let us all step up to the line!



I remain,
 In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Brian G. Peters

Wisconsin Dept. Commander

Second Annual

Department of Wisconsin Leadership Conference

Sunday, 4 November 2007
 Milwaukee VA Soldier's Home Building 1

All members of the Sons and Auxiliary are invited to attend. Learn how to become a more effective leader in the organization. Sessions are interactive and a great way to learn about the positions and responsibilities of officers or committee members. You may even find that some of the skills taught at the conference can be applied in your life outside the Order as well. Contact PCinC Steve Michaels to reserve your spot at (414) 425-4648.

"PRESERVED BY THE GRACE OF GOD"

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

SUVCW

Fountain at GAR Home is George Wing's Legacy



George Washington Wing was born in Chilton, on September 1, 1856, the son of Rufus L and Mary E. Wing. He was four when the family moved to Ahnapee (Algoma). Shortly after the move, he was severely burned while playing with matches, leaving scars and physical defects, which hampered him throughout his life. The family moved to Kewaunee in 1868 and George left to attend Lawrence University in Appleton a few years after that. Upon his return, at age 16, he co-founded the first newspaper in Ahnapee. He then studied and practiced law with his father until his admission to the bar in 1877.

Rufus Wing enlisted in the 21st Wis. Inf. and raised part of a company at Ahnapee. He received a commission to raise a company for another regiment and continued to recruit until the Summer of 1864, when he went to the front as 1st Sgt. of Co. I, 43rd Wis. Inf. After his honorable discharge in July 1865, he studied law in the office of his cousin, Gen. B.J. Sweet, before being admitted to the bar. In 1884, he became one of the charter members of Kewaunee's John M. Read GAR Post 155.

In 1883 George married Miss Belle E. Dikeman and they had three children, George D., Grace W. and Charles R.

While practicing law with his father, he also served as cashier of the Kewaunee Exchange Bank. In 1888, he

served as a delegate to the Nat. Republican convention in Chicago.

He held the position of County Judge from 1885 until 1890, when R.L. Wing Camp 63, Sons of Veterans, was chartered in Kewaunee. The Camp memorialized the elder Wing, who had died a year earlier. George owned a couple of tracts of land, which he used for his Camp's military training. After just a year, Camp 63 was one of two, which rated the highest in inspections. His intelligence, enthusiasm and willingness to support the Sons made him a natural choice for greater responsibility.

35-year old George Wing was elected Wisconsin Dept. Commander at the 1891 Dept. Encampment held in LaCrosse. During his term, he personally inspected camps in northern Wisconsin and motivated his Department to complete fund raising for a \$450 fountain for the GAR Home at King. The two-year old initiative project was completed by the end of his term. In 1892, PDC Wing and three other brothers were appointed to a committee to purchase the fountain and place it in position. The fountain was installed in front of Fairchild Hall the following year. A recognizable landmark at the GAR Home, it remained operational into the late 20th Century.

During Wing's administration, new camps were chartered at LaValle, Mondovi, Iola, Waupaca, Bayfield and Kenosha. In his General Order 3, Wing announced that new Camps would be given numbers left vacant by disbandment until all vacancies were filled. The first camp so assigned was Milwaukee's Badger Camp 109, which became Camp No. 1.

He promoted fraternal relations with the Grand Army too. Some Camps had developed a dependent relationship with several aging GAR Posts. Some regulations and forms supported this notion, so he served on the Department's Constitution, Rules and Regulations Committee and was successful in promoting the philosophy that Camps should be looking after the needs of the GAR.

He served in lesser roles at the Dept. level after that, although in 1895, he served on the Department's Committee on Ritual.

When the U.S. intervened in Cuba, in 1898, PDC Wing organized a company of volunteers in the Kewaunee area and tendered his services as captain, but was not called. He did accept Governor Scofield's invitation to command

(Continued on page 3)

Dear Brothers of the Wisconsin Department SUVCW,
The 124th Encampment of the Wisconsin Department Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War took place in Boscobel on June 9th 2007. It was a great event and well attended. All Brothers who attended the Encampment received a souvenir encampment ribbon/button. (photo attached) This is the first such ribbon/button to be offered in quite a few years.

Now we are offering this collectible memento of the annual encampment for sale to all Brothers of the Wisconsin Department by mail-order! Even if you weren't able to attend the encampment, this souvenir relates to all Brothers in the Wisconsin Department SUVCW, after all, it is YOUR Department!

The price will be \$3.50 for one, or \$6.00 for two (includes shipping). Limit of 2 (two) ribbon/buttons per member. The supply is limited and when they are gone, the opportunity to have one for your collection will be over. SO ACT NOW!

Proceeds from the sales of these souvenirs will be kept in a Department souvenir fund and used to create next year's ribbon souvenir.

To order a 124th Wisconsin Department Encampment ribbon/button---send me a check made out to "Brian Peters, Dept. Cmdr. SUVCW".

(\$3.50 for one or \$6.00 for two ribbons) Be sure to include the mailing address you want the ribbon sent to.

Send your order to:

Brian Peters, Dept. Cmdr. SUVCW
646 Rays Lane
Stevens Point, WI 54481-9260

Thank you and I hope to receive your order soon!

In F. C. & L.
Brian Peters
Wis. Dept. Commander
SUVCW



(Continued from page 2)

the 5th Wisconsin and remained on the governor's staff afterwards. R.L. Wing Camp 63 did not survive the nationalistic fervor of the Spanish American War and while George's attention was turned elsewhere, the Camp disbanded in 1900.

Wing's most formidable weapon was his pen and his writings filled volumes. In later years, he wrote on local history, the records of the Civil, Spanish-American and 1st World Wars, and genealogy. He traced his family back to Puritan and Mayflower roots, publishing a family newsletter and serving as president of the Wing Family Association.

George Wing died April 12, 1924 at the age of 67 and was buried at Kewaunee's Riverview Cemetery. He had been a member of many lodges and fraternal orders and the Masons were in charge of his graveside ceremonies.

From:

Commemorative Biographical Record of the Counties of Brown, Kewaunee & Door, Illustrated, J.H. Beers & Co., Chicago 1895

The Kewaunee Enterprise, April 18, 1924

Press Forward the Good Work, History of the Wisconsin Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1882-1923 by PDC Stephen A. Michaels, 1998



PDC George Wing's grave

Department Orders # 1

Series 2007-08

Brian G. Peters, Wisconsin Department Commander
646 Rays Lane
Stevens Point, WI 54481-9260
715 344-7924

commander@suvcw-wi.org

- 1) The office and duties of Wisconsin Department Commander are hereby accepted and headquarters continues to be established at the above location.
- 2) Meet your Department Officers for 2007-08. Each of these Brothers is to be praised for their service to the Order. Thank you Brothers!

Commander	Brian Peters, PCC	646 Rays Lane	Stevens Point, WI 54481-
Sr. Vice Commander	Bruce Laine, PCC	421 S. Sherman St.	Eagle, WI 53119
Jr. Vice Commander	Thomas J. Brown, CC	5025 N. 105 th St.	Milwaukee, WI 53225
Dept. Council 1	Kim J. Heltemes	W2570 Archer Ave.	Pine River, WI 54965
Dept. Council 2	Alan Hembel, PCC	Box 620-203	Middleton, WI 53562
Dept. Council 3	Randy Novak, PDC	641 Bowen St.	Oshkosh, WI 54901
Secretary	Gary Young, PCC	1004 Chestnut St.	Boscobel, WI 53805
Treasurer	Dale Brassler	1201 Hillcrest Dr.	Manitowoc, WI 54220
Patriotic Instructor	Alan Petit, CC	E7602 Cutoff Road	New London, WI 54961-
Dept. Counselor	Steve Michaels, PC-in-C	6623 S. North Cape Rd.	Franklin, WI 53132
Chaplain	Patrick Lynch	5830 S. 92 nd St.	Hales Corners, WI 53130
Dept. Color Guard	Bob Mann, CC	2375 Rockway Lane	Brookfield, WI 53005
Graves Registration	Virgil Matz	1215 Spring St., Box 425	Black Earth, WI 53515
Guide	Ronald Knaus, CC	1601 Paramenter St.	Middleton, WI 53562
Dept. Historian	James L. Johnson, PCC	100 E. Main St.	Waukesha, WI 53092
R. and R. Comm.	Fred F. Murphy, PDC	4462 S. Lake Drive	Cudahy, WI 53110-1249
Dept. Eagle Scout Coord.	Charles White	205 Sunset Lane, Apt. 3	Boscobel, WI 53805
Iron Brigade Highway	Daniel Chroninger, PCC	117 S. 3 rd St.	Readstown, WI 54652
Grant Awards Coord.	Alan Hembel, PCC	Box 620-203	Middleton, WI 53562
Monuments Registration	Kim J. Heltemes	W2570 Archer Ave.	Pine River, WI 54965
Dept. Signals Officer	Kent Peterson, PDC	6024 S. Kirkwood	Cudahy, WI 53110-3106
Camp Organizer	Thomas J. Brown, CC	5025 N. 105 th St.	Milwaukee, WI 53225

- 3) Congratulations to newly elected Auxiliary Department Officers. From the Wisconsin Department SUVCW, I extend friendship and support to you and to all of the other Allied Orders.
- 4) I want to thank the Brothers of L. G. Armstrong Camp #49 of Boscobel, and remembering their departed Camp Commander Charles White, I commend you for hosting an excellent and successful 124th Department Encampment.

(Continued on page 7)

124th Wisconsin Department Encampment, Boscobel, Wis. June 9, 2007

Department Treasurer Dale Brassler, Department Commander Brian Peters and outgoing Department Secretary PDC Randy Novak (right)



Past Commander in Chief Steve Michaels swears in the 2007-08 Department of Wisconsin Officers at the Boscobel Hotel in downtown Boscobel (Left).



The Department of Wisconsin Officers and Delegates in front of the GAR Hall in Boscobel (Right). Camp #4 did a great job hosting the Encampment. The tentative location of next year's encampment is Kenosha at the Midwest Civil



126th National Encampment, St. Louis, MO ~ Summary



Outgoing Commander in Chief Jim Pahl, with the Wisconsin Delegation. PCinC Pahl is holding the gavel that was given to him by Camp #5.

Among the 195 delegates registered, the following brothers represented your Department at the 126th National Encampment, 10-11 August in St. Louis:

PCinC Stephen Michaels (Camp 1)

PDC Frederick Murphy (Camp 1)

DC Brian Peters (Camp 8)

DSVC Bruce Laine (Camp 4)

DJVC Thomas Brown (Camp 1)

PCC Andrew Bollen (Camp 5)

CC Garen Engquist (Camp 56)

J. Brent Norlem (Camp 56)

Eric Sprengle (Camp 2)

Gary Young (Camp 49)

Br. Brown served as National Guard and Brs. Peters and Sprengle served as uniformed escorts during the Encampment.



Informationally:

- A "Chaplain's Handbook" is being completed.
- The QM will soon have an on-line store, which takes MasterCard and Visa.
- There are currently 432,167 graves registrations in the national database. Wisconsin has submitted 12,607.
- A new GR brochure is downloadable off the Nat. website.
-

Business items approved at the National Encampment included:

- Camps and Depts. may purchase a supply of ROTC Awards from the Nat. QM without forwarding an application, much like the Eagle Scout awards are now.
- The Nat. Order will accept custody of each memorial cannon which may be offered, to be replaced or maintained as a memorial in the location which it was located (The US Army may re-deed memorial cannon that it recovers).
- The *Banner* will be available in electronic form on the National website. Past issues will archived there.
- New requirements for non-profits to report to IRS were reviewed. All Camps and Departments must have an EIN.
- The JVCinC will work on developing an interactive on-line membership application, which will be sent directly to the Department JVC via the internet, with copies to the Dept. SVC and Co.
- A Special Committee was appointed to coordinate events relative to the American Civil War Sesqui-centennial (through 2016).



*Commander in Chief
Charles Kuhn*

- SVR Regulations were strengthened, setting deadlines for reporting. They added the positions of Provost and Deputy provost. There are now 1,151 SVR members, up from 1,117 last year.
- The CinC will continue to distribute a monthly email newsletter to DCs, highlighting activities at the Nat. level.
- In order to save expense, future National Encampment proceedings will be only available on CD by request and at cost.
- Additionally, PDC Bob Petrovic (MO) and PDC Brad Schall (CA/Pac) were elected to the vacant seats on the Council of Administration.
- SVCinC Charles Kuhn (PA) was elected CinC, JVCinC David Medert (OH) was elected SVCinC and PDC Leo Kennedy (RI) was elected JVCinC, running unopposed.

- reported by PCinC Steve Michaels

*The 2008 Nat. Encampment will be held August 7-10, at the
Boston Marriott in, Peabody, MA.*

- 5) Upon their publication, the minutes of the 124th Department Encampment will become its official record.
- 6) Temporary Encampment committees are discharged with thanks for their service.
- 7) I must sincerely thank the Brothers in attendance at the encampment for their most generous donations to the Department Patriotic fund when we “passed the hat”. The total of these donations was \$190. This is outstanding!
- 8) The by-laws amendment passed at the encampment regarding one Department Council position being filled by the immediate outgoing Department Commander was nullified by CinC James Pahl because it went against the C&R requirement that all three Council members be elected to their respective positions. I therefore declare this amendment to be void.
- 9) Per discussion in relation to a resolution passed at the encampment, I hereby add the word “Artifacts” to the official title of the Wisconsin Department Monuments Officer. The new title will be “Wisconsin Department Monuments and Artifacts officer”. Duties will be expanded to include the protection and preservation of GAR and Allied Orders artifacts in addition to monuments and memorials.
- 10) I offer commendations to Brother Bruce Cottington and CC Garen Engquist of Col. William Colvill Camp #56, for their efforts in securing the Bryant wallet for the GAR Hall Museum in Litchfield, MN, and for organizing and conducting the fine dedication ceremony held on 16 June.
- 11) Hearty thanks are extended to all Wisconsin Department Brothers who attended the National Encampment in St. Louis on 10 & 11 August. The Wisconsin Department was well represented. I also thank the Department of Missouri for hosting a very fine and enjoyable encampment.
- 12) New IRS tax exemption reporting requirements will affect each Camp in our Order. An annual report to IRS will be required. Each Camp should have received the report form directly from the IRS. Please respond as required with your Camp’s EIS number. If your Camp did not receive the report form, you need to contact me so that we can fulfill the IRS mandate.
- 13) Extra Department Encampment ribbon/buttons are available for purchase. The funds will be used to perpetuate the annual ribbons and buttons for future years. If you would like to have a ribbon/button to begin your collection, just send me \$3.50 for one or \$6.50 for two. Shipping is included and please indicate your mailing address.
- 14) Each SUVCW member should strive to be goal-oriented. Our Order’s several goals and projects are described on the SUVCW website, and some were also listed in my past Department Orders. Please review and work toward those goals. It is what we accomplish that will speak to the future and preserve the past, lest we forget.

Ordered this 19th day of August, 2007

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Brian G. Peters
Department Commander



Attest:
Gary W. Young
Department Secretary

In Memoriam



Brother Remi Gregoire
Camp #1



Rev. PCC Maurie Felton
Camp #1



Camp Commander
Charles F. White
Camp #49

Camp News & Activities

Old Camp #8 - Fox Cities -

OLD ABE CAMP #8 and the HO-CHUNK NATION, *By Kim J. Heltemes*

During his off time, Camp member Don Jager, found his passion – finding Civil War veterans graves. As a Texan, spending his military time at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, he started registering veterans from Monroe County. In his research, Jager met others with the same intent and began working with them. In the end, hundreds of Union veterans' graves were found and are being registered on the National database.



Above, on the left, Matt and on the right, his father, Ron Arndt, are shown at the Ghost Dinner with members of the Ho Chunk tribe.

Jager not only found the graves, he filed the paperwork for new markers where needed. With the help of the Boy Scouts, those markers were installed. Greenfield Cemetery of Tunnel City and Blue Wing Cemetery of Tomah, WI, were two of the finished cemeteries of his work.

The Blue Wing Cemetery is a Ho-Chunk cemetery that goes back to the early 1800's. Three soldiers, Ho-Chunk Natives, are buried there – two of them in unmarked graves and the third existing marker was unrecognizable. That's where Jager came in. With the help of the Andrew Blackhawk American Legion of Black River Falls, WI, Don was able to finish the paperwork and locate the burial spots of the soldiers.

Old Abe Camp #8 set a dedication time of June 23, 2007 to honor these soldiers along with the Ho-Chunk Nation. Jager had dedication brochures made up for day. The Ho-Chunk were ready with their colors and warriors (veterans).

The Camp was received with great dignity and honor from the Ho Chunk. As we gathered on the cemetery grounds, the Camp members were asked to part of the ceremony for a fallen warrior (soldier). A large spread of food was set on a tarp and around it sat the Camp members and Ho Chunk. An explanation was given by the Chief and then a prayer was said. A peace pipe was lit and passed to the right as each puffed three times. Then as each took their turn with the pipe, a small drink of water was given and passed on. After each person had his drink of water, they were allowed to eat. There was more than enough food with a variety of all sorts.

After the males were done, it was the females turn. With wives of Camp members present, they took their turn at the dinner celebration – the Ghost Dinner.

(Continued on page 9)

The *Wisconsin Department Dispatch* is

published three times per year for members of the Wisconsin Department, SUVCW. Articles, photos and news items may be submitted to SVC Bruce Laine at svc@suvcw-wi.org. Editorial deadlines are April, July and October 15.

Visit us on the Web at

<http://www.suvcw-wi.org>

Department Events Calendar

29-30 September - 17th Annual Civil War Weekend, Wade House, Greenbush, WI

6 October - Central Region Conference - Crawfordsville, IN

4 November - 2nd Annual Dept. of Wisconsin Leadership Conference, Milwaukee VA Soldier's Home Bldg. 1

10 November - Milwaukee's Veterans Day Parade

11 November - Madison's Veterans Day Parade

(Continued from page 8)

It is a rare occurrence for non Native Americans to participate in the ceremony. It was a dinner to honor the fallen warriors of the Ho-Chunk. There was one puff of the peace pipe for each of the soldiers. We all felt honored to be apart ceremony. It will be an experience to be remembered.

After all ate, the Ho-Chunk drummers beat out a song in honor of the fallen soldiers. We then went to the graves with the new markers. The soldiers were: Charles Clearday, 3rd Wisconsin Infantry; Edwin Nash, Omaha Scout; and John Sherman, a scout in the 3rd Wisconsin Infantry for General W. T. Sherman - no relation.

As the dedication progressed, a member of the Ho-Chunk stood as the Honor Guard over the graves with the Ho-Chunk colors. All three Brother's parts were done by the tribe members. Also, something new to the tribe was the placing of grommets under the sod and ashes of our National flag, spread over the graves. As the ceremony closed, the drum beaters neared the graves and beat out the "Flag Song". Other members of the Ho-Chunk sang along with the drummers as they too sang.

To the right, the procession to the Ho-Chunk dedication is shown, as Alan Petit, cut off from the photograph, lead in the participants with Kim J. Heltemes (shown in the front). Jim Waid carries the National colors with the Ho-Chunk colors being carried on his left. Richard Williams is behind Jim with the Camp colors. This was our first time to meet with Major Williams. He joined the Camp last year and works with Major Don Jager at Fort McCoy.

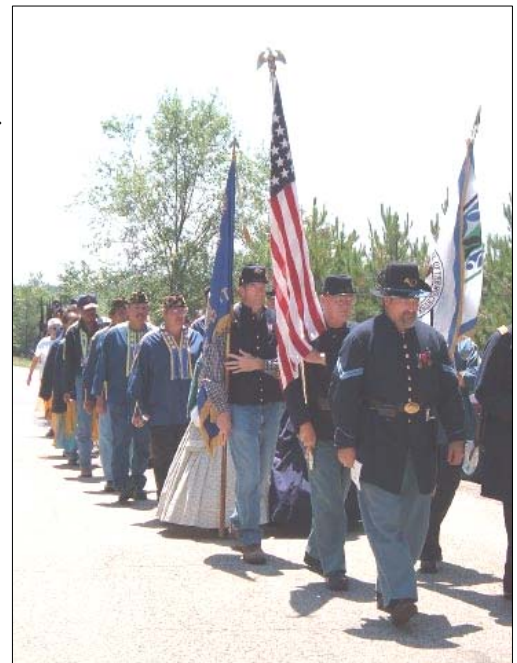
Some of the members of the Ho-Chunk behind the colors are also members of the Andrew Blackhawk American Legion Post #129.

A few of our ladies, also members of the King WRC Post, are between the colors and the Legionnaire. They are Susie Waid, President, and Kathy Heltemes.

The Ho-Chunk Veterans Service Officer, Jim Greendeer, helped Don with the proper burial spots of the soldiers. He took part in the ceremony as the brother burying the Nation's flag's grommets in the grave sod. This has become a part of Camp #8's dedication ceremony, along with spreading the ashes of the Nation's flag over the grave(s).

All of the work that went into the day's events are going to be placed in a book of Monroe County's history by Wayne Kling. Together, Don, Jim, and Wayne, made quite a day to remember.

Thanks Don, for putting together the duel ceremonies and for all of the hard work in our grave registration program.



(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

William Colvill III Camp #56 - Minnesota - THE BRYANT WALLET STORY

A wallet lost by a wounded Union soldier and picked up by a Confederate infantryman during the Battle of Gettysburg found an appropriate Minnesota home nearly 144 years later.

The small wallet was owned by Captain James Bryant, Company D, 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Bryant was wounded in the left thigh during the heroic charge of the 1st Minnesota during the Second Day of the battle. He lost his wallet in the process, either during the fighting or while being carried to a field hospital. The former is most likely, as sometime thereafter his wallet was picked up by Private David Morgan Rife, a young Virginia infantryman. It remained a Battle of Gettysburg souvenir in Rife's family into the current year.

In early April 2007, Mike McMillan of the Department of Michigan contacted Brent Norlem, SVC of William Colvill III Camp No. 56, the Department of Wisconsin's Minnesota appendage. Descendants of David Morgan Rife, now living in Michigan, wanted to return James Bryant's wallet to his descendants if possible, he said, asking whether the William Colvill III Camp could be of assistance. As Brother Norlem sent out a plea for help to all Camp No. 56 members, Shirley M. Norlem, SUVCW Auxiliary, retired teacher and practicing genealogist, commenced a search for Bryant descendants, finding one in Florida, another in Kansas.

The information was shared with Bruce K. Cottingham of the William Colvill III Camp, *ex officio* "Guardian of the G.A.R. Hall," Camp No. 56's headquarters in Litchfield, Minnesota, who also was conducting an intensive search. Brother Cottingham, ever acting in the G.A.R. Hall's best interests, asked permission of the Camp No. 56 leadership to contact the Bryant descendants with the suggestion of placing Captain Bryant's wallet in the small but excellent Civil War museum of the Frank Daggett Post No. 35 G.A.R. Hall and was given the green light. In making these contacts, Brother Cottingham found still another Bryant descendant, that one in California.

Following extensive communications with Brother Cottingham, the Bryant descendants agreed to donate the wallet to the Litchfield G.A.R. Hall's Civil War museum, and June 16 was set as the date of presentation. Originally, Rife's Michigan descendants, who were in actual possession of the wallet, intended to be present for the ceremony, but a change in their home situation forced them to change their plans. However, they did visit the Frank Daggett Post No. 35 G.A.R. Hall the week before the presentation, bringing the wallet with them.

The June 16 presentation ceremony, orchestrated and supervised by Brother Cottingham, was conducted in the large band shell of Litchfield's Central Park, directly across the street from the G.A.R. Hall. A band played between addresses by various officials participating in the ceremony, among whom were: Brian G. Peters, Department of Wisconsin Commander; Garen W. Engquist, Camp No. 56 Commander; Steve Dille, Minnesota State Senator; Dean Urdahl, Minnesota State Representative; and Vern Madson, Litchfield mayor.

A symbolic exchange of the wallet between a Confederate reenactor and a Union reenactor completed the ceremony. Following the presentation, a picnic luncheon was served in the G.A.R. Hall by the Meeker County Historical Society, which continues to maintain the hall in pristine condition. A quartet of musicians in period dress played Civil War pieces during the luncheon.



PHOTOGRAPH BY SHIRLEY M. NORLEM, SUVCW AUXILIARY