



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

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

2004

Calendar of Events

- Thursday, Jun. 17 -
Western Days
Parade - West
Allis, WI
- Saturday &
Sunday Jun. 19 &
20 - Civil War
Days - Mukwonago
- Sunday Jun. 20 -
Auxiliary #5
Meeting -
Mukwonago
- Sunday, July 4—
Watertown Parade
- 9:00AM
- Saturday, July 10 -
South Shore Frolic
Parade, Milwaukee,
10:00AM
- Wednesday, July
14 - Camp #4
Meeting 7:00PM
Carroll College
- Friday & Saturday,
Aug. 13 & 14 -
2004 National
Encampment -
Cedar Rapids, IA

From the Camp #4 Commander

MEMORIAL DAY ADDRESS PRAIRIE HOME CEMETERY

31 May 2004

2:30 PM

The following address was given by Thomas Sobottke, Commander of Major General John Gibbon Camp #4, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of Wisconsin. The speech relies heavily on two speeches given by Oliver Wendell Holmes to a New Hampshire G.A.R. post in 1884 and the Harvard University Graduating Class of 1895. Holmes' words have for too long been gathering dust on the shelf. They are just as important for us to consider in the trying times in which we now find ourselves. Commander Sobottke suggests that we might follow Holmes' advice and take the Soldier's Faith into battle in civic life.

Warriors for Liberty and Justice

Every year, --in the full tide of spring, at the height of the symphony of flowers and love and life,--there comes a pause, and through the silence we hear the lonely pipe of death. Year after year lovers wandering under the apple boughs and through the clover and deep grass are surprised with sudden tears as they see black veiled figures stealing through the morning to a soldier's grave."

In a place like this we are reminded of

these words of Oliver Wendell Holmes. We too should pause, and reflect on the meaning of this day. We too should pause, and remember all those who as Lincoln said "gave the last full measure of devotion" so their country might live.

On the 5th of May 1868, General John A. Logan, commanding the organization of Union veterans of the Civil War, the Grand Army of the Republic, issued an order directing that:

"the 30th day of May 1868 is designated for the purpose of strewing with flowers or otherwise decorating the graves of comrades who died in defense of their country during the late rebellion."

Today, we remember all those who gave their lives in that war and other wars. We

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remember too, the sacrifice and service of those veterans who are no longer with us.

It is important to pause, and remember I think, because we live in a nation that too easily forgets. Were it not for the present conflict in Iraq, this day might be nothing more than a day spent grilling brats and hamburgers with friends—a day off from work—a long weekend. But those coffin laden aircraft which have grim, midnight appointments at Dover Air Force Base remind us of the continuing sacrifice and service of those who defend and serve our nation. The dedication this

week of the World War II Memorial in Washington reminds us of another generation of Americans who fought for the preservation of liberty and justice, not just in our nation but our world.

Those of us who have not seen military service find it hard to imagine the horrors of war. The distinguished jurist Oliver Wendell Holmes, who saw service in the American Civil War with the 20th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, well understood this when he said that he and other veterans had “shared the incommunicable experience of war” and that they

were a generation that had been set apart from the rest of the nation by that experience.

To emphasize this point, Holmes liked to speak of what he called The Soldier’s Faith. It was a faith which might lead a citizen “to throw away his life in obedience to a blindly accepted duty, in a cause which he little understands, in a plan of campaign of which he has no notion, under tactics for which he does not see the use.”

Holmes came to adopt this attitude in response to his war experience, which provided ample object

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MG John Gibbon Camp #4 Officers for 2004



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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



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President: Christina Zahn	AmmiHawksPrez@ameritech.net	414-443-0265	560 N. 90th Street #7, Milwaukee, WI 53226
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Secretary/Treasurer: Kathryn Cieszki	AmmiHawksSec@ameritech.net	262-679-3735	W181 S8290 Pioneer Drive, Muskego, WI 53150

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lessons on the folly and absurdity of war. Holmes believed that war required the soldier to commit himself, "to a course, perhaps a long and hard one, without being able to foresee exactly where you will come out."

For Holmes and so many veterans, their war experience was the ultimate test of the strength of their ideals. The Soldier's Faith for Holmes was their discovery that within human beings there is what he termed "that unspeakable somewhat which makes him capable of miracle, able to lift himself by the might of his own soul, unaided, able to face annihilation for a blind belief."

But what was this blind belief they struggled for? General Logan tells us in his order inaugurating Memorial Day that the soldier's very lives had been "the reveille of freedom to a race in chains," and their deaths, "the tattoo of rebellious tyranny in arms." So it had been all about ending human slavery and preserving our Union after all.

Looking to future generations, Holmes speaks to us across the years with the advice that we "ride boldly at what is in front" of us. We are advised "to pray, not for comfort but for combat; to be wary of the "temptations of wallowing ease." He tells us "to keep the soldiers faith against the doubts of civil life, more besetting and harder to overcome than all the misgivings of the battlefield."

We begin to realize that we too might struggle for a cause, perhaps a

long and hard one, not able to foresee exactly how it will come out. And we might undertake this struggle in civil life rather than on the battlefield. We too might keep The Soldier's Faith. We might discover "that unspeakable somewhat" in each of us. We might just as easily strive for peace as for war. We might find a way to be warriors for human liberty and justice. We might do battle in our communities, where the challenges of protecting what they fought for are no less acute.

"As for us, our days of combat are over," Holmes would tell his fellow veterans. "Our swords are rust," he said. "Our guns will thunder no more. The vultures that once wheeled over our heads are buried with their prey. Whatever of glory yet remains for us to win must be won in the council or the closet, never again in the field. I do not repine. We have shared the incommunicable experience of war; we have felt, we still feel, the passion of life to it's top."

Thank you for your attention.

Camp
 Commander
 Thomas
 Sobottke



Brothers & Sisters!
 The Western Days Parade in West Allis is on June 17. We will be meeting at 6:00PM at State Fair Park, Gate 9, park on the grass outside the Racetrack, our number in line is 50.

Camp #4 Treasurer's Report as of June 9, 2004

Submitted by Secretary Treasurer Bruce C. Laine

Balance as of May 12, 2004:	\$394.22
Deposits:	
Deposit	20.00
Charitable Contributions:	
From Brother Mark Ingram for Nat'l Encampment Program	40.00
Disbursements:	
Department of Iowa, SUVCW for Nat'l Encampment Program	40.00
Postage for Newsletter	22.20
Balance as of June 9, 2004:	\$392.02
Working Capital for 2004	\$392.02

The Waukesha Freeman June 2, 1863

A Sketch of the Battles on the Rappahannock – Justice to the Fifth Wisconsin

CAMP FIFTH WISCONSIN VOLS.

Near White Oak Church,

May 16, 1863

FRIEND WRIGHT: – Thorough your journal allow me to note the casualties happening to Co. F, in the recent battles south of the Rappahannock, thus rendering justice to the Fifth Wisconsin, and “honor to whom honor is due.” The ‘Light Division,’ consisting of the following Regiments, viz: the Sixth Maine Vols., 5th Wisconsin, 43^d N., and 61st Penn. Vols, took up its line of march on the 28th ult., at one hours notice, having previously been supplied with eight days rations,

packed in knapsacks and haversacks; the officers transporting their allowances on pack mules. – As we were about starting out from our delightful old camp, near Belle Plains, where many happy hours of ‘sogering’ had been passed, it began to rain, but on we went to face the music, and strike the blow, which the *dear people* had long been awaiting.

We brought up about 3 p.m., 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ miles from the river, and nearly a mile east of Fredericksburg, opposite the Barnard mansion; where we remained until nearly midnight, when orders came for the ‘Light Brigade’ to proceed at once – carrying pontoon boats to the river – the pontoon wagons not being allowed to go nearer than the above distance. Seventy men were allowed to each boat – and fifteen boats were taken to the river. After much lugging and pulling, and some cursing, the boats were launched just before daylight, and two regiments from Gen. Howe’s Division, the 49th and 119th Penn. Vols., crossed over and gallantly drove the rebs from the rifle pits, taking a number of prisoners.

This being done, we retired to the rear on the heights, and made preparations for rest. Here we remained until nearly night of the 1st inst., when a detail to go on picket, came – ordering A, F and I companies to report immediately for said duty, together with two Companies from each of the other regiments. All was bustle for a few minutes among the men – then, all concerned, as usual, became indifferent as to our disposal. The march was soon taken up, our gallant division commander, Col.

Burnham, leading off. We crossed the river a little before sundown, and proceeded at once to our respective posts. We found al ‘QUIET on the other side of the Rappahannock.’ At a little after dark the rest of the Division made the crossing, which made it as much of a joke on them as us.

In this position our line of pickets was within 300 yards of the enemy – a convenient talking distance. The first night everything went on quietly, and still smoothly in the morning up to 9 o’clock, when a battery from the enemy opened upon us. – Our side kept cool, and let him spit forth his mendacious messages. About mid-day his pickets commenced firing upon us, making us all hug the ground for protection – he having taken position behind an old hedge in a road, while we were on the open plain without shelter, only such as might be obtained from unevenness in the ground. With all his firing only one from the 5th was struck, and that one was Lieut. John McMurtrey, of Co. H, who was officer of the picket, being dangerously, if not mortally wounded. Soon after this casualty all became quiet again, and remained so till 6 p.m., when it came our turn to be offended, and picket and skirmish lines advanced on ‘Mr. Secesh’ and gallantly drove him off the field. This was a pretty little fight, but it was hardly a foretaste of what was to come the following day. At 11 p.m., of this 2^d inst., the march was ordered, and we were now to follow up the rebels retreat. We ‘meandered’ along under the heights of Fredericksburg, through brooks and over ditches, and just at break of day we found

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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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ourselves on the outskirts of Fredericksburg. As soon as we were discovered, the rebel batteries opened fire, which was responded to with vigor and magnificent effect from our side, both from siege pieces on this side the river and our field artillery in the town. We filed up into the heart of town, and there remained about an hour, when an order came for the 'Light Division,' Col. Hiram Burnham, 6th Maine commanding, to take position immediately in front of the principal strongholds known as the 'slaughter-pen - Marye's Height.' - Here we took position in the following order: The right wing of the 5th Wisconsin, A, F, I, B and H, Companies constituting it, were deployed as skirmishers; the 6th Maine Volunteers, Lt. Col. Harris, were formed in rear of our right wing, the 31st New York were placed on the left of the 6th Maine, and our left wing in rear of the 31st. Here we were stationed, and ordered to charge and take formidable works frowning down us with angry visages - and here we remained for three long hours, awaiting the order to make the fearful trial; yet all were confident of success. The plan of the charge and the arrangement of the troops is due to Col. Thos. S. Allen, 5th Wisconsin - he conducting the charge in the most gallant manner it was possible for mortal man. The orders we to advance at double quick, the skirmishers to advance first, then 6th Maine in line of battle, fifty paces in rear of our right wing, our left sixty paces in rear and left of our skirmish line, and ten paces in rear and on the left of the 6th Maine. I recapitulate in order to

show the accurate position and plan of the charge. The 61st Penn. Volunteers, Col. Spease, and 43^d N. York, Col. Baker, made a flank movement at our right in order to attract the attention of the enemy, and when they (the 61st and 43^d) had advanced a little ahead of our right, the long dreaded word 'FORWARD' came, and every man sprang forward with a spirit of valor that would have done honor to an old Spartan - on they dashed, up the heights climbed - over the fated stone wall - into the works they went - and in hand to hand encounter were engaged friend and foe. Our men bayonet some - others cry for mercy, surrendering themselves, and are spared. A battery of the notorious Washington Artillery of New Orleans, the pride and 'boast of the 'southern chivalry' was surrendered by its commander - very gentlemanly officer - to Col. Allen in person; he, the more than gallant Colonel, being the first man in the enemy's works, waving his sword, and shouting, "come on boys." Now, the heights by all were gained who had escaped the terrible fire of canister and musketry from the brave and stubborn foe. But, O! what carnage - what horror is seen and felt, when a moment of time is found to view the bloody scene. What pangs of grief afflict the soul at beholding so many brave comrades, the noble sons of proud Wisconsin, who have fallen on this bloody field. Praise is a feeble tribute to pay to the brave and noble men of the 'Light Division' for their heroic deeds taking those supposed impregnable heights at Fredericksburg. Those heights were scaled and the infantry charge made glorious in the brief period of 10 minutes, on the Sunday of the 3^d inst. A gold medal should be awarded every man who had a hand in taking

those heights, as a slight reward of meritorious conduct, showing that he had been crowned with imperishable glory as a patriot in his country's cause.

On the left of the heights which the 'Light Division' took, was another stronghold of fortifications, which were stormed immediately after those the 'Light Division' had carried, by Gen. Howe's command, and in a most gallant and praiseworthy manner, thus securing the entire fortifications of which the enemy had so proudly and vauntingly boasted.

Without rest or refreshment orders came for the entire 6th Army Corps to proceed at once to Chancellorsville, to form a junction with Hooker. Therefore, we again marched, without going back to care for our dead and wounded, or for the Field & Staff officers to obtain their horses. - Going about three miles we found that the advanced troops had overtaken the enemy and engage him. Here we were brought into line of battle, and after much flank movement had a position assigned us, and proceeded to rest us as best we could. Finally morning dawned, and still our position unchanged. This day, the 4th of May, we were shifted from one part of the field to another, until about sundown, the 6th Maine and 43^d New York, who were on picket, and the 5th Wisconsin, and 61st Pennsylvania were ordered to support Gen. Brooks' division; and away we went, double quick, through woods, briars, and over fences; finding the enemy had made an attempt to surround us, by cutting us off Banks' Ford across the Rappahannock, and 'gobble' us, which attempt was foiled and the enemy soundly punished

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Memorial Day - Waukesha Parade & Prairie Home Cemetery



(Above Left) Brothers Jeremy Johnson, Michael Jones, Bruce Laine, Sister Kathy Cieszki and PCC Jim Johnson march as a Color Guard in Waukesha's Memorial Day Parade. Andrew and Danielle follow behind.

(Above right) Sister Charlotte Jones and daughter Naomi.

(Right) Representatives from Camp #1, Camp #4, Auxiliary #5 and the National Organization participated in the Memorial Day Ceremony at Prairie Home Cemetery.



(Left) Pastor Joy McDonald Colvet, Associate Pastor at Galilee Lutheran Church in Pewaukee, led the group in prayer, honoring all those that have served our nation.

(Right) Camp Commander Tom Sobottke read his address as Naomi Jones waves her flag.



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both by Col. Burnham's detachment and the force under Brooks. The loss of the Sixth Corps was considerable here in killed wounded and missing. Fortifications had been erected by the 'rebs' near the Ford, on what is called 'Salem Heights.' The troops were massed during the night at this point, and the 6th Army Corps recrossed the river without much molestation or injury. Suffice it to say, that since the recrossing, we have all enjoyed a remarkable degree of easy breathing and free perspiration.

I will give you a list of casualties in members of the 5th Wisconsin which is small considering what was undergone. Officers killed, three viz: Capt. Strong Company G; Capt. J.J. Turner, H; Lieut. Robinson, H. Enlisted men killed, 28. Officers wounded, 9; enlisted men wounded 120; missing, ten. The officers were killed and wounded in the charge and most of the men. Appended is a list of Company F, killed and wounded: Corporal Volney B. Gee, wounded, right arm broken; Corp. Geo. Klock, in hand, slightly; Private Morris D. Baker, in shoulder, severely; Private Francis L. Ladne, in neck, severely; Private Andrew J. Smith, in back; Private John Ross, in heel, slightly; Private Henry Welde, in leg, slightly; Private Wm. Ackert, killed, - all these in the charge.

The following men were wounded on the 4th inst.: Serg't Henry B. Lowe, left leg broken above the knee - since amputated; Corp'l Aungus Cameron, in leg, slight; Corp'l Chas. O. Brown, in

hip, slight; Corp'l Richard M. Welch in leg, slight. Privates Ferdinand Kuessner, Leonard Sherman and Russell Brown, missing, supposed to be prisoners. This account to the friends of the men at home, may not be uninteresting.

The following copy of an order from Corps Headquarters you will please insert, that justice may be done the 'Light Division,' late of the 6th Army Corps, Army of the Potomac:

HEADQUARTERS 6TH ARMY
CORPS,
In Camp near White Oak
Church,

Va., May 11, 1863

General Orders No. 21:

In consequence of the discharge from service of the two years' and nine months' Regiments, it becomes necessary to break up one of the Brigade Organizations of the Corps. The following assignments are therefore ordered:

The 43d New York, and 61st Pennsylvania Volunteers, to report to Brigadier General Howe.

The 31st New York, 6th Maine and 5th Wisconsin Volunteers, to report to Brigade General Brooks.

The General Commanding the Corps regrets exceedingly the necessity which compels him to break up the 'Light Brigade.' Its service during recent operations entitle it to a permanent existence; and its gallant leader, Col. Burnham, to its permanent command. But the necessity of filling up the older brigades in the division compels the assignment herein ordered. The

General commanding thanks the officers and men of the 'Light Brigade,' for their faithful and distinguished services, and assures them that although they cease to exist, as a separate organization they have, nevertheless, now a permanent place in history of the Army of the Potomac.

Capt. Adam E. King, A.A.Gen., will report to Gen. Brooks. The other staff officers of the Brigade will report in person to these headquarters.

By command of Maj. Gen.
Sedgwick,

[Signed,] M.T. McMahon,
A.A. General

The above Order speaks for itself. It highly compliments the late organization in flattering terms; yet it seems to the officers of the 'Light Brigade' somewhat of a rebuke, after having rendered such distinguished service to the country - exclusive of the Army of the Potomac - not to be continued as a permanent organization. - We must submit with the best possible grace to "to the powers that be." "pro patria."

Your Obedient Servant,

B.F. Cram, Lieut. Co. 'F'

5th Wis. Volunteers



**2004-05 Department
Officers Elected during
121st Annual
Department
Encampment at the
G.A.R. Veterans Home
in King Wisconsin on
June 12, 2004**

Commander-

Ron Aronis

Senior Vice Commander -

Kent Peterson

Junior Vice Commander -

Kim Heltemes

Secretary -

PDC Randy Novak

Treasurer -

Dale Brassler

Council -

PDC Fred Murphy

PDC Lyman Elliott

Andrew Bollen

**Delegates for the 2004 National
Encampment -**

SVCinC Steve Michaels, Camp #1

PDC Fred Murphy, Camp #1

CC Kent Peterson, Camp #1

Tom Brown, Camp #1

Tim Barrett, Camp #2

PCC Jim Johnson, Camp #4

Jeremy Johnson, Camp #4

Bruce Laine, Camp #4

DC Ron Aronis, Camp #5

PDC Lyman Elliott, Camp #5

CC Brian Peters, Camp #8

Dan Chroninger, Camp #49

Gary Young, Camp #49

Brent Norlem, Camp #56

Garen Engquist, Camp #56



Major General John Gibbon Camp #4
Ammi Hawks Auxiliary #5
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
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