



Wisconsin Department Dispatch



Summer 2008

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Meet Your Wisconsin Department Commander

Bruce C. Laine, PCC, is your new Department Commander, elected at the 125th Wisconsin Department Encampment in Kenosha on June 9, 2008. Brother Laine has previously served in the Department offices of Graves Registration Officer, Junior Vice Commander, and most recently Senior Vice Commander.

Bruce grew up in Orange, CT and did not know he had a Union ancestor, until 1991, when he found a GAR "Leave of Absence" card from Abraham Lincoln Post #4 in Walla Walla, WA. After much research, Bruce

discovered that the name on the card, Andrew Craig, was his great great grandfather. Andrew was born in Saline Township, Michigan in 1831, to Elijah and Temperance Craig. Andrew was the oldest of five children. He enlisted in Co. G, of the 1st Michigan Infantry on May 1, 1861 in Burr Oak. He was capture at Bull Run on July 21, 1861 and was a POW at Charleston, SC and Richmond, VA until he was exchanged in May, 1862. He was discharged on May 20, 1862, when he returned to Michigan. Andrew's younger brother, Elijah, also served in Co. G, of the 30th Michigan Infantry.

Bruce joined the SUVCW in 1992, in Massachusetts, in 1993 he moved to Illinois and transferred his membership to Custer Camp #1, in Wilmette. In 1995, Brother Laine was again transferred by his employer, this time to Michigan, and became a member of Gilluly-Kingsley Camp #120 in Howell. In 1997 he moved to Eagle, WI, and became a member of Ammi Hawks, Camp #3, when MG John Gibbon Camp #4 was formed in 1998, he transferred to the Waukesha camp. In Camp 4 Brother Laine has served as Secretary/Treasurer, Junior Vice Commander, Camp Commander 2005, and currently holds the office of Senior Vice Commander. Bruce is also a member of the Sons of Veterans Reserve, 28th Wisconsin Co. B.



(Above Left to Right) James Handby, PDC, Council of Administration (now JVCinC), newly elected Dept. Commander Bruce Laine and outgoing Commander Brian Peters at the 125th Department Encampment in Kenosha.

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Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

SUVCW

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Brother Laine is a graduate of Franklin Pierce University, in Rindge, New Hampshire with a degree in Business Management. Bruce has been employed by First Student (through acquisition) since 1988 and has been Region Safety Manager since moving to Wisconsin in 1997.

Bruce's wife of 22 years is Gisele (aka Gigi). Gigi currently works as the secretary for the Eagle Fire Commission and is active in the Palmyra-Eagle PTO. They have two children. Their daughter, Danielle is a sophomore at Palmyra Eagle High School. Danielle has been a member of the ASUVCW and plans to join the reactivated Ammi Hawks Auxiliary #5. Bruce & Gigi's son Andrew Craig is in 8th grade at Palmyra Eagle Middle School.. Andrew is also a junior member of the SUVCW, MG John Gibbon Camp #4.

Wisconsin Department Pioneers



Harry S. Fuller

On June 17, 1890, 27-year old insurance agent Harry S. Fuller, was elected Department Commander at the Wisconsin Dept. Encampment held in Sheboygan. He took over a healthy state Order with 68 working Camps and 1,560 members.

Br. Fuller was born in Appleton, the younger of two sons born to Dr. Sidney and Susie Fuller. During the Civil War, Dr. Fuller served as Assistant Surgeon of the 21st Wisconsin Infantry from August 20, 1862 to March 1864.

The younger Fuller spent his formative years in Detroit and became an agent of the Washington Life Insurance Company of New York in its Western Dept. in 1885. The following year, he married Agnes M., a Canadian immigrant. He transferred to Milwaukee in 1888 and upon his arrival, organized Milwaukee's Rufus King Camp

29. The Camp was chartered before the end of the year and Fuller served as the Camp's first commander.

Br. Fuller had been a member of the National Guard since the age of 18 and was devoted to improving the service. He was appointed captain of the 4th Battalion and inspector of small arms practice one week after becoming Wisconsin Department Commander. An active Republican, Fuller was a delegate to various local conventions. In January 1895, he was appointed to Governor Upham's staff.

Fuller placed Department Headquarters in his own business office and had the clerical work done by his clerks. Department expenses for office rent, furniture, fuel, lights and payroll were avoided. The work of perfecting the records of the organization was begun. Much work was completed on two volumes in which were inscribed the names of all members in the Department. Volume A contained a list of all members, chartered and mustered in the first 75 Camps. It wasn't completed because some Camp adjutants did not report. The entire membership of all other Camps was recorded in Volume B.

Col. Fuller inspected more than half of the Department's Camps personally. Sickness prevented him from visiting the others, so he appointed assistant inspectors for them. The report of the Inspector General showed that 600 members were uniformed, 300 were armed and equipped; 18 Camps held regular camping drills and all that were equipped had adopted the infantry branch.

After he stepped down as Dept. Commander, he reorganized his Camp as Badger Camp 1, which was chartered in 1892. Members for this Camp came from the disbanded Rufus King Camp and C.K. Pier Camp 35. When Camp 1's membership dwindled nine years later he supported the merger with Camp 35 and was a charter

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COMMENTS FROM YOUR PAST DEPARTMENT
COMMANDER

July 2008

Wisconsin Department Brothers and Officers,

My two-year service as your Department Commander has concluded with the election of your new leader, Department Commander Bruce Laine. I hope you will continue to afford to Commander Laine the respect and cooperation that you so graciously afforded to me during my service as your Commander. I sincerely thank you for the privilege and honor you bestowed upon me. Your kind words of encouragement and dedicated service were, and are, most appreciated. Together we did accomplish some worthy goals, worked on important projects, outlined desired objectives and looked to what will be required of us in the future. To my fellow Department Officers who stepped up to your posts and so ably served, I applaud you for your dedication and assistance. We will continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder, pressing forward, assisting

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member of C.K. Pier Badger Camp 1. PDC Fuller also served a term as National Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

Meanwhile, his family grew. Sidney was born in April 1887, Lella in August 1889, Irene in 1892 and Harry, Jr. in April 1893. His business success also grew and by 1896, his insurance territory included northern Michigan and he was also in charge of Indiana, Illinois and lower Michigan, as well as Wisconsin. His wife was assisted by a servant woman and the family moved to Wauwatosa, purchasing the home at 1609 Church Street in 1910. His two daughters were married there.

As his children moved into their teenage years and his business continued to grow, PDC Harry S. Fuller absence from Sons activity also grew. He was honorably discharged from the Order in January 1912

The Fullers sold their home in 1923 and moved to Pasadena, California, where they lived until their death. PDC Harry Fuller died May 2, 1937, at age 73, and his wife, Agnes M., on April 17, 1943. They were survived by their two sons, Sidney L. of Wauwatosa, Harry of Kansas City; and their two daughters, Mrs. Mrs. Roscoe Godfrey and Mrs. Hiram Le Faber of Wauwatosa.

each other and striving to increase our strength of numbers, so as to assure that the memory of the Boys in Blue will live on, and that our flag will never be lowered in defeat.

I Shall Remain

Your Obedient Servant,

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Brian G. Peters, PDC

Wisconsin Department

SUVCW



Written by PCinC Stephen Michaels

Sources: **Ancestry dot com**

C.K. Pier Badger Camp 1 Sketchbooks and Attendance records

Milwaukee Sentinel

Press Forward the Good Work by PDC Stephen A. Michaels 1997 & 1999 by the Dept. of Wisconsin

Wauwatosa Landmarks published by Wauwatosa Landmark Commission 1994



Department Orders # 1

Series 2008-09

Bruce C. Laine, Wisconsin Department Commander
421 S. Sherman St.
Eagle, WI 53119
262-594-2081

commander@suvcw-wi.org

- 1) The office and duties of Wisconsin Department Commander are hereby accepted and headquarters will be established at the above location
- 2) Below are the Department Officers for 2008-09. Their willingness to serve is greatly appreciated.

Commander	Bruce Laine, PCC	421 S. Sherman St.	Eagle, WI 53119
Sr. Vice Commander	Thomas J. Brown, PCC	5025 N. 105 th St.	Milwaukee, WI 53225
Jr. Vice Commander	Kim J. Heltemes, CC	W2570 Archer Ave.	Pine River, WI 54965
Dept. Council 1	Kent Peterson, PDC	6024 S. Kirkwood	Cudahy, WI 53110-3106
Dept. Council 2	Brian Peters, PDC	646 Rays Lane	Stevens Point, WI 54481
Dept. Council 3	Alan Hembel, PCC	Box 620-203	Middleton, WI 53562
Secretary	Gary Young, PCC	1004 Chestnut St.	Boscobel, WI 53805
Treasurer	Dale Brassler	1201 Hillcrest Dr.	Manitowoc, WI 54220
Patriotic Instructor	Alan Petit, PCC	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. 92nd 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	Andrew Bollen, PCC	621 Sheridan Drive	West Bend, WI 53095
R. and R. Comm.	Fred F. Murphy, PDC	4462 S. Lake Drive	Cudahy, WI 53110-1249
Dept. Eagle Scout Coord.	Ronald Knaus, CC	1601 Paramenter St.	Middleton, WI 53562
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	Vince Barker	W6109 Colonial Drive	Appleton, WI 54914
Dept. Signals Officer	Kent Peterson, PDC	6024 S. Kirkwood	Cudahy, WI 53110-3106
Camp Organizer	Kim J. Heltemes, CC	W2570 Archer Ave.	Pine River, WI 54965

- 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) Thank you to the Brothers of C.K.Pier Badger Camp #1 of Milwaukee, for hosting an excellent and successful 125th Department Encampment in Kenosha.

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National Encampment Report

PCinC Steve Michaels and Br. Eric Graff (Camp #1) represented the Wisconsin Department at the 127th National Encampment held 8-10 August in Peabody, MA.

We enjoyed tours of the USS Constitution, Boston Commons, and a fantastic GAR Hall in Lynn, MA.

Br. David V. Medert (OH) was elected Commander-in-Chief and installed by his father, PCinC David R. Medert. This was the first time in Sons history that a father and son had served in the high post. Also elected were: SVCinC Leo Kennedy (RI) and JVCinC James R. Hanby, Sr. (MD). PDC Perley Mellor (MA) and PCC Henry Shaw (OH) were elected to the Council of Administration.

Business items included:

- + A restructuring of the Regulations to include applicable PCinC rulings from the Digest.
- + Completion of Camp and Dept. IRS filings to expedite preparation for our transition to a 501^c3 organization.
- + The Junior-Associate category of membership was overwhelmingly approved.
- + The Civil War Memorials Grant Comm. will post a status report on the Nat. website of past and current approvals.
- + New database software for a Civil War Memorials online database is being considered.
- + Exec. Dir. Lee Walters announced his retirement on September 30th. A search is underway for his replacement.
- + Based upon recommendations of the Long Range Planning Committee, the National Order is committed to establishing a permanent facility, either existing or newly constructed.

Changes to the C&R include:

- + Ranking of Camp officers for purposes of definition.
- + Repealing Clause and Amendments
- + Under Discipline, limiting the initial legal action of a disputing brother.
- + Clarifying significance of original charters as historical documents.
- + Nat. Encampment Host Department has a time limit on sales of Encampment badges
- + Clarifying unused GAR and SUVCW grave policy.
- + Records Retention Schedule established in compliance with US Dept. of Treasury.
- + Clarification of War Medal authorization



Left to Right PCinC David R. Medert, PCinC Steve Michaels, Br. Eric Graff and CinC David V. Medert

Additionally:

- + The Lincoln Tomb Ceremony has ramped up for the Lincoln Bicentennial. An SVR muster and Civil War Ball are being added to the weekend's activities.
- + The Wisconsin delegation was pleased to accept the Marshall Hope Best Newsletter Award, presented to C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1. Editor PDC Kent Peterson was previously recognized in 2001 for his work on the Camp's newsletter.
- + Ken Burns will receive the SUVCW Founders Award at Remembrance Day this year.

Numerically, Wisconsin delegation was on par with the Illinois and Iowa Departments. However, the Kansas, Indiana, Missouri, California & Pacific Department delegations were each larger. We have some work to do to see that our Department has maximum representation.

The 2009 National Encampment will be held 13-16 August in Louisville, KY.



Above at the 125th Department of Wisconsin Encampment, at the Midwest Civil War Museum in Kenosha, Past Commander in Chief Steve Michaels welcomes the group.

Awards presentations made by Commander Peters, at the Department Encampment:
 Certificate of Merit to Brother Vince Barker of Camp #8...Last Veterans Project
 Certificate of Merit to Brother Kim Heltemes of Camp #8 for meritorious service to Camp #8 and the Racine Save the Cannons Initiative.
 Certificate of Merit to Brother Fred Murphy of Camp #4 for Patriotic Education
 Certificate of Merit to Brother Don Yager of Camp #8 ...Last Veterans Project
 Other Awards
 Brother Ron Aronis announced Camp #8 as the recipient of the Alonzo P. Cushing Membership Award.
 PCinC Michaels presented SUVCW School Attendance Awards
 Brother Alan Petit noted he had qualified as a Lincoln Fellow for the Lincoln Charitable Foundation.



SUVCW Auxiliary member Angela E. Peters was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps at Madison Wisconsin on 16 August 2008. Angela is the daughter of Wisconsin PDC Brian G. Peters and Auxiliary member Lucy M. Peters.



CAMP RANDALL CANNON RESTORED

An unveiling of the first of the Camp Randall Civil War cannons to be restored will take place on October 4, 2008 from 3:00 pm to 5:30 pm. The ceremony, in the historic section of Camp Randall, will include representatives of the University of Wisconsin, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Civil War reenactors.

Funds for the restorations are being solicited by Henry Harnden Camp #2, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. While an anonymous and generous donor provided the money for the restoration of this gun, efforts are continuing to collect some \$25,000 required to restore the remaining two smoothbores.

All are invited to attend, particularly those interested in American history and historical reenactors of all eras.

- 5) Upon their publication, the minutes of the 125th Department Encampment will become its official record.
- 6) Temporary Encampment committees are discharged with thanks for their service.
- 7) When we “passed the kepi” in Kenosha, at the 125th Department Encampment, we collected a total of \$200 for the Department Patriotic Fund. On behalf of the Department, I thank the Brothers who were so generous.
- 8) Congratulations to C.K.Pier Badger Camp #1 and PDC Kent Peterson for being awarded the 2007-2008 Marshall Hope Award for the producing the best Camp Newsletter in the Order. Brother Kent has previously received this award for the Department Dispatch.
- 9) Thank you to the Midwest Civil War Museum in Kenosha for allowing us to use their facility for the Department Encampment, even though they were behind schedule in construction. It is truly a beautiful facility and I am looking forward to see it completed.
- 10) Congratulations to C.K.Pier Badger Camp #1 and PDC Kent Peterson for being awarded the 2007-2008 Marshall Hope Award for the producing the best Camp Newsletter in the Order. Brother Kent has previously received this award for the Department Dispatch.
- 11) Thank you to PCinC Steve Michaels and Brother Eric Graff, of Camp #1, who attended the National Encampment in Peabody, Massachusetts (North of Boston) on the 9th & 10th of August. It sounds like the Department of Massachusetts did a fine job in hosting the encampment. Next year’s encampment will be in Louisville, Kentucky, we hope to have a good contingent!
- 12) As members of the SUVCW, we all need to continue to remember those who served to preserve the Union. One way to do this is to be involved in your camp activities and SUVCW Projects. One project that I would like to start in Wisconsin, is to identify the grave of all Past Department Commanders from our Department. Thanks to the work of PCinC Steve Michaels, we have some of these identified already. I ask all Brothers to report any unidentified PDC graves to the Department Graves Registration Officer, Virgil Matz.

Ordered this 14th day of September, 2008

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Bruce C. Laine
Department Commander

Attest:
Gary W. Young
Department Secretary



Camp News & Activities

MG John Gibbon Camp #4 - Waukesha County ~



(Left) Brothers Jim Johnson, Bruce Laine & Jeremy Johnson participated in the 4th of July Parade in Watertown, as the color guard for the 1st Brigade Band.

(Right) Brother Jeremy Johnson, along with Jim Johnson, CC Bob Mann, Patrick Lynch and DC Bruce Laine worked in the Genealogy Tent and participated in the daily parade at Irish Fest in Milwaukee at the Henry W. Maier Festival Park



Old Abe Camp #8 - Fox Cities ~

CAMP #8 PARTICIPATES IN AN INTERNATIONAL EVENT AT THE OSHKOSH PUBLIC MUSEUM ON July 12
- The Oshkosh Public Museum has had a nice relation with Camp #8. Although we haven't done much together in the



past few years, this event will be hardly surpassed. The Camp was asked to present the colors to the Russians in the opening ceremony that showed the Tsar of Russia and President Lincoln in their prospective endangerment as leaders of their countries. Both were assassinated.

There is (the display will be on through the summer) a nice display of both of their lives with paintings and artifacts. It is worth the trip to see the presentation that fills several rooms.

Russians could not wait to have their photos taken with the Sons. Once they found out that we were descendants of the union soldiers, they took an instant liking to us. They said it meant more to them to see us as Sons than as re-enactors.



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

Visit us on the Web at

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

Department Events Calendar

27-28 September - 17th Annual Civil War Weekend, Wade House, Greenbush, WI

3-4 October - Central Region Conference - St. Louis, MO

4 October—Dedication of Civil War Cannon - Camp Randall, Madison, WI

4-5 October—5th Civil War Encampment - Trimborn Farms, Greendale, WI

2 November - 3rd Annual Dept. of Wisconsin Leadership Conference

8 November - Milwaukee's Veterans Day Parade



Shown from front l to r; Old Abe Camp #8 members, Vince Barker with son, Seth, and Kurt Kirk, Scouts A.J. Gans, Eli Zemke, Anthony Knoeck, and Logan Elandt, and Chris Gans. Mike Knoeck is in the back row. Missing is Kim J. Heltemes – he took the photograph.

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In the last few years, the Weyauwega Oakwood Cemetery has received a lot of attention from Camp #8 members. So far eleven new markers have been placed with three more yet to be installed. Two of the markers received were broken and need to be re-made. On Saturday, August 9, 2008, five of those markers were set in as a Boy Scout Eagle project. They also placed four markers in the Poy Sippi Cemetery that day. The Scout Troop 634 of Waupaca was looking for an Eagle project when Heltemes offered them the marker project. After the needed paperwork was done to approve the project, A.J. Gans took it over with the guidance of camp #8 members. The project involved learning the cemetery system of burial placement, respect for our Civil War dead, along with cement work, tool usage, and working together. Everyone worked well together so it was a pleasant day. All were proud of what was done that day.

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It was also an experience for our Junior member, Seth Barker.

L. G. Armstrong Camp #49, Boscobel

The camp observed the designation of Wisconsin's John McDermott Post #101 Grand Army of the Republic Hall in Boscobel as a National Historic Site with a special ceremony on the 4th of July. Attending were (left to right) Mayor Jerry Linder, Assemblyman Phil Garthwaite, Congressman/Brother Ron Kind (Camp #49), Assembly candidate Dennis Lundell, Brother Department Secretary Gary Young (Camp #49), Brother Greg Pomerening (Camp #49), Sister Marie Leifheit, WRC, Brother Vernon Ward (Camp #49), Sister Loretta Hooker WRC, State Senator Dale Schultz, Sister Jamie Chroninger WRC, Mrs. Luba Welsh, Brother Commander Bob Welsh (Camp #49), Seated: Rita Baumeister WRC, Brother Alan Goldsmith (Camp #49), Iron Brigade Officer Dan Chroninger (Camp #49), Gayle Nelson WRC, President Doris Cruckson, WRC Department of Wisconsin. In opening the ceremony Captain of the Camp Guard Young noted the very special assistance of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the support of the Jeffris Family Foundation in funding the drive to place the GAR Hall on the State and National registers.



In support of the special all day opening of the Hall for tours, Brother Gary Young rode in the Independence Day Parade inviting one and all to visit the Hall that day and become acquainted with their heritage. Dozens of children came out to get candy from Brother Gary as he made his invitations and parents carried their babies out for the same purpose. It was a grand opportunity to promote our order.

During Muskets & Memories, Boscobel's Civil War Weekend, Camp #49 manned a Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War tent at the main entrance to the event grounds. Brother Eric Sprengle came to help, spending the weekend in the tent. Camp #49 realized 3 new members from this effort over the weekend.



PCC Gary Young reports that Brother Oliver Giddings, of Camp #49, passed away in San Antonio on Saturday, 6. A long time member of the Camp, Brother Oliver was a retired Air Force veteran. Services were held in Boscobel on Saturday, September 13, with burial effected in Mt. Zion Union Cemetery. Brother Young represented the Order.