

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

**COL. HANS C. HEG CAMP #15 WIND LAKE, WIS
SUMMER 2016**

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Brother Bob Koenecke Honors His Great-Great-Great Uncle Jared Townsend, a Hero of the Civil War

Bob Koenecke, Camp #15's senior vice commander, fulfilled a long-time vow last month when he installed a headstone at the grave of his great-great-great uncle, Jared Townsend, a proud veteran of Co. E of the 32nd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment.

Koenecke and three of his Camp #15 brothers traveled to Waterville, Minn., July 23 to erect Jared's tombstone at Sakatah Cemetery in the small town of Waterville where many in Jared's family lived after the Civil War.

The installation culminates a six-year effort by Koenecke to properly honor his Uncle Jared, who died in 1918,

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Bob Koenecke, inserting a new headstone at the grave of his great-great-great Uncle Jared Townsend at Sakatah Cemetery in Waterville, Minn., on July 23.

Townsend served in Co. E of the 32nd Wisconsin Infantry during the Civil War.





Honor Guard from Camp #15 firing a three-volley musket salute at Townsend's grave.

taking to the grave with him a bullet behind his left eye and a second bullet lodged behind his breast bone. Both bullets came in a skirmish with Rebel bushwhackers as Jared Townsend and the 32nd Wisconsin marched from Vicksburg to Meridian, Mississippi in February 1864.

Six years ago, Koenecke was surprised to discover his Uncle Jared's grave contained only a small, brick-sized marker – not at all the proper recognition he deserved for his courageous service during the Civil War, Koenecke felt.

Koenecke applied to the Veterans Administration for a headstone as next of kin. “All the sacrifices made during the Civil War are being forgotten but need to be remembered,” Koenecke says. “We wouldn't be the United States today without them having sacrificed so much.”

Jared Townsend is a brother to Koenecke's great-great grandfather, Paul Townsend. Five Townsend brothers served in Wisconsin regiments during the Civil War, all surviving the war.

The Townsend family was originally from New York State but moved to the Sandusky, Wis., area a decade before the Civil War. After the war, Jared and two of his brothers moved to Waterville, Minn.

Last August, Koenecke and three other members of Camp #15, performed an honor ceremony at the grave of his great-great-grandfather, Paul Townsend, buried at Greenwood Cemetery in Reedsburg, Wis.

Jared Townsend was wounded while helping a fellow soldier who was ill and had fallen out as their regiment marched to Meridian, Miss.

As the two men fell behind, Rebel bushwhackers attacked them, and Townsend was shot in the face and body by a shotgun-wielding Secessionist. One buckshot went through his right arm, a second entered between his right eye and his nose and a third buckshot buried itself in his chest, lodging behind his breast bone. A one ounce ball tore through Townsend's left thigh.

Blinded by blood in his eyes, Townsend managed to crawl to a road where passing Union troops – the tail end of his own 32nd Wisconsin regiment – bandaged his wounds. Four months later, he rejoined his regiment and took part in Gen. William Sherman's March to the Sea through Georgia and the Carolinas that broke the back of the Confederacy and, many feel, won the war.



CAMP COMMANDER'S COLUMN

By Camp #15 Commander Jeffrey Graf

Camp #15 is Looking Good, Brothers

Congratulations, brothers – Camp #15 is standing tall as we head into the second half of 2016. We kicked off the year serving as the honor guard at a ceremony in Burlington re-dedicating a statue of Abraham Lincoln that had been toppled by vandals. We followed that in April with the camp's top officers attending the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield, Ill., to remember the anniversary of the death of the man who brought us through the Civil War.

On May 1st, we helped Camp #4 commemorate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the GAR, the predecessor to the Sons of Union Veterans, with a ceremony and musket salute at Pioneer Cemetery in Brookfield. In mid-May, we launched our fight to get the city of Muskego to clean up Luther Parker Cemetery - a cemetery overgrown with weeds, waist-high grass and brush.

On May 29, Memorial Day weekend, we marched in the Wind Lake parade in the morning and in the afternoon, held an honor ceremony at Luther Parker Cemetery at the graves of the two Civil War soldiers buried there, Lt. Homer H. Clark and Pvt. Jonathan W. Smiley.

On June 11th, Camp #15 had the honor of hosting the state's SUVCW officers at the summer encampment at Norway Town Hall in Wind Lake, home to our monthly meetings. The next day, we helped Camp #1 dedicate a historical marker noting the 1,000 Civil War soldiers buried at Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee. On July 4th, we marched in the Union Grove parade in my hometown and afterwards, held the Camp #15 picnic at my Union Grove home.

It's been a good first half of the year, brothers. This is why the Sons of Union Veterans exists. This is who we are – honoring the graves, monuments and memories of our Civil War soldiers.



The brothers of Wisconsin: Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Wisconsin Department, Summer Encampment, June 11, 2016, Heg Park, Wind Lake, Wis.

WE GOT PHOTOS

(Left) – Camp #15's Honor Guard firing musket salute at the grave of Col. Hans C. Heg, June 11, 2016.

Col. Heg, for whom the Hans C. Heg Camp #15 is named, formed the 15th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment in 1861, largely from Norwegians and Swedes in the Town of Norway. Col. Heg was killed leading his troops at the battle of Chickamauga in September 1863.



Honor Guard at Pioneer Cemetery in Brookfield, Wis., May 1, 2016 as Camp #4, with help from Camps #15 and 1, commemorates the GAR's 150th anniversary. (from left): Dave Daley, Rich Kallan, Pat Lynch, Kevin Klandrud, Brian McManus, Bob Koenecke and Jeff Graf.



The ladies of Camp #15 in Ann Daley's kitchen at the Jan. 7, 2016 Christmas party: (from left): Ann Daley, Ann Kulas, Barb Kallan, Carolyn Wilson and Marge Koenecke. As they say in the small-town weeklies, a very good time was had by all.



Camp #1's Steve Michaels, a past national commander in chief of the Sons of Union Veterans, leads members of Camp #15 and Camp #4 to the Lincoln statue re-dedication Feb. 14 in Burlington, Wis.



The brothers in Camp #15 and two other camps - #4 and #1 - standing tall as they march through the streets of Burlington, Wis., on Feb. 14th, on their way to the re-dedication of a statue of Abraham Lincoln that had been toppled by vandals. The Sons of Union Veterans formed an honor guard for the ceremonies.



Camp #15's Christmas party on Jan. 7, 2016.

(from left, the brothers): Tom Greil, Brian McManus, Pat Kulas, Jeff Graf, Dave Daley, Rich Kallan, Bob Koenecke and John Gillless.

Camp #15 Commander Jeffrey Graf honors his great-great grandfather Lewis Sippy, a soldier in the 40th Indiana Infantry, at the Sextonville, Wis., cemetery in August 2015. During this same trip to central Wisconsin, Camp #15 performed honor ceremonies in Poniatowski at the grave of Franz Wozniak, the great-great grandfather of Camp #15's Pat Kulas, and in Reedsburg at the grave of Paul Townsend, the great-great grandfather of Bob Koenecke, Camp #15's senior vice commander.





**Camp #15's Redoubtable
Secretary-Treasurer, Brian
McManus, Elected to No. 2
Spot in the Department of
Wisconsin**

Brother Brian McManus, secretary-treasurer of Camp #15 since its inception in 2015, was elected senior vice commander for the Wisconsin Department of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at the summer encampment on June 11th. This puts Brother Brian in the number two spot in the state, second only to the state commander.

Brother Brian is a former commander of Camp #1 and one of the founders of Camp #15. As secretary-treasurer, Brian has done yeoman's work keeping Camp #15 flying straight and its records and finances straight as well. A member of the Sons of Union Veterans since 2009, Brian is a senior training consultant for WE Energies and lives in Wind Lake, Wis. Congratulations, Brother Brian - a promotion well deserved.

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
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