



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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December 31, 2006

2006

Calendar of Events

- Wednesday, January 10, 2007 - Camp #4 Meeting & Installation of 2007 Officers - The Landing, Waukesha - 7:00PM
- Saturday, February 3, 2007 - 37th Annual Patriotic Luncheon (see page 6 for details)
- Wednesday, February 14, 2007 - Camp #4 Meeting - The Landing, Waukesha - 7:00PM
- Wednesday, March 14, 2007 - Camp #4 Meeting - The Landing, Waukesha - 7:00PM
- Wednesday, April 11, 2007 - Camp #4 Meeting - The Landing, Waukesha - 7:00PM
- Saturday, April 14, 2007 - 51st Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, IL - 10:00AM

From the Camp Commander

Dear Brothers and friends,

memorial.

I hope you had a very merry Christmas and also wish you a very Happy New Year..

I look forward to seeing you at our next Camp meeting for the installation of officers.

I want to thank the Camp on their participation in our numerous events this past season and look to your support for the next. I will be relying on brothers for coordinating specific events. Please do not hesitate to volunteer and your ideas and suggestions always are of help. Planning for the Gibbon Dinner is well underway and should be another resounding success.

Fraternity,
Charity and
Loyalty

Bob Mann
Commander



Please give some thought and present your ideas for the Camp's goals for this next year at the next meeting.

Please include in your schedules the Department Meeting and the Patriotic Luncheon on February 3rd.

On a very sad note we want to extend our condolences to the Coverdale Family for the passing of our Brother David. David will be dearly missed by the Civil War community. He was involved in so many groups I'll refrain from listing them. His son-in-law is planning a memorial at David's home on Saturday, January 6th. As details become available we will share them with the Camp. We may try to incorporate one of our ceremonies at the

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Minutes December 14, 2006**Members Present**

Commander Bob Mann
Sr. Vice Commander Bruce Laine
Counsel #1 James Johnson
Guide Dan Palama
Patrick Lynch
Jeremy Johnson

Members absent/excused

Tom Sobotke
Tony Wank
Dave Coverdale

Minutes

Acting Commander Bruce Laine moved to approve the minutes as published in the Newsletter. It was seconded by Dan Palama and passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Given by Jeremy Johnson. Br. Jeremy reported that there has been no change in the account since the last meeting. Br. Bruce mentioned that he received a check from Br. Al Schroeder for membership plus a \$25 gift to the camp.

Report of Sick Brothers

Cmdr Mann is recovering from surgery. He attended the meeting via speaker phone. Sue Johnson will be

having eye surgery. Dennis Villwock still receiving chemo therapy.

Committee Reports**Gibbon Dinner**

Br. Pat Lynch will set up a meeting with Jimmy Wade of Heaven's City to discuss this as a possible venue for the Gibbon Dinner. Cmdr Mann will contact Marc Storch as a potential speaker.

Memorial Day

Cmdr Mann will contact Prairie Home Cemetery. We still plan on doing the morning parade and the ceremony at the cemetery in the afternoon.

Readings and Dispositions of Orders and Communications

From the Department, Cmdr Brian Peters reported via the newsletter that the Department is willing to help camps with recruitment efforts. Ultimately, this is the responsibility of each camp member. Future events for Camp 4 should provide recruitment opportunities. Some discussion about having a presence at the next Wade House event.

Unfinished Business

Br. Bruce hopes to get another newsletter out by year end. He will do the newsletter monthly as long as there is enough material to publish.

New Business

Br. Bruce went to several other camp

meetings. He reported that June 9, 2007 will be the Department encampment in Boscobel. It may be held at the GAR hall but there is some concern due to lack of facilities and that the meetings are all held on the upper floor. Persons with limited mobility will have difficulty. A block of rooms will be reserved at the local hotels. Past CinC Krizer will be in attendance.

It was reported at the Camp 8 meeting that a new Veteran's Museum will be created in Appleton or Oshkosh. Br. Bruce distributed some literature.

February 3 is the date for the mid winter meeting and the Patriotic Luncheon sponsored by Camp 1. It will be held at the Bluemound Gardens restaurant. CinC James Pahl will attend.

Election of Officers

It was moved by Br. Bruce and seconded by Br. Pat Lynch to cast one unanimous vote for the following slate of nominees. The motion passed unanimously

Commander Bob Mann

Sr. Vice Commander Bruce Laine

Jr. Vice Commander Dennis Villwock

Counsel 1 James Johnson

Counsel 2 Dan Palama

Counsel 3 Tom Sobotke

Secretary Treasurer Patrick Lynch

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Patriotic Instruction

Given by Br. Jim Johnson. He discussed the recent book by Tim Pletkovich on Civil War fathers. It includes a section on Bill Upham and his father.

Next Meeting: January 10, 2007. Br. Tom Brown, Dept. of Wisconsin JVC & Cmdr of Camp 1 will be present for installation of officers.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

A Congressionally chartered nonprofit corporation

General Orders No. 7

SERIES 2006-2007

James B. Pahl, Commander -in-Chief

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- I was very sad to learn of the death of Gerald Ford, former President of the United States. Raised in Michigan, I worked many a motorcade detail while he was President and traveling home.
- Therefore, all charters are ordered draped for a period of 30 days from the date of this Order, as a memorial to President Ford, including our web site and brother's badge.

Ordered this 29th day of December, 2006

By Order of

James B. Pahl

Commander-in-Chief

Attested:

Michael Bennett

National Secretary



David Coverdale
1935-2006



Brother David Coverdale, of Muskego, Wisconsin passed away December 21, 2006, at the age of 71. David spent over 50 years studying the American Civil War, the last fifteen years in concentrating on Civil War personalities. He has given presentations on such notables as Henry Halleck, John Pope, George Custer, William Sherman and John Buford. He also presented an 1/2 day session on the U. S. Marine Corps in the Civil War, and a session devoted to examining why soldiers continued to fight. At the 2006 Gibbon Dinner he was the keynote speaker presenting, "The Life of a Lifetime Soldier: John Gibbon." He received a Bachelors Degree from UWM and a Masters Degree from Stritch University and was a retired Senior Professional in Human Resources.

David was a loving and devoted son, father, stepfather, grandfather, and friend. He is survived by his mother Sylvia; his children David Jr, Laura, and Karin; his stepchildren Jim, Kevin, and Scott; his grandchildren Ryan, Jake, and Jennifer; and many close friends. A private memorial will be held at his home in Muskego on January 6, from 4PM - 7PM.



West Side Soldiers' Aid Society and the First Wisconsin Soldiers' Home

By Patricia Lynch

In April 1864, the West Side Soldiers' Aid Society, a Milwaukee auxiliary of the U.S. Sanitary Commission, incorporated as the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home, opening temporary quarters on West Water Street (now Plankinton) in downtown Milwaukee. The women received a charter from the State, a subsidy of \$5,000 and overwhelming material and financial support from other societies and individual citizens.

Some estimates of the numbers of soldiers receiving hospitality and care at the storefront Home between 1864 and 1867 are as high as 31,000.

President Lincoln, Congress, and U.S. Sanitary Commission had been slow to respond to the long-term needs of veterans. They believed that pensions, job preference for certain federal positions, and a life-time supply of artificial limbs might be enough to help soldiers reenter ordinary life. Only General George Meade predicted the need for long-term care. The women, however, realized that there were men who could not easily or ever be integrated back into community life: foreign-born soldiers - especially first-generation Irish and German soldiers - without families or communities, severely wounded and debilitated men, soldiers who were literally "lost." Their first annual report to the State of Wisconsin in 1865 stated:

This HOME is not a wayside charity, or transient recreation, but a serious and permanent assumption of a sacred duty which we owe the defenders of our common country. It is food for the hungry, comfort for the cheerless, sympathy for the afflicted. It is a constant acknowledgment, that we too have duties, personal and direct, connected with the conflict that convulses our country, which can neither be postponed or evaded. It is an embodied declaration, that we at home acknowledge our obligations and are willing to share with them the arduous responsibilities of the hour.

In time USCC commissioner Henry Bellows came to see that there were also the "fatherless, motherless, homeless soldiers; blind, consumptive, limbless men, full of sorrows and necessities." Studying the European institutional models, the Commission and later the National Board of Managers were determined to create a system of "homes" rather than "poor houses."

On March 3, 1865, President Lincoln signed "an Act to incorporate a national military and naval asylum for the relief of the volunteer forces of the U.S." On the following day, he delivered his second inaugural address, including the phrase which continues to animate care for our nation's veterans: "to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan...."

Realizing that the unwieldy 100-member Board of the Directors established by Congress would never reach a quorum, the board was reconfigured with 12 members in 1866. Lobbying activity by George Walker and ready cash from the Ladies' successful June 1865 fundraising fair, resulted in the selection of Milwaukee as one of the three original branches--the Northwestern Branch--of the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.

During the lengthy organization of the National Home, the Lady Directors of the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home worked tirelessly to care for their beloved soldiers. Finally, in May 1867, after months of negotiation, they transferred their care giving responsibilities with some reluctance, stipulating that the Home open its doors to veterans of all wars. One of the first 60 soldiers transferred to the National Home in May 1867 was a veteran of the War of 1812.

The Nation expressed its gratitude to the Lady Managers at the 1869 dedication of the building known now as Old Main, but the passage of time allowed local politicians to add the Home to their list of noble accomplishments. One gubernatorial candidate, for example, claimed that his financial oversight of the 1865 fundraising fair brought the Home to Milwaukee even though he had a paid assistant do all the work.

The West Side Soldiers Aid Society, Inc., is dedicated to telling the whole story of this remarkable humanitarian and patriotic venture. For more information, contact Patricia Lynch at pplynch@stamax.com or 414-427-3776.



Don't Miss the 37th Annual
Patriotic Luncheon
Saturday, February 3, 2007 at 12:30PM



Bluemound Gardens
11703 W. Bluemound Road, Wauwatosa

Hosted by C.K.Pier Badger Camp #1 & Auxiliary #4

GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. J. David Hoeveler
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee Professor and Author

“Morality & Politics: The Genius of Lincoln”

\$18 per person
For more information, call (414) 425-4648



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