



*Camp Orders 2014-02*  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
*Grand Army of the Republic*  
"Old Abe" Camp #8  
Wisconsin Department  
March 2014



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**Camp March 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting Will Be Held At Oshkosh Fire Station  
#17, 1813 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI**



Our March meeting, Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, is being held at Oshkosh Fire Station #17, 1813 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI.

This fire station is located at the southern end of Riverside Cemetery in Oshkosh, WI. Parking will be in back of the fire station where the red arrow is.

**- Meeting Directions -**

Coming from the north or south take Hwy 41 to exit 120. After exiting head into the city of Oshkosh on Algoma Blvd. Drive on Algoma Blvd past the large cemetery on your right which will be Riverside Cemetery. At the end Riverside Cemetery you will see Fire Station #17 just before the intersection of Algoma Blvd & West Murdock Avenue.

From Waupaca & the west take Hwy 45 straight into Oshkosh. Hwy 45 becomes Algoma Blvd once you pass over Hwy 41. Stay on Algoma Blvd & go past the large cemetery on your right which will be Riverside Cemetery. At the end Riverside Cemetery you will see Fire Station #17 just before the intersection of Algoma Blvd & West Murdock Avenue.

# Commander's Remarks



*By Camp Commander  
Kirby Scott*

Greetings Brothers,

As we survived the coldest Wisconsin winter in 110 years several events are starting to come together for the Camp for another year.

The annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony is on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> in Springfield, IL. For those of you who have never been to this it is an amazing time. You get to meet people from across the nation that come to participate. If you are going for the first time I would suggest going down a few days early and visiting all the historic sites in Springfield such as the Lincoln, Museum & Presidential Library which is located right downtown.

On May 18<sup>th</sup>, we will have an informational display set up at the Open House and Old Car Show at the Veterans Home in King, WI We will also hold our May 19<sup>th</sup> Camp meeting at the same location in Marden Hall

Memorial Day, Monday May 26<sup>th</sup> offers you several different ways to participate. There will be lakeside & memorial services at the Veterans Home in King, WI. There also will be lakeside & memorial services and a procession in Oshkosh, WI. Kim Heltemes is working on another possible Memorial Day service up in Bowler, WI.

Our first dedication is scheduled for June 21<sup>st</sup> at a little country cemetery out near Ogdensburg, WI.

In July, on the 4<sup>th</sup>, we are going to schedule a cemetery cleanup & picnic for Pine Grove cemetery in Auroraville, WI. Last July 4<sup>th</sup> we installed new gravestones and had a picnic in Weyauwega, which was very nice. Our July meeting & picnic will be held just down the road at the Beltz Historical Church in Auroraville.

On August 9<sup>th</sup> up in Shawano County, Amy Damveld is working with our Camp on setting up a cemetery dedication at Forest Home Cemetery just south of Wittenberg, WI. There are several civil war veterans buried in this cemetery.

In September the Camp will have a display at Wade House in Greenbush, WI for their annual Civil War Weekend.

The Neenah Historical Society has contacted us and is interested in possibly doing a living history display somewhere in the Neenah area. Also maybe a museum display after October. I have a meeting scheduled with Jane Lang, the Executive Director of the Neenah Historical Society and should have more information at our March meeting.

Bingo at the Veterans Home in King was another success this year and I'm sure the Veterans appreciated the hard work of all who helped out.

Echoes of the Past went well. Although the show isn't as large as it has been in the past it's always a relaxing weekend interacting with the public as well as seeing other participating groups who have returned year after year.

At our March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting we will need to decide on what kind of raffle & prizes we want to do this year, so bring your ideas.

In F., C., & L.  
Kirby

If you have any questions, ideas for Camp activities, or stories for the Camp newsletter, please feel free to send them to me via email @ [kirby.scott.camp8@gmail.com](mailto:kirby.scott.camp8@gmail.com).



# Edward S Bragg #8, ASUVCW

From the Auxiliary President

Not too much to report on this month. We dispensed with the business meeting at the White House so we could enjoy each other's company. I brought Rich Hulbert as a guest. I did a little bit of family tree work for him and found several Civil War ancestors. Rich enjoyed the meeting and it looks like he may consider joining the Sons. Only 3 auxiliary members were present at the dinner, several members were sick and couldn't make it. Speaking of sick, I am sick of this winter! I am ready to move on to spring and summer. These will be the busiest times for the Auxiliary. With the warmer weather will come dedications and events. We hope to have several picnics along with some of these events so we can socialize as well. If you hear of anything that you would want to participate in, be sure to bring it up at the next meeting, or email me and let me know.

Sisters Kathy Heltemes, Lucy, Anne and I helped with bingo at the Veterans Home at King. Sue Waid from the Women's Relief Corps was there as well. It seems as though it's the veterans



Rich Hulbert

who are the ones receiving the benefits of a day like that, but I for one walked away feeling an abundance of gratitude. Thank you Kathy, Anne and Lucy for helping out. A few of us met for lunch after bingo as well. A word to the wise: if you have to follow Kirby for directions and he says "only if you can keep up". Believe him.

That's it for now; hope to see you all at the March meeting.

LuAnn



# Edward S Bragg #8, ASUVCW

## AUXILIARY TO THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



Are you looking to give back to your country? Honor your Civil War ancestor?  
Do more with your husband who is a Sons of Union Veterans member?

### Join me in becoming a charter member of a new auxiliary and...

- Instill love of country in yourself and others
- Assist the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
- Properly observe Memorial Day
- Support our troops
- Help with headstone dedications
- Support our Veterans at King Veterans Home
- Learn and teach proper flag etiquette
- Learn more about the Civil War
- Care for and support your fellow Auxiliary members
- Meet new friends and have fun

LuAnn Williams 2630 Hearthstone Dr Oshkosh WI 54901  
920-410-5548 [Lulabell0806@Yahoo.com](mailto:Lulabell0806@Yahoo.com)



## Bingo at the Veterans Home at King

On Saturday, February 8, 2014, Old Abe Camp #8 provided Bingo for the Veterans at the Veterans Home located in King, WI.



*Above, Kim Heltemes, Kathy Heltemes, & Brian Peters check the winning bingo cards.*



*Jim Waid hands out cookies to one of the players*



*Kathy Heltemes hands out cookies during bingo.*

## Echoes of the Past Trade Fair

Echoes of the Past was held at the Sunnyview Expo Center in Oshkosh the weekend of Feb 22-23

The crowds were steady and we did make some good new contacts for possible membership.



*Our Camp display was set up again next to Company E, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin.*



### RENEWAL - NOTICE

**Dues were Payable as of Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**Please send \$40.00 to the  
Camp Treasurer:**

**Kurtis Kirk  
W 2154 Cottonville Court  
Berlin, WI 54923**

# 2014 Camp Calendar

## March 17<sup>th</sup>

Camp 8 regular meeting 7:00 pm  
Location: Fire Station #17, Oshkosh, WI.

## April 12<sup>th</sup>

Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony  
Location: Springfield, IL

## April 14<sup>th</sup>

Camp officers meeting 6:00 pm  
Location: Glass Nickel Pizza, Appleton, WI

## April 17<sup>th</sup>

ROTC Awards Presentation 5:30 pm  
Location: Kolf Sports Center, UW-Oshkosh, Oshkosh, WI

## May 10<sup>th</sup>

Brass canon cleaning  
Location: Oshkosh Public Museum, Oshkosh, WI

## May 18<sup>th</sup>

King Open House 10:30 am – 3:00 pm  
Location: Veterans Home, King, WI

## May 19<sup>th</sup>

Camp 8 regular meeting 7:00 pm  
Location: Theatre in Marden Hall at the Veterans Home, King, WI.

## May 26<sup>th</sup>

Memorial Day activities  
City of Oshkosh Lakeside services 7:45 am,  
Location: Main Street Bridge & Ceape Avenue, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.  
City of Oshkosh Procession. Aessemble: 9:00 am,  
Location: Beech Building parking lot, Oshkosh, Wisconsin  
City of Oshkosh Riverside Cemetery Memorial Service. 10:15 am,  
King Veterans Home Waterside Services 9:30 am  
Location: Lakeside below Marden Hall, Veterans Home, King, Wisconsin.  
King Veterans Home Cemetery Service 10:00 am:  
Location: Veterans Home, King, Wisconsin.

## June 7<sup>th</sup>

131<sup>st</sup> Wisconsin State Department Encampment  
Location: Madison, Wisconsin

**June 16<sup>th</sup>**

Camp officers meeting 6:00 pm  
Location: Glass Nickel Pizza, Appleton, WI

**June 21<sup>st</sup>**

Adam Williams Dedication 11:00 am  
Location: Block Cemetery. Ogdensburg, Wisconsin

**July 4<sup>th</sup>**

Cemetery cleanup & picnic  
Location: Glass Pine Grove Cemetery, Auroraville, WI

**July 21<sup>st</sup>**

Camp 8 picnic 6:00 pm & regular meeting 7:00 pm  
Location Walter Beltz Historical Landmark Church, Auroraville, WI

**August 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>**

2014 National Encampment  
Location: Marietta, Georgia

**August 9<sup>th</sup>**

Cemetery dedication  
Location: Forest Home Cemetery, Wittenberg, WI

**August 18<sup>th</sup>**

Camp officers meeting 6:00 pm  
Location: Glass Nickel Pizza, Appleton, WI

**September 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM**

Camp 8 regular meeting  
Location: Fire Station #19, Oshkosh, WI.

**September 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**

Wade House Civil War Weekend  
Location: Greenbush, WI

**November 11<sup>th</sup>**

Veterans Day services  
Location: County courthouse, Oshkosh, WI

**November 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM**

Camp 8 traditional bean supper 6:00 pm & regular meeting, election of officers 7:00 pm  
Location: Fire Station #19, Oshkosh, WI.

*Please send information on events that you are aware of to be included in this newsletter to:  
[kirby.scott.camp8@gmail.com](mailto:kirby.scott.camp8@gmail.com)*

**Wisconsin Veterans Home Open House and Old Car Show**  
**Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014**  
**Wisconsin Veterans Home N2665 County Road QQ, King, WI**



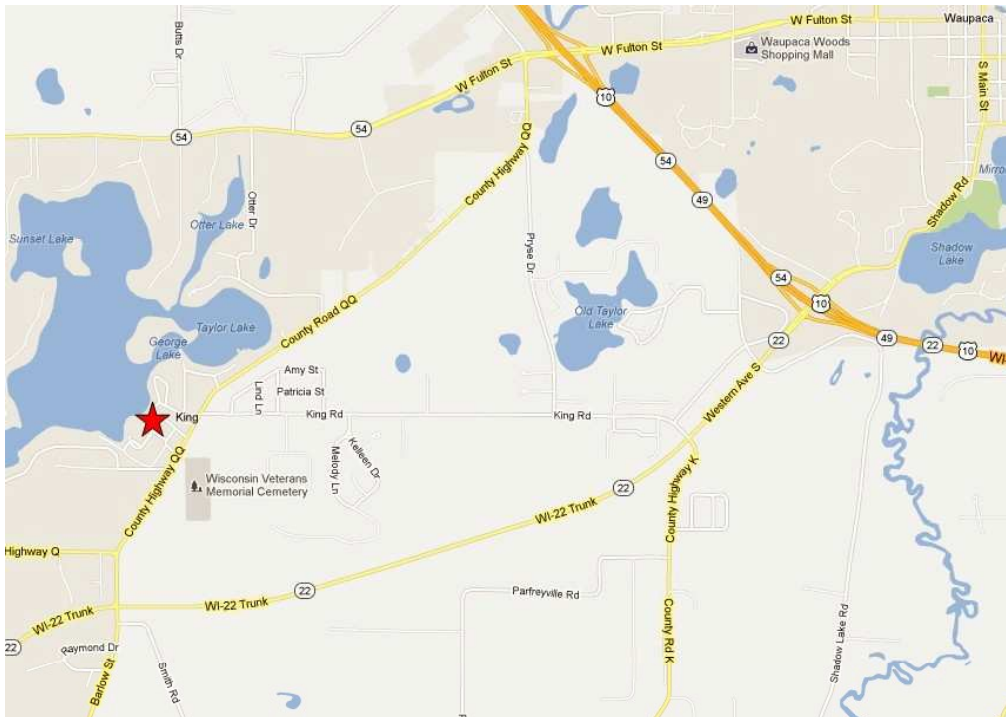
On Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> Old Abe Camp #8 will participate in the open house event at the Veterans Home in King, WI.

The red star above indicates where our Camp information display will be set up. Parking for this event will be in the parking lot in the lower right of the above picture.

This is a very nice one day event for the veterans of the home.

This event will run from 10:30 am until 3:00 pm.

Please see the map below for the location of this open house.





# Patriotic Instructor

by Paul Johnson

## The Minie Ball

Minie Ball summary: The Minié ball, or Minie ball, is a type of bullet used extensively in the American Civil War. The muzzle-loading rifle bullet was named after its co-developer, Claude-Étienne Minié.

But if anyone who has heard the presentation of Brother Jim Schuman you know that it is not a ball nor totally designed by Minié

It was commonly referred to as a "ball," due to the round shape of the ammunition that had been used for centuries. Made of soft lead, it was slightly smaller than the intended gun bore, making it easy to load in combat. Designed with two to four grooves and a cone-shaped cavity, it was made to expand under the pressure to increase muzzle velocity. When fired, the expanding gas deformed the bullet and engaged the barrel's rifling, providing spin for better accuracy and longer range.

Its design dramatically increased both range and accuracy, which has long been accepted as the reason for the high number of casualties in the Civil War, although some historians today are questioning that because accuracy also depends on the soldier who pulls the trigger and throughout the Civil War, when target practice was minimal, the combatants tended to aim too high.

### *History of the Minie' ball*

In the 1830s, Captain John Norton of the British 34th Regiment was serving in India. Some local tribes used blowguns, and Norton observed the base of their darts was made from pith, the spongy wood from the center of tree trunks. This pith expanded when a person blew into the blowgun's tube, closing the space between the tube and the dart to give a tight seal that increased the dart's range.

Based on this principle Norton developed a cylindrical bullet with a hollow base in 1832. His design was improved on in 1836 by a London gunsmith named William Greener, who created an oval-shaped bullet, one end of which had a flat surface with a small hole drilled into it. This hole traveled through most of the length of the bullet and was covered by a conical plug with a round, wooden base. Upon firing, the plug would expand to prevent gases from escaping—essentially the same principle as the blowgun dart.



The design of Norton and Greener was taken a step further by two French army captains, Claude-E'tienne Minié' and Henri-Gustave Delvigne, who in 1849 created the conical, soft-lead bullet with four rings and a rifle with a grooved barrel to go with it. Delvigne, who would go on to co-design several models of revolving pistols, had earlier created a conical bullet design, but Minié' made the projectile smaller and longer, easier to load. At the time, French troops were facing Algerians whose long rifles outranged



# Patriotic Instructor

by Paul Johnson

French muskets, and the invention of Minie' offered a solution to that problem. (Minie' is properly pronounced min-YAY, but Americans pronounced the name as "Minnie.")

When the Crimean War erupted between Russia on one side and the British and French on the other, the two western European nations demonstrated the effectiveness of their new weapons against the Russians' smoothbore muskets. The London Times called the Minie' "the king of weapons" that swept through the ranks of the czar's soldiers "like the hand of the Destroying Angel."

The United States had observers present during the 1853–1855 Crimean War, including the future commander of the Army of the Potomac, George B. McClellan. The



Minie'ball came to America, where it was improved on by James Burton, an armorer at the U.S. Arsenal in Harpers Ferry, Virginia (now West Virginia). This hollow-based design could be mass-produced cheaply. Burton's version of the new ammunition, along with the rifled musket for firing it, was adopted for use by the U.S. Army by Secretary of War Jefferson Davis, the future president of the Confederate States of America during the Civil War. Two different-size Minie' balls were used: The Harpers Ferry rifle fired a .69 caliber round, while the Springfield design used .58 caliber.

When the American Civil War broke out in 1861, most state arsenals contained smoothbore muskets, and these were used extensively by both sides out of necessity. As the war progressed, smoothbores were phased out on both sides, replaced with rifled muskets, although the earlier weapons never totally disappeared from combat. The factories of the North were able to spit out the new muskets at a phenomenal rate compared with the less-industrialized South; in large measure, the North's production capacity was due to mass-production techniques created by Eli Whitney, famed as the inventor of the cotton gin.

## *Rifled Muskets Compared with Smoothbores*

The smoothbore had an effective range of 50 yards and an extended range of 200 yards. The rifled musket increased the lethality of ranged combat by providing an effective range of 300 yards, with an extended range of a half-mile. No longer could artillery crews set up just outside musket range to deliver devastating grapeshot or canister fire, as they had done during the Napoleonic Wars, because the rifled musket could easily pick off those crews if they were within the 300 yard-range of canister. (The development of conical-shaped shells also began a revolution in artillery as ammunition like the Parrott and James shells allowed for true rifling in cannon, giving the guns longer range and greater accuracy.)

# Patriotic Instructor

by Paul Johnson



A smoothbore's load was a solid ball that rattled its way down the barrel when it was fired; judging what angle it was going to be traveling when it left the muzzle was difficult, virtually impossible under the rapid-fire conditions of combat. The soft-lead Minie ball, as noted above, expanded to fit the rifling of the barrel, giving it greater accuracy. At extremely close ranges, however, the smoothbore could be loaded with "buck and ball," the 69-caliber ball and two smaller ones ("buckshot"), so that every shot sent three bullets spinning toward the enemy. Since troops armed with rifled muskets could stand off and fire from a greater distance, this smoothbore advantage only occurred during close-quarters fighting.

Increased musketry range caused a revolution in warfare: no longer could an attacker advance to charge range, suffer a volley or two from the defenders, and then attack with bayonets. The new weapons allowed defenders to inflict heavy casualties on the attackers as they advanced into charge range. Warfare had clearly tilted in favor of the defender.

While firepower had increased, communications hadn't. The use of flags, bugles and drums to convey information still demanded keeping men close together for command control. This, and the traditional success of bayonet charges that still influenced many commanders, forced troops to continue to fight in closely packed formations that presented opponents armed with rifled muskets large targets.

## ***Wounds Caused by Minie' Balls***

The soft lead that allowed Minie' balls to expand within the rifle barrel also caused them to flatten out and/or splinter when they hit a human target. A smoothbore's solid shot could break bones and tear through tissue, but soft lead bullets shattered bone and ripped tissue. Overworked Civil War surgeons often had to amputate limbs wounded by Minie' balls. Adding to the damage, some soldiers notched their bullets to insure they would spread out when they hit their target. In the 1870s, doctors urged an international ban on soft-lead bullets, saying they caused the same sort of damage as explosive bullets.

## ***End of the Minie' ball***

The reign of the "king of weapons" did not last long. During the course of the Civil War breech loading weapons and repeaters proved they could provide a much higher rate of fire than the rifled musket (their conical bullets with attached cartridges evolved from the Minie' ball). Prussia demonstrated to European armies the impact of more rapid fire



# Patriotic Instructor

by Paul Johnson

on the battlefield when its "needle gun" breechloaders badly outclassed Austrian weapons during the Austro-Prussian War of 1866. The era of ramming powder and a Minie' ball down a barrel from the muzzle lasted less than a quarter of a century, but during that time the new conical bullet and the rifled musket had shown the need for armies to develop new tactics that recognized the increased strength of defenders and the slaughter awaiting troops packed into tight linear battle formations. Tragically, that lesson wouldn't take hold until after the carnage of World War I, 1914–1918.



## Next Old Abe Camp 8 Meeting

Mar 17<sup>th</sup>

Meeting starts at 7:00PM at

Oshkosh Fire Station #17

1813 Algoma Street

Oshkosh, WI.

**Wear Your  
Membership Badge**

### ***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 [suvvw-wi.org](http://suvvw-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.

# Camp Officers for 2014

## **Commander**

Kirby Scott - 2545 West Waukau Avenue #6 Oshkosh, WI 54904  
(920) 858-1916 [kirby.scott.camp8@gmail.com](mailto:kirby.scott.camp8@gmail.com)

## **Sr. Vice Commander**

William Parker - 351 17th Street North WI. Rapids, WI 54494  
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## **Jr. Vice Commander**

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## **Secretary**

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## **Treasurer**

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## **Patriotic Instructor**

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## **Chaplain**

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## **Delegate**

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## **Graves Registration**

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## **Memorials**

PCC Kim Heltemes - W2570 Archer Avenue Pine River, WI 54965  
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## **Historian**

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## **Camp Council**

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## **Camp Council**

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## **Camp Council**

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## **Newsletter Editor**

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**Kirby Scott**  
**2545 West Waukau Avenue #6**  
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**kirby.scott.camp8@gmail.com**

**OLD ABE CAMP MEETING MINUTES for January  
20, 2014 were not submitted for this issue**

### **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 on page 13 of this newsletter. Visit the Department of Wisconsin website, and Camp 8 WebPages, at [www.suvcw-wi.org](http://www.suvcw-wi.org). Also, visit the national SUVCW website at [www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org). Camp 8 also has a Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/pages/Old-Abe-Camp-8-Sons-of-Union-Veterans-of-the-Civil-War-SUVCW/192313178329](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Old-Abe-Camp-8-Sons-of-Union-Veterans-of-the-Civil-War-SUVCW/192313178329).*

*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 officer below for information.*

### **Join Old Abe Camp 8!**

**\$40.00/yr. Annual Dues**

**For Membership, Contact:**

**Junior Vice Jeff Williams**

**970 Christian Drive, Oshkosh, WI 54901**

**(920) 237-4752      e6843d8@yahoo.com**



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**Old Abe Camp 8 Sons of Union  
Veterans of the Civil War  
(SUVCW)**