



***Camp Orders 2014-05***  
**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**  
*Grand Army of the Republic*  
**"Old Abe" Camp #8**  
Wisconsin Department  
September 2014



**Camp September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held  
at Marden Hall, Veterans Home in King, WI.**



**Next Old Abe  
Camp 8 Meeting  
will be on  
September 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Meeting starts at  
7:00 PM**

**Location is:  
Marden Hall at the  
Veterans Home in  
King, WI.**

**Wear Your  
Membership Badge**

Our next Camp meeting will be held at the Veterans Home located in King, Wisconsin.

We will meet in Marden Hall, which is located where the red star is in the above picture.

Enter through the main doors and go to your left. When you get to the elevators, go down one floor, exit the elevator, go left, then take a quick right to get to the meeting room on the right side.

**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**

# Commander's Remarks



*By Camp Commander  
Kirby Scott*

Greetings Brothers,

As I write this, summer is almost over. It seems that each year it gets shorter and shorter.

This past Saturday the Camp did a monument re-dedication for the Berlin Area Historical Society. Bobbie Erdmann, who was in charge of this event, was very pleased with everyone who participated. The last time this monument was re-dedicated was in 1963. Before the Camp did it's service, Dan Freimark told the history of the 1894 monument and how it was built. And there was ice cream served afterwards. The chocolate ice cream with moose tracks was very tasty!

Our next meeting will take place in the theatre in Marden Hall at the Veterans Home in King WI. Meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Our biggest event of the year will be Wade House held on September 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> this year. Last year our display was set up in the middle of sutler's row next to David Rambow, a Civil War photographer, from Pipestone, Minnesota. It was quite interesting to watch him create authentic tin type pictures.

Wade House is also our biggest event that brings in our largest amount of raffle ticket sales for

the Camp every year. I ask everyone if they could, please stop by and volunteer a few hours of your time to help us with questions from the public and selling raffle tickets. There is always quite a lot to see and do.

We have a new event this year in Neenah, WI. The Neenah Historical Society has invited us to participate in their Vintage Adventure. Downtown Neenah is turned into a vintage display area for the public. We will have our display set up at the east corner of Church Street & Wisconsin. This is a large grassy park area in front of the Plexus office building. The city of Neenah owns this park area and they have given Camp members permission to park in the Plexus parking lot which is next to the park. This event will be a lot like the displays we do at King and Wade House and will run from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Lastly, it's time to start thinking about our upcoming elections in November. The November edition of the Camp's newsletter will include descriptions of each elected office. If you have a desire to do more for the Camp I encourage you to read and to seek one of elected positions.

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:

Just about the time this newsletter comes out, Labor Day will be upon us. Typically Labor Day signals the end of summer and the beginning of fall. I don't know about you, but I could use a whole lot more summer. This summer has been particularly low key, auxiliary activities included. Personally I would like the auxiliary to be busy all summer with lots of events. Unfortunately that isn't the case. We have had a couple of events that didn't quite come to fruition, as they should have, also unfortunate. Our membership has not grown, as I would have liked it to. Ladies, if we are to grow, each and every one of us needs to be actively seeking new members. I know you, I know what you are capable of doing, I have faith in each of you. It doesn't take much effort to strike up a conversation with someone, to talk about what we do and why we exist. Put those brochures out there, if you need some, I have them, ask. Go to your local library and ask to leave some brochures. Find out where your local historical societies are, email them information. In order for us to succeed we need you to think outside the box. Certainly there must be at least one person you know that might be interested in joining our organization. Invite a friend or relative to attend one of our meetings. Ask yourself if your ancestor would be proud of the organization we are. If you cannot answer with a resounding YES, then do more, say more, and be more.

On to a story of how persistence pays off, big time. One of Wisconsin's own will finally, after a century and a half, be recognized for his valiant fight and leadership. Alonzo Cushing, born in Delafield Wisconsin, will be receiving the Medal of Honor posthumously for his service in the Civil War. Cushing lead Battery A 4th US Artillery at Gettysburg at Cemetery Ridge. He was killed when he refused to back down against Pickett's Charge. The presentation of the medal required a special exemption from Congress. A historian from Delafield, Margaret Zerwekh has been fighting for him to receive the medal since 1980. The problem now is who will receive the medal. The Army will be awarded the medal at a ceremony next month, but the City of Delafield would like to display the medal at City Hall. Only 29 medals of 1,522 were awarded posthumously after the Civil War. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Cushing will have waited longer for his medal than any other recipient in history. All because of one women's persistence.

Hope to see you all at the next meeting. Be prepared to talk about electing next years officers.

LuAnn

## **Next Old Abe Camp 8 Meeting**

**September 15<sup>th</sup>**

**Meeting starts at 7:00PM at  
Marden Hall in the Veterans Home  
King, WI.**

**Wear Your Membership Badge**



# 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



# Nathan Strong Monument Re-dedication

The Berlin Area Historical Society with the help of Old Abe Camp #8, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, conducted a re-dedication of Berlin's 1894 Civil War Monument located in Nathan Strong Park on Saturday, August 23rd, 2014.



Old Abe Camp #8 & Auxillary pose in front of the monument after the re-dedication in Berlin, WI. Left to right are: Seth Barker, Vince Barker, Jeff Williams, Jim Schumann, Kirby Scott, LuAnn Williams, Jim Waid, Alan Petit, and Michael Bouchette. — *photo submitted by Michael Boucette.*



Above – Vince Barker & Jim Schumann fire a volley during the re-dedication service.

# Delafield native to get Medal of Honor for Civil War heroics

## *1st Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing was killed in Battle of Gettysburg*

**Washington** — A century and a half after his valiant death at the Battle of Gettysburg, a Union Army officer from Delafield, Wis., is being awarded the nation's highest military decoration, thanks to a decades-long campaign by his descendants and Civil War buffs.

The White House announced Tuesday that President Barack Obama approved the Medal of Honor for 1st Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing, who was killed by a Confederate bullet to the head during the pivotal, three-day Battle of Gettysburg.

Congress granted a special exemption in December for Cushing to receive the award posthumously since recommendations normally have to be made within two years of the act of heroism and the medal awarded within three years.

The White House also announced that Obama will award the medal in a ceremony on Sept. 15 to two Vietnam War soldiers who also received the congressional exemption — Army Command Sgt. Maj. Bennie G. Adkins and Army Spc. Donald P. Sloat. The medal is given to members of the Armed Forces who risk their own life in an act of great personal bravery.

Cushing was born in Delafield, Wis., raised in Fredonia, N.Y., and buried at his alma mater, West Point, after being killed on July 3, 1863, at age 22. He commanded about 110 men and six cannons, defending the Union position on Cemetery Ridge against Pickett's Charge, a major Confederate thrust that could have turned the tide in the war.

The fierce battle near the town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, resulted in more than 51,000 casualties. Confederate soldiers advanced into the Union fire but eventually retreated with massive losses. The South never recovered from the defeat. Four months later, President Abraham Lincoln memorialized the Union war dead in his Gettysburg Address.

During the battle, Cushing's small force stood their ground under a severe artillery bombardment as nearly 13,000 Confederate infantrymen waited to advance. Cushing was wounded, and his battery was left with two guns and no long-range ammunition. Historians say his stricken battery should have been withdrawn and replaced with reserve forces, but Cushing insisted on ordering his guns to the front lines on the last day of fighting.

"Refusing to evacuate to the rear despite his severe wounds, he directed the operation of his lone field piece continuing to fire in the face of the enemy," the White House said in its announcement. "With the rebels within 100 yards of his position, Cushing was shot and killed during this heroic stand. His actions made it possible for the Union Army to successfully repulse the Confederate assault." Several soldiers who fought alongside Cushing received Medal of Honor. It's not clear why Cushing never got one, but his descendants and admirers took up his cause in the late 1980s.

Wisconsin lawmakers pushed through an amendment to a defense-spending bill to award Cushing in 2010, but then-Sen. James Webb, D-Va., stripped it from the bill because he said it was impossible to go back 150 years to determine who should receive the award. Webb predicted it could open an endless series of claims and argued at the time, "The better wisdom would be for Congress to leave history alone."

The award also will be given posthumously to Sloat, who was killed in action in Vietnam on Jan. 17, 1970, at age 20. Sloat, of Coweta, Okla., picked up a live grenade triggered by a fellow soldier and used his own body to shield the blast and save his fellow soldiers.

Adkins, a veteran who served 22 years and has retired to Opelika, Alabama, plans to receive his medal in person. He was deployed three times to Vietnam with the Special Forces and is being awarded for actions in combat on his second tour, in 1966, when he ran wounded through enemy fire to drag wounded comrades to safety. - *By The Associated Press , August 26, 2014*

## OLD ABE CAMP MEETING MINUTES, MAY 19, 2014

0. Pledge of Allegiance-7:16 P.M. Marsden Hall, King Veteran's Home, King.
1. Opening Ceremony. (8 members present)
2. Roll call of officers:
  - a. Commander-here.
  - b. SVC-here.
  - c. JVC-absent. V. Barker appt. to fill in.
  - d. Secretary-here.
  - e. Treasurer-absent.
3. Minutes. Motion by K. Heltemes. Second by V. Barker. Minutes of 3-20-14 approved.
4. Treasurer's report. NONE.
5. Any sick or distressed brothers? Randy Novak is stable for now. Dan McGraw was in a small plane crash and is in the hospital pretty well banged up. Both would probably appreciate a call or a card or an email.
6. Introduction of visitors and guests. New member Steve Harelson.
7. New applications for review or acceptance? NONE.
8. Member initiation. Steve Harelson was initiated.
9. Any communications and/or bills to address? NONE.
10. Old business: Send money to department for new monument at Camp Randall. Voted AYE unanimously. Postpone until July to set the amount.
11. New business: Do we want to get another set of camp flags? So that if the camp splits in two directions like we did on Memorial Day, each will have a set of flags? Mull it over.
12. Past events:
  - a. Member orientation-Apr . 6. No one went.
  - b. Canon cleaning-May 10. Canon is cleaned and waxed.
  - c. King Open House-May 18. Several members and auxiliary there. Went well.
13. Future events:
  - a. Stockbridge-Munsee CW Commemoration-May 24-Bowler-7:00-9:00 P.M. At the sight of the monument wall.
  - b. Memorial Day Services-May 26-Oshkosh-King-Bowler. See newsletter for times and locations.
  - c. Department Encampment-Jun. 7-Madison. See Alan Petit for credentials card. See department newsletter for details.
  - d. Adam Williams grave dedication-Jun. 21-11:00 A.M. -Block Cemetery-Ogdensburg. Another dedication at

- 1:00 P.M.-Solomon Wilson-in Weyawega.
  - e. Cemetery clean-up, picnic, & camp meeting-Sat.- 19-Auroraville. Call K. Kirk for details.
  - f. Kentuck Days-Jul 26-Crandon. See V. Barker for details.
  - g. Nehemiah Thurlow grave dedication-Aug. 9-Forest Home Cemetery-Wittenburg. 1:00 P.M. More details upcoming.
  - h. Wade House CW event-Sept. 28-29-Greenbush. More details later.
  - i. Living history display-downtown Neenah-near Plexus-Oct. 4. Cannon and booth? more details later.
  - k. Christopher Price-Sherwood. We want to place a small informational (U.S.S. Monitor)marker on his stone.
14. Patriotic Instructor's Presentation. Poem presented by Vince? "We Drank From the Same Canteen". It was used in ceremonies by the G.A.R.
15. Any other old or new business?
  - a. A cemetery walk in Portage County-Plover-Last Saturday before Halloween.
  - b. A flag burning ceremony needs to scheduled. Late fall.
16. Has anyone done something for the good of the order? At Sheboygan-May 17-at the County Historical Society, K. Heltemes had a display and represented the G.A.R.

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

## OLD ABE CAMP MEETING MINUTES, JUL. , 2014

No minutes are recorded as this meeting was cancelled and not rescheduled.

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





## Neenah's Vintage Adventure

On Saturday, October 4th, 2014 from 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Old Abe Camp #8 will have a display in downtown Neenah for the Neenah Historical Society's Vintage Adventure. This will be a lot like the display we do for the Veterans Home in King in May each year. We will be able to sell raffle tickets.

Activities will include narrated trolley tours, history scavenger hunt, costumed re-enactors, mini exhibits, and classic cars and a Civil War encampment on the grass in front of the Plexus office building.

We will be set up on the end of the green space in front of Plexus at the end nearest the corner of Church St and Wisconsin. Another group, 1st Alabama Cavalry Co. M, will be at the site with a few horses. It will definitely be an opportunity for the community to learn about Civil War history, and the Neenah Historical Society is very excited for our participation in it.

## 2014 Camp Calendar

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

Camp 8 regular meeting

Location: Marden Hall, Veterans Home, King, WI.

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

Wade House Civil War Weekend

Location: Greenbush, WI

### **October 4<sup>th</sup>**

Living History

Location: Neenah, 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 #17, Oshkosh, WI.

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



## **Nehemiah Thurlow dedication Forest Home Cemetery, Wittenberg, WI**



The above picture is of the Nehemiah Thurlow family by the stone. Below is a picture of Old Abe Camp 8 members with the American Legion Posts of Wittenberg and Bowler.





# Patriotic Instructor

by Paul Johnson

## Civil War Blue Water Navy

Many of the stories of the Civil War come from actions and engagements on land between armies. Navies contributed a great deal in the ultimate victory of the north over the south.

The US Navy expanded from about 90 ships, 40 of which were combat capable, to over 600 ships by wars end.

Essentially there were two navies, the *blue water* and the *brown water*. Blue water refers to the deep ocean, the brown water refers to operations in inland rivers which I will deal with in a later article

Many of this ships that sailed in blue water portion of the service were “capital ships” such as frigates. While large wind powered frigates still sailed in the navy, the majority of the frigates and smaller sloops were steam powered, using the marine screw, invented by John Ericsson.



Example of such a ship is the *USS Minnesota*, wood hull and steam powered, its' 44 guns arranged in traditional manner. It was run aground trying to escape the fate of two sail-powered only sister ships in the attack of the *CSS Virginia (Merrimac)*

Later vessels replaced “broadside” placement of smoothbore cannon with



movable rifled cannons that could be more accurately aimed.

There were some attempts to “iron clad”, some ships, but this proved largely ineffective on large vessels. After the civil war steel hulled vessels were built eliminating not only the wood hulls, but sails as well

President Abraham Lincoln set the Union's first naval goal when he declared a blockade of the Southern coasts. His plan was to cut off Southern trade with the outside world and prevent sale of the Confederacy's major crop, cotton. The task was daunting; the Southern coast measured over 2,500 miles and the Union navy numbered less than 40 usable ships

The first task for Lincoln's naval secretary, Gideon Welles, was a straightforward, but huge, fill-in-the-blank: acquire enough vessels to make every Southern inlet, port, and bay dangerous for trade. The Northern navy immediately began building dozens of new warships and purchased hundreds of merchant ships to convert into blockaders by adding a few guns. The result was a motley assortment that ranged from old sailing ships to New York harbor ferryboats. Critics called it Welles' “soapbox navy.”

The Union's blockading squadrons needed not only ships, but also bases on the Southern coast from which to operate. In 1861 the Union began a series of attacks on port cities like Hatteras, North Carolina and Port Royal, South Carolina along the southeastern



# Patriotic Instructor

by Paul Johnson

seaboard. Poorly defended, they fell to Union gunnery and were seized to use as bases. Though never air-tight, by late 1862 the blockade had become a major impediment to Rebel trade.

The Southern states had few resources compared to the North: a handful of shipyards, a small merchant marine, and no navy at all. Yet the Confederates needed a navy to break the Union blockade and to defend the port cities. Confederate Secretary of the Navy, Stephen Mallory, scrambled to find ships and even took on an offensive task: attacking Union merchant shipping on the high seas.



While the war rumbled along on the home front, the Confederates outfitted a series of commerce raiders, vessels such as *Sumter*, *Alabama*, and *Shenandoah* to attack Union merchant shipping worldwide. These ships were acquired by Confederate agents in Europe and most never entered a Southern port. *Alabama*, under Raphael Semmes, was the most famous. Destroying over 60 ships in a 21-month cruise and sending the Union shipping interests into frenzy, *Alabama* was finally confronted by the Union

cruiser *Kearsarge* off Cherbourg, France in 1864. In one of history's last classic one-on-one sea duels, the famed Confederate raider was sunk by accurate Union gunfire.

When the term "ironclad" is used the first ships that come to mind are the *USS Monitor* and the *CSS Virginia*.



With a smaller fleet and fewer shipyards than the North, the Confederates counted on making the ships they had as formidable as possible. They decided to challenge the Union navy with the latest technology: ironclads. Though iron-armored ships had appeared in Europe in the 1850s, Union warships were still built of wood. The first Confederate ironclad began its career as a Union cruiser, the *Merrimack*, captured by the Southerners when they seized Norfolk navy yard in Virginia. The Confederates ripped off

# Patriotic Instructor

by Paul Johnson

nearly everything above the waterline of the ship—which they renamed *Virginia*—and replaced it with a casemate of heavy timbers covered by four inches of iron plating. Though underpowered and crude, as yet there was no match for her in Lincoln's wooden navy.

The *Monitor*, on the other hand was a technologically revolutionary ship that was designed by the Swedish born naval architect John Ericsson (inventor of the screw propeller). It was built in only 101 days in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. To call it as an ironclad is really a misnomer, since the ship was entirely built of iron. It was not designed as a deep water vessel, but a "coastal" vessel intended to stay close to shore to not have to weather storms like the one that sank her in 1862, just 14 months after her construction.

The battle between them was fought over two days, March 8–9, 1862, in Hampton Roads, a roadstead in Virginia where the Elizabeth and Nansemond Rivers meet the James River just before it enters Chesapeake Bay adjacent to the city of Norfolk.

While considered a draw, the battle sent both navies into building iron ships, most of these were used on river in the "brown water Navy"

Finally, the last official act of the Confederate States of America was a naval one. The Confederate raider *Shenandoah*, far at sea in Pacific waters, only learned of the Civil War's end four months after the Confederate armies surrendered. *Shenandoah* finally lowered her flag in England on November 6, 1865.

## WADE HOUSE CIVIL WAR WEEKEND September 27 – 28, 2014

Old Abe Camp #8 has been invited to participate in the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Wade House Civil War Weekend September 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>. This year's battle scenario will be based on the action at Shy's Hill on December 16<sup>th</sup>, 1864.

Our Camp display will be set up by Commander Kirby Scott on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon so no one will have to rush to set it up the morning of the event. We are usually allowed on the grounds to set up after 2:00 pm on Friday the day before. Last year we were set up in the middle of sutler's row.

This is the biggest event of our calendar year and we usually sell the most raffle tickets here too.

We would like to have as many members attend as can, even if you can only do it for a few hours, your help would be greatly appreciated. I have sent a list with members names to the staff at Wade House so if you plan on coming be sure to tell them at the gate that you are with Old Abe Camp #8. Please make sure to wear your badge at this event, and if you have a uniform, please wear that as well.

The times for this year's event are 9:00 am to 5:00 pm each day. There is a skirmish at 11:00 am each day and a full scale battle each afternoon at 2:00 pm.



# Camp Officers for 2014

## Commander

Kirby Scott - 2545 West Waukau Avenue #6 Oshkosh, WI 54904  
(920) 791-7952 [kirby.scott.camp8@gmail.com](mailto:kirby.scott.camp8@gmail.com)

## Sr. Vice Commander

William Parker - 351 17th Street North WI. Rapids, WI 54494  
(715) 424-2627 [wildbill@wctc.net](mailto:wildbill@wctc.net)

## Jr. Vice Commander

Jeff Williams – 970 Christian Drive Oshkosh, WI 54901  
(920) 237-4752 [e6843d8@yahoo.com](mailto:e6843d8@yahoo.com)

## Secretary

PCC Alan Petit - E7602 Cutoff Road. New London, WI 54961  
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## Treasurer

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## Patriotic Instructor

Paul Johnson - 8804 Pine Lake Road Hiles, WI 54511  
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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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## **2014 OLD ABE CAMP #8 RAFFLE**

### **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](https://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**



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