

John Gibbon

The Messenger

The Newsletter of Major General John Gibbon Camp #4 & Ammi Hawks Auxiliary #5, Dept of Wisconsin
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Ammi Hawks

Volume 4, Issue 2

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February 23, 2004

2003 MARSHALL HOPE AWARD WINNER FOR THE BEST CAMP NEWSLETTER IN THE SUVCW

2004

Calendar of Events

- Wednesday, Mar. 10 -
Camp #4 Meeting
7:00PM - Carroll College
- Sunday, Mar. 28 - 1st
Brigade Band Concert
2:00PM - Sharon Lynne
Wilson Center for the
Arts - Brookfield
- Wednesday, Apr. 14 -
Camp #4 Meeting
7:00PM - Carroll College
- Thursday, Apr. 15 -
Lincoln Tomb Ceremony
11:00AM - Springfield, IL
- Saturday, Apr. 17 - GAR
Founder's ceremony
2:00PM - Petersburg, IL
- Tuesday, April 20 -
Major General John
Gibbon's Birthday
- Saturday, April 24 -
Gibbon Birthday
Celebration - Hartland
Inn
- Saturday & Sunday, May
1 & 2 - Civil War
Days—Dousman
Stagecoach Inn -
Brookfield
- Wednesday, May 12 -
Camp #4 Meeting
7:00PM - Carroll College
- Monday, May 31 -
Memorial Day Parade &
Ceremony - Waukesha

Letter from the Camp #4 Commander

A Quiet Walk

Last October, a pair of elderly aunts brought me to the home of my father and grandparents. In cemetery after cemetery, we paused at grave after grave as my aunts related the story of our family. Next to two of the graves was a GAR marker indicating I had relatives who served the Union in the American Civil War. This discovery led me to a study of the family's origins. On one death notation after another, was written the place of burial - Plum City, Pierce County, Wisconsin. Nothing reinforces the connection of people to places more than to see them lying in the earth there.

Since then, these revelations have caused me to reflect upon what led them to settle here. Like so many others it was no doubt good land, for nearly all of them were farmers. But just as much it was freedom and equality that has always been the promise of America. It took a quiet walk in a Wisconsin cemetery to make things clear to me. I had forebearers who saved the Union and all the liberty we presently enjoy. They have given us a united, strong and free nation. Let us never forget. Let us honor their memory.

The following are our Camp goals for 2004:

- 1) RECRUITMENT: An "Ask Three" program where each brother pledges to ask at least three people to consider joining us and to get one of those three persons to one of our camp meetings or activities as a guest in 2004.

- 2) MAJOR GENERAL JOHN GIBBON DINNER: We would pledge ourselves to revive this dinner as a true tradition of our camp and to expand participation in the event to both SUVCW members outside our camp and to the auxiliary organizations as well. Attendance goal for this year at least a dozen attendees, with at least twenty or more in succeeding years. Appointment of Committee a year in advance to assure a good location, dinner and speaker.
- 3) GRAVES REGISTRATION: Selection of a Waukesha County cemetery where our camp could register multiple veteran graves and holding a ceremony to honor on of those veterans in 2004 (GRO Bruce Laine)
- 4) MEMORIAL DAY: Participation by

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Message from the Ammi Hawks Auxiliary #5 President

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

One of the most special moments in my membership of the Auxiliary was the warm welcome we received from the brothers of Camp 4 on Wednesday, February 11 at our meeting at Carroll College. It was heartfelt and greatly appreciated by the sisters present.

As usual, a meeting place has been an ongoing issue. The sisters hopefully worked out a reasonable solution at our meeting by deciding that during the winter months, we will hold our meetings at the Fish Hatchery in

Delafield on the 3rd Sunday from 1:30-3:30. We are hoping that this will work for both March and April. The re-enacting season begins in early May and this will make meetings on Sundays nearly impossible. During these times, the meetings will be held on the 2nd Wednesday evening at Carroll College from 7:00-9:00. Of course, the exception will be in June when we are scheduled to be at Mukwonago's Summer Feste. The meeting will be held at the event.

Thanks very much to Sister Margaret Zerwekh, who acquired the use of the Fish Hatchery for us. It was great work!

The mid-winter meeting was held at the Bluemound Gardens restaurant in Wauwatosa on Saturday, February 7. Overall, I felt it was a good meeting. A couple of things have resulted from this meeting. The cookbook has been resurrected yet again... and if you have period (pre-1900) recipes you may submit them up to April 15. Sister Patricia Lynch from Auxiliary 4 is actively working on it, and is excited about the project.

The encampment for the Department of Wisconsin is still tentative, but is scheduled to be held at King in Tomah on June 12. I can only encourage you to attend.

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MG John Gibbon Camp #4 Officers for 2004



	E-Mail Address	Phone	Home Address
Commander: Tom Sobottke	tksobot@execpc.com	262-691-2887	329 Evergreen Lane, Pewaukee, WI 53072
Sr. Vice Commander : David L. Hinkley	marriedman514@cs.com	262-574-0511	443 Dunbar Ave., Waukesha, WI 53186
Jr. Vice Commander: Jeremy L. Johnson	lordhaha@hotmail.com	262-242-9866	100 E. Main St. Apt. 206, Waukesha, WI 53186
Secretary/Treasurer: Bruce C. Laine	bcl58@hotmail.com	262-594-2081	421 S. Sherman St., Eagle, WI 53119
Council #1: PCC James L. Johnson	secondwisconsin@hotmail.com	414-840-4856	100 E. Main St. Apt. 206, Waukesha, WI 53186
Council #2: Bob Mann	ironbgd@hotmail.com	262-821-1270	2375 Rockway Lane E, Brookfield, WI 53005
Council #3: PCC Scott Gutzke	sgutzke@lycos.com	847-215-2060	1569 S. Wolf Rd. #206, Prospect Heights, IL 60070
Patriotic Instructor: PCC James L. Johnson	secondwisconsin@hotmail.com	414-840-4856	100 E. Main St. Apt. 206, Waukesha, WI 53186
Chaplain: Bob Mann	ironbgd@hotmail.com	262-821-1270	2375 Rockway Lane E, Brookfield, WI 53
Counselor:			
Historian: Bruce C. Laine	bcl58@hotmail.com	262-594-2081	421 S. Sherman St., Eagle, WI 53119
Guide: Terrence R. Brown	tbrown@silgancontainers.com	262-369-5981	189 Willow Dr., Hartland, WI 53029
Guard: Michael Jones	mjones@wahs.com	262-495-8614	W4429 Little Prairie Rd., East Troy, WI 53120
Graves Registration: Bruce C. Laine	bcl58@hotmail.com	262-594-2081	421 S. Sherman St., Eagle, WI 53119
Eagle Scout Coordinator:			
Color Bearer: Andrew C. Laine	cowboys@wi.rr.com	262-594-2081	421 S. Sherman St., Eagle, WI 53119



Ammi Hawks Auxiliary #5 Officers for 2004



	E-Mail Address	Phone	Home Address
President: Christina Zahn	AmmiHawksPrez@ameritech.net	414-443-0265	560 N. 90th Street #7, Milwaukee, WI 53226
Vice President: Ruth Nuoffer			2179 N. 56th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53208
Secretary/Treasurer: Kathryn Cieszki	AmmiHawksSec@ameritech.net	262-679-3735	W181 S8290 Pioneer Drive, Muskego, WI 53150

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If you need to stay overnight, you will need to make reservations soon. This may be a graduation weekend. The ladies of Auxiliary 6 are also working on a public program that Sister Kathy and I will be participating in.

Reclaiming Our Heritage is coming up for the third year on the grounds of the National Soldiers' Home (Zablocki VA Medical Center). I am being committed to helping others do a basic search on their Civil War ancestors on the computer. I would like to encourage the sisters as well as the brothers to perhaps give me an hour of your time in the library. If we can be a presence on the field, that would be great as well. A regular sewing circle is held on the 3rd Sunday of the month (during our meeting times) to create quilts for the soldiers at the VA as well as those wounded returning from Iraq. There is usually a brief discussion, with showing off of the projects, and then the actual sewing. If you have any fabrics that may be donated for this purpose, they would be greatly welcomed. These fabrics do need to be of natural fibers, preferably cotton, silk or wool.

We are also supporting the brothers of Camp 4 with their dinner to honor Gen. John Gibbon on April 24. I would encourage everyone to attend. Period dress will be optional. They are hoping to have Lance Herdegen speak for the event. Further details will be found in the newsletter.

In FC&L,

Chris



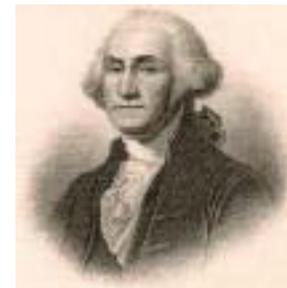
Washington and the Corporal *(A lesson in leadership)*

During the American Revolution it is said, the commander of a little squad was giving orders to those under him relative to a log of timber, which they were endeavoring to raise to the top of some military works they were repairing. The timber went up with difficulty, and on this account the voice of the little man was often heard in regular vociferations of "Heave away! There she goes! Heave ho!" An officer, not in the military costume, was passing, and asked the commander why he did not take hold and render a little aid. The latter astonished, turning round with the pomp of an emperor, said "Sir I am a corporal," - You are, are you?" replied the officer, "I was not aware of that," and taking off his hat and bowing, the officer said, "I ask your pardon, Mr. Corporal," and then dismounted, and lifted till the sweat stood in drops on his forehead.

- When the work was finished, turning to the commander, he said, "Mr. Corporal, when you have another such job, and have not men enough, send for your commander-in-chief, and I will come and help you a second time." The corporal was astonished. It was Washington who thus addressed him.

This was printed in

The Waukesha Freeman on
 January 6, 1863.



Camp #4 Treasurer's Report as of February 11, 2004

Submitted by Secretary Treasurer Bruce C. Laine

Balance as of January 14, 2004:	\$546.07
Deposits:	
2004 Dues - J. Johnson, J. Johnson, D. Hinkley, B. Mann & T. Brown	125.00
SVR Dues - T. Brown	3.00
Charitable Contributions:	None
Disbursements:	
PCC Badge for PCC Jim Johnson 23.00	
SVR Dues	27.00
Balance as of February 11, 2004:	\$624.27
Working Capital for 2004	\$233.07

Ammi Hawks Auxiliary #5 Meeting Minutes of January 11, 2004

The meeting of Ammi Hawks Auxiliary #5 was called to order at 1:45 p.m. at Sister Ruth's house in Milwaukee.

Roll call of members: President Chris Zahn, Vice President Ruth Nuoffer, Secretary/Treasurer Kathy Cieszki, and Sister Margaret Zerwekh all present.

Guests: Brother Richard Rohan of Camp #5 and Bob Nuoffer, and Arleigh Birchler of the Society of Women in the Civil War.

Sister Chris Zahn motioned to conduct the meeting as a round table discussion, seconded by Sister Margaret.

Items discussed:

- Send \$25.00 to Zablocki Center for canteen books use account #635/135 on check.

- Invitation to Lee-Jackson dinner, by the Sons of Confederate Veterans on Jan. 17, 2004
- Save the Milwaukee Soldiers Home fund raiser, brochures distributed
- Use of Hawks Inn in Delafield as a meeting place is out because the rental charge is too high
- Official Ammi Hawks Auxiliary business correspondence by President and/or Secretary/Treasurer only on designated stationary.
- Further investigation needed for the use of the Fish Hatchery as a meeting place
- Respond to Lance Herdigan confirming use of MacAllister Hall as a meeting place, beginning February 11, 2004 on the same night and time as Camp #4

Treasure's Report: Balance forward from December 21, 2003 \$212.89, Deposits + \$13.00, disbursements for Per Capita Tax - \$11.00, Balance on hand \$214.89.

Meeting closed at 2:37 p.m. Sister Chris gave a very informative presentation on Women during the Civil War with several interesting documents distributed.

Ammi Hawks Auxiliary #5 Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2004

The meeting of Ammi Hawks Auxiliary #5 was called to order at 7:10 p.m. at MacAllister Hall on the Carroll College Campus.

Roll call of members: President Chris Zahn, Secretary/Treasurer Kathy Cieszki, and Sisters Patti Jaeger and Charlotte Jones all present.

Sister Chris Zahn motioned to conduct the meeting as a round table discussion, seconded by Sister Kathy.

January 2004 minutes were read

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(Below) Sample of Sweatshirt that is For Sale. Any Regiment & Company is available for \$25. Polo Shirts are also available for \$25.00 Hats are also available for \$10.50. A GREAT way to remember your ancestor!



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as many camp members as possible in the parade and ceremonies at Prairie Home Cemetery. This is a most important day to honor those men who saved the Union. This day was especially important to members of the Grand Army of the Republic and it should be equally important to us.

- 5) SOCIAL TIME AND CIVIL WAR DISCUSSIONS: To facilitate attendance at camp meetings and to draw in new members we will

begin offering time for sociability; something to eat, and a discussion of a specific topic of interest on the Civil War in the manner of Civil War roundtables. Let us foster the fraternal bonds of our order.



In Fraternity,
 Charity &
 Loyalty,
 Tom Sobbotke
 Camp
 Commander

The Waukesha Freeman

February 3, 1863

The 28th Wisconsin.

An Interesting Letter from Lieut.
C.K. Davis.

A Diary of Events in Arkansas

The military movements in Arkansas, are a source of much interest to the people of our State, in consequence of the large number of Western men now operating in that Department – but to none is it more so than to the people of Waukesha county the flower of whose young men are there battling to uphold the old flag. We are indebted to Mrs. Lieut. C. K. Davis, for the following interesting sketches from a private letter from her husband, dated –

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from meeting notes and will be published in the February *Messenger*.

Items discussed:

- Correspondence from City of Delafield confirming use of the Fish Hatchery as a meeting place. Sister Kathy will work to confirm meeting dates there for March and April of 2004
- Summer meetings (May, July, August, September) will be scheduled at MacAllister Hall, second Wednesdays of the month from 7 – 9 p.m.
- June 20, 2004 at Field Park in Mukwonago at 1:30 p.m.
- Winter meetings (March, April, October,

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HEADQUARTERS, DISTRICT OF
EASTERN ARKANSAS,

Jan. 12, 1863

*At the Mouth of White River, on board
Steamer Kenton.*

Yesterday morning we received orders to strike our tents and be ready to march. In the midst of our preparations Col. Lewis asked me if I would like the position of *aid-de-camp* to Gen. Gorman, who commands the District above mentioned. I assured him that such a position would please me. He went to the General's headquarters and in a short time returned gave me a note to Gen. Gorman, and directed me to report to him. I went directly to the General's headquarters and handed him the note of introduction. The General, who is about 50 years old, read it, explained the business, asked of me if I was a lawyer, and several other questions. He then told me to go and get a horse. I proceeded to the Government stables, and drew a horse and equipage. Having obtained my steed I rode back to our camp; and paid an able-bodied negro to *tote* (as they call it here) my baggage to the General's headquarters. You will see there is a radical change in my business; I do not know how long it may continue; it may be temporary, and may last some time.

I like the appearance of Gen. Gorman very much. He is the ex-Governor of Minnesota. He is a short man with black eyes, rough of speech, but kind of heart. There are about eight with myself in his staff; two of his sons are among the number. I am not much acquainted with them, but they all seem to be gentlemanly fellows. So you understand my status.

We left Helena last night about dark on an expedition which, as appearances now indicate, is up the White River to place called the Arkansas Post. We are conveyed by a

fleet of steamers thirty in number and I should think there are 18,000 troops in the expedition. There is some cavalry and several batteries; the 29th Wisconsin is along.

There was a prospect of a fight, but now it looks rather slim. Gen. Gorman was told that the fight took place yesterday; to which he replied; "Our troops have probably taken the place; we are going up the river to see what we can find."

I have had no letter since we left Columbus, except the one brought by Capt. T. I should like to hear from home, and you must keep writing – some time they will come altogether, and furnish me the pleasure of reading them for a whole day. The weather is most beautiful; the air is soft and balmy;

*On board the steamer Lucretia,
20 miles up White River, Jan. 13*

We came up this river 5 miles on the steamer Kenton, which was a stern wheel boat and very hard to manage. The old General spent most of his time in swearing at the Pilot. Last night this steamboat came to convey the General and staff, and the General is good-natured again.

Before detailing any of the events which have occurred, I must explain to you a very curious phenomenon. You will see by the map, that at a distance of five miles from the mouth of the White River, the Arkansas and White River run very close together; the Arkansas taking a southeasterly direction and empties itself into the Mississippi at Napoleon. At the point where the rivers run so close together there is a natural canal from one stream to the other, called the 'Arkansas cut-off.' It is about five miles long, and during the time of high water a navigable stream runs from

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- November, January, February) at the Fish Hatchery in Delafield, 1:30-3:30p.m, the third Sunday of the month.
- December meetings rotating at sisters' houses.
 - Gifts made to American Legion Post #356 for flag, Dept. of Veterans Affairs, Great Lakes Health System at Tomah, WI (error, should have sent to Zablocki Center)
 - No flag disposal at Mukwonago event allowed
 - Goals discussion tabled until further notice
 - 2004 Mid-Winter report by Sister President; a productive meeting. Additional recipes are needed for the Department Cookbook project. Please send to Sister Chris by April 15th, the Cordelia Harvey Award committee is active again with Sister Chris as chair.
 - 2004 Department Encampment will be at King Hospital as prescribed by our CR&R, in June. Details will follow soon.
 - National Auxiliary is 501c4 as previously granted in the 1940's. Which means the National and all Departments and local Auxiliaries are NOT considered charitable organizations. Only funds designated for charitable accounts are tax deductible. Any fund raising must specify the use of said funds.
 - Invitation received for the GAR Founders Day Ceremony, and Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Illinois on April

15, 2004

- Reclaiming our Heritage event, June 5 & 6, 2004 at Woods Hospital grounds. Membership planned to staff a tent and/or fly as women who responded to Governor Randall's plea to the women of Wisconsin to supply the soldiers with lint and blankets.
- Communication from Commander Tom of Camp #4 welcoming us to MacAllister Hall and an invitation to participate in the birthday celebration for Gen John Gibbons, April 24th at Heartland Inn. More details later. Camp #4 also pledged to assist us in caring out our work.
- Auxiliary #5 awarded Camp #4 with a gift of \$25.00 to assist in preparations for the birthday celebration. Sister Kathy volunteered to work on the committee.
- Auxiliary #5 also invited Camp #4 to participate in the western Days Parade, and the Mukwonago Event in June with details to follow.

Sister Kathy gave a brief presentation on choosing period correct textiles for reenacting and Sister Chris shared a very good source for silk garments and fabric. No Treasurer's report was given. Meeting closed at 9p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Cieszki, Secretary/Treasurer
Ammi Hawks Auxiliary #5

Meeting Minutes of Major General John Gibbon Camp #4

February 11, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Camp Commander promptly at 7:00pm.

Roll Call of Officers Present

Commander: Tom Sobottke

SVC David Hinckley

JVC Jeremy Johnson

Patriotic Instructor PCC James Johnson

Chaplain Robert Mann

Guest: Michael Jones

Minutes:

The minutes of the January Meeting were included in the last issue of the Camp #4 Messenger. The minutes were approved as presented in the Camp #4 Messenger.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasures report was presented and approved.

Sick Brothers:

Bob Mann reported that Ernst Von Frankenburg was in attendance at the 2nd Wis Volunteer Infantry Association annual meeting several weeks ago and seemed to be having a good day. Jim Johnson indicated that he had spent time that afternoon and visited Ernst and they reviewed some of Ernst's collection of Civil War artifacts.

Application for membership:

Michael Christopher Jones's

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application for Associate Member in Camp #4 SUV was presented for approval. The Secretary and Camp Commander had reviewed the application and found it in order. A vote of the Camp was taken, which unanimously approved his membership in SUV Camp #4.

Initiation of Candidate:

The initiation of Michael Jones was conducted using the short form and warmly welcomed as a brother.

Commander Sobottke presented a Past Commander Badge to James Johnson and the camp expressed their appreciation for his service.

Communications:

Camp #1 Commander Kent Peterson extends an invitation to our brothers to participate in the Orientation Meeting scheduled for Saturday February 21st from 12:30 - 4:30 at the Soldiers Home on the Woods VA Grounds in Building #1. All members who have not attended an orientation were encouraged to participate.

We received an invitation to participate on Thursday April 15th for the 139th Lincoln Death Day Commemoration. It will be held at the Lincoln Tomb at the Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield IL at 11:00am

Also received was an invitation to participate in the G.A.R. Founders Day on April 17th at Rosehill Cemetery in Petersburg, IL.

The Department Meeting for the SUV in Wisconsin held its meeting February 7th at the Bluemound

Gardens. Tom Sobottke, Bruce Laine and Bob Mann were in attendance.

There was discussion on the Eagle Scout Certificate Program and Camp #4 participation. We need to determine what already is in place and what other camps are doing. Commander Sobottke will establish contact with the Local Scout Council. We will determine Camp #4's involvement during a future meeting.

The Patriotic Luncheon was hosted by Camp #1 following the Department meeting. There were approximately 125 individuals in attendance. John Schroeder PhD. was the guest speaker and presented "President Lincoln..So Misunderstood!" a look at the motivations of his actions.

Camp #1 presented a check of \$700 to Laura Rinaldi of the Soldiers Home Foundation for preservation efforts for the Chapel at the Soldiers Home.

Unfinished Business:

The John Gibbon Memorial Dinner will be held on April 24th at the Hartland Inn. Brothers Sobottke and Laine and a representative from the Auxiliary will coordinate the event and will be creating a flyer. Lance Herdegan will be contacted to be a speaker. Jim Johnston will contact the Wisconsin Veterans Museum for an alternate speaker.. The 2nd Wisconsin Association will be contacted and an invitation extended for their members to attend.

Announcement of Unfulfilled Offices:

Camp Guard : Commander Sobottke appointed Michael Jones a Camp Guard.

Eagle Scout Coordinator: This position remains open pending investigation.

New business:

Commander Tom Sobottke presented the Camp goals for 2004

1. Recruitment.

Each brother is strongly encouraged to talk to three people regarding participation in the SUV.

Further, each brother shall endeavor to bring at least one guest to attend a meeting.

2. Maj. General John Gibbon Memorial Dinner

The Memorial Dinner shall be re-established and held on a regular basis.

3. Graves Registration

The camp shall work on finding an over-looked cemetery that we shall focus on this year.

4. Memorial Day

The Camp will focus on the observation of Memorial Day services at Prairie Home Cemetery.

5. Introduction of Fraternal Social period Time will be established prior to the Monthly meeting to foster fraternal discussions. It was recommended that a non-alcoholic beverage be served..

During the meeting the Patriotic Officer will present a Civil War topic to the Camp to be followed by discussion. Commander Sobottke distributed an article, *Anatomy of a Myth*, by Alan Nolan. The camp is encouraged to read the article prior to

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Camp #4 Member Recognized for 40 Years as a Member!

By SVCinC Stephen A. Michaels

PCC Ernst Von Frankenberg joined the SUVCW in November 1964, during the height of the Civil War Centennial activities. He had an intense interest in reenacting and had become a member of the Sons of Veterans Reserve two years earlier. In those times, the SVR was largely a reenacting organization and there was no requirement to be a member of the Sons in order to belong to the SVR.

As an Associate Member of the Wisconsin Civil War Centennial Commission, Ernst represented the state, the SVR and the SUVCW at several commemorative battlefield events. He was commissioned at the

Gettysburg Centennial in 1963 and given command of the 4th Military District, SVR. The district did not exist, so it was his task to recruit a staff and organize units into the new organization.

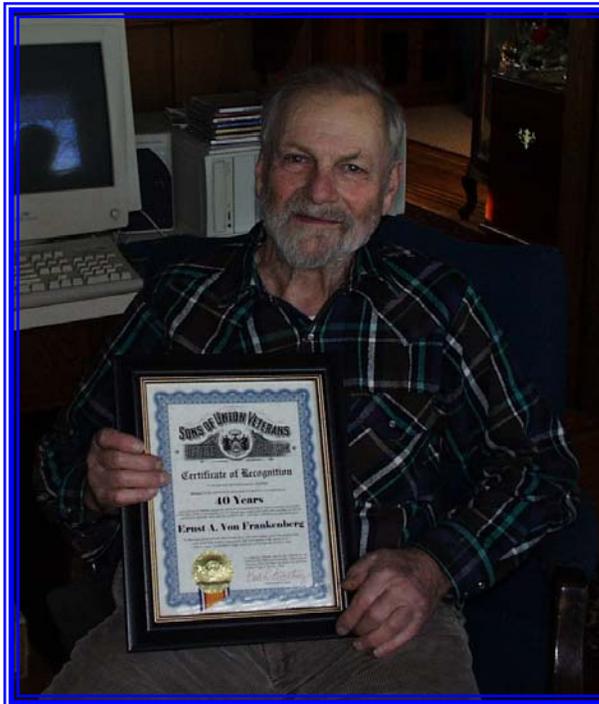
He founded the 2nd Wisconsin Vol. Inf. Association and served as president for many years. The association is now a national one. He also organized and equipped Cushing's Battery with artillery pieces from

his own personal inventory. He recruited Co. C, 34th Illinois Vol. Inf.; Co. D, 12th Inf. Reg. Ill. Vol.; Co. C, 5th U.S. Cavalry; and Battery I,

1st Missouri Lt. Art. for the 4th Military District.

After he was promoted to colonel in 1973, he served on the National Military Affairs Committee, working to ensure greater authenticity of SVR troops.

In May 1977, Col. Frankenberg organized the 4th Mil. Dist.



PCC Ernst A. Von Frankenberg recently was presented with a Certificate of Recognition from Commander in Chief Kent Armstrong, for being a member of the SUVCW for 40 years. The presentation was made by PCC Jim Johnson at PCC Von Frankenberg's home in West Bend.

Headquarters Company for those SVR members not assigned to existing units.

In addition to his position as 4th MD Commander, he served as Chief of Cavalry on the SVR Reenactment Staff. He set up programs for that service branch at the SVR's National Encampments. The colonel also provided artillery instruction at special schools.

He created a system of recognition for the men in his district, who distinguished themselves in the line of duty. He had several SVR award medals cast at his own expense and presented them to those deserving in public ceremonies.

Attempting to establish a closer local relationship with the SUVCW and build a stronger Order in the state, Ernst organized Alonzo Cushing Camp #4 in West Bend in 1988 and served as Camp Commander for 10 years.

The Camp was made up of local SVR members of various units. Previous to this, Ernst had been a member of Milwaukee's C.K. Pier Badger Camp 1.

In 1989, he served as SVR Deputy Commander under BG Chester Shriver, the man who initiated him into the SVR 27 years earlier.

Each year, he led uniformed members in the annual West Bend Memorial Day parade. PCC Von Frankenberg has inspired a generation of men interested in re-enacting and the Civil War. In 1998, he was presented the SVR's Meritorious Service Award for his contributions.

In 1999, Alonzo Cushing Camp #4 became two separate Camps: MG John Gibbon Camp #4 and Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing Camp #5. Ernst attended the chartering ceremonies of both Camps, offering his congratulations.

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one river to the other. When the White river is swollen, there is a current setting toward the Arkansas; and when the latter river rises the canal is filled with a stream setting toward the White river; and when the Mississippi rises, the backwater up the White river fills up the canal, and sends the superfluous water across into the Arkansas.

Arkansas Post was taken yesterday, with 4,500 prisoners. We did not go up the Arkansas river, so we did not do any fighting there. You will undoubtedly have the news before this reaches you.

January 15

We arrived at St. Charles last night. The rebels vanished two days before. I went up and examined their fort, but it does not amount to much.

This morning we started on our winding way up the river, and I assure you it is winding enough as a glance at the map will show you. During the night our pleasant weather became among the things that were, and we were visited by a most terrific snowstorm.

I do not know how the imagination can conceive of a more dreary and desolate region than this along the White River. On both sides the shores are flat, overgrown with cane-brake, vines and heavy timber. At the present stage of high water, the banks are overflowed as far back as the eye can see into the forest. Occasionally we can see a miserable log hut set up on piles, but that is all. The snow has settled on all the undergrowth along the river, rendering desolation more lonely than ever. No sound breaks the stillness except the puffing of the boat. It does not seem that man had ever penetrated into this region

before. I have been whistling the *Arkansas traveler* ever since we left the 'cut-off,' and thinking of home. We are accompanied by two gunboats, which we towed up the river; they are ugly looking customers – each carrying thirteen 8 or ten inch guns.

The 28th were left with a company of cavalry and battery at St. Charles; they are in no danger of attack. The boys are comfortably quartered in log houses, built by the secessionists and abandoned by them.

I like my present position very much. I have adopted a patriarchal negro named 'Abraham' who takes care of my horse; he is a true delineation of the darkey.

My health is good – we are out of money, but that is an inconvenience which we will overcome soon, no doubt.

January 16

We are above Clarendon, headed for Duval Bluff, where the enemy are said to have entrenched themselves. I do not think we shall find them there; I presume their force – which is small – has skedaddled. There is a lady with us, wife of Capt. Cameron, of Chicago.

186 miles up the White River, Jan. 17.

I don't know when I shall have an opportunity to mail this letter, but will keep writing until I do. I presume at this moment you are wondering why you do not get a letter from me; but the mere fact of not hearing often is out of the question, for when we go out on an expedition we go into the wilderness indeed.

Last night we arrived at Duval Bluff; as we came in sight, around the bend in the river, a score or two of Butternuts could be seen getting out of the place in a hurry. Immediately upon our arrival cavalry were thrown

out in every direction. An examination of the place, about the landing, showed that the enemy had fled with great precipitation, the six pounders which they carried with them were left by the railroad station, unspiked; many of the tents were left standing, and some 70 or 80 new Enfield rifles were thrown away in their hasty retreat.

Soon after we stopped, an old man and his daughter, and a Mrs. W., wife of a rebel captain, came on board. Mrs. W. said "she should like very much to have her husband home, and would like to have the war ended by compromise, as it would never end by fighting – for when the last man was killed the women would take it up." We offered her some coffee and a Chicago paper. She said she did not want any coffee, she had done without it so long, and as for papers they were the results of visitants.

Toward evening the cavalry brought in 25 rebels, and a more downcast, wretched, pitiable looking set I never saw. They said but little, and have all been paroled – two, I understand, have taken the oath of allegiance.

The rumor is, that Gen. Fisk's brigade (in which are the 28th) have been ordered to join McClelland, for the purpose, it is supposed, of making another attack upon Vicksburg. I do not know whether I shall be ordered back to join the regiment or not. I close this letter in great haste, to send by dispatch boat. I think our mission here is ended, and we shall return to Helena or Napoleon. I will write you from there.

C. K. DAVIS

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next month's meeting and prepare for discussion on it. Jim Johnson volunteered to bring future items to share and discuss.

The Ladies Auxiliary Camp #5 was also meeting in the Civil War Conference Center at the same time. Representatives were greeted and asked to join our meeting. The Auxiliary has offered to assist in the planning and organization of the Gibbon Memorial Dinner. They also presented a check of \$25.00 to Camp #4 toward initial expenses for the Dinner.

The Auxiliary also invited the Camp's participation at their Mukwonago Event on June 17 -20th. This event will be emphasizing a hospital venue.

The Auxiliary is also looking for marchers for the West Allis Western Days Parade. They will provide additional information on this event.

Patriotic Officer James Johnson reminded us of the connections between John Brown and the State of Wisconsin. He further addressed the Battle of Gainesville and the influences on Rufus Dawes on the Iron Brigade.

The next meeting of Camp #4 will be on March 10th at 7:00pm at Carroll College in the Civil War Studies Institute Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted, by your brother , Robert Mann

A rigidly pious old lady down East says, "this civil war is a judgment upon the nation for permitting women to wear hoops." ~ Saturday Evening Post, April 19, 1862



Major General John Gibbon Camp #4
Ammi Hawks Auxiliary #5
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
421 S. Sherman Street
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