



THE DISPATCH

WINTER 2020/21 PUBLISHED BY SUVCW DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

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Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
SUVCW

Commander's Column



Brothers,

I hope you all had a Merry Christmas, and that you and your families will have a healthy and wonderful New Year.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions we will not be having a Mid-Winter meeting in 2021.

Camp 15 now has made significant progress on the LaFayette Church restoration project.

There is an updated roof, new gutters, new windows, and a working propane furnace.

A crew has started making molds of the Col. Heg statue in the Town of Norway, WI for the purpose of recasting a bronze head to replace the one torn off the Heg statue in Madison. Their estimated time for final repairs to the Madison statue is Mid May 2021.

It is hoped that the statue will then be placed back on it's pedestal next the State Capitol.

Work continues on the "Last Soldier Project" with PCC Bob Koencke, DSVC John Decker, and me leading the marker installations. Thank you to Camps 1 and 8 for their installations and dedications, and to all who have helped the "Last Soldier" project move toward completion. We are now at 80% complete in the State of Wisconsin.

General Order # 6 from Commander-in-Chief was just issued stating that the Department and all Camps and SVR units are now 501c3 entities.

This means we can now solicit tax deductible donations from anyone.

Unfortunately Camp 49 is not included in this as they are considered a separate part due to their IRS issues. Donations to the Boscobel Hall are still fully tax deductible as the Hall is a separate entity.

Thank you all for your work this past year.

I look forward to you continuing the efforts this year.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

Brian D. McManus

Commander

Donald A. Blaney Jr.



Oshkosh Museum ceremonies July 12, 2008

Don
at

Donald A. Blaney Jr., age 72, passed away at home on October 29, 2020. He was born to the late Donald and Sylvia (Drexler) Blaney on November 18, 1947 in Oshkosh. He was an Eagle Scout at an early age. After High School, Donald attended the University of Wisconsin-Superior, where he was a scholar athlete in tennis. After graduating with a bachelor's degree, he worked with industrial paper companies in the sales department.

He married Kathy Flanagan in 2003. After retirement, Don and Kathy enjoyed working in the cafeteria at Lourdes High school and St. Francis Cabrini Elementary. Don was a lover of history, especially Irish history.

He was a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Donald is survived by his wife, Kathy; children, Kevin Blaney, Kerry (Mike) Blaney-Meniel, and Moira (Ed) Blaney-Rossi; Kathy's son, Eric Fonferek; grandchildren, Isabelle, Ethan, Autumn, Lauren, Maddy, Elizabeth, William, and Hannah. He is further survived by his brother-in-law, Chuck (Rellen) Flanagan, and his beautiful Gordon Setter, Molly. His Irish Setter, Shiloh, preceded him in death. A private service will be held by the family.

Thomas C. Jones

Old Abe Camp 8 has learned that one of its former members, Tom Jones, has passed away. He joined Camp 8 around 2000. Tom, along with Gordon Moran and Jim Bougie were the "old guard" at meetings. Always willing to participate.



Oshkosh - Thomas Clifford Jones, 92, passed away on Sunday, November 22, 2020. He was born July 8, 1928 in the Town of Nekimi to Clifford and Harriet Jones and was baptized and confirmed at First English Lutheran Church in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. He married Mary Louise Marohn on December 9, 1949 at Zion Lutheran Church in Zion, Wisconsin.

He was a fulltime farmer, milking cows, driving, and repairing tractors, and planting and harvesting crops. He also loved ordering baby chicks in the spring, let them run free range, selling some and giving lots to family to enjoy. He was lucky to have gone on the Honor Flight to Washington three years ago and enjoyed it very much, being a member of the National Guard. After retirement, he enjoyed history books, magazines, and newspapers, and remembering

current and past events.

Survivors include his wife of almost 71 years, Mary Louise Frances Jones; son, Thomas Jones Jr., and his children Sam and Michelle Jones; daughter, Margaret "Marge" A. Jones and her family, Brian (Leonore) Bongert, Brenda (Mike) Beck, their children Brandon and Autumn Beck, Bonnie (Pete) Beaumia, their children, Dominik and Audra Sperberg, Alex and Peter Beaumia, Lacey (Lance) Bongert; daughter, Diane (Phil) Paschke and her daughter Kristy (Rachel Krause) Herzig; daughter, Patricia (Tim) Abraham and their sons, Garrett and Grant Abraham; two sisters Donna Thomas and Betty (Jim) Hitz and all their children. Preceding in death are his parents Clifford and Harriet Jones, brother John "Jack" Jones, his grandparents John and Ida Tank as well as Milton and Harriet Jones, aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Thank you to Eden Meadows for their good care the last eight months.

A private memorial service will take place.

A memorial will be established.

Andrew “Andy” “Bud” Bollen III,

November 4, 2020 – West Bend, WI – Andrew “Andy” “Bud” Bollen III, 82 of West Bend was called home to be with the Lord on Tuesday November 3, 2020 at Froedtert Hospital, West Bend.



He was born on December 25, 1937 to the late Andrew Jr. and Audrey (nee Cornstuble) Bollen in St. Louis, MO. Bud grew up in the St. Louis area and graduated from Clayton High School in Clayton, MO. On October 15, 1960 he was united in marriage to Adeline “Bitsie” Brockmann in Olivette, MO.

Andrew honorably served in the Missouri Army National Guard for eight years. Bud worked for Sherwin Williams Company in St. Louis. He then worked for Krause Milling in Milwaukee. Bud then owned and operated Ram and Associates until retirement. He was a member of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Kettle Moraine Ballast Scorchers Model Railroad Club.

Bud was an avid history buff, lover of political debate, the St. Louis Cardinals and the Blues. Bud enjoyed hunting deer, duck, pheasant, and turkey. He especially enjoyed spending time with family and friends and will be missed by all who knew him. He was an active member of St. John’s West Bend, serving in various volunteer capacities over the last 45 years.

Those Bud leaves behind to cherish his memory include his loving wife, Adeline “Bitsie” Bollen; three children, Andrew “Pat” (Pamela) Bollen IV, Christine (Scott) Durian, and Gretchen (Shawn) Viesselmann; eleven grandchildren, Elizabeth (Jeff) Poff, Andrew (Ines) Bollen, Samuel Bollen, Lydia Bollen, Hunter Durian, Peter Durian, Abbigayle Gutknecht, Grace Viesselmann, Allison Viesselmann, Leah Viesselmann, and Isabelle Viesselmann; four great grandchildren, Kenzie Poff, Nolan Poff, Madelyn Bollen, and Ethan Bollen; a sister, Karen (Ray) Downs; three sisters-in-law, Cathy Trower, Peggy (Rev Jerry) Creighton, and Millie (Roger) Ernst; two brothers-in-law, Tom (Marilyn) Brockmann and Mike (Cathy) Brockmann; many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother-in-law, Dean Trower and his niece, Jessica Brockmann.

Due to current circumstances, a private service will be held for Bud at St. John’s Lutheran Church, West Bend. The service will be recorded and posted to the funeral home website.

The family would like to thank Dr. Charles Kaufmann for his care and friendship.

Meg Jones

By Tom Mueller



Meg chronicled many Civil War events and artifacts. Meg Jones, the newspaper reporter who wrote stories galore about Sons Camps and the Civil War, other Camps, Wisconsin and the Civil War, veterans’ issues, etc., has died. The loss for the Sons and for the Wisconsin history beat is immense.

Jones, 58, of the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and before that my colleague at the Milwaukee Sentinel, died on Dec. 13, one month after being diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer.

For years, I had told Camp 1 after finding a great local fact about the Civil War: “Meg Jones has been advised.” As a researcher and book author, I also flagged her on more-modern topics, and she put me in the stories she developed from those tips – covering a range of World War II topics, how a man played by Nick Jonas in a movie about the 1942 battle of Midway was from Milwaukee; the Korean War; the identification of MIAs from Vietnam and more.

The most recent was how a Milwaukee soldier killed in New Guinea in 1944 and brought home in 1949 never got a gravestone until this year. She wrote a front-page story about him for Memorial Day and attended the dedication in September for another story, but had to leave early for what she said was “a doctor thing” that she could not miss. And a few months ago, I had reported to her that next May is the 150th anniversary of the first burial at Wood National Cemetery. Jones had a great nose for news and was a prolific writer on scores of topics.

She made eight trips overseas to cover Wisconsin troops – four to Iraq and four to Afghanistan. She was an alum of the University of Wisconsin Marching Band, and her personal interests ranged from scuba diving to poker to the Packers and everything in-between.

She joined the Sentinel in the 1983 and brought an energetic spirit, peppy writing and deep patriotism. Here is a sampling of some of her stories about things in the Sons.

Such pieces were seen by more than 100,000 readers. Yes, I helped arrange many of these, but our files show she already was writing about us before I joined the SUVCW in 2010.

She joined the Sentinel in the 1983 and brought an energetic spirit, peppy writing and deep patriotism. Here is a sampling of some of her stories about things in the Sons. Such pieces were seen by more than 100,000 readers. Yes, I helped arrange many of these, but our files show she already was writing about us before I joined the SUVCW in 2010. Jones also was writing about artifacts at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum long before and long after. The URLs are very long, so the best bet is to Google the summary along with Milwaukee and Meg Jones. – Historical marker at Calvary Cemetery, 2018. – Ceremony honors two Medal of Honor recipients at Wood National Cemetery, 2014. This was for two men who earned the medal in the same week, 150 years earlier. – Descendants of Wisconsin veterans mark 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War, 2011. Most of the story was about PCC Bill Doan and his ancestor's Medal of Honor. – Helping a California woman put a GAR marker on the grave of her ancestor at Forest Home Cemetery, 2013. – Last Soldier event at Forest Home, 2017. This was for the 75th anniversary of the death of Pvt. Charles Blanchard. – Camp 1's discovery that a man at Wood National Cemetery was buried under the wrong last name (Curran instead of Carroll) 104 years earlier. A new stone was installed in 2017. – The Forest Home tombstone project of Brother Tom Ludka and Marge Berres of the Woman's Relief Corps.

The Journal Sentinel's obit recounting Meg's talents and many interests is at <https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2020/12/14/meg-jones-obituary-reported-aroundworld-while-embodiment-wisconsin-values/6533751002/>

Writer Bill Glauber put it aptly: "Unflappable on deadline and fearless in the field, she could write about anything, from a 16-month-old snow leopard getting used to her new digs at the Milwaukee County Zoo to Bucks fans watching their beloved basketball team playing in Paris.... "Meg hunted and knew how to gut a deer. She loved telling stories of working as a vendor at the old County Stadium. She also worked part time as a census taker and used to work the holiday rush at the post office. She used the holiday cash to make trips to Las Vegas." Arrangements were handled by Sunset Options Funerals & Cremations Inc. of Oak Creek, where Meg lived for years. No services are planned at this time. The Milwaukee Press Club is taking donations for a scholarship in her name.



Jean Hibben of California discusses her great-grandfather after the small ceremony at which our Camp placed a GAR marker on his grave at Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee. Adam Hollander died in 1922 at the age of 79

We Honor Meg Jones

Meg Jones of the Milwaukee Journal/Sentinel has been awarded a Department certificate of appreciation for her many years of energetic and diligent reporting about the Civil War, current military deployments, World War II and many other veterans from many other conflicts. She was embedded with Wisconsin troops in Iraq four times and Afghanistan three times all between 2003 and 2011. The certificate was presented in October by then CC Brian D. McManus and then JVC Tom Mueller. One of Meg's recent stories was about our Camp providing a GAR marker for Pvt.. Adam Hollander of the 24th Wisconsin after his great-granddaughter, Jean Hibben, asked us about getting one for a forthcoming trip to Milwaukee



Awarded 2013 by Camp 1

PCC Vince Barker promoted to Maj.Gen



In a ceremony hosted by Lt. Gen. Jody Daniels, chief of the U.S. Army Reserve, on Nov. 9, at the Pentagon, Brig. Gen. Vincent Barker, Deputy Inspector General, was promoted to Maj. General

She said "It is my 'great honor and pleasure to host this promotion ceremony in honor of Maj. Gen. Vincent Barker, a decorated Soldier and outstanding leader who has distinguished himself in every assignment he has undertaken in his more than three decades of service in the Army Reserve," said Daniels. "I know he will do a spectacular job in his new assignment with the Office of the Army Inspector General. Thank you, Maj. Gen. Barker for your service to the Army and the nation."

Lt. Gen. Leslie C. Smith, the Inspector General, also praised Barker's achievements. "I'm honored to have Vince Barker selected to become the deputy inspector general," said Smith. "His knowledge of everything in the Reserve components, with his recent deployment experience, will help our agency and Army in areas for years to come. We are also so proud to see the Barker family selected for promotion to MG. Well deserved!"



Gen Barker addresses guest attending his promotion ceremony

Barker, of Appleton, Wisconsin, and a native of Crandon, Wisconsin, started a one-year assignment as Deputy of the Inspector General in September 2020

Prior to his current assignment, Barker deployed to Kuwait and Iraq as Director of Sustainment, Combined Joint Task Force — Operation Inherent after Maj. Gen. B Donald E. 'Ed' Jackson retired. "I am humbled to have the honor to continue to serve and am thankful to join the great U.S. Army Inspector General Agency team, helping to ensure readiness across all components of our Army," said Barker. "I would not be here without the great support of my family, mentors and incredible Soldiers I've served with over the past 33 years." Resolve. He previously served as Deputy Commanding General of the 377th Theater Sustainment Command headquartered in New Orleans. Barker commanded the 310th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), headquartered in Indianapolis, from December 2015 to January 2018. He has also served in numerous command and staff positions.

Barker is a former enlisted United States Marine, having served on active duty from 1981 to 1984. He received his commission through the Army ROTC program at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1987.

His military education also includes the U.S. Army War College, the Advanced Joint Primary Military Education Course, U.S. Army Command & General Staff College, the

Combined Arms Services Staff School, the Senior Transportation Officer Qualification Course, the Support Operations Course, and the Field Artillery Officer Basic – and Advanced Courses.

In 2016, Maj. Gen. Barker retired from his civilian career, having worked more than 23 years as an adjudicator and adjudication supervisor with the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development's Unemployment Insurance Division.

The mission of the U.S. Army Inspector General Agency is to provide impartial, objective, and unbiased advice and oversight to the Army through relevant, timely and thorough inspections, assistance, investigations and training to promote and enables stewardship, accountability, integrity, efficiency, good order and discipline, and enhances total Army readiness.



Gen Barker accepts a plaque as his son Seth and Wife Stephanie look on

Camp News Camp 1



CC Brian Craig (left side, second one down) and other officers were installed by DC Brian McManus (third one down in the middle) in November.



The Sons' missions spilled over into the author work of PCC Tom Mueller when he found the unmarked grave of a Wisconsin Red Arrow man who was killed in 1944.

DC Brian McManus, a retiree of We Energies, got one of the employee foundations to pay for installing a stone because the soldier had worked there. Current National Guard members saluted their fallen ancestor in a ceremony at Milwaukee's Holy Cross Cemetery that Mueller (right) organized.

Clifford Howard Jr., age 9, has been voted into the Camp as a Junior. He becomes the fourth generation of his family in the Camp or Auxiliary – David and Toni Howard, Lisa Avila and Clifford Sr.



Here is a photo of Lisa and Toni from a few years ago at the Patriotic Luncheon.

Camp 1

Camp 1 has placed special GAR markers on the graves of the last Civil War soldiers to die in Manitowoc, Sheboygan and Kewaunee Counties. This is part of a statewide and nationwide project of the Sons, which has greatly accelerated this summer and fall. Making the trip to Sheboygan Falls and the village of Cleveland were PDC Tom Brown and JVC Grant Johnson.



Brother Bruce Nason did the Kewaunee County marker.

The vets are: – Pvt. Karl Rieck, who died in 1936 at age 89. He served in the 9th Wisconsin Infantry from Sept. 19, 1861, to May

30, 1865. The 9th is perhaps best known for its battles at Newtonia, Mo., in September 1862 and at Jenkins' Ferry and Camden, Ark., in April 1864. Rieck is buried at Saxon Cemetery in Cleveland in Manitowoc County. He originally was from Milwaukee.

Musician William P. Bryant, who died in 1941 at age 94. He was in the 48th Wisconsin Infantry, Company F, from Feb. 20, 1865, to Feb. 19, 1866. It served in Kansas, arriving there just before Appomattox. Bryant is buried at Sheboygan Falls Cemetery in that city. He originally was from Oak Grove in Dodge County.



Cpl. Irving W. Elliott, who died 1941 at age 95. He served in the 32nd Wisconsin Infantry, Company I, from Aug. 15, 1862, to June 12, 1865. It fought in Tennessee and Alabama before becoming part of the Battle of Atlanta, Sherman's March to the Sea and the Carolinas campaign. Elliott is buried at Evergreen Cemetery in Algoma. He originally was from Appleton. Also this fall, small dedications were held on the same day in Dane, Jefferson and Rock Counties, says Department SVC John Decker, who has placed about 10 other markers. DC Brian McManus has done more than a dozen himself on trips around the state.



Camp 1 Trivia

Q. What types of things did a Navy bugler / drummer do?

A: Here is the section about landing seamen, Marines and howitzers in the 1866 manual "Ordnance Instructions for the United States Navy." It says: "He is to be able to sound the 'Assembly,' 'Retreat,' 'Close,' 'Extend,' 'Commence Firing' and 'Cease Firing,' which sounds the men are to be accustomed to on-board ship." See the entire manual at http://www.civilwarnavy.org/?page_id=96

Q: What were sanitary fairs?

A. In February 1863, the women of Lowell, Mass., organized a two-day "Mammoth Fair" occupying two exhibition halls and netted more than \$4,000 to help support ill and wounded soldiers. Groups in other cities soon adopted this plan. The largest sanitary fair was held in Chicago from Oct. 27 to Nov. 7, 1863, and raised almost \$100,000. The fairs generally involved large-scale exhibitions, including displays of art and mechanical technology. More at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Sanitary_Commission
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Metropolitan_Fair

Camp 1

National awards for Ludka, Berres

Brother Tom Ludka, a member of Camp 1 and helper to all with a tombstone issue, has received a national award, one of the highest in the Sons: the



Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star.

Marge Berres of the Woman's Relief Corps, a longtime friend and ally of our Camp, has received a national Doctor Mary Edwards Walker Award, the highest award of the Sons for a woman. These honors were bestowed this fall by outgoing Commander-in-Chief Ed Norris. Ludka and Berres have worked together for two decades on various massive Civil War projects in Milwaukee.

"The announcement came as a complete surprise," Berres says. "I am overwhelmed with gratitude to the Sons at the local, state and national levels."

Ludka said: "Of course, we never would have started this had it not been for an invitation from the Camp 1 to help identify graves" at Forest Home Cemetery. "Who would

have known where this would lead?" DC Brian D. McManus nominated Ludka and Berres for the awards after Ludka received a department award last summer, nominated by Camp 1. Norris cited how they "canvassed the entirety of Forest Home. Over 1,000 Union veterans were found through their 10-year process. Each grave was researched for accuracy and authenticity to ensure that the grave held the remains of a Union veteran. "Several hundred graves had damaged or illegible headstones, or had no headstone at all. These headstones (234 at present) have all been replaced or are on order.

Through the cemetery foundation, they helped established the 'Adopt a Soldier' program where people can donate money toward the headstone-setting costs. "Brother Ludka and Sister Berres each put in thousands of hours of research."

They have done much the same research at Calvary Cemetery in Milwaukee, recently raising the number to 335 Civil war veterans, including 71 unmarked. Utilizing their work, the Camp placed large historical markers at the entrances of each cemetery in the past few years. Ludka also has challenged the Milwaukee County War Memorial Center to include Civil War veterans. The memorial, built soon after World War II, honors men and women in that conflict and later wars. Ludka is working with the center for a suitable Civil War honor – 781 from the county died in the war, he determined. The Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star is presented by the commander-in-chief, with the concurrence of the Council of Administration, to a Brother who has served the Order for an extended period in an outstanding and exemplary manner, or for an extraordinary action. The national Walker Award is presented by the CinC to a female member of one of the Allied Orders in recognition of and appreciation for her outstanding service to the SUVCW. Berres received the Walker Award at the Department level in 2017. McManus said in notifying Ludka and Berres: "This recognition is well-deserved. Please accept my thanks and gratitude for the enormous efforts that you both have done. You are both a credit to the Orders." Ludka and Berres also have replaced a worn larger gravestone this year and plan to do more of these in their headstone program.

See: <https://foresthomcemetery.com/monument-preservation-projects>



Camp 15



Brothers Jerry Coveney and Gerry Drought cleaning grave of Jonathan Smiley at Luther Parker Cemetery Nov. 20, 2020 -

Camp #15 lost a court fight two years ago to get the city of Muskego to clean up weed-choked Luther Parker Cemetery where three Civil War soldiers are buried. But the camp on its own is now quietly cleaning up parts of the cemetery, including the graves of the three soldiers and close to thirty graves of relatives of Camp #15 member Gerry Drought.

Brother Drought, just installed Dec. 3rd as Camp #15's new commander, last fall persuaded the Muskego official overseeing the cemetery to let him at least clean up the graves of his relatives, which include two of the Civil War soldiers.

In late November, Brother Drought and Brother Jerry Coveney, the camp's new junior vice commander, went into the cemetery with a weed-whacker and a grub hoe and cleaned out the withered weeds and matted grass around the graves of the Civil War soldier's and Brother Drought's relatives. The graves include that of Jonathan Smiley and Hugh McConahy, ancestors of Brother Drought, and of Lieutenant Homer Clark, a Civil War soldier killed at the battle of Chickamauga in 1863. "We are honoring the hallowed ground of those Civil War soldiers who fought to preserve the freedoms we enjoy today and the graves of my relatives whose last resting places should not be disgraced with overgrown grass and weeds," said Camp #15 Commander Drought. "We are doing the right thing here."

A historic Lafayette Church, built in 1855, is now repainted on the outside and a new furnace installed in the basement as part of Camp #15's plan to turn the prairie church into a venue for country weddings and other social gatherings.

The camp has also erected a new sign in front of the Lafayette church identifying the church as the home Col. Hans C. Heg, Camp #15, Department of Wisconsin.

Two Camp #15 brothers, Jerry Coveney and Bob Koenecke, deserve most of the credit for the restoration work so far – Brother Coveney painted the church's exterior and Brother Koenecke installed a propane furnace to replace an aged fuel-oil furnace and built the new sign on the church's front lawn.

The church, built out on the prairies of Lafayette Township in Walworth County just southwest of East Troy, Wis., came to Camp #15 last year from a non-profit scholarship foundation that became inactive.

Brother Coveney not only painted most of the church himself but also paid the \$1,200 it cost for paint and caulking, and paid another \$1,000 to buy ten new casement windows for the church basement. Brother Koenecke paid for the new furnace as well as the materials to assemble the sign in front of the church.

Water-stained walls inside the main part of the church still need to be repainted but the camp hopes to finish that restoration work by next spring and make the church available for weddings and other social events by next summer.



Camp #15's Bob Koenecke next to new sign for the camp's Lafayette Church

Camp 15



Camp #15 patriotic instructor Rich Kallan presenting patriotism commendation to Kenneth G. Johnson. Camp Chaplain Jerry Coveney is assisting.

Camp #15's patriotic instructor, Rich Kallan, in November presented the SUVCW's commendation for patriotism to a retired Muskego, Wis., man who has flown the U.S. flag outside his home for the past 32 years.

Kallan, accompanied by Camp #15 Chaplain Jerry Coveney, presented the commendation to Kenneth G. Johnson on Nov. 22. Johnson, age 76, is a retired purchasing manager and has a daughter who is a master sergeant in the U.S. Air Force.

The commendation reads: "Presented to Kenneth G. Johnson in recognition of exemplary patriotism in the display of the Flag of the United States of America."

Camp #15 is based in Wind Lake, Wis., and is officially known as the Col. Hans C. Heg camp in honor of Heg. Col. Heg raised a regiment of soldiers from the Wind Lake area at the start of Civil War and died leading his soldiers at the battle of Chickamauga in Georgia in September 1863.



Camp #15's Gerry Drought wowed the crowd with a solo rendition of "Taps" at a Veterans Day commemoration November 11th sponsored by the Burlington, Wisconsin VFW post.

When a band and a choral group cancelled performances at the Veterans Day event because of Covid 19, Brother Drought offered his services to sing both "Taps" and "The Star Spangled Banner."

Dave Barkei, the commander of VFW Post 2823 in Burlington, told Brother Drought afterwards that those attending the commemoration praised Drought's singing and said the solo performances added "a special touch" to the event. "You did a fantastic job," Barkei told Brother Drought.

Bother Drought is a member of the choir at Raymond Community Church east of Burlington and regularly sings "Taps" at graveside commemorations conducted by Camp #15's honor guard.

Our other brothers from Camp #15 attended the Veterans Day event November 11th in Burlington, and were singled out for mention by Commander Barkei, the master of ceremonies at the event.

On November 11 the veterans groups in the Burlington area took part in the Veterans Day commemoration. The VFW post sponsored the event which included a color guard made up of members from the local American Legion post, the local Disabled American Veterans (DAV) chapter and the local Marine Corps League.



Camp #15's Gerry Drought singing 'Taps' at Veterans Day commemoration in Burlington, Wis. as VFW commander salutes

Camp 15



Statue as it stood in front of the Wisconsin Capitol

The work to repair the damage to a statue of Col. Hans Christian Heg, the highest-ranking officer in Wisconsin to die in the Civil War, is moving forward and the restored statue should be in place in front of the state Capitol by next summer.

A state contractor took a mold in early December of the head of a duplicate statue of Heg that stands in Wind Lake, Wis., the home of Camp #15 of the SUVCW. Heg's statue in Madison was pulled down from its pedestal outside the Wisconsin Capitol and decapitated by a rioting mob last June.

Camp #15 is based in Wind Lake, Wis., and is officially known as the Col. Hans Christian Heg camp.

The state of Wisconsin is receiving a \$30,000 humanities grant to repair the damage to the Heg statue and a second statue pulled down by rioters. The state is applying for a second \$30,000 federal grant to help fund the repair work.



**Contractor taking mold of statue of Col. Hans C. Heg –
Photo by Bob Koenecke**

Camp #15's Bob Koenecke was on hand to photograph the mold process Dec. 10th as a bronze sculpture specialist carefully layered a rubber substance around the head of the Heg statue standing in Heg Park in Wind Lake. That rubber mold will be used to recast a bronze head of Heg to replace the one that is still missing from the Heg statue that was vandalized in Madison last June 23rd.

Heg, a prominent Wisconsin abolitionist, raised the 15th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment at the start of the Civil War and died at the battle of Chickamauga in Georgia in 1863 leading his troops against secessionist Rebels.

"It's important to have Heg's statue in Madison restored to show that vandalism by a mob will not be tolerated," said Brother Koenecke, a former commander of Camp #15.

Camp 15



Former Camp #15 Commander Dave Daley pinning commander badge on newly-elected commander Gerry Drought



Camp #15's new senior vice commander Sam Keith



Camp #15's new junior vice commander, Jerry Coveney

Gerry Drought was elected commander of Camp #15 at the camp's monthly meeting Dec. 3rd. Brother Drought, whose family was among the earliest settlers in the Muskego-Norway area in the 1850s, is a farmer on the east side of Norway Township in Racine County.

Brother Drought had served as Camp #15's senior vice commander before his election as camp commander. Camp Commander Drought also is the chaplain for the Wisconsin Department of the SUVCW and will keep that position.

Sam Keith was elected senior vice commander of Camp #15 and Jerry Coveney was elected junior vice commander. Brother Keith had been the camp's junior vice commander. Brother Coveney, the camp's chaplain, will keep that position as well as his new position as junior vice commander.

The camp council is made up of Dave Daley, just leaving his position as camp commander, and Bob Koenecke and Jeff Graf, both who have served as past commanders of Camp #15.

THE FLAG OF THE FREE.

Nobly our Flag flutters o'er us to-day,
Emblem of peace, Pledge of Liberty's sway;
Its foes shall tremble and shrink in dismay,
If ere insulted it be!
Our Stripes and Stars loved and honored by all.
Shall it still shall be the Flag of the Free,
Emblem of sweet Liberty!

CHORUS.

Here we will gather its cause to defend ;
Let Patriots rally and wise counsel lend;
It still shall be then Flag of the Free
Emblem of sweet Liberty!

With it in beauty no flag can compare ;
All nations honor our banner so fair.
If to insult it a traitor should dare,
Crushed to the earth let him be!
Freedom and Progress our watchword to-day
When duty calls, who dares disobey?
Honor to Thee, Thou Flag of the Free,
Emblem of sweet Liberty !



Camp 56

The camp met on October 24, 2020 at the Minneapolis Scottish Rite. Officers present were Doug Urbanski, Camp Commander, Andrew Willenbring, SVC, Mark Campbell, Secretary/Treasurer, Randall Nelson, Camp Councilor, Mark Dittman, Signals/Communication officer, and Bob Selden, Guide/Guard/Councilor. Also present were Jon McCollum, Steve Blankenberg, Charles Lursen and Gary Carlberg of Irish Brigade Camp #4.

Petitions for membership were received and reviewed from Charles Lursen, Steven Blankenberg, Jack Torgersen and Richard Ruhanen Jr. and a transfer form 4 for Gary Carlberg of the Irish Brigade Camp No. 4 of the Department of the Chesapeake. All were properly documented and were unanimously elected by the membership. Lursen and Blankenship were present (as was Jon McCollum previously elected) and all three were initiated according to the ritual.

The documentation of Civil War veteran graves at Lakewood Cemetery continues. We agreed to continue our third Saturday efforts commencing in April 2021. By the calendar this means 17 April, 15 May, 19 June, 17 July, 21 August, 18 September and 16 October are our workdays.

Commander Urbanski conducted the annual election of officers for 2021. The following individuals were elected:

Commander: Douglas Urbanski, PCC

Senior Vice Commander: Andrew Willenbring, PCC

Junior Vice Commander: Gary Carlberg

Secretary/Treasurer: Mark Campbell, PCC

Camp Councilor 1: Randy Nelson, PCC

Camp Councilor 2: Paul Hodnefield

Camp Councilor 3: Robert J. Selden

Commander Urbanski announced the following appointments:

Chaplain: Mark Dittman

Graves Registration Officer: Andrew Willenbring, PCC

Signals Officer: Mark Dittman

Guide: Bob Selden

Patriotic Instructor/

Recruiting Officer: Gary Carlberg

Camp 56 Secretary Designated Past Camp Commander

Per the Constitution and Regulations of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Regulations Chapter II, Article II, (c), "Any Brother serving as Camp Secretary or Camp Treasurer continuously in office for a period of ten years may have conferred upon him the rank of Past Camp Commander with its voting privileges at Department Encampment." Camp 56 is honored to report that at its October 24, 2020 meeting a resolution was approved recognizing Brother Mark Campbell as Past Camp Commander per this provision in the regulations of the Order. Brother Campbell has provided exemplary service as Camp 56 Secretary continuously for more than 10 years. The Camp is grateful for Brother Campbell's service and proud of his well-earned distinction and privilege.



Brother Mark Campbell, Secretary/Treasurer, Past Camp Commander, Camp 56..

MEETING

Our next meeting will be 23 January 2021 at 1000 hours at the Scottish Rite Temple in Minneapolis, Minnesota. We anticipate the presence of our Department Commander Brian McManus to conduct the installation of our new officers.

Christmas During the Civil War

Taken from *The American Battlefield Trust*



"Christmas in Camp," an illustration by Thomas Nast for Harper's Weekly

It can be difficult to relate to the men and women of the Civil War era. Despite the extraordinarily different circumstances in which they found themselves, however, we can connect with our forebears in traditions such as the celebration of Christmas. By the mid-19th century, most of today's familiar Christmas trappings — Christmas carols, gift giving and tree decoration — were already in place. Charles Dickens had published "A Christmas Carol" in 1843 and indeed, the Civil War saw the first introductions to the modern image of a jolly and portly Santa Claus through the drawings of Thomas Nast, a German-speaking immigrant.

Civil War soldiers in camp and their families at home drew comfort from the same sorts of traditions that characterize Christmas today. Alfred Bellard of the 5th New Jersey noted, "In order to make it look much like Christmas as possible, a small tree was stuck up in front of our tent, decked off with hard tack and pork, in lieu of cakes and oranges, etc." John Haley, of the 17th Maine, wrote in his diary on Christmas Eve that, "It is rumored that there are sundry boxes and mysterious parcels over at Stoneman's Station directed to us. We retire to sleep with feelings akin to those of children expecting Santa Claus."

In one amusing anecdote, a Confederate prisoner relates how the realities of war intruded on his Christmas celebrations: "A friend had sent me in a package a bottle of old brandy. On Christmas morning I quietly called several comrades up to my bunk to taste the precious fluid of...DISAPPOINTMENT! The bottle had been opened outside, the brandy taken and replaced with water...and sent in. I hope the Yankee who played that practical joke lived to repent it and was shot before the war ended."



"Christmas Eve," an illustration by Thomas Nast for Harper's Weekly, January 3, 1863

For many, the holiday was a reminder of the profound melancholy that had settled over the entire nation. Southern parents warned their children that Santa might not make it through the blockade, and soldiers in bleak winter quarters were reminded, more acutely than ever, of the domestic bliss they had left behind. Robert Gould Shaw, who would later earn glory as the commander of the 54th Massachusetts, recorded in his diary, "It is Christmas morning and I hope a happy and merry one for you all, though it looks so stormy for our poor country, one can hardly be in merry humor." On the Confederate home front, Sallie Brock Putnam of Richmond echoed Shaw's sentiment: "Never before had so sad a Christmas dawned upon us...We had neither the heart nor inclination to make the week merry with joyousness when such a sad calamity hovered over us." For the people of Fredericksburg, Virginia, which had been battered only a matter of days before Christmas, or Savannah, Georgia, which General Sherman had presented to President Lincoln as a gift, the holiday season brought the war to their very doorsteps.



An illustration of Christmas on the home front by Thomas Nast for Harper's Weekly, 1863
Thomas Nast's Christmas Drawings for the Human Race

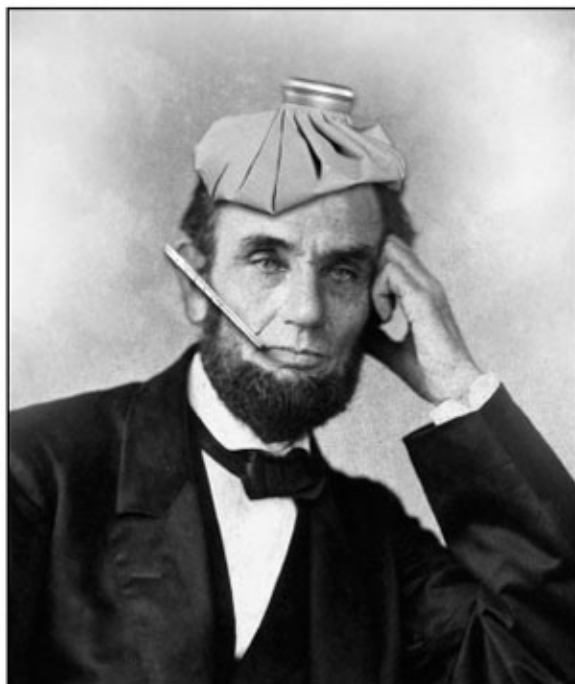
Christmas during the Civil War served both as an escape from and a reminder of the awful conflict rending the country in two. Soldiers looked forward to a day of rest and relative relaxation, but had their moods tempered by the thought of separation from their loved ones. At home, families did their best to celebrate the holiday, but wondered when the vacant chair would again be filled.

You're invited to our 51st Annual
Patriotic Luncheon ... er, Function

Honoring Presidents Washington, Lincoln and McKinley

Saturday, February 6, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.

You bring the lunch, we'll bring the guest speaker to you online!



**“The Lincolns – In Sickness
and in Health”**

Guest Speaker:
Dr. Trevor Steinbach

- Premier medical impressions for over 25 years at 700+ events
- Widely published author on Civil War medicine (200+ articles)
- Developed teaching materials for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library

Free to attend!

Zoom will be used to host our event. You'll need a computer, laptop or tablet with an internet connection to attend. Use form below, or register online at [www.suvcw-wi.org/patriotic luncheon](http://www.suvcw-wi.org/patriotic_luncheon)
Presentation access code will be sent after your reservation has been received.

Sponsor our event!

Sponsor names will be listed on our Facebook page and on-screen during our Patriotic Function.

Mail this form and optional sponsorship check payable to C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 to:
Elizabeth Craig, 3422 N. 79th St., Milwaukee, WI 53222

Name(s): _____

Organization(s): _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ ☐ Optional sponsorship donation (\$10)



To reach either the Camp's page or its Face book Page, hold curser over the name, hold "Ctrl" and left click

C.K. Pier Badger Camp 1 - Milwaukee
C. K. Pier Badger Camp #1 and Auxiliary #4 meet on the Second Wednesday of the month (except Aug.), at 7 p.m.,
Commander: Brian Craig
C.K. Pier Badger Auxiliary 4

Henry Harnden Camp 2 - Madison
Commander: Fred J. Campbell
Henry Harnden Auxiliary 2

Major General John Gibbon Camp 4 - Waukesha
Meetings @ 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month (except August)
Commander: H. Craig Wheeler

Old Abe Camp 8 - Fox Cities
Meeting @ 7 P.M. 3rd Monday of odd months
Commander: Alan Petit
Edward S. Bragg Auxiliary 6
[Face Book Page](#)

Hans Heg Camp 15
Meeting @ 7 P.M. 1st Thursday, monthly
Commander: Gerry Drought

L.G. Armstrong 49 – Boscobel
Meetings @ 7 P.M. 3rd Thursday, monthly
Commander: Charles Griesel

William Colvill Camp 56 - Minnesota
Meetings held quarterly, Saturdays, time & place TBA
Commander: Douglas Urbanski

	
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Officers were elected at the 13 June 2020 Department Encampment at Boscobel, Wis. and will serve until the 2021 Department Encampment.	

[Department Facebook Page](#)



SUVCW

NOTICE

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

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