



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 9

www.suvcw-wi.org

September 23, 2004

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

### 2004

#### Calendar of Events

- Fridays and Saturdays, August through December - Eagle Historical Society - Civil War artifacts on display - 9:00AM - Noon
- Saturday & Sunday, September 25 & 26, 2004 - Wade House Civil War Weekend - Greenbush
- Saturday, October 2, 2004 - Central Region Conference - Milwaukee
- Saturday & Sunday, October 9 & 10 - Living History - Trimborn Farms, Greendale
- Wednesday, October 13, 2004 - Camp # 4 & Auxiliary #5 Meeting - McAllister Hall, Carroll College, 7:00PM
- Sunday, October 17, 2004 - Auxiliary #5 Meeting - Fish Hatchery, Delafield, 1:00PM

### From the Camp #4 Commander

Gentlemen:

As our summer makes its way inevitably to fall, and the campaigning season ends for those engaged in re-enacting the great struggles of our war to save the Union, we ought to remember what was done by a grateful people for those who saved the nation. The Milwaukee Soldier's Home gave expression to the gratitude of millions for what those men in blue did for us so many years ago. With the passing years, our fellow citizens have largely forgotten them. So too it is with the buildings and grounds of the Milwaukee Soldier's Home. Dedicated volunteers are at work restoring some of the facilities there and are fighting a desperate battle to prevent a Veterans Administration intent on the bottom line from leasing these historic monuments to our nation's past to commercial ventures that have no historic memory of what this place means to all of us who DO remember. It is one of the great curses of our times that so many Americans disdain the past, and with it, the story of all the sacrifices made by our forbearers to preserve the free nation we have so long taken for granted. I ask my brothers to join me in earmarking twenty-five dollars from our camp treasury to the effort to preserve and protect our Milwaukee Soldier's Home. Thousands of honored veterans lie in graves beneath the shadows of the place. This is the least we can do. I

propose to do more. I will give twenty-five dollars as a personal contribution to this effort and I challenge all my brothers to do the same. Checks should be sent to Secretary/Treasurer Bruce Laine and made out to MG John Gibbon, Camp #4 SUVCW. I know some of you are already personally engaged in this effort. Permit me to thank you for your previous efforts and those you will make in the coming months.

I look forward to seeing all of you October 2nd at the SUVCW Regional Conference in Milwaukee, and at our regular October meeting at McAllister Hall the second Wednesday in that month.

Yours in F.C. & L.

Thomas Sobottke  
Commander,  
Camp #4



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## From the Ammi Hawks President

Sisters and Brothers,

It's been a great summer with lots of activities. It has been expressed that our emphasis to raise funds for the Soldiers' Home Foundation is greatly appreciated. We can continue to support them by participating at the event at Trimborn Farm in October.

Just to let everyone know, we will be meeting twice a month for the time

being. There is so much to do that we need to continue our connection with Camp 4 (2nd Wednesday) as well as support the event at the Fish Hatchery (third Sunday).

Hopefully, some, if not all, can attend the Regional meeting on October 2.

In FC&L,

Chris



## MG John Gibbon Camp #4 Officers for 2004



	<b>E-Mail Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Home Address</b>
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



	<b>E-Mail Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Home Address</b>
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

## Memorabilia From Warsaw's Mershon Surfaces In Calif.; Auction Set Sept. 18

BY TERESA SMITH, *Times-Union Staff  
Writer*

During the Battle of Shiloh, W.H. Mershon, a Union Army drummer, captured a Rebel colonel. When he got the opportunity, he commemorated the event by having a photograph taken with the Navy pistol responsible for subduing the enemy.

Later Mershon, a Warsaw native, set the story down in his memoirs.

The photograph, an Ambertype in its original case, a set of drumsticks, Mershon's 241-page journal and much more resurfaced earlier this year, opening a long-hidden page of local and national history.

"It's really an interesting piece of history," said appraiser and auctioneer Glenn Williams of Beaumont, Calif., who is offering the Mershon collection for sale on the Internet Sept. 18.

Williams said a young couple entered his office with the material about eight months ago.

"When his mother moved into this house, which the couple now own, she found several boxes of things in a closet. She contacted the former owner, who did not want anything. She held onto them for 50 years.

When her son moved into the house, he rediscovered the items. He heard about me and my background as a professional accredited appraiser."

Williams was astonished at the discovery.

"I had two Civil War experts look at these items. They both said they had never seen so much paper and

provenance on one person. They think this is a very valuable historical collection," he said. Mershon filled four scrapbooks of clippings, ribbons, programs fliers and much more covering his entire life.

He founded the Mershon School of Music in the Warner Building on Washington Street in Warsaw in 1894.

Mershon, son of Aaron J. and Lydia Duryea Mershon, entered the Union Army at age 16 Sept. 13, 1861. He enrolled as a musician of Co. I, 30th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers in Fort Wayne. He served until Nov. 11, 1865.

Mershon may be the original Drummer Boy of Shiloh, a distinction long held by John Clem. In his memoirs he refers to a drum he had bearing the inscription, "Presented to W.H. Mershon, The Drummer Boy of SHILOH, by his Colonel, James C. Strong."

Drum corpsmen sounded reveille, meal times, drills, assembly, to battle

calls, battlefield maneuvers and taps. The battle at Shiloh, Tenn., was the first major engagement of the Civil War. More than 24,000 men died there. Mershon wrote this passage about the carnage:

"Twice they charged our lines with desperate and reckless furry and with their rebel yell, did their utmost to break our line and drive us back; but with as desperate bravery, they were met, and hurled back with fearful slaughter. Shells burst in the ranks, grape and cannister and bullets were whistling through the air until it seems none of us would get out alive."

Mershon did survive and went on to capture a Rebel colonel.

He was the military band leader in Chicago when the train bearing the body of President Abraham Lincoln stopped in the Windy City. He traveled with the funeral procession to the Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, Lincoln's final resting place.

The Lincoln funeral program, the train ticket and the steamboat ticket

### Camp #4 Treasurer's Report as of September 8, 2004

Submitted by Secretary/Treasurer Bruce C. Laine

Balance as of August 11, 2004:	\$379.22
<b>Deposits:</b>	
Dousman Days Parade	\$50.00
<b>Charitable Contributions:</b>	None
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
Donation - Dept. of Wisconsin Patriotic Fund	\$25.00
Donation - Dept. of Wisconsin Boscobel GAR Hall Fund	\$25.00
Donation - Dept. of Wisconsin	\$25.00
Balance as of August 11, 2004:	\$354.22
<b>Working Capital for 2004</b>	<b>\$354.22</b>

# The Waukesha Freeman

September 1, 1863

## From the 28<sup>th</sup> Regiment

BY AN OFFICER.

HEADQUARTERS 28<sup>TH</sup> REG'T. WIS.  
 VOLS.,

CLARENDON, ARK., AUGUST 16, 1863

\*\*\*\* It is Sunday, and just a year since we had the great war meeting, out of which arose the 28<sup>th</sup> Regiment. We arrived here last night after a terribly severe march of five days, from Helena – distance 61 miles. We had in charge 468 wagons, loaded with stores for Gen. Davidson's army, which is encamped here. We came through without losing a man or animal, and without breaking down a

wagon. The march was fearful on the men, through the clouds of dust, under an August sun, and with the scarcity of water. – The 28<sup>th</sup> was so fortunate as to make the trip without losing a man by the wayside, which is better than any other Regiment. We have here 9,000 cavalry, 5,000 infantry, and 8 batteries of artillery.

I am perfectly well, although I have been on duty almost constantly. I have seldom slept earlier than 11 p.m., and never later than 3 a.m. during the march. I have arrived at the conclusion that soldiering is hard work.

We have a beautiful camp on the banks of White River, which is navigable for steamers.

Yesterday we captured, above here, the last two gunboats, which the rebels owned, and turned Marmaduke's pontoon train before his face. It was a most impudent feat, and was accomplished without loss by a regiment of cavalry. The result is that Marmaduke can't reinforce Little Rock, and must "make tracks" or be captured himself.

We shall probably remain here several days, consolidating the various columns which are concentrating at this point. If you look on the map you can find White River, and I think Clarendon is laid down. It is about 140 miles from the mouth of the River. We sleep in the open air, regardless of snakes and scorpions, and live on hard bread and pork, slightly improved by foraging on the enemy for chickens, fresh beef, and vegetables.

AUGUST 18<sup>TH</sup>, 1863

After writing my last (which was on Sunday, the day after arrival), this Brigade, consisting of the 28<sup>th</sup> Wis., and the 33<sup>rd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> Iowa, moved about three miles below town, and encamped in a most beautiful wood on the river bank, where we have plenty of water. I never knew the prime necessity of water till we came on this march. The men, at times, were glad to drink out of any puddle that could be found. This river is a beautiful stream, swift and deep, and is navigable for a considerable distance from its mouth.

The following table of distances will give you an idea of White River, which is as large as the Hudson, and has more miles of navigation and a better country on its banks, yet the wilderness is almost unbroken, and settlements are in the most primitive state, so far as improvements are concerned:

### DISTANCES FROM THE MOUTH OF WHITE RIVER,

To Arkansas Cut-Off .....	6 miles
To Prairie Landing .....	22 do
To Ox-Bows .....	29 do
To Little Island .....	44 do
To Big Island .....	54 do
To Big Island Head .....	78 do
To St. Charles .....	84 do
To Aberdeen .....	125 do
To Walnut Ridge .....	129 do
To Clarendon .....	135 do
To Duval's Bluff .....	176 do
To Des Arc .....	210 do
To Augusta .....	282 do
To Searcy's Landing, up Little Red River from Augusta .....	48 do
Total No. of miles of navigation ...	330

(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!



(Continued on page 5)

*(Continued from page 4)*

I never new anything about hot weather until now. It is fearful, but I stand it like a salamander. Col. Lewis, our Brigade commander, is sick, and has been since we started. Our Regiment has had but 11 men taken sick on the march. The 33d Iowa has 63.

Our cavalry are now crossing the river on pontoons, and will probably all get over to-day. I suppose the infantry and artillery will cross to-morrow, and take the road to Little Rock.

There is reason to believe the enemy is fortifying Bayou De Vue, 20 miles this side of Little Rock, and we shall probably have a fight there. After we leave here there will be no telling when we shall have a mail or be able to send one.

Yours, &c., \*\*\*

September 29, 1863

Correspondence for The Freeman

## The First Wisconsin Cavalry

NASHVILLE, TENN., SEPT. 15, '63.

Thinking that perhaps a few lines from a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Wis. Cavalry, might be of interest to some of your readers; although letter writing for publication is entirely out of my line of business.

You will observe by the heading of this article, that I write from Nashville, but the Regiment is far

away and, perhaps, ere this in the heart of Georgia, striking such blows at Rebellion as the "First" is capable of doing. Shortly before the late advance movement of this army, I was taken with a severe attack of fever, and consequently was sent to the "Officers Hospital" at this place, which is a comfortable, and well conducted Institution; a thing that I have often wondered has not been instituted in other portions of our armies.

But to return to the First.

The First cavalry arrived in this department just in time to participate in the first forward movement of the invincible army of the Cumberland, which moved from Murfreesboro, Trine, and other intermediate points on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June, 1863.

Of the bloodless, though successful termination of that glorious campaign your readers are probably well aware; and of the rain which for fourteen days in succession poured down in torrents; making the roads almost impassable for immense trains which were necessary to supply the army with subsistence.

The heavy rains which unavoidably caused many delays in Rosecran's army, undoubtedly saved Bragg's from almost total annihilation. The gallant "First" bore her share of the hardships of that campaign; taking a prominent part in the expulsion of the rebels from Middleton on the 24<sup>th</sup>; and also in the brilliant affair at Shelbyville which resulted in the capture of three pieces of artillery and several hundred prisoners. From that time up to the present forward movement the '1<sup>st</sup>' with the rest of the cavalry corps has been moving from one flank to the other of the grand army, but principally on the

extreme right in the vicinity of Fayetteville, Salem, and Winchester, Tenn., and Huntsville, and Larkinsville, Ala. Our Brigade under the command of our dashing and popular young Col. LaGrange, brought up at the latter place about the 14<sup>th</sup> of August, and remained at that point until the 1<sup>st</sup> of September, partially for protection to the railroad which runs through that place, and used to take supplies to the troops stationed at different points below there, and partially for reasons which O.C. Kerr would call strategy.

The past campaign having been very severe on our horses, our short stay at Larkinsville was advantageously employed in recruiting them. – The health of the Regiment is excellent, and will continue to be, as long as we are blest with as able and jealous a patriot and surgeon as ----- Persons. A number of promotions has lately been made in the "First" and I think duly earned and merited in every case. Among them 1<sup>st</sup> Lieuts. LaGrange, Holcomb, and Comstock to Captains, and orderlies Hudson, Robertson, and Wicks to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenants. The promotions fill vacancies which have existed for a long time and increased the number of officers, who have so long done the duties that would devolve on the full complement of officers in the Regiment.

Still the Regiment lacks a number of her full complement of officers which, under the late order of the "War Department" cannot be filled until the Regiment reaches the maximum. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> inst., our Regiment crossed the Tennessee River with the whole cavalry corps under the command of that experienced cavalry officer Maj. Gen. Stanly.

*(Continued on page 8)*

# Black River Falls, WI Sept. 11 & 12, 2004



SUVCW Commander in Chief Steve Michaels talks to a young recruit about the Civil War artifacts on display at the Sons and Auxiliary recruiting booth.



Auxiliary #5 Secretary/Treasurer Kathy Ciezski asks for Abraham Lincoln's assistance with getting a "Dead Beat Dad" to pay child support.



CinC Michaels narrates the Battle of Antietam for the spectators.



During the two day event, many spectators stopped by the "recruiting booth" to check out information about the Sons and Auxiliary.



## Camp #4 September Meeting Minutes

Meeting was called to order at 7:11PM by Acting Commander Jeremy Johnson  
 Roll Call of Officers -  
 Camp Commander Tom Sobottke - Absent  
 Senior Vice Commander - David Hinkley - Absent  
 Junior Vice Commander - Jeremy Johnson - Present  
 Council #1 - PCC Jim Johnson - Present  
 Council #2 - Bob Mann - Present  
 Council #3 - PCC Scott Gutzke - absent  
 Secretary/Treasurer - Bruce Laine - Present  
 Also present Brother Tony Wank & Sister Charlotte Jones of Auxiliary #5

During the meeting, Bob Mann filled in as SVC and Michael Jones as JVC.

**Approval of the Minutes** - Approval of the August Meeting Minutes was postponed until October Meeting.

The Treasurer's Report was read and approved.

A discussion of Committees took place. There are four standing committees:

Fund Raising  
 Gibbon Dinner  
 Memorial Day  
 2005 Department Encampment  
 There was no new news from any of these committees.

### Old Business:

**The Soldiers Home** was discussed. The Soldiers Home Foundation needs to raise \$100,000 to help restore the chapel on the grounds of the Home. Sister Charlotte stated that the Auxiliary has raised \$25.00 so far. Brother Mann noted that Camp #4 has raised \$0. He proposed asking each brother of Camp #4 to pledge \$25 to this worthy cause. The camp voted unanimously to accept this motion. It was decided that Camp Commander Sobottke should mention this in his monthly letter in The Messenger.

**Prairie Home Cemetery** - Brother Laine has been contacted by David Brenner, the Director of the cemetery, asking the camp to pay for the installation of some government issue headstones. Brother Laine explained that the previous director would install the stones at no charge. There are four or five headstones that are waiting to be installed at Prairie Home. The previous director had approved them. Mr. Brenner now wants the Camp to pay \$300 per headstone for installation. After a discussion of this topic, the decided that we do not have the financial resources to pay the cemetery. Brother Laine will contact Mr. Brenner and let him know.

**2005 Department Encampment** - A brief discussion took place on where to hold the 2005 Department Encampment. The first

choice of venue is Carroll College. A location along Blue Mound Road would be the next choice.

**Brat Fry** - The camp talked about having a brat fry as spring fundraiser. Brother Laine will contact a local Sentry store to see what their procedure is. Other locations were also discussed; Carroll College, Waukesha County Historical Society Museum, etc.

**Living History at Arrowhead High School** - Brother Jones notified the Camp that Arrowhead H.S. is thinking of hosting a Civil War Living History in May of 2005. Brother Mann suggested the school should start planning well in advance.

**For the Good of the Order** - PCC Jim Johnson read the camp any excerpt from the history of the 3rd WI Inf., about a sutler that followed that regiment during the war. The sutler, Charlie Johnson, was well liked by the troops. He often served meals to the troops while in the line of battle. Brother Johnson thought this was interesting because it is not the normal description of a sutler.

The Meeting was closed at 8:22PM

*(Continued from page 5)*

What particular movements the "First" has participated in since they crossed the River, I cannot say. But the cavalry corps has undoubtedly acted their part which caused the Rebels to "git" from their entrenchments at Chattanooga, which place they confidently expect to hold, no matter how heavy a force Rosecrans brought against them. The name of



General William S. Rosecrans

"Rosecrans" is a terror to the rebel soldiers.

They say he cannot be whipped, and they would rather surrender than to fight another battle.

I regret being unable to furnish you further details concerning the present campaign. I noticed on my way here from Stevenson, two Regiments of colored troops, and their appearance on duty and drill was certainly all that the most strict disciplinarian could ask, and creditable to any body of troops. Why so many of our conservative men at the North are opposed to the arming of the negro, is more than I can understand. I am sure that if the most bitter copperhead would only shoulder his musket and serve in the army of freedom for one year, he would never again raise his voice in

opposition to that policy; but on the contrary would be among the many who ready to shout "Bully for them," whenever a body of colored troops pass their encampments.

Deserters are constantly coming in from Bragg's army, and the same story is told by all that the Confederate cause is hopeless, and they are determined to fight no longer.

They say that thousands are only waiting an opportunity to get away. Our cause is progressing finely. – Begging your indulgence for the length of this article, I will pass on about my business.



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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