



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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April 6, 2008

2008

Calendar of Events

- Wednesday, April 9 - Camp #4 Meeting, Heaven City Restaurant, Mukwonago - 7:00PM
- Saturday, April 19 - Gibbon Dinner, Heaven City Restaurant, Mukwonago - 6:00PM
- Wednesday, May 14 - Waukesha Public Library, Waukesha - Camp #4 Meeting 7:00PM
- Monday, May 26 - Memorial Day Parade & Ceremonies - Waukesha
- Saturday, June 7 - 125th Department of Wisconsin Encampment, Kenosha

From the Camp Commander

Greetings Brothers and friends of Camp #4,

The Sun is again transforming Wisconsin from the land of cold and snow to bare brown lawns and leafless trees or morasses of mud. Yet there are signs of spring. The tulips, daffodils and lilies are beginning to sprout. Yes signs of our new campaign season are there as well. Soon we will be able to begin doing sweeps of cemeteries for registering veterans, the Gibbon Dinner is nearly upon us and The Dousman Stagecoach Inn event is fast approaching.

We will meet this month on the 9th at Heaven City at 7:00 to finish off final plans for the Gibbon Dinner. Please bring your items for the door prize drawings. We will put the finishing touches on the program for that evening. Remember to purchase your tickets at the meeting or send in your registration to Brother Lynch as soon as possible. We have received our raffle license and will discuss details at this meeting. We will need to determine who will have the various responsibilities. I want to express our gratitude to our Brother Randy Novak, for his efforts in this matter.

In addition we need to plan on our activities at the Dousman Stagecoach in event on May 3 & 4. Please plan on attending and submit to me a time you can provide coverage at our table and tent. You do not need a uniform to perform this duty. We are in front of the public and have the chance to perform our 3 goals: Honoring Union Veterans, preserving and perpetuating the GAR and patriotic

education. This all while enjoying the great spring weather. Once again we'll hold the May meeting at the event.

Last week-end many of our Brothers and those of Camp #1 assisted in the opening of the Kenosha Civil War museum. It was a glorious ceremony for a great facility. None of the permanent exhibits have been completed, but the potential can be seen. We look forward to the grand opening scheduled for June 14 - 15.

Please make it to the next Camp meeting so we can get your suggestions and coordinate our efforts.

Looking forward to seeing you soon!

In F. C. & L,

Bob Mann,

your commander



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The Waukesha Freeman, April 4, 1865

Hail! All Hail!

RICHMOND AND PETERSBURG OURS!

Gen. Weitzel Captured the Rebel Capitol Monday Morning!!

NEGRO TROOPS OCCUPY RICHMOND.

THE CITY ON FIRE – GRANT PUSHING AFTER LEE.

IMMENSE CAPTURES 18,000 PRISONERS.

New York, April 3.

President Lincoln, at 8 1/2 this morning, reports that Petersburg is evacuated and that Gen. Grant thinks Richmond is also evacuated. He is rushing on to cut off the retreat.

LATER

WAR DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, APRIL 3 – 10 A.M.

To Major General Dix, New York: It appears from a dispatch of Gen. Weitzel, just received by this Department, that our forces under his command are in Richmond, having taken it at 8:25 this morning.

(Signed) E.M. Stanton

Sec'y of War

“CITY POINT, APRIL 3 – 11 A.M.

To E.M. Stanton:

General Weitzel telegraphs as follows:

Wee took Richmond at 8:15 this morning. I captured many guns – The enemy left in great haste. The city is on fire in one place. I am making every effort to put it out. The people receive us with enthusiastic expressions of joy.

General Grant started early this morning with the army toward the Danville road to cut off Lee's retreating army if possible.

“President Lincoln has gone to the front.

T.S. BOWERS, A.A.G.”

[DISPATCH BY THE U.S. TELEGRAPH LINE.]

[OFFICIAL]

WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON

APRIL 4, 11 A.M.

To Major Gen. Dix – The following particulars, dated City Point April 4th, 8 a.m., gives the latest information received from Richmond.

Gen. Weitzel telegraphs from Richmond, that of railroad stock, he found there 28 locomotives, 41 passenger and baggage cars, and 106 freight cars.

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MG John Gibbon Camp #4 Officers for 2008



	E-Mail Address	Phone	Home Address
Commander: Bob Mann	ironbgd@hotmail.com	262-821-1270	2375 Rockway Lane E, Brookfield, WI 53005
Sr. Vice Com.: PCC Bruce C. Laine	bcl58@wi.rr.com	262-594-2081	421 S. Sherman St., Eagle, WI 53119
Jr. Vice Com.: PCC James L. Johnson	secondwisconsin@hotmail.com	414-840-4856	100 E. Main St. Apt. 206, Waukesha, WI 53186
Secretary/Treasurer: Patrick Lynch	patrick_lynch13@hotmail.com	262-242-9866	5830 S. 92nd St., Hales Corners, WI 53150
Council #1: PCC Vic Share	vshare@wi.rr.com	(262) 784-3636	2516 S 134th, New Berlin, WI 53151
Council #2: PCC James L. Johnson	secondwisconsin@hotmail.com	414-840-4856	100 E. Main St. Apt. 206, Waukesha, WI 53186
Council #3: PCC Tom Sobottke	ekttobos@sbcglobal.net	262-691-2887	329 Evergreen Lane, Pewaukee, WI 53072
Patriotic Instructor: PCC James L. Johnson	secondwisconsin@hotmail.com	414-840-4856	100 E. Main St. Apt. 206, Waukesha, WI 53186
Chaplain: PCC Tom Sobottke	ekttobos@sbcglobal.net	262-691-2887	329 Evergreen Lane, Pewaukee, WI 53072
Historian: PCC Bruce C. Laine	bcl58@wi.rr.com	262-594-2081	421 S. Sherman St., Eagle, WI 53119
Guide & Guard: Dan Palama	kolapd523@aol.com	414-559-1966	2074 South 79th Street, West Allis, WI 53219
Graves Registration: Bruce C. Laine	bcl58@wi.rr.com	262-594-2081	421 S. Sherman St., Eagle, WI 53119
Color Bearer: Henry Hecker	henry.hecker@cooperindustries.com	262-378-4188	W298 S10655 Phantom Woods Road, Mukwonago

Major General John Gibbon Camp #4
 Financial Status Report as of March 12, 2008

Balance as of February 13, 2008	\$768.60
Deposits	\$334.00
Dues from Lynch, Hecker, Mann, Sobottke, Ingram, Villwock, Gutzke, Schroeder, Laine & Laine	\$312.00
Special Donation by Al Schroeder	\$22.00
Disbursements	\$42.00
4th Military District SVR Dues	\$42.00
Balance as of March 12, 2008	\$1060.60
Earmarked Funds	\$350.00
Headstone Fund	\$225.00
CWPT	\$100.00
Patriotic Fund	\$25.00
Working Capital for 2008	\$710.60
Respectfully Submitted, Patrick J. Lynch Treasurer	

Minutes March 12, 2008

Members Present

- Commander Bob Mann
- Sr. Vice Commander Bruce Laine
- Jr. Vice Commander Jim Johnson
- Counsel #1 Vic Share
- Counsel #2 James Johnson
- Guide Dan Palama
- Dennis Villwock

Members absent/excused

- Counsel #3 Tom Sobottke
- Chaplin Jeremy Johnson
- Secretary Treasurer Patrick Lynch

Minutes

It was moved to accept the minutes as published by Bruce Laine and seconded by Dennis Villwock. Passed unanimously

Treasurer's Report

Moved Dennis Villwock and seconded by Vic Share to accept the Treasurer's report pending an audit by the Camp Counsels.

Report of Sick Brothers

Br. Tom also continue to recover.

Committee Reports

Gibbon Dinner-Commander Mann, SVC Laine, JVC Johnson and Sec./Treas. Lynch met with Julie @ Heaven City. The Gibbon Dinner will be held on April 19th at Heaven city Restaurant in Mukwonago. Cost for anyone going through Camp #4 is \$25.00. The deadline for payment is April 5th. The evening festivities will start at 6:00PM, dinner (buffet) will be at 7:15PM, Lance Herdegen will give his presentation at 8:15PM, dinner will end at 9:00PM.

Memorial Day ~ Br. Laine had nothing to report, but will contact Prairie Home Cemetery. The camp also discussed the possibility of having a ceremony at a location other

than Prairie Home.

Readings and Dispositions of Orders and Communications

Only communication was for the SVR Unit from the District Commander about getting a Tax Identification Number for the Unit.

Unfinished Business

Br. Laine brought up the possibility of doing a headstone dedication at New Berlin Cemetery at the grave of Herman Hoppe, who served in the 2nd Wisconsin and died in Washington, D.C. on May 30, 1864.

New Business

Dept. GRO Virgil Matz visited the camp. He thank Camp #4 for our efforts in the area of Graves Registration. He also explained that members no longer need to send Grave Registration forms to him, since brothers can add their own registration information the the

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At 3:30 this morning, Gen. Grant, from Sutherland station, 10 miles from Petersburg towards Burkesville, telegraphs that Gen. Sheridan picked up 1200 prisoners to-day, and from 300 to 500 men have been gathered by our troops. The majority of arms that were left in the hands of Lee's army, are now scattered between Richmond and where his troops now are. The country is full of stragglers. The line of retreat is marked with artillery, ammunition, burned and charred wagons, caissons, ambulances, &c.

E.M. STANTON

Sec'y of War

FORT MONROE, April 3, via Baltimore, 4. – The mail steamer Dictator arrived from City Point at 4:30 this afternoon, and brings additional particulars of the great struggle. Petersburg was occupied by our troops at 3 o'clock Monday morning. Our gunboats were all well up the James river, and it was thought that a fight had taken place with the rebel iron clads.

Prisoners are continually arriving at City Point, and it was estimated there were 15,000 there this morning. When the Dictator left a salute was being fired by all the war vessels at the Point.

The steamer Cossack arrived here today with a large number of Union prisoners, including Gen. McLaughlin and men of his brigade, captured with him by the rebels in the assault on Fort Steadman.

Such was the haste of the rebels in hurrying the Union prisoners through Richmond on Sunday, that in many cases many were not even paroled.

The returned prisoners say that on coming through Richmond they saw manifest indications of the evacuation of the city.

The streets were alive with people of all classes, conditions and ages, manifesting immense excitement. All Union prisoners in Libby prison were ordered to be exchanged by the rebel authorities, and were hurried from the city of Richmond toward the Varina Landing, in the greatest possible haste.

BATTLES OF SATURDAY AND SUNDAY.

NEW YORK, April 4. – Of Saturday's operations the Tribune's correspondent says, at 7 a.m. the 5th corps was again in motion passing the left along the White Oak road, to join Sheridan, executing the difficult movement of marching by flank in presence of the enemy without drawing divisions in the rear of each other, and marching them off successfully from right to left. The left division (Crawford's) executed the same movement by brigade.

While this was taking place, the 2nd corps moved toward White Oak road by a more direct route, and established connection with the right of the 5th corps. Meanwhile, Sheridan with four divisions, passing around the left of the whole army, went through Dinwiddie Court House, and toward the South Side Railroad with his usual rapidity. The forces which drove Crawford and Ayers across Gravelly Run, however, not once turned their attention to him moving rapidly to the right, and after a desperate

conflict he also was forced back within a mile of Dunwiddie Court House, but soon joined by Warren's corps, he again took the offensive, and in turn drove the enemy, captured a position known as Five Forks, together with about 4,000 prisoners and several batteries of artillery.

He was then joined by Miles' division, 2d corps, and pushed westward for South Side railroad. This he soon reached, and took position upon it. The 5th corps, supporting cavalry, also took fifteen guns and about 2,000 prisoners, enabling Sheridan to drive back the forces which on Friday afternoon checked his advance near Dinwiddie Court House. On receiving the news, it was determined to give the enemy no time to send troops to their right, and at once a simultaneous attack was ordered all along the lines by the 9th, 6th, 24th and 2nd corps.

An order was given, and in less than an hour a furious assault had begun on the rebel entrenchments in front of their several commands, resulting in the enemy being driven from their first into their second line of works, with the loss of over 3,000 prisoners and several forts, and about twenty pieces of artillery.

The 2nd corps was engaged all day in their front, and, in spite of the terrible fire of musketry poured into their ranks behind their works, succeeded in maintaining their new line, several hundred yards in advance of the line they occupied in the morning. The 24th corps occupied the centre of our line, its left connecting with the 2nd on Hatcher's Run and its right going to the left of the 6th corps.

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Before daylight on Sunday morning, the rebels made a furious assault on the position of this line, driving a portion of the 3rd brigade from their breastworks, and capturing about 100. Their success, however, did not last long. The 20th Penn., by a gallant charge, drove them back beyond their first battle line. A sharp fire was kept up all day by both sides.

Owing to the hot gre by our sharpshooters, the enemy was unable to work his guns, consequently very few casualties occurred to our side from shells. Our batteries, however, rained an incessant fire into their entrenchments. There was little fighting in front of the 6th corps until night, when considerable shelling occurred. Quiet also rained in front of the 9th corps.

So matters stood until 10 o'clock, when the 2nd corps was startled into sharper attention by a few shots on their front, soon swelling into rattling volleys. The batteries joined in the clamor. The firing spread rapidly to the front front of the 24th corps, and on to the 6th, then away to the right till it reached the 9th corps, about 11 o'clock, as which time the fighting was at its height. Presently cheers broke out on the front of the 2nd as the fire slackened. By 2 o'clock the firing had ceased along the whole line, but at 4 in the morning it suddenly broke out again nearer than ever to the 2nd corps, while sharp artillery practice was heard far to the right, and again the crash of battle sped from end to end of the line. At 6 o'clock the battle was raging fiercely, but our colors are advancing all along the whole line.

The World's correspondence recounts the attack on the defences of Petersburg:

It was to take place on Friday morning at four o'clock, but the failure on our left was doubtless the cause of its postponement.

The plan of this last was this:

Gen. Grant on receipt of the news of Sheridan's failure at Five Forks immediately dispatched couriers in conjunction with the telegraph, leading to his headquarters, to each of the corps commanders, desiring them without loss of time to open with both artillery and infantry upon the works of Petersburg.

The contest was short though terrible, and a desperate hand to hand conflict ensued. The deadly bayonet lunge, the impulsive and fitful crashes of musket and revolver, the clashing of swords, the volley, now and then, when our troops poured enfilading fire down the inside of the parapet, the yells and groans, the galloping of couriers to and fro, from end to end of the lines, rendered the scene awful in the extreme. In places the ditches were heaped with living and dying combatants, tumbled together promiscuously; but every now and then northern cheers told how the conflict went on. Each side of the 6th corps the scene was the same. Opposite Fort Hell the rebels had a fort called Fort Heaven, at which they fought like Satan's legions.

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database. He also stated the the Dept. GRO records will be sent to the Wisconsin State Historical Society in Madison.

The SVR Unit has changed its name from "Waukesha Minutemen" to "Iron Brigade Guard".

The Mount Horeb "School Day" has been moved to Blue Mound State Park and will take place on May 16th.

Lincoln Tomb Day is Saturday, April 12th, Commander Mann asked members to attend if possible.

Br. Jim Johnson moved that the camp pay Br. Morris "Mo" Young's annual membership dues, since he is in military service in Korea. Seconded by Br. Dan Palama. Passed unanimously.

For the Good of the Order:

Br. Jim Johnson shared some information about one of the last World War I veterans, Frank Buckles, who enlisted at the age of 16 and after serving through WWI, later was captured by the Japanese during World War II.

Next Meeting: April 9, 2008 at the Heaven City Restaurant, Mukwonago

Submitted by SVC Bruce Laine



Dedication of the Civil War Museum in Kenosha

March 29, 2008

Camp Commander Bob Mann and Secretary/Treasurer Pat Lynch joined members of the 2nd & 5th Wisconsin at the dedication of the new Civil War Museum in Kenosha.



Major General John Gibbon Camp #4
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
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