



Wisconsin Department Dispatch



Winter 2007

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

SUVCW

Department Commander's Comments

Dear Brothers,

The purpose of our Order was vividly demonstrated over the past months in your responses to the threatened Racine GAR Memorial Cannon. I am very proud of you for your firm stand in this call to action. We were successful in obtaining the desired outcome . . . the ad hoc committee appointed by the Mayor came back with a recommendation that the two memorial cannon be returned to the GAR Monument Square. And then the Racine Common Council followed the recommendation and voted to return the cannons to their proper and rightful location. I believe your letters and contacts were a critical component in the positive result. I salute you for your efforts!

I hope you had a most enjoyable Thanksgiving with family and friends. Let us not forget the origin of the official Day of Thanksgiving established by President Lincoln in 1863. We thank our veterans and pray that they be safe and strong. May they, and we be touched by the patriotic spirit, and may we do all in our power to preserve the best our country has to offer, to fight evil where we find it and to defend what is right and good. I wish you a blessed Christmas and a new year filled with worthy accomplishment.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Brian Peters

Wisconsin Department Commander



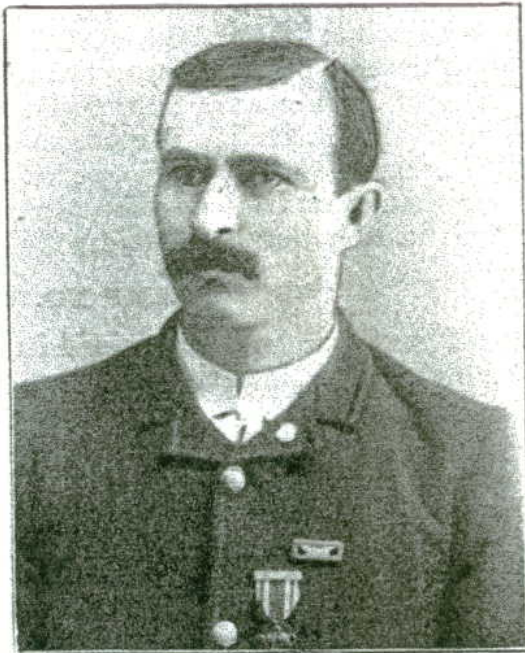
Racine's Civil War Cannons

Monument Square's cannons should be returned to the Square, and not placed in a museum. That's the conclusion of the Racine City Council's ad hoc committee charged with recommending placement of the Civil War-era pieces that have sat in storage since they were removed to accommodate Square renovations. The cannons, at left, are sitting behind a Racine DPW building. Special thanks to Bros. Pat Kulas and Bob Koenecke for making extra efforts to convince city officials that the cannons should be returned to their monument site in downtown Racine.



"PRESERVED BY THE GRACE OF GOD"

Wisconsin Department Pioneers



C.H. Hudson

Riding the Crest: Charles H. Hudson

At the Department Encampment, held in Madison on June 30, 1888, U.S. mail carrier Charles H. Hudson was elected Dept. Commander. He had joined the Sons only a couple of years earlier, when Madison's Col. Charles Gill Camp 15 was organized.

His father, John W. Hudson, was a pioneer in the Madison grain business and later, was a manufacturer, banker and developer. He was one of the first to see the coming value of Madison suburban property. Elmside, Wingra Park and University Heights were platted by his real estate company. He enlisted in Co. D, 23rd Wisconsin Infantry in August 1862 and was discharged due to disability in October 1863. The elder Hudson also served as commander of Madison's C.C. Washburn GAR Post #11.

Charles Hudson was born March 10, 1858, the third of four children. After graduating from school, Charles worked as a teacher in Jackson, Iowa, before returning to Madison and getting a job with the U.S. Postal Service.

Charles Hudson's term as Department Commander was associated with tremendous growth. Interest in the Order mushroomed with the announcement that the National

GAR Encampment would be held in Milwaukee the following summer. Within a year, the Department grew from 300 members in 25 Camps to nearly 40 Camps with over 1500 members in the state. The McClelland Camp in Menomonee, Michigan was part of our department. Numerous Camps were chartered in the state, including those at Baraboo, Mauston, Milwaukee (Rufus King #29 and C.K. Pier #35), Sheboygan, Marinette, Waupaca, Stevens Point, West Superior, Oconomowoc and West Salem. There were 26 communities where Sons assisted in Memorial Day services.

"Colonel" Hudson was re-elected Dept. Commander in 1889 and the Department continued to grow to 68 Camps. New Camps were chartered at Green Bay, Portage, Thorpe/Longwood, Plover and Antigo that year.

Although active since 1882, the Wisconsin Department was officially chartered on September 2, 1889, with rank from 1887. Hudson was one of the 24 Past Department and Camp Commanders, whose name appeared on the charter. During his administration, the first Ladies Aid Society (Auxiliary to the SUVCW) in the state was organized in Milwaukee and the first Order-wide celebration of Lincoln's birthday (Union Defender's Day) was celebrated on February 9, 1890.

The following year, Charles married Grace Wright, the daughter of a Winona, Minnesota, real estate man and fire insurance agent. The two had three daughters: Margaret, born in November 1891, Mary H., born in September 1893, and Dorothy, born in June 1897.

When his father died in 1901, Charles moved next door, into his father's house at 221 N. Pinckney. There he looked after his mother until her death in 1912, and took over many of his father's real estate investments. He left his job with the post office to devote all of his energies to those interests and was one of the investors in Madison's Highland Park subdivision, west of University Heights, which opened in May 1906.

In the years following his terms as Department Commander, Hudson continued to play an active roll in the Sons of Union Veterans. In December 1901, he was a charter member of Milwaukee's C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1. In May 1902, he reorganized the Madison Camp as Henry Harnden Camp #2 with 30 charter members and served as its commander. In the 1910s and again in the 1930s, he served as the Department Secretary/Treasurer. A post-war depression and stock market crash had

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From the Department Graves Registration Officer

As Department GRO I would like to commend C.K.Pier Camp #1 for the work done Grave the Registration Program. They got a group of members, an Auxiliary member and a National WRC member to do the Forest Home Cemetery and other cemeteries. This is something other camps could also do to help with the program. If any other camps have submitted into the National Database please let me know.

There are some requests from the National GRO to pass on to members. A request that all members check and make sure that their lineal ancestors are entered, many aren't. Even one of our camp namesakes, William Upham, wasn't entered until I entered him after a query from National.

Message from National GRO to members who submit into the database:

1. The "If Federal, State from" field should be left blank unless the veteran served in a Federal unit (i.e.:12th U.S. Inf, U.S.Navy, 23rd U.S. Cav, U.S.Marines). You get the idea.

2. The name aka's should be entered in the "misc info" field and not in the "name" fields. I normally choose to enter the name on the headstone for the "name" field. If needed, I type in the "misc info" field - Records spell or list surname as xxxxx.

Virgil O.Matz,
Graves Registration Officer
Dept. of Wisconsin.

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decimated the ranks of the Department until there were just under 500 members in 17 Camps.

After his wife died in the 1936, Hudson spent his winters in Texas. He died on February 12, 1939 at the age of 80 and was buried in Madison's Forest Hill Cemetery. His grave in Section 30, Lot 005 (# 10), is unmarked.

Sources:**Biographical Review of Dane County, Wis.;**
Biographical Review Publishing Co., Chicago 1893

Forest Hill Cemetery

Madison.com

Madison, Past and Present edited by David
Atwood; Wisconsin State Journal, Madison 1902

**Press Forward the Good Work, History of the Wis.
Dept. SUVCW** by PCinC Steve Michaels,
Milwaukee 1997 and 1999

U.S. census records



**PDC Charles Hudson served as Dept.
Sec./Treas. in the 1910s and 1930s**



Department Orders # 2

Series 2007-08

Brian G. Peters, Wisconsin Department Commander

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1. There are two corrections to the Department Officer list published in my Department Orders #1 in the last issue of the Department Dispatch. The corrections are below. Please take note.

Dept. Historian	Andrew P. Bollen, PCC	621 Sheridan Drive	West Bend, WI 53095
Dept. Eagle Scout Coord.	Eric J. Sprengle	2513 Hoard St.	Madison, WI 53704

2. It appears that the Racine ad hoc committee charged with recommending whether two GAR Memorial Cannon would be returned to the GAR Memorial on Racine's downtown Monument Square heard our collective voices. The committee's recommendation was that the cannons should be returned to the location where they have been since Racine's GAR members placed them there in the 1890's. I thank the committee members for reaching the right decision and I heartily commend all Allied Orders Brothers and Sisters who assisted in the battle to preserve this memorial to the sacrifices of our fathers. Department Memorials, Monuments and Artifacts Officer, Kim Heltemes, spent many hours on many days in communications with city officials, committee members, the city attorney, the state Attorney General, state legislators and SUVCW National and Department Officers. Camp 1 Brother Patrick Kulas attended the committee meetings representing the SUVCW. I thank them and any others who put forth extra effort in this cause! Please know that your time and dedication is appreciated by your Order and I'm sure by the "Boys in Blue" whom we represent. Thanks are also extended to National Civil War Memorials Officer Kevin Tucker for his essential assistance. And I sincerely thank all Brothers and Sisters from across the Wisconsin Department who sent letters of support for returning the cannons to their rightful place on Monument Square. Many letters were sent, bringing awareness to the city, awareness that we the guardians of our ancestors' heritage, would NOT allow our monument to be defaced.
3. Our Department Mid-Winter meeting will be held on Saturday February 2nd, 2008 at Bluemound Gardens, 11703 W. Bluemound Road, Wauwatosa, WI. The meeting will begin at 9:30 AM and conclude about noon. Please plan to attend. The meeting is open to all members, not just officers, and there is a good chance that our National Commander-in-Chief Charles Kuhn will be in attendance. (NOTE: Please park in the lower parking lot behind the building, not in the upper restaurant parking lot.) The annual Patriotic Luncheon will follow at 12:30 PM at the same location. *Advanced reservations are required for the Patriotic Luncheon.
4. Department Officers and Camp Commanders should prepare a brief report of their recent activities for the Mid-Winter meeting. Please send me your reports ASAP. Reports submitted in writing prior to the meeting will NOT need to be repeated verbally at the meeting. New information not included in the written report may be verbally brought to the floor, and perhaps one priority item from your written report may be mentioned if time allows. It is my desire to reduce the time spent on reports and free up more

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OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF
CHARLES E. KUHN JR., PDC
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EAST BERLIN, PA 17316
Charlie_kuhn@comcast.net

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
FROM THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF
2006 – 2007
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

Brothers,

The first Special National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was held on Saturday 17 November, 2007 at the Eisenhower Inn in Gettysburg. There were nearly 90 Brothers in attendance. I salute the Brothers of the Order for their dedication by coming for this important meeting on such a short notice. The Brothers resolve was manifest in the fact that it only took 41 minutes to run the entire meeting.

The Proposed changes to the Constitution concerning the Juniors and Junior Associates passed with almost a unanimous vote. The Amendment to the Constitution concerning allowing the Commander in Chief to place an issue in abeyance was ruled out of order since it was not conceived within the realm of the Department Order that called the special Pennsylvania Department Encampment to draft the language. This piece of legislation will be dealt with at the 127th National Encampment.

Every Department will now be receiving from the National Secretary the language that was passed by the Special National Encampment which they will have to ratify or reject prior to it becoming "the law of the Order". There will be a return letter that must be signed by the Department Commander and attested by the Department Secretary stating that the Department voted on each particular amendment and it either passed or failed. These need to be completed and sent back to the National Secretary for tabulation so that the results can be posted. At least 51% of the Departments must ratify the change in order to become effective on July 1, 2008.

I am still waiting on several Departments to get me information concerning their Department Encampments. I need to know when and where they will be so that I can make plans to attend if possible or get another National Officer to represent me. I must know your dates and places by December 15th so that we can arrange vacation time if necessary to attend. Many employers need vacation requests very early in the year as mine does. I desire to have a National Officer at every Encampment if possible. Please contact my Chief of Staff with those dates and places.

On another note the Order has been challenged. It has been challenged not as a whole but by Department. The Luray-Carlisle Reunion Camp #1881 of the Department of Maryland has produced a beautiful GAR Christmas tree ornament. They have asked that each Department sell 250 of them by December 20, 2007. If a Department meets this challenge they will in turn return to that Department \$1000.00 for the placement of a plaque in the south where a reunion of the Blue and Grey took place. The plaque will be denoted that it was presented by that particular Department. As we approach the 150th anniversary of the civil war, what better way could there be to show that these combatants laid down their arms and shook hands and joined together to rebuild this great Nation. <http://www.geocities.com/bluegrayvirginians/SUVCWFundraisingChallenge.html> Information on the challenge is available at that location on the World Wide Web. Please visit and get involved.

This last month saw the passing of another famous WWII veteran, Col. Paul Tibbets. Colonel Tibbets along with his crew changed the course of history by dropping the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan. Although there was great loss of life and mass devastation, the loss of American and Japanese life that was prevented from the invasion of Japan by the Allied Forces was far greater. This effort that culminated with the dropping of the atomic bomb was not a singular act of a lone aircraft and crew, but was the combined effort of the countless thousands of Americans that worked on this project for several years to develop it and deliver it.

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This monumental leap into the nuclear age would not have been possible if it were not for the sacrifices of our forefathers that preserved this Nation from certain destruction during the civil war. It took the combined effort and wealth of a unified Nation to accomplish this great feat of science and history. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank all those who served during that terrible war that we all know as WWII for their strength, courage and commitment to the monumental task that lie before them and pray that they have good health and smooth sailing ahead of them.

During the special National Encampment I announced that Gettysburg Camp #112 was raising funds for a service project that it had adopted last year. The project is "Operation Ensuring Christmas". The program provides Christmas gifts for orphan children of U.S. Military personnel. In simpler words they buy gifts for kids that lost a parent in combat somewhere serving this Nation. I asked that a hat be passed to collect funds for this cause. Brothers, I have always been in awe as to divine providence. The words in the scriptures are true. "Ask and ye shall receive". During the Special National Encampment we raised \$696.00 for this worthy cause and an additional \$217.00 at the Past Commanders and Past Presidents Dedication Day Dinner. Gettysburg Camp will be setting up a stand on the square in Gettysburg this coming month to raise more funds. This charity should be considered by every Camp of the Order as a service project fore it meets the great command of President Abraham Lincoln "to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan". Information can be had at www.operationensuringchristmas.org.

Another service project that every Brother should take on is to send a Christmas card to the following address;

We Support You During Your Recovery!
c/o American Red Cross
P.O. Box 419
Savage, MD 20763-0419

This takes very little time or expense for the return that it gives. These men and women have paid a price for the freedoms that you and I have. They deserve a smile at Christmas to know that some Americans are thinking of them. So let's drop that card in the mail.

In 1863 with the victories at Vicksburg and Gettysburg, President Abraham Lincoln felt that the Nation had much to be thankful for so he signed an official proclamation making Thanksgiving a National day of observance. Today we have much to be thankful for also. We reside in the most affluent Nation in the world. There are very few that go to bed hungry and those that wish it, in most cases, can have a roof over their heads and warm clothes. We live in relative peace and safety while people elsewhere in the world have no concept of what this means. This has been provided on the backs of those who serve or have served us through the history of this great Nation.

This year I would like each Brother while they are sitting at table with family and friends to remember that there are those standing watch so that we may be safe. There are those eating an MRE while we dine on the Nations best fineries. There are those in the cold altitudes of the mountains of Afghanistan and in the hot sun of Iraq while we sit in our warm homes with family and friends. There are those that stand watch on the decks of ships in howling wind and rain and in every other conceivable situation around this world so that we can live here in peace. Let us not forget them in our Thanksgiving prayers to the almighty. With Christmas following close on its heels, we must remember the same for that time of peace and joy also. Let us never forget!!!

Lastly I would like to wish each and every Brother of this Order a very peaceful and joyous holiday season. May the Great Creator of the Universe bless you and your families during the holiday season and in the coming year. Unless there would be some reason to communicate to the Order I will not be producing a newsletter over the Christmas season and will get one out sometime in January.

Until your Department Encampment, I find myself;

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,
Charlie Kuhn, Commander in Chief
National Order, SUVCW

time for discussions and camaraderie.

5. Camp Commanders—please have your 2008 Officer elections and installations completed by January and your installation reports (Form 22) submitted to Department Secretary Gary Young. Please contact me ASAP if you haven't already with your planned officer installation dates so I may appoint an installation officer for your Camp.
6. Camp Historians—please begin or continue to write up a history of your Camp and preserve your Camp's historical documents. Copies should be sent to our Department Historian Andrew Bollen and to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum archives in c/o Gayle Martinson, 30 West Mifflin Street, Suite 300, Madison, WI 53703.
7. Thanks are extended to those who conducted and attended the Leadership Conference held at Milwaukee on November 4th.
8. To all who are in need of comfort or strength, I send you my Fraternal best wishes for the graces you will need, and with our national day of thanksgiving just past I extend to our country's veterans, past and present, humble appreciation for your devotion to the cause of Freedom.

Ordered this 23rd day of November, 2007

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty

Brian G. Peters

Wisconsin Department Commander



Attest:

Gary W. Young

Department Secretary

38th Annual Patriotic Luncheon

Saturday, February 2, 2008 at 12:30 p.m.

Bluemound Gardens

11703 W. Bluemound Rd., Wauwatosa, Wis.

Guest Speaker: Rev. Robert Rotgers

Lincoln Scholar and Impressionist

"Lunch with Mr. Lincoln"

Meal Choices includes tossed salad, pasta salad and assorted relishes, potatoes and vegetables, jello, rolls and butter, cake and coffee, tea or milk

A. Roast Beef ~ with natural gravy B. Roast Young Tom Turkey ~ slow roasted breast meat with homemade dressing

Hosted by C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 and Auxiliary #4 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Sponsored by the Society of Mayflower Descendants, Sons of the Revolution, Society of the War of 1812, Sons & Daughters of the Pilgrims, Sons of American Colonists, Colonial Dames of the 17th Century, Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of Confederate Veterans, and Society of Ancient Planters.

For more information, call (414) 425-4648

Mail this form and check (\$18 per person), payable to C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 before Jan. 26th to:

6623 North Cape Road, Franklin, WI 53132-1227

Name(s): _____

Meal Choice(s): _____

Organization: _____

Phone: _____

Unfortunately, this year we can admit no one at the door on the day of the luncheon

Send in your reservation form soon -- there are only

55 days until the Patriotic Luncheon!

Camp News & Activities

Camp #1—Milwaukee ~



Left: PCinC Steve Michaels and Bro. Dean Collins (seated, left) have a fine view of the field as Steve narrates the skirmish that took place at Trimborn Farm Oct. 5-6.



Above: The Camp and Auxiliary Color Guard marched in Milwaukee's Veteran's Day Parade on Nov. 10.

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

2 February - Wisconsin Department Mid-Winter Meeting, Wauwatosa

2 February - 38th Annual Patriotic Luncheon, sponsored by Camp #1, Wauwatosa

12 February - Union Defender's Day (Abraham Lincoln's birthday)

16 February - Member Orientation, Milwaukee

22 February - George Washington's birthday

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Camp 1 conducted its fifth annual Flag Retirement Ceremony in Cudahy hosted the Department's second annual Leadership Conference in November. Turnout was excellent with 13 Sons and Auxiliary members attending. Planning is underway for next year's Member Orientation session in February—members from any Camp or Auxiliary will be invite to attend. Civil War cannons once part of Racine's Monument Square will be placed back on display, after the city considered permanent removal as part of an area redevelopment. Camp 1 members Pat Kulas and Bob Koenecke devoted considerable time attending city meetings to ensure that the cannons remained in the city. Dept. Memorials Officer Kim Heltemes and other Brothers also worked to make sure the Racine City Council was educated as to the significance of this, and all, veteran's memorials.



Above, Members of Camp #8 and their ladies are shown at the grave of Amos Ware.

Old Camp #8 - Fox Cities - AUGUST 12, 2007 BORST AND WARE DEDICATIONS - In a small cemetery, south of Pine River, the remains of four men of the 7th Wisconsin, Co. I, were left unmarked due to a huge storm. Large pine trees were ripped from the ground and came tumbling down onto the markers, crushing them. Afterwards, when everything was cleaned up, the cemetery looked bare. Passing by one day, Kim J. Heltemes, decided to tour the small grounds and found the markers in sad shape. Since they were 7th Wisconsin soldiers, Kim turned the paperwork over to Don Strube. Strube has a website on the 7th Wisconsin and has been focusing on decorating these graves. New markers were installed, the family notified, and the August date was set.

Family members came from Kansas, Minnesota, and other parts for Wisconsin. Taps was played by a U.S. Army bugle that plays a pre-recorded Taps. It was a nice day with a good turnout from the Camp.

To the right, descendants of David Axtell are l to r, Dan Waid with daughter, Mattie, Jim Waid (member of Camp #8), and 2 Gr Gr Granddaughters.

On very nice afternoon of Saturday October 20, 2007, members of the Axtell and Waid families got together with friends to set the marker for an ancestor of theirs. David Axtell fought with the 47th Wisconsin, Co. A, and was from the Waupaca area. The marker was set in Lakeside Cemetery on a hill that overlooks Shadow Lake in Waupaca.



2nd Annual Department of Wisconsin Leadership Conference November 4, 2007 at the Milwaukee Soldiers Home



2nd Annual Leadership Conference participants and facilitators: (left to right) Kathy Anderson (Aux. 4), Tom Brown (Camp 1), Linda Brown (Aux. 4), DC Brian Peters (Camp 8), Lucy Peters, Andrew Bollen (Camp 5), Toni Howard (Aux. 4), Eric Sprengle (Camps 1 and 2), David Howard (Camp 1), PCinC Steve Michaels (Camp 1) and Bruce Laine (Camp 4)

Eric Sprengle (Camps 1 and 2) and Andrew Bollen (Camp 5) listen with rapt attention during conference proceedings



Sharing a laugh while role-playing at recruiting new members were Eric Sprengle, Tom Brown and Bruce Laine.

