



# Wisconsin *Department Dispatch*



Winter 2008-09

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Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

# SUVCW

## Comments From Your Wisconsin Department Commander

Greetings Brothers & Friends,

I sincerely hope you all had a great Thanksgiving holiday and were able to spend it with family or friends. I am thankful that I can lead the Department of Wisconsin, and have the opportunity to work with dedicated members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.



*DC Bruce Laine*

Recently, I was fortunate to visit Gettysburg for Remembrance Day. This was my second visit there, but this was special for me, because my family came along. The new Visitor's Center and Museum are awesome. If the weather were warmer, it would have been nice to spend more time touring the battlefield, but we were able to hit the common areas. On Saturday, 22 November, I marched in the Remembrance Day Parade with the 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan SVR Unit, as they were willing to adopt an "orphan" from Wisconsin. As always, it is an awesome experience marching through the streets of Gettysburg. That evening, we went for a quick stroll (due to the cold) through the National Cemetery, for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Illumination. It was quite a site, seeing candles lit at the 3500 graves of the Civil War soldiers buried there. For those who have not made the trip, it is definitely worth the 13-hour drive. I plan on attending again next year!

Earlier in the same week as Remembrance Day, PCinC Steve Michaels, and I, were able to spend some "quality time" together, as we took a icy drive up to Camp #8's Annual Bean Supper and Meeting. At the meeting, I presented PDC Brian Peters his PDC Badge, which was long over due. PCinC Steve, also performed the installation of the Camp's Officers for 2009. Unfortunately, we missed most of the supper activities (but there was still enough food for us to have some!) and presentation on Civil War knives, but considering the weather, we were happy to make it!

On November 5, I had the honor of installing the new officers for Camp #1, in a joint ceremony with Auxiliary #4. It was fun evening, and a pleasure to work with Auxiliary Department President Anne Michaels.

I hope you, and your families, all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2009. Please be safe this holiday season.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Bruce

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## Wisconsin Department Pioneers



**S.F. Peacock**  
Samuel F. Peacock

At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin Department meeting, June 13, 1885, a 38-year old Milwaukee undertaker, Samuel F. Peacock, was elected commander.

Peacock was described as an enterprising man. He had been librarian of the Young Men's Association and was suggested as a Democratic candidate for 7<sup>th</sup> Ward supervisor. He organized the Wisconsin State Funeral Directors in 1881 and then served as an officer of the association for 25 years, including four terms as president.

Samuel Peacock was born April 27, 1847, in Leeds, Yorkshire, England. His father, Francis Peacock, worked in the mercantile lumber business, and came to the U.S. in 1843. He went back and returned with his wife, Annie Stead Peacock, and son Samuel in 1848. They then moved to Milwaukee in 1850.

In August 1861, the elder Peacock enlisted as a

private in Co. B, 24<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry and was wounded in the left shoulder during the regiment's first battle. He was sent home to Milwaukee on sick furlough, dying four months later, on December 11, 1863.

After school, the younger Peacock became an undertaker's apprentice and on January 1, 1877, established his own business. He quickly became successful, taking charge of more burials than any other firm in Milwaukee. He was also popular in social, fraternal and commercial circles. He belonged to the Merchants and Manufacturers Association, as well as a number of fraternal organizations, including the Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks (where he served as Exalted Ruler), Junior Council of National Union, Catholic Foresters, and Catholic Knights.

On December 10, 1869, he married Miss Harriet "Hattie" Downer, daughter of Frederick and Margaret Downer of Milwaukee. To this union were born Frank J. (1870-1944) and Hattie (1876-1936). Frank J. married Miss Mary A. Birkle and they had three children: Urban F. (1891-1965), Frank A. (1894-1958) and Samuel (1887-1960). In 1889, Frank J. joined his father in the undertaking business. Hattie married John A. Roddy, who worked in the credit department at T.A. Chapman.

During Br. Peacock's term as Wisconsin Dept. Commander, Madison's Col. Charles Gill Camp #15 and Eau Claire's Art Ellis Camp were chartered. He himself had joined the Sons only a year earlier, as a member of Robert Chivas Camp #7. In this new fraternal and hereditary organization, most of his fellow brothers were 15 to 20 years younger than he was. Fluctuations in interest, heartiness and membership were very common. Brother Peacock's business distractions and other organizational interests certainly took their toll. When he stepped down in July 1886, there were only three Camps in working

*(Continued on page 3)*

## From the Department Memorials Officer

Brothers,

Our Department continues to try and identify all of Wisconsin's Civil War or GAR related memorials and monuments. A good number of photos and information has been submitted by our members, but there is much more work to do. Wisconsin has 350 such memorials across the state. It is imperative that we document these memorials for posterity and future generations. It also lets us know if a particular marker is in disrepair. If so we may be able to take action to get it refurbished or repaired. These monuments can be a Soldier statue, memorial marker, cannons in a park, or a GAR stained glass window.

So, during the course of your travels throughout the state, please,



if you happen to see any of these monuments or memorials, and are interested in providing information about it to the Department, please send me the following; a digital photo of the memorial, a description of the location or address, information about the monument such as when it was erected and by whom, with a source cited for the information if possible. Send the information to me at [vbarker@new.rr.com](mailto:vbarker@new.rr.com)

Here are two examples of the types of monuments we have across the state—the Eggleston GAR Post Memorial at Riverside Cemetery in Appleton and the Hillsboro Soldiers Cemetery Monument in Hillsboro.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,  
Vince Barker  
Department Memorials Officer

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order. He left the Order shortly afterwards.

Samuel Peacock died on June 4, 1916 at the age of 69 after suffering due to declining health for two years. He was buried with his parents at Calvary Cemetery in Block 5, Section A, Lot 317. His wife joined him less than a year later.



## Camp # 1 Brother receives award from Sons of the American Revolution



### Elisha Raymond SAR Chapter Awards Luncheon - 1 Nov. 2008

Br. Patrick Kulas receives the SAR Bronze Good Citizenship medal and certificate from Chapter President Joe Paonessa. Pat was recognized for his efforts to return two Civil War cannon to Racine's Monument Square. *(Photo by PCinC Stephen Michaels)*



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## PAST DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT RIBBONS AND BUTTONS AVAILABLE

A limited supply of individually numbered Wisconsin Department Encampment Ribbons and Buttons are available for purchase. Available are the 2007 Encampment Ribbon/Button combination, the 2008 125<sup>th</sup> Encampment Ribbon/Button combination that includes the ASUVCW Encampment and GAR Allied Orders, and the special 125<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Department SUVCW Encampment Button featuring the First Wisconsin Department Commander – Dr. John Finney. (see the photo of these three collectible mementos)

Costs including shipping are: \$3.50 for one Ribbon/Button combination. Two or more Ribbon/Buttons are offered for only \$3.00 each. The Special 125<sup>th</sup> Encampment button is offered for \$1.50 each. Be sure to get yours TODAY for your collection of SUVCW and Allied Orders items!

To order, contact Wisconsin PDC Brian Peters at:

[peters@powercom.net](mailto:peters@powercom.net) or send a note with payment to Brian Peters, 646 Rays Lane, Stevens Point, WI 54481. I look forward to hearing from you!



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## Remembrance Day Parade 2008

At right in gray overcoat is Commander in Chief David V. Medert and his National Officers and Guard Lead the Remembrance Day Parade at Gettysburg Pennsylvania on November 22, 2008



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## Department Orders # 2

### Series 2008-09

Bruce C. Laine, Wisconsin Department Commander

421 S. Sherman St.

Eagle, WI 53119

262-594-2081

[commander@suvcw-wi.org](mailto:commander@suvcw-wi.org)

- 1) Congratulations to all the newly elected officers for 2009. Commanders, you need to let me know when your installation will be taking place, if I cannot make it, I will assign someone.
- 2) Henry Harnden Camp #2 will be hosting the 126<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Department Encampment on Saturday, June 6, 2008 at the Veterans Museum in Madison.
- 3) The Department Mid-Winter Meeting will be held at Bluemound Gardens in Wauwatosa. The meeting will commence at 9:00AM on Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Department Officers and Camp Commanders will give a brief report on their department/camp activities since the Department Encampment in Kenosha.
- 4) Congratulations to Brother Pat Kulas of Camp #1, for receiving SAR Bronze Good Citizenship medal and certificate, from Elisha Raymond SAR Chapter Awards Luncheon for his efforts to return two Civil War cannon to Racine's Monument Square.
- 5) Congratulations and thank you to Camp #2 for their continuing efforts, in raising funds to replace the three carriages of the artillery pieces at Camp Randall. One has been replaced, with two to go.
- 6) Thank you to PCinC Steve Michaels and the other department officers who presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Leadership Conference on November 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- 7) As stated in Commander in Chief Medert's General Order #2, all reports submitted to National must be complete electronically. Department Officers and Camps need to obtain "fill-in" forms on the National Website at <http://suvcw.org/ftp.htm>. This does not include membership applications, but a "fill-in" form is available at the same site. Anyone who needs assistance with using the electronic forms, needs to contact Department Secretary Gary Young, or myself.
- 8) The database of gravesites of the Wisconsin Department's Past Commanders continues to grow. Brothers with information about PDC graves need to get it to Graves Registration Officer Virgil Matz. Thanks to Brother Virgil and PCinC Steve Michaels for the work they have already done on this project. The current list will be available on the Department Website, on the Encampment page.
- 9) Camps are reminded to work on their 2009 Goals in January. Goals should include, but are not limited to; participating in Memorial Day activities in your area, graves registration, recruiting and patriotic presentations.
- 10) Camp Secretaries should be sending out reminders to Brothers about payment Annual Dues.
- 11) The Member Orientation Program is being held at Milwaukee's Soldiers Home on Sunday, Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>, Building #1. All Brothers are strongly encouraged to attend this valuable session. Camps interested in hosting this program, in their area, should contact PCinC Steve Michaels @ [banner@suvcw.org](mailto:banner@suvcw.org) or 414-425-4648.

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12) This holiday season, please keep all Brothers, and family members of Brothers, who are ill in your thoughts and prayers.

Ordered this 14th day of December, 2008

Yours In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Bruce C. Laine

Department Commander

Attest:

Gary W. Young

Department Secretary

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## Interesting Civil War Connection Sergeant Alvin York

Vince Barker , Dept. Memorials Officer, was recently watching "Sergeant York" starring Gary Cooper on TCM, and was curious as to just what Alvin York's Civil War connections would be since he was from eastern Tennessee, an area that was very pro-Union. He did some quick research on ancestry.com and as you might guess there is quite a bit out there on his family. As it turns out his Civil War history is rather interesting: Both his grandfathers were Civil War veterans, both served with the Union: **a. Uriah York** - was born about 1825 in NC and was a veteran of the Mexican War as well, seeing action at Chepultepec Castle. When the Civil War broke out, he joined the 1st Tennessee Infantry (Union), which was formed at Camp Robinson, KY. Late in the war, in Jan 1865, he was home recuperating from illness when he heard a band of Confederates were approaching. He escaped through a rain and sleet storm to a shack in nearby Rock Castle, TN, where he died of exposure three days later on 10 Jan 1865. **b. William Brooks** - Alvin's other grandfather had a more colorful history and violent end . Interestingly enough he was from Michigan, born about 1831. Below is the verbage from the family file on ancestry.com. It doesn't specify here what regiment he served with but it appears he served with Co. K, 20th Michigan Infantry. The family history information also states that he deserted but according to American Civil War Soldiers database, he was discharged at Sickels Hospital in Washington DC, on 5 June 1865. He had enlisted on 18 Aug 1862. I have cut and pasted here what is posted on the family database:

William Brooks who had joined the Union Army at his home in Michigan and moved south with General Burnside's forces. At Pall Mall he fell in love with Nancy Pile, daughter of Elijah Pile and granddaughter of the renowned Coonrod Pile. Young Brooks deserted the army declaring that the only other conquest of the South that he was interested in making was the conquest of Nancy Pile.

After he and Nancy had been married about two years and one daughter had been born to them, an old feud with Pres Huff flared up again and William Brooks killed him. Brooks then fled the country knowing that Huff's friends would soon be there to avenge his death. Several months later Nancy Pile Brooks and her daughter also disappeared. More months passed and finally a letter from Nancy to her family arrived. It had been intercepted by Huff's friends and the Brooks family was located in a logging camp in the wilds of northern Michigan. Extradition papers and warrants were prepared, and Huff's former business partner was sent to Michigan to return William Brooks to Jamestown where he was lodged in jail.

But William Brooks was never to get a trial by law. The next night a band of men rode up the Wolf River Valley, up the mountain and across the plateau to Jamestown. They took William Brooks from the jail, tied a rope around his feet, unbridled a horse, tied the other end of the rope around the horse's tail, fired a shot to scare the horse, and as the horse ran down the road dragging William Brooks the men rode behind firing bullets into his squirming body until he was dead. This occurred on 20 Sep 1867.



## Hold the Fort!

### Wisconsin Monument at Allatoona Pass

The Etowah Valley Historical Society has established a memorial garden for monuments for each of the states that had soldiers at the Civil War Battle of Allatoona Pass in Georgia. So far, there are monuments for Texas, Missouri and Mississippi. Monuments for Iowa and Illinois will be dedicated October 4, 2008. Plans are underway to add an additional monument honoring Wisconsin soldiers that fought and died at Allatoona Pass.

Allatoona Pass is located north of Atlanta and served as an important Union supply point and a depot on the Western and Atlantic Railroad. Confederate General Samuel French and a force of 3276 men attacked on October 5, 1864. Union General John Corse with 2025 men drove off the Confederate force after a fierce battle. The 30% casualty rate is one of the highest of any Civil War battle.

Hold the Fort! Ever wondered where that term originated? Although he claimed he never said it, newspapers reported that General Sherman sent this message to General Corse during the battle. "Hold the Fort" soon became a popular and well known hymn.

**The 18<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry Regiment and the 12<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Light Artillery** fought at Allatoona Pass. The 18th Wisconsin included 7 companies and 150 men. Of these, 2 were killed, 12 wounded and 84 missing or captured. Three companies were stationed at a block house fort on the railroad 1½ miles south of Allatoona. They held off a heavy Confederate attack but the block house eventually caught fire and they were forced to surrender.

The 12<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Artillery with 71 men, had losses of 5 killed and 16 wounded. They were the only artillery unit at Allatoona and were armed with four 3 inch ordnance rifles and two 12 pounder Napoleons. Private James E. Croft was awarded the Medal of Honor for his heroism. Another unidentified member of the Battery was cited for his action in carrying ammunition across the railroad cut on a footbridge under withering enemy fire.

Today, the battlefield is very well preserved. In addition to Wisconsin, the Union had units from Iowa,

Illinois, Minnesota, and Ohio. The budget for a monument honoring the Wisconsin soldiers is \$10,000. A preliminary sketch of a Wisconsin monument is shown.

Persons wishing to make a donation can make a tax deductible contribution to the Etowah Valley Historical Society. **It should be earmarked for the Wisconsin monument.**

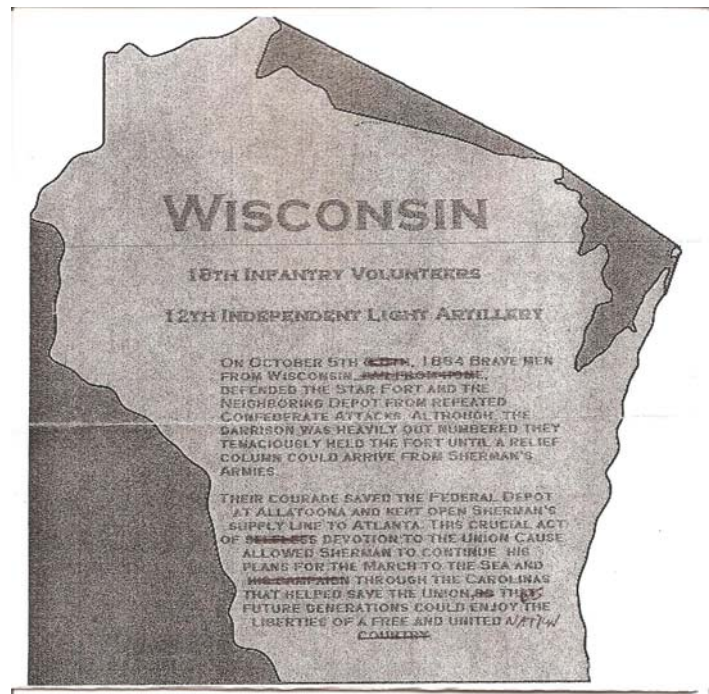
Etowah Valley Historical Society

c/o Ed Hill, President

36 Ben Ham Circle

Cartersville, GA 30120.

The coordinator for the Wisconsin monument project is Ray Wozniak, phone 770-822-3004. The overall coordinator for all the monuments is Gary Wehner, 770-436-4444.



## Camp News & Activities

### CK Pier Badger Camp #1—Milwaukee



### Milwaukee Veteran's Day Parade

Members of Camp #1 and Auxiliary #4 marched in downtown Milwaukee Veteran's Day Parade.

*Front row:* PNP Danielle Michaels, Brother Pat Kulas, Sister Kathy Anderson.

*Second Row:* Brothers Dean Collins, CC Tom Brown, Joe Fallen.

*Third Row:* Brothers PC-in-C Steve Michaels, PCC Jim Johnson (Camp #4). Last, but not least, Sister Susan Fallon.

### Dept. Leadership Conference

P C-in C Steve Michaels is instructing Members of Camp #1 Tom Brown, Tom Nichols, Ken Nichols, Eric Sprengle. In the back row at right is PC -in-C Danny Wheeler from the Dept. of New York, who was in town for the weekend and decided to attend the conference.





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](mailto:svc@suvcw-wi.org).

Editorial deadlines are April, July and Oct. 15.

Visit us on the Web at

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

#### Department Events Calendar

Feb. 7, 2009	Midwinter Meeting/ Patriotic Luncheon Bluemound Gardens Wauwatosa, WI
Feb. 22, 2009	Member Orientation/Building #1 Soldiers Home Dist., Milwaukee
April 18, 2009	Lincoln Tomb/ B. F. Stevenson Ceremonies, Springfield, IL
May 25, 2009	Memorial Day
June 6, 2009	126th. Department Encampment, Madison, WI
August 13-15	National Encampment, Louisville, KY

### Henry Harnden Camp#2—Madison



#### Camp Randall Cannon Dedication

PCC Alan Hembel on the left, then Dept. Treasurer Dale Brassler, Camp Commander Ron Knaus and Bro. Fred Campbell and Bro Tom Brodd behind, the Artilleryman is Lyle Laufenberg from Battery B, 4th US Light Artillery

### MG John Gibbon Camp #4—Waukesha

#### Milwaukee Civil War Roundtable Christmas Gala

Left to right JVC Elect Alan Keinert, Sec/Treasurer Pat Lynch, Commander Bob Mann, Brother Craig Wheeler and SVC-elect PCC Jim Johnson.



## Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing Camp #5-Saukville



### 145th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg

Front Row left to right: PCC Dick Rohan, Don Rogers, Dallas Miswald, Tony Bell, CC Ron Miswald. Back Row left to right: PCC Andy Bollen, brother Brian Navis, SVC Rich Young, PDC Ron Aronis, And PCC Tom Brown, At Cushing Memorial at the Angle, July 5, 2008

## Old Abe Camp#8—Fox Cities

### Annual Bean Supper

Right to Left: Three Past Dept. Commanders Randy Novak, Brian Peters, Dept. Commander Bruce Laine, and P C-in-C Steve Michaels at the November meeting . P C-in-C Michaels installed the 2009 officers.

PDC Peters was presented with his Past Dept. Commanders badge by DC Laine



## L. G. Armstrong Camp #49—Boscobel



### Gettysburg Tour With C-in-C Kuhn

PCC Dan Chroninger with C-in-C Charlie Kuhn at the GAR Hall in Gettysburg last July 2008. PCC Chroninger was given a tour of the battlefield by PC-in-C Kuhn

Camp 49—2009 Officers

Commander Bob Welsh

Sr Vice Commander Paul Welsh

Jr. Vice Commander Dan Chroninger

Secretary Gary Young

Treasurer Tom Truog

Graves Registration, Garret Reynolds

Monuments and Memorials, Tom Truog