



**Camp Orders 2012-05**  
**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**  
*Grand Army of the Republic*  
**“Old Abe” Camp #8**  
 Wisconsin Department



September 2012

## Camp September 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting In King

**Next Old Abe  
Camp 8  
Meeting**

**Sept 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Meeting starts at  
7:00 PM**

at

**Marden Hall  
Wisconsin  
Veterans Home  
King, WI.**

Wear Your  
Membership Badge

Our September meeting will be at Marden Hall, part of the Wisconsin Veterans Home facility in King, WI. For those interested in meeting prior to the meeting for a bite to eat, some of the guys will be meeting at the Kings Table, located a very short distance down the road, West of the King Home entrance.

Topics for the evening will include:

- Discussion around meeting locations for November and the year 2013.
- Announcement of Camp 8's receipt of the SUVCW Marshall Hope Award for the Camp newsletter. Dept. Commander Tom Brown has indicated he will be joining us.



### 150 Years Ago, Oshkosh and the Civil War

*In late August of 1862, the Oshkosh Northwestern wrote – “The builders have been busy at the Fair Ground for the last week. Barracks are already finished sufficient to accommodate some hundreds of troops and all will be completed in time to receive the companies as they arrive.” Troops were being drilled day to day under Captains Paine and Godfrey. They would come together to form the 21<sup>st</sup> Wis. Infantry.*

*Under the supervision of James Jones, the site where Scott's Volunteers had drilled a year earlier was being converted into a real military installation, fenced, guarded, and laid out according to the War Department. It was named Camp Bragg, in honor of Col. Edward S. Bragg of Fond du Lac.*

*The 21<sup>st</sup> left Oshkosh at about 8 PM on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, on its way to meet Braxton Bragg's Confederate forces in Kentucky. Camp Bragg would soon be occupied by the troops of the 32<sup>nd</sup>.*

*Ref: When Oshkosh Went To War by Jim Metz.*

### - November Meeting - Election of Camp Officers

Here is a brief description of the **elected** positions (all other officer positions are appointed by the Camp Commander). These descriptions are abbreviated and some detail traditional responsibilities within Camp 8.

**Camp Commander** – Is responsible for and directs the operation of the Camp, its officers, and members; he is the executive officer of the Camp and is its primary representative.

**Senior Vice Commander** – He represents the Commander in his absence, and is often responsible for public relations for the Camp and often the Camp newsletter.

**Junior Vice Commander** – He is responsible for

*Continued on Page 2*

# Commander's Remarks



By Camp Commander  
Vince Barker

Greetings Brothers,

The summer has once again come and gone much too quickly. Camp 8 was again quite active this summer and we still have a few events coming this fall.

First, remember our September camp meeting will be at the Wisconsin Veteran's Home in King. Meeting will be held in the Marden Center. Meeting time is the usual 7pm. A few of us will be meeting for dinner next door at the King's Table Restaurant at 5:30 - 5:45pm. Please try to attend the meeting as we will be discussing options for a permanent camp meeting location. We have several options available.

We also have a special treat in store. Our Department of Wisconsin Commander, Tom Brown, will be attending the meeting to present the camp with the Marshall Hope Award, which is the SUVCW National Award for Best Camp Newsletter! DC Brown hoped to surprise us with the award but thanks to social media, the secret was leaked. This is a wonderful honor for our camp and the credit goes to our newsletter editor, PDC Randy Novak. I tell Randy all the time that he puts out the best newsletter in the entire SUVCW, so it is nice to see our National HQ agrees! Thanks also to Camp Chaplain Dan Wilson for submitting us for this award.

Also, we have two events coming up on 26 and 27 October. On Friday, Oct. 26th, the King Veteran's Home will be celebrating its 125th Anniversary and have asked us to participate. PCC Kim Heltemes is coordinating our participation. It will consist of a ceremonial flag raising on the grounds of the Home. See details in this newsletter.

## Elections, *Continued from Page 1*

Camp membership recruitment and membership retention. He also provides information and assistance to applicants, and assists them through their initiation process and their introduction to Camp activities. This is an important position!

**Camp Secretary** – He keeps meeting records and membership records for the Camp, submits reports to the Department Secretary, and accomplishes correspondence on behalf of the Commander. He also provides the meeting minutes for publication in the newsletter.

**Camp Treasurer** – He keeps the financial records of the Camp, maintains the Camp banking account, and pays expenses as approved by the Commander.

**Camp Delegate** – Traditionally; the Delegate represents the Camp at Departmental and National Encampments (not enforced).

**Camp Council** – consists of **three positions**, whose jobs are to recommend and advise the camp in various capacities, traditionally financial. Conducts and reports on the annual audit of the Camp financial records.

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If you are available that Friday please join us, and wear your badge!

The next day, Saturday, Oct. 27th, Camp 8, along with Camp 1 in Milwaukee and the GAR Post 12 re-enactors will be participating in a memorial service conducted by the Wisconsin Commandery, Military Order of the Loyal Legion (MOLLUS), which is comprised of descendants of Union officers. Several of us in Camp 8 are MOLLUS members. The ceremony will be held in Milwaukee in honor of 1st Lieut. Florian Ries, who was a charter member of the Wisconsin MOLLUS Commandery, as well as the Camp 1 GAR post in Milwaukee. He was also a former Milwaukee Chief of Police. The Milwaukee Police Dept. may also be participating. Br. Paul Johnson is the POC for this event. Details on the ceremony are in this newsletter.

Again, please make every effort to attend our Sep. 24th camp meeting as we receive the Marshall Hope Award, and we have an important topic to discuss.

See you then!  
In F, C, & L,  
Vince

## 2012 Camp Calendar

### September 24<sup>th</sup>

Camp 8 regular meeting, Marden Hall, 7:00 PM, Wisconsin Veterans Home in King, WI.

### September 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

Old Wade House Civil War Weekend  
Greenbush, WI

### October 26<sup>th</sup>

King Veterans Home 125<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary

### October 27<sup>th</sup>

MOLLUS/SUVCW Grave  
Dedication, Milwaukee, WI

## Camp 8 10 Years Ago

- Camp Commander Brian Peters writes about the mission which has been entrusted to the SUVCW by Civil War soldiers - "Just as they worked together to accomplish great things, so too should we...". He goes on to praise Camp 8 and Aux 6 members for their good work.
- The Camp Orders reports on the success of the Wis Dept wide Boscobel GAR Hall fund drive, raising \$805 that was donated to the Boscobel WRC #32. Presented by Dept Commander Randy Novak, and Aux Dept President Kathy Cieszki (Rohan).
- Restoration begins on a portion of the GAR stained glass window in the Christ Congregational Church of Clintonville. The majority of the work is performed by Sandy Hauman, a member of Aux. 6. Funds are also contributed by McAllister's Battery.
- In the Camp Orders, Camp Patriotic Instructor Kim Heltemes writes about The Beginnings of the King Grand Army Home.
- Camp Sr. Vice Commander Alan Petit creates a survey for members with uniforms and equipment who are interested in being part of the Camp Guard. Purpose is to determine the level of equipment that is available.

# MOLLUS/SUVCW Memorial Service,

Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>

By CC Vince Barker

## Old Abe Camp 8

*Fraternity, Charity, Loyalty*  
*Supporting the Grand Army of the*  
*Republic & Wisconsin's Veterans*

## Passing Of Kenneth Seely

Reported by Vince Barker

Kenneth Seely, Father of Kathy Heltemes passed away on Saturday, 4 August. Kathy is the wife of PCC Kim Heltemes, former Aux. 6 member, and currently a DUVCW member.

## Welcome New Member!

Sorry – no reports this month.

## Camp Orders Newsletter & Camp Web Page

**NOTICE:** The full *Camp Orders* are available "on line" (in color!) and can be accessed in PDF format from our Camp 8 web page, on the Wisconsin Department Website at [suvchw-wi.org](http://suvchw-wi.org). Hard copies will also be mailed to any member upon request to the Camp Commander or the Newsletter Editor (contact info on last page).

All photos and stories are provided by the *Camp Orders* Editor unless otherwise indicated.

To submit an article or information for the *Camp Orders* Newsletter or website, contact the News Letter Editor. Deadline for a submission is 3 weeks prior to a meeting.

The Wisconsin Commandery, Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS), will be conducting a memorial service for original WI MOLLUS Companion and GAR Member, 1st Lt. Florian Ries, 17th Wisconsin Infantry, **at Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee at 11am on Saturday, Oct. 27th.**

For those of you who may not know, current MOLLUS members or "companions" are descendants of Union officers. Below is a short history of the organization:

*On April 15, 1865, as word of President Abraham Lincoln's death spread throughout the country, three Union Army officer friends met in Philadelphia to discuss the tragic news. Rumors from Washington of a conspiracy to destroy the Federal government by assassination of its leaders prompted the three officers to form an organization that could help thwart future threats to the national government.*

*A mass meeting of Philadelphia veterans was held on April 20, 1865 to pledge renewed allegiance to the Union and to plan for participation in the funeral arrangements for the President. The Philadelphia officers, who served as an honor guard for President Lincoln's funeral cortege, met again after the funeral was over to establish a permanent organization of officers and former officers patterned after the Society of Cincinnati established after the Revolutionary War. The name they chose, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, first appeared in a notice calling a meeting on May 31, 1865 at Independence Hall.*

I am currently the Commander for the WI MOLLUS Commandery and fellow Camp 8 brother Paul Johnson is Senior Vice Commander. PCC Alan Petit is an Associate Member. Paul is organizing the memorial service for 1st Lieut. Ries who is an ancestor of one of our WI Commandery companions. Ries was a charter member of the WI MOLLUS Commandery as well as a Charter member of Wolcott GAR Post #1 in Milwaukee. The ceremony that Paul has put together combines elements of his MOLLUS burial service as well as portions of the GAR ceremony that we use in the SUVCW.

SUVCW members from Camp 8 and Camp 1 in Milwaukee are invited to

participate as are the members of the GAR Post 8 Reenactors in Milwaukee. Please let Paul or I know if you can attend this event. Again for those in the Fox Valley/Waupaca area, I will have room for 3 in my vehicle. Paul will give more information regarding this event at our Sep. 24th camp meeting in King.



### - Florian Ries -

*MOLLUS Original Companion,  
Wisconsin Commandery  
Charter Member, E.B. Wolcott Post, No. 1  
Department of Wisconsin, Grand Army of  
the Republic*

At the outbreak of the Civil War and Lincoln's call for 75,000 volunteers, Reis volunteered as a private for the 1<sup>st</sup> Wis. Vol. Regiment (3 Months) Co. D. He served with his regiment during its brief period of in West Virginia service and Maryland, and was actively engaged at Falling Waters, VA as part of the advance of Major-General Patterson's command. The Battle of Falling Waters VA was the first land engagement of the Civil War. He also fought Aug. 3, 1861 at Edward's Ferry, VA. He was mustered out at the end of the regiment's term.

He again enlisted on Feb. 12, 1862, in Company D, 17<sup>th</sup> Wis. Vol. Inf. for three years' service. He rose to the rank of first lieutenant, and was mustered out under his commission as such on July 15, 1865, at Louisville, Ky. Lieutenant Ries was fortunate in escaping the ordinary casualties of war and was never wounded, captured, or absent from his command on account of sickness.

# Stitching Together History

## Civil War Flag Receives Much Needed Conservation

*Story by the Oshkosh Public Museum*

September 17 marks the 150th anniversary of one of the bloodiest battles ever fought during the American Civil War: the Battle of Antietam.

Company B of the 3rd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, better known as Scott's Volunteers, was one of the Oshkosh-raised companies that saw action at the famed battle. The battle decimated the regiment's ranks, with only 49 men surviving out of 345. But one very big piece of history associated with Scott's Volunteers did make it home.

This remarkable American flag (pictured here pre-conservation) was hand-sewn by a group of patriotic Oshkosh women during the American Civil War. In April of 1861, the flag was presented to Scott's Volunteers before the men embarked to be formally mustered into Federal service.

*"Gentlemen, it is with mingled feelings of sadness and joy that we meet you today; sadness that our beloved country should be so rent by treason as to make our parting with friends necessary; joy that, at the first call, so many bravely volunteer to defend what is dear to all, our Constitution and Union.*



*Our hopes and prayers go with you..."*  
*Miss Carrie Weed.*

When the flag later returned to Oshkosh, it was carefully preserved by Colonel Scott's widow and daughter and displayed from the family porch each Memorial Day before being donated to the Oshkosh Public Museum on October 5, 1925.

**Recently, the flag underwent much-needed conservation treatment, generously supported in part by the Sons of Union Veterans Old Abe Camp #8, and will be on display this November** as part of the Museum's fall exhibit, Outstanding Objects: The Oshcar Awards.

# Portage County Civil War Living

History at Piffner Park,

Stevens Point

August 25 & 26

*By Kirby Scott*

Here are some pictures from Stevens Point this past weekend.

There was a wedding in the park behind us on Saturday and they asked us not to fire our guns or cannon until after



their ceremony. After the wedding ceremony the bridal party came down to thank us and ended up posing with some of our members around the cannon. They did a special cannon firing for the wedding party and you can see the bride and groom between the smoke.

We did \$90.00 in ticket sales on Saturday and \$78.00 on Sunday for a total of \$168.00. I still have to get the tickets and money from July 4th at Omro to Kurt also and that was \$62.00.

I went up Friday evening and Bill Parker and Terry Stults were there to help set up our Camp display. Others who helped out were Alan and Paul and even Dave Dresang sat behind the table and said it felt so good to be able to do that again and answer the public's questions. Ron & Matt Arndt, Sam Solberg, and Brian Peters were there too.



*Another good looking Camp 8 display!*



*McAllister's Battery Firing the 10 pdr Parrott Rifle.*



*Terry Stults and his surgeons presentation.*



*Jim Schuman interacting with the public.*

## Wausaukee Grave Dedication, August 18th

By Vince Barker, photos by Kirby Scott

On Saturday Sept 18, 2012, members of Camp 8 performed a grave dedication service for Pvt. Amable Boudeau, 50th Wis. Infantry at the Evergreen Cemetery on Fairgrounds Rd in Wausaukee.

A descendant of Pvt. Bourdeau's had contacted Camp Commander Vince Barker several months ago about assisting with obtaining a new marker for the veteran and possibly doing a dedication.

The event was advertised in the Wausaukee area papers. About 20 descendants attended the ceremony along with members of the Wausaukee American Legion Post, and several members of the general public. During the ceremony family members read a biography of Pvt. Bourdeau as well as gave a very interesting family history, detailing the Bourdeau family's emigration from French speaking Canada to the Mackinac Island, MI, area. They were some of the first fur traders in the region.

After the ceremony the family hosted a social at the American Legion hall which included soft drinks and desserts. The family donated \$150 to Camp 8 in appreciation for their traveling to Wausaukee to perform the dedication.



Members of Camp 8 with the family, and members of the local American Legion.



## New Post-Lincoln Assassination Book Available

*This information was sent to Camp 8 by the author, Glen Cheney.*

There's a new book you might be interested in reading. The title is *How a Nation Grieves: Press Accounts of the Death of Lincoln, the Hunt for Booth, and America in Mourning*. The foreword was written by U.S. Representative Joe Courtney.

*How a Nation Grieves* is special because it isn't a history that interprets past events. It consists of the same newspaper articles that informed America of what happened on April 14, 1865 and the weeks following. Readers of the book share the experience of that Americans had in the most traumatic days

of our history.

You'll be interested to see the difference between journalism then and now. Without photographs or videos, newspapers had to convey images and feelings with nothing more than words. So the reports and editorials are dense with detail and emotion. The writing is so beautiful, so elegant, that sometimes it broaches poetry.

You may be surprised to hear the controversies in the nation and the various reactions to the assassination. Many in the South, including General Lee, grieved at what seemed the most senseless death in America's most deadly war. A few in the North who opposed the war rejoiced at the

assassination, though their celebrations were cut short by fists, boots, tar, feathers, and bullets. Newspaper offices were torched for expressing the wrong opinion.

But most people were devastated at the news, and as the funeral train crept from Washington, D.C. to Springfield, Ill., the nation wept.

You can read a long excerpt from *How a Nation Grieves* at [cheneybooks.com](http://cheneybooks.com). I think you'll find the book a unique window into a past that should be experienced rather than forgotten.

# July 16<sup>th</sup> Meeting

The Camp's July meeting was held at the Walter Beltz Historical Landmark Church located 1 mile North of Auroraville on Hwy 49. This is the old small wood Church that sits next to the present Immanuel Lutheran Church. The old Church still stands, courtesy of the local Historical Society. This was not the Camp's first meeting at this location.

As with any of the meetings, wives and/or guests were welcome. Camp 8 provided brats, chicken breasts, and buns, courtesy of the organizer for the event, our Camp Treasurer **Kurt Kirk** ( and Anne).

Work schedule conflicts prohibited CC Vince Barker from attending. Likewise a last minute work issue kept your newsletter editor from being present – hence not much to report – and no photos.

## OLD ABE CAMP MEETING MINUTES, JULY 16,2012

1. Opening ceremony-7:27 P.M. Walter Beltz Historical Landmark Church. (11 members present)
2. Roll call of officers: (used agenda outline from May 21,2012)
  - a. Commander (PCC Kim Heltemes filling in).
  - b. SVC-(Kirby Scott filling in).
  - c. JVC-present.
  - d. Secretary-present.
  - e. Treasurer-present.
3. Minutes of the May 21,2012 meeting-approved as printed in the newsletter.
4. Treasurer's report:

As of 7-16-12, \$3942.64 in checking, \$4245.82 in CD1, \$1010.83 in CD2. The camp received a \$50.00 donation at the Wittenberg dedication and Omro Historical Society returned the dues check.
5. Any sick or distressed brothers? Dennis Egan is currently undergoing radiation treatments for cancer. Dave Dressang is doing well. His infection levels are down. Mike Bouchette is doing well.
6. Introduction of guests or visitors. None.
7. Any new applications to review and accept? None.
8. Any communications and/or bills to address? None.
9. Old business:
  - a. Camp Bragg guns-
  - b. GAR stars- Too hot now to do any of these projects. Will schedule them
  - c. Flag burning ceremony- later in the year.
  - d. Oshkosh Museum guns-
10. Past events:
  - a. Wittenburg-June 9-double dedication-all went well. Received a donation to the camp.
  - b. Department encampment-June 16-went well-all officers reelected. Three of department officers are from Camp #8.
  - c. Memorial Day events-May 28-Oshkosh, King, Crandon- all went well.
  - d. Tomah-June 2-dedication went well.
  - e. Camp Randall dedication-June 30-went well. Several camp members there.
  - f. D.C. Everest event was in Weston-went well.
  - g. Oshkosh Public Museum- article in latest volume of "Voyageur" magazine.
11. New business:
  - a. Meeting schedules and locations vary a bit right now. An effort is being made to set up a more concrete arrangement for the future.
12. Future events:
  - a. Sept. 16 (CHANGED TO SEPT. 24)-next camp meeting-Marden Hall at King Veterans Home.
  - b. Aug. 18?-Wausaukee dedication-sign up sheet passed around. Watch the emails.
  - c. Aug.25-26- Stevens Point-Pfiffner Park-living history event. Watch the emails
  - d. Sept.29-30-Wade House CW event-more info to follow.
  - e. Mid-August?-flag burning ceremony-more info to follow.
13. Patriotic presentation. Paul Johnson talked about American Indians in the Civil War.
14. Anything for the good of the order? None.
15. Closing ceremony. Closed at 8:23 P.M.

**Submitted by PCC Alan O. Petit, Secretary Old Abe Camp #8, Dept. of Wisconsin, SUVCW**



**Camp 8 Newsletter**  
**Randy Novak**  
**641 Bowen St.**  
**Oshkosh, WI 54901**

***Camp 8, Based in Oshkosh, WI***  
***SUVCW, Part of the***  
***Veterans & Patriotic***  
***Community in Wisconsin***  
***Since 1883***

**Join Old Abe Camp 8!**  
**Membership**  
**\$40.00/yr. Annual Dues\***  
**For New Membership, Contact:**  
**Jr. Vice William Parker**  
**351 17<sup>th</sup> St. North,**  
**Wis Rapids, WI 54494**  
**(715) 424-2627**  
**wildbill@wctc.net**

**OSHKOSH and the OLD ABE Camp**

*In 1885 the Old Abe Camp, located in Oshkosh, was the largest SUV camp in Wisconsin. Old Abe was the famous mascot of the 8th Wisconsin Infantry, popularly known as the Eagle Brigade, a unit heavily involved in the campaigns of the western armies. Old Abe the battle eagle became a real war hero - used for recruiting during the war's later years, attending veterans reunions for years after, and finally becoming a National icon for Wisconsin.*

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT US**

*Contact the officers shown below. Visit the Department of Wisconsin website, and Camp 8 WebPages, at [suvchw-wi.org](http://suvchw-wi.org). Also, visit the national SUVCW website at [suvchw.org](http://suvchw.org).*

*Membership is open to male descendants of a Union Civil War soldier. Application is made through National, Department, or local channels to become a member of a Camp. Some documentation about your ancestor is required – assistance is available through the Camp.*

*Membership is also available for males who cannot prove lineage to a Civil War soldier.*

*\* The initial dues for a new member are pro-rated through the year, and an initiation fee does apply. Contact the Jr. Vice for information.*

**Camp Officers for 2012**

**Commander** – Vince Barker  
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**Junior Vice** – William Parker  
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**Secretary** – PCC Alan Petit  
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**Treasurer** – Kurtis Kirk  
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**Patriotic Instructor** – Michael Boldon  
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**Chaplain & Delegate** – Dan Wilson  
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**Camp Council** -  
PCC Kim Heltemes  
PDC Brian Peters  
Kirby Scott

**Newsletter Editor** – PDC Randy Novak