



John Gibbon

The Messenger

The Newsletter of Major General John Gibbon Camp #4, Dept of Wisconsin
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



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2006

Calendar of Events

- Wednesday, March 8, 2006 - Camp #4 Meeting - The Landing, 100 E. Main St., Waukesha - 7:00PM
- Tuesday, March 14, 2006 - Waukesha Civil War Roundtable - The Giving Tree, Westbrook Shopping Center, Waukesha - 7:00PM
- Tuesday, April 11, 2006 - Waukesha Civil War Roundtable - The Giving Tree, Westbrook Shopping Center, Waukesha - 7:00PM
- Wednesday, April 12, 2006 - Camp #4 Meeting - The Landing, 100 E. Main St., Waukesha - 7:00PM
- Saturday, April 22, 2006 - Gibbon Celebration Dinner - Market Square Restaurant, Mukwonago - 6:00PM

From the Camp Commander

Greetings Brothers :

Many events of note transpired since we last met. Brother Cloverdale executed a grand presentation for the Waukesha Civil War Club. At the Patriotic Luncheon we heard Dr. Van Mobley give a talk on the relationship of President Lincoln and his commanding Generals and how it compared to other presidents and their generals. The best was James McPherson addressing the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table. I great regret that I missed that event as well as our last meeting due to being out of town at a conference for work. In an effort console myself, I again reviewed the pages of McPherson's "What They fought For 1861-1865". McPherson argues that the men of the North believed that they were fighting and willing to die for the freedom and liberty that they had long enjoyed. They knew session would bring an end to republican government and our civil and religious liberties. It was the men of the North's responsibility to fight for what their forefathers had struggled so valiantly to gain. It was their responsibility to pass on this boon on to future generations. What a far nobler cause this is to the one that was rightly lost. As Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, this too is our legacy and responsibility.

We will quickly be entering that part of the year where the majority of our events will be held. Remember we will be marching in parades, participating in ceremonies and reenactments for that nobler cause.

I want to thank Bruce Laine PCC for the

fine efforts he has expended in preparation for our Gibbon Dinner. We all should be available to assist in any way we can, to ensure it is another successful evening. I am looking forward to acting a Color Guard for the Spring First Brigade Band Concerts. I will share the details with the Camp as soon as I hear back from the Band.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting at the Landing.

In Fraternity Loyalty and Charity

Robert Mann
Camp
Commander



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Insects provided foe in Civil War's epic struggle, scientist finds

BY TOM HOWELL JR.

Capital News Service

WASHINGTON – Twice as many Civil War soldiers died from insect-related disease than direct combat – an obscure fact Gary Miller has discovered in his unique, decades-long hobby.

Since the 1970s, Miller, 48, of Laurel, Md., has pored over books, soldiers' letters and regimental histories for insect references. He found that mosquitoes, body lice and flies were a constant nuisance to Union and Confederate soldiers. Roughly 60,000 soldiers died from malaria on the Union side alone, he said.

"I think the beauty of looking at the insects is it's a topic that we all can relate to," he said. "Few of us can relate to combat."

Miller is a professional entomologist who describes new species for the United States Department of Agriculture. His blend of bug expertise with the War Between the States is strictly a hobby, he said.

The bugs-and-war fascination started in college, he said, when research for a Civil War course paper on "soldier life" led to an unexpected trend.

"Here were all these references to insects," he said. "You find out insects played a role in every part of soldiering."

Civil War soldiers were encamped in conditions that were awful for humans, but great for insects.

"One of the things that most people aren't aware of when they think of the Civil War is the number of people and associated animals," Miller said. "(Armies) weren't mechanized. They had to rely on horses and mules."

Soldiers would sometimes travel with

8,000 to 10,000 head of cattle, providing plenty of food for flies, he said. Soldiers already wracked by diarrhea or dysentery often had to deal with mosquito-borne malaria as well. If that wasn't bad enough, he said, soldiers' food was usually infested.

Miller owns an original letter by a soldier after the fall of Vicksburg, who wrote there were insects in "every biteful of food."

Desperation led to quirky delousing methods. Soldiers practiced "skirmishing," squishing bugs and lice with their thumb and forefinger on their bodies. Often, they boiled their clothes.

Historians say the Civil War was the last major war fought before scientists realized microbes carried disease, so treatment was limited, Miller said. Quinine imported from South America was the best treatment for malaria, but the Union blockade on the coast led to price gouging.



MG John Gibbon Camp #4 Officers for 2005



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In 1862, an ounce of quinine cost about \$5, Miller said. By the end of the war, the going price in some places was \$500 to \$600 per ounce. The average Union private made \$16 per month.

Miller will share his research Friday evening in a public presentation titled "Insects and the Civil War" at the Locust Grove Nature Center in Bethesda, Md.

In his presentation, Miller will show Civil War-era photographs that depict these harsh conditions. Viewers must look closely to notice the details, but the suffering of battle will be evident.

"I try not to sugarcoat things," Miller said. "I'm not overly graphic with the info, but the topic is war and it's not fun and games."

Geri Drymalski, a naturalist with the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, saw Miller present his research to the Maryland Entomological Society 10 years ago. She had him present his work at Locust Grove then, and now Miller is back. "Well I think it's really amazing," she said. "We are so ignorant of how directly and indirectly insects are part of our lives. There's so much more to this whole drama of fighting a war than guns and bullets."

"It's a connection to the past and that's what you build upon," Miller said. "When I can bring natural history into our national history, the picture becomes more colorful."



ATTENTION!

We have a number of Brothers who have not paid their 2006 Dues, \$25.00 needs to be mailed to Secretary/Treasurer Jeremy Johnson @ 100 East Main St. Waukesha, WI 53186

Camp #4 Treasurer's Report as of February 3, 2006 Submitted by Sec./Treas. Bob Mann

Balance as of January 13, 2005:	\$803.86
Deposits:	
Dues: Johnsons, Palama, Wank, Lynch	\$134.00
Camp #1 Purchase of Associate Badge	\$20.00
Charitable Contributions:	\$0.00
None	
Disbursements:	\$0.00
Balance as of February 3, 2006:	\$957.86
Working Capital	\$323.36
Headstone Fund	\$225.00
Memberships	\$409.50

The Waukesha Freeman
February 10, 1864

Volunteering and Conscripting

Volunteering, which was originally the sole source of supply, has lost nearly all the spirit which once gave it impulse. Undoubtedly so. The duration of the war has taken away the fascination. The stimulus of the war upon industry has taken away the temptation of large bounties. The belief in the speedy end of the war has taken away the sense of necessity. Through the operation of these various influences recruiting is attended with ten times the difficulty now than two years ago. There is no such thing as removing them. They are inherent in the very laws of human nature. Public legislation cannot ignore or evade them. It has got to meet them, and overcome them, or else see our armies dwindle.

Plainly there are but two

expedients against these influences. The first is a bounty system that shall irresistibly challenge men's cupidity. The second is the substitution for volunteering of outright and absolute compulsion. ~ N.Y. Times

The writer of the above bases his argument on the ground that no Congress will have the bravery to levy a tax sufficient to pay such a bounty as will ensure the enlistment of sufficient men to carry on this gigantic war. He might have gone farther, and added that such a measure, if allowed to rule the future as in the past, will beggar and bankrupt us as a nation. But there is another phase to question of voluntary enlistments, aside from pecuniary consideration. While the country could submit, without material injury, to the voluntary enlistment of even half a million of men, it behooves us, to examine carefully the effects which a further continuance of volunteering will have

upon our physical prosperity. Assuming, as we must, that the volunteering system has already absorbed nearly all the floating patriotic portion of the country ~ there now remain at home three classes. First, men in middling and affluent circumstances, who, while anxious to see the rebellion suppressed, and the Union maintained in its integrity, yet prefer paying commutation rather than enter service. Second, men who are opposed to the war, and will give neither their money nor their physical strength in aid of the Government, unless compelled to. Third—boys and youth, from 15 to 20—with habits and physical strength but partially developed, and illy calculated to withstand the arduous duties of the camp and battlefield.

From this last class then, are to be drawn our soldiers, provided the system of communication and

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February 8, 2006

Meeting Minutes

Roll Call ~

Commander ~ Bob Mann ~ Absent

Senior Vice Commander ~ Bruce Laine ~ Present

Junior Vice Commander ~ Tom Sobottke ~ Absent

Secretary/Treasurer ~ Jeremy Johnson ~ Present

Council #1 ~ James Johnson ~ Present

Council #2 ~ Tom Sobottke ~ Absent

Council #3 ~ Tony Wank ~ Absent

Guide/Guard ~ Dan Palama ~ Present

New Member ~ David Coverdale

Jessie Barber Headstone Replacement

We discussed a headstone that was incorrectly labeled as Confederate instead of Union. Bruce is looking for people to replace the stone with a newer one that has correct information in March.

Treasurer's Report

No money has been withdrawn or added to this camp's account.

Gibbon Dinner

Some former members of the Ammi Hawks Camp 5 have offered their services to help us organize the Gibbon Dinner, a development the people present found most agreeable.

Waukesha Parade

We discussed the parade. Dan Palama said that he would be interested in participating in it.

Green Bay Railroad Museum

We discussed this non-Sons related event some. David Coverdale is on the board. Coverdale stated that the event is still on, and that there are no plans to eliminate the event.

Events

Dan Palama and the group talked about various events Camp 4 could participate in, perhaps even with some support from other groups. He stated that he would have some additional information for us in the near future.

New Member

We have a new member in the form of David Coverdale, who would be a lineal member through his ancestor; George W. Peckam of the 1st N.Y. Artillery.

Good of the Order

James Johnson shared a story from a soldier in the 7th Wisconsin regarding a southern town of low quality.

The meeting terminated shortly after this point.



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voluntary enlistments are to rule in the future as in the past. In other words, it is throwing the burden upon young boys which rightfully should be borne by the fathers and those of riper years. The youth of our country are, in the main, patriots, and enthusiastic lovers of their country, ready to do and dare much beyond their strength for their beloved country. But we submit, is it just, is it manly, to draw our main supplies for the Army from the raw, unfledged boys, unused to fatigue, exposure, and the hardships of the camp and tented field, while our towns, villages, cities, and agricultural communities are swarming with stout and hardy men? Is it a good policy - can the Nation sacrifice its youth thus - while it has the power to lay its mailed hand upon a million of men of riper years, acclimated to hardship, whose only excuse for shirking their duty to the Old Flag, is that they are opposed to War, or have the means to pay commutation.

We have never opposed voluntary enlistments and the payment of large bounties. Both of these we have favored, and shall so continue to do until the impending Five Hundred Thousand call of the President is filled, and we trust every citizen of the State will labor unremittingly to that end. After that, should the war continue, and more men be needed, we think Conscription, without commutation, to be the equitable and only means to carry the country successfully through the war, with justice to all classes of its citizens.

The Annual
Gibbon
Birthday
Celebration
Dinner will be
held at Market
Square
Restaurant on
Saturday,
April 22nd @
6:00PM
Mark it on your
calendar!

Our Guest
Speaker is
Brother David
Coverdale.

The Waukesha Freeman

February 9, 1864

The 28th Regiment

This gallant Regiments enjoying itself in winter quarters at Pine Bluff, Ark., and although it has not seen as much hard fighting as some of the Regiments, yet it has done duty nobly, and won for itself and for Wisconsin a good name, and any who may desire to enter the service cannot find a better regiment than the 28th. It is composed of as good officers and men as ever left the State, and indeed the flower of Waukesha county are in the regiment, as 600 of her brave sons are members of it; and they receive more things from home on account of

having better opportunities to receive them. There are few in the county who have not got relations or friends in it.

The regiment is in a good healthy condition and in a healthy part of the country, where it is likely to remain for some time, if not during the rebellion, if it should end this coming summer, which there can hardly be a doubt of. Those who enlist now, will reap a golden harvest for a few months of service, and win for themselves a name that will last for generations to come. - "Then rally round the flag boys; rally once again," for more men are wanted, and they must come one way or another; and it is better to enlist the present month and get \$500, than to wait and be

drafted and get no bounty at all.

There is a recruiting party for the 28th in this county, stationed at Waukesha; and others in different parts of the county, and any that wish to go in this regiment will now have a good chance to do so.

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Major General John Gibbon Camp #4
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