



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 25, 2011

2011

Calendar of Events

- Saturday, Apr. 30 & Sunday, May 1, Civil War Encampment, Dousman Stagecoach Inn, Brookfield - 10AM - 4PM
- Sunday, May 1 - Camp #4 Meeting, Dousman-Dunkel House, Brookfield - 2:00PM
- Monday, May 30 - Memorial Day Parade & Ceremonies - Waukesha
- Reclaiming Our Heritage - Saturday & Sunday, June 4-5 - Milwaukee VA Medical Center
- Wednesday, June 8 - Camp #4 Meeting, Gander Mountain, Waukesha - 7:00PM
- Saturday, June 11 - 130th Department of Wisconsin Encampment, Waukesha

From the Camp Commander

Brothers,

The first year of the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War is off to a great start. This past weekend I attended the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield, IL. It honors the anniversary of our beloved 16th President's passing. Brother Al Keinert my Senior Vice commander accompanied me and we were able to meet with the various officials of office in the SUV as well as the MOLLUS. I was even privileged to carry the SUV National Commander's color in the ceremony. The weather was a bit inclement but still it was a rewarding and touching tribute to the "Great Emancipator."

I look forward to seeing the membership of Camp #4 at the Dousman-Dunkel House event this coming May 1st where our May meeting will be held and also at the upcoming department meeting this June.

Yours In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Craig Wheeler, Commander



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Presidential Proclamation-- Civil War Sesquicentennial

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA
A PROCLAMATION

On April 12, 1861, artillery guns boomed across Charleston Harbor in an attack on Fort Sumter. These were the first shots of a civil war that would stretch across 4 years of tremendous sacrifice, with over 3 million Americans serving in battles whose names reach across our history. The meaning of freedom and the very soul of our Nation were contested in the hills of Gettysburg and the roads of Antietam, the fields of Manassas and the woods of the Wilderness. When the terrible and costly struggle was

over, a new meaning was conferred on our country's name -- the United States of America. We might be tested, but whatever our fate might be, it would be as one Nation.

The Civil War was a conflict characterized by legendary acts of bravery in the face of unprecedented carnage. Those who lived in these times -- from the resolute African American soldier volunteering his life for the liberation of his fellow man to the determined President secure in the rightness of his cause -- brought a new birth of freedom to a country still mending its divisions.

On this milestone in American history, we remember the great cost of the unity and liberty we now enjoy, causes for which so many have laid down their lives. Though America would struggle to extend equal rights to all our citizens and carry out the letter of our laws after the war, the sacrifices of soldiers, sailors, Marines,

abolitionists, and countless other Americans would bring a renewed significance to the liberties established by our Founders. When the guns fell silent and the fate of our Nation was secured, blue and gray would unite under one flag and the institution of slavery would be forever abolished from our land.

As a result of the sacrifice of millions, we would extend the promise and freedom enshrined in our Constitution to all Americans. Through the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments, we would prohibit slavery and indentured servitude, establish equal protection under the law, and extend the right to vote to former slaves. We would reach for a more perfect Union together as Americans, bound by the collective threads of history and our common hopes for the future.

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**Major General John Gibbon Camp #4
 Financial Status Report as of April 13, 2011**

Balance as of Mar 9, 2011		\$1,540.36
Deposits		\$165.00
Dues Wheeler and Hecker	\$132.00	
Dues Ingram	\$33.00	
Disbursements		\$42.00
SVR 4th Military District	\$42.00	
Balance as of March 9, 2011		\$1,663.36
Earmarked Funds		\$760.00
Headstone Fund	\$225.00	
Civil War Trust	\$0.00	
Patriotic Fund	\$25.00	
Per capita accrual	\$510.00	
Working Capital for 2011		\$903.36
Respectfully Submitted, Patrick J. Lynch Secretary/Treasurer		

Minutes Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Jr. Vice Commander Dan Palama

The camp continued discussion on the Department meeting. Commander Wheeler and Al Keinert continue to follow the plans for the rededication of the monument in Cutler Park. The likely date will be Saturday, September 10th.

Major General John Gibbon Camp #4

Approval of Minutes

Gander Mountain Waukesha

Moved by Bob Mann and seconded by Jim Johnson to accept the minutes as read.

Minutes March 9, 2011

Treasurer's Report

Old Business:

Members Present

Moved by Bob Mann and seconded by Al Keinert to accept the Treasurer's report.

Bruce Laine will be putting out an edition of the Messenger this month.

Commander Craig Wheeler

New Business:

Sr. Vice Commander Allen Keinert

Sick Brothers: Both Sue Johnson and Kent Peterson continue to improve after surgeries.

Commander Wheeler and Al Keinert will be attending the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield on Saturday April 16th.

Secretary Treasurer Patrick Lynch

Council #1 Bob Mann

Reading and Dispositions of Orders and Communications

Council #3 Jim Johnson

Commander Wheeler reported on GO # 11 regarding the death of the oldest WWI vet, Frank Buckles.

Good of the Order: Discussion of the role of Quartermaster given by Jim Johnson.

Officers absent/excused

Chaplain Tom Sobottke

Committee Reports

Council #2 Tim Kracht

Next meeting: Wednesday April 13th at the Gander Mountain Store in Waukesha at 7:00 PM

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We are the United States of America -- we have been tested, we have repaired our Union, and we have emerged stronger. As we respond to the critical challenges of our time, let us do so as adherents to the enduring values of our founding and stakeholders in the promise of a shared tomorrow.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim April 12, 2011, as the first day of the Civil War Sesquicentennial. I call

upon all Americans to observe this Sesquicentennial with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities



that honor the legacy of freedom and unity that the Civil War bestowed upon our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-fifth.

BARACK OBAMA



Brothers!

The 128th Department of Wisconsin Encampment will be hosted by our Camp on Saturday, June 11 at the Waukesha County Historical Society & Museum.

Please refer to the Spring Issue of the Department Dispatch for Registration information. If you have not received a e-mail regarding The Dispatch, go to the Department Website at this address:

http://www.suvcw-wi.org/pubs/deptnews_spring11.pdf

SEE YOU THERE!

Gov. Alexander W. Randall (1819-1872)



b. Ames, New York, October 31, 1819

d. Elmira, New York, July 26, 1872

Alexander Randall was governor of Wisconsin when the Civil War broke out and was instrumental in raising and organizing troops for the Union cause. Camp Randall in Madison is named for him.

Early Career

Like his father, Randall was trained in law in New York. He was admitted to the bar at age 19 and soon afterwards moved to Wisconsin. In 1840 he opened a law practice in Prairieville (now Waukesha), where he was also appointed postmaster.

Randall was chosen a delegate to the first Constitutional Convention in 1846. He was also elected to the state Assembly in 1848, and served as circuit judge in Milwaukee, 1855-1857. He was nominated the Republican candidate for governor in 1857, won that year's election, was re-elected in 1859, and held that office when the Civil War broke out in April 1861.

Civil War Years

Gov. Randall immediately called for Wisconsin volunteers. Although President Lincoln requested only one regiment, enough recruits came forward to fill several. By the end of July 1861, six regiments of Wisconsin soldiers had left the state for the front.

Unfortunately, Randall made powerful enemies in Washington and at home in Wisconsin by his disregard for the cost to taxpayers for preparing troops and the slow pace of government bureaucracy. He was only moderately successful at navigating the politics of organizing troops, establishing training camps, obtaining supplies, arming recruits, and paying for it all.

As his second term drew to a close in 1861, he decided not to run again for governor.

Later Life

When Randall's term ended in January 1862, President Lincoln appointed him U.S. minister to Italy. He served two years before coming home and accepting Lincoln's appointment as assistant postmaster general in 1863.

In July 1866, President Andrew Johnson named him Postmaster General of the U.S., a position he held until 1869. Randall was the first Wisconsin resident appointed to the Cabinet of a U.S. president. When President Johnson was impeached in 1866, Randall's political career ended. He resumed his law practice in Elmira, New York, where he died in 1872.



At Left - Camp SVC Allen Keinert, Brother Jim Crow , and Camp Commander Craig Wheeler at the Lincoln Death Day Ceremony in Springfield, IL. Below, also at Lincoln's Tomb, Commander Wheeler with the SUVCW Commander in Chief's colors.



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