



***Camp Orders 2014-06***  
**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**  
*Grand Army of the Republic*  
**"Old Abe" Camp #8**  
Wisconsin Department  
November 2014



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



Our November meeting & bean supper, Monday, November 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.

**Next Old Abe Camp 8 Meeting  
will be on November 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Supper starts at 6:00 PM**

**Meeting starts at 7:00 PM**

**Location is:  
Oshkosh Fire Station #17  
Oshkosh, WI.**

**Wear Your  
Membership Badge**

**- 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,

I want to thank all of you who came out to Wade House in September and helped out with the Camp display and the selling of raffle tickets. Even though the crowds seem to grow smaller and smaller each year, the weather this year was perfect and we did do well in raffle ticket sales.

I would like to thank Don & Kathy Blaney, Alan Petit, and Jim Schumann who braved 36 degree, very windy, and rainy weather to help out with Neenah Historical Society's Vintage Adventure on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Neenah Historical Society Executive Director Jane Lang, was very surprised and extremely grateful that our Camp was there despite the weather because the 1<sup>st</sup> Alabama Cavalry Co. M said it was too cold for them to do it. Although the crowd was small, the people who came over were very enthusiastic and they thoroughly enjoyed the musket firing demonstrations that Jim Schumann and I did throughout the event.

On Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, I and Senior Vice Commander Bill Parker helped out the Portage County Historical Society with their trick or treat event in Plover, Wisconsin. Bill portrayed a Colonel, while I portrayed my ancestor John Organ. Karen

Zinda from the Portage County Historical Society thanked us for taking the time to donate an afternoon to their organization.

Our November meeting will be our annual bean supper and election of Camp officers for the 2014 – 2015 calendar year. In this newsletter you will find the job descriptions for each office in our Camp's organization. Our bean supper will start at 6:00 pm and please remember to bring a dish to pass. LuAnn Williams from the Auxiliary said to tell people that they do NOT need to bring paper plates, cups for soda, or forks, it's all in the "to go" box she will be bringing. Also, LuAnn said she has, she believes, 3 extension cords.

I want to thank each and every one of you who have helped me out this past year with Old Abe Camp #8 and it's activities. It's been a real learning experience for me, but with the increasing demands of my job requirements along with my management changing my work hours, I will not be able to stay on as Commander. Starting after the first of next year I more than likely will not be able to attend most meetings because of my work schedule and would not be able to give the time and devotion that is needed to fulfill the duties of an office. I will try to attend as many events as I can, but because of my work restrictions, I probably will not know if I will be able to attend until the evening before such an event is scheduled.

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:

It's that time of year, summer is over and winter is just around the corner. With that comes change. Change I think is a good thing. Fresh faces, fresh ideas, change. The task we have before is to elect new officers for the upcoming year. This is a very important meeting. Please attend if at all possible. My last email may have caught some of you by surprise. After some thought, it probably was not the best approach to take. However, it's done and over, time to move on. If any of you feel the need to speak to me in private about that, I'd be more than willing to talk to you.

I hope that each and every one of you will consider taking an office. Think about what you are good at

and how you can transfer that talent to the auxiliary. The positions that we have to have according to the CR&R are located on pages 11 & 12. You can review these on the website [http://www.asuvcw.org/forms\\_doc.htm](http://www.asuvcw.org/forms_doc.htm) scroll down to the Constitutional Rules and Regulations. I am not sure if Kathy Anderson from the Department of Wisconsin will be attending, but it would be a good opportunity to meet her if you have not already.

Once again, I am going to reiterate how important it is to attend this meeting. If you have been making the meetings, it will be good to see you again, if for some reason you have not attended in the past, we will welcome you with open arms.

LuAnn



*David Rambow of DC Rambow, Wet Plate Photography, who had his display set up next to ours at Wade House shows us a type picture slowly coming to life after taking a picture on Sunday.*

# 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



# November 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting

## Traditional Bean Supper & Elections

Our November meeting is our traditional bean supper. Please bring a dish to pass along with your eating utensils & something to drink.

Supper will start at 6:00 pm with the meeting to begin at 7:00 pm.

After our supper we will hold our regular meeting, which will include the election of officers for the 2014 – 2015 year. Please plan on being present for this meeting so you can vote for whom you would like to see in office.

The following positions are elected positions and will be voted on: Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Camp Secretary, Camp Treasurer, Camp Delegate, Camp Council (3 positions).

The following positions are appointed: Patriotic Instructor, Camp Chaplain, Color Bearer, Camp Guide, Camp Guard, Camp Counselor, Camp Historian, Civil War Memorials Officer, Graves Registration Officer.

Below are the job description information that is provided by the National SUVCW.

### Job Descriptions for the Camp's elected positions

#### COMMANDER

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of the office of Commander is to direct and to provide oversight of Camp operations in order to foster and promote the goals and objects of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

##### **Activities**

The activities of the Camp Commander should include:

1. Presiding at all meetings of the Camp.
2. Appointing the appointed officers and all committees.
3. Become familiar with all SUVCW forms that are utilized for conducting the business of the Camp, especially those that require the Commander's signature, and ensure that all reports are submitted to the Department by the specified time.
4. Ensuring that the Camp officers and committees do their jobs.
5. Representing the Camp at community functions.
6. Becoming familiar with the Camp's Bylaws and the Order's Constitution and Regulations.

7. Keeping the membership informed by issuing "Camp Orders", attested to by the Camp Secretary.
8. Consulting with Past Camp Commanders for advice on Camp matters.
9. Becoming familiar with the duties of the office as set forth in the Order's Ritual and Ceremonials.
10. Serving as liaison between the Camp and Department.

#### SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of the office of Senior Vice Commander is to assist the Commander, promote the Order and preside at Camp meetings in the absence of the Commander.

##### **Activities**

The activities of the Camp Senior Vice Commander should include:

1. Presiding at Camp meetings in the absence of the Camp Commander.
2. Acting as a personal representative upon the request from the Camp Commander.
3. Gathering appropriate data about Camp activities and forwarding to the Department Senior Vice Commander
4. Promoting Camp activities in the local media.
5. Publishing a Camp newsletter.
6. Scheduling informative programs for Camp meetings.
7. Carrying out other responsibilities delegated to the position by the Camp Bylaws, Camp and Camp Commander.

#### JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of the office of Junior Vice Commander is to assist with the recruitment and retention of Brothers (Members, Associates, and Juniors).

##### **Activities**

The activities of the Camp Junior Vice Commander should include:

1. Contacting prospective Brothers whose names are supplied to the Camp by the Department Junior Vice Commander.
2. Supplying prospective Brothers with membership materials including two membership applications, a copy of a SUVCW organization descriptive leaflet, and an invitation to the next Camp meeting.
3. Keeping track of applicants' progress in completing

# November 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting

## Traditional Bean Supper & Elections

membership applications.

- 4 Encouraging delinquent Brothers to remain in the Order.
- 5 Presiding at Camp meetings in the absence of both the Camp Commander and Senior Vice Camp Commander.
- 6 Carrying out other responsibilities delegated to the office by the Camp Bylaws, Camp and Camp Commander.

### **SECRETARY**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the office of Secretary is to keep the minutes of the meetings and to carry on necessary correspondence for the Camp or Department.

#### **Activities**

The activities of the Camp Secretary should include:

- 1 Taking minutes of each Camp meeting.
- 2 Maintaining a book or file of minutes of past meetings.
- 3 Reading the minutes of the preceding Camp meeting.
- 4 Processing and responding to Camp correspondence.
- 5 Notifying Brothers of meeting dates and location.
- 6 Preparing Form 22, "Report of Camp Installing Officer", in duplicate and sending both copies to the Department Secretary.
- 7 Reviewing for accuracy the annual "Life Member Reimbursement Form" (Form 10) that can be prepared by a Camp's Commander, Treasurer or Secretary.
- 8 In conjunction with the Camp Treasurer, prepare and submit a "Camp Annual Report" (Form 27) in duplicate to the Department Secretary on or before April 30 of each year, with check for per capita and application fees, plus two copies of the membership application for each new Brother.
- 9 Preparing and submitting a "Camp Status Report" (Form 30) in duplicate to the Department Secretary by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the next month following any change in a Camp's membership after the annual report is filed. A check for per capita and application fees, plus two copies of a new Brother's membership application must be enclosed.
- 10 Maintaining Camp membership applications and supporting documentation.
- 11 Preparing credentials for those serving as Camp delegates and alternates to Department Encampments.
- 12 Maintaining the Camp seal and affixing it to Camp documents as needed.

### **TREASURER**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the office of Treasurer is to serve as custodian of Camp monies and property, to keep accurate financial records and to prepare periodic financial reports.

#### **Activities**

The activities of the Camp Treasurer should include:

- 1 Keeping the financial records of the Camp.
- 2 Preparing a financial report to be presented at each Camp meeting.
- 3 Preparing and sending dues notices to Brothers at least one month before the end of the Camp's fiscal year.
- 4 Issuing membership cards to Brothers upon receipt of annual dues.
- 5 Serving as custodian of Camp property not otherwise provided for.
- 6 Maintaining a bank account in the Camp's name for Camp funds.
- 7 Preparing a report on the financial condition of the Camp for review and approval by the Camp Council.
- 8 In conjunction with the Camp Secretary, prepare a "Camp Annual Report" (Form 27) with check for per capita and application fees, to be submitted to the Department Secretary on or before April 30 of each year.
- 9 Preparing and submitting a "Life Member Reimbursement Form" (for those Brothers who qualify) before March 31 of each year.
- 10 Notifying a Brother who is in arrears for dues or fines, no later than March 31 of each year.
- 11 Preparing and transmitting any and all financial reports as may be required by applicable state law.

### **DELEGATE**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the delegate is to represent the Camp at Department and National meetings.

### **COUNCIL**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of the three-member Council is to devise and recommend measures to help ensure the financial stability of the Camp and to fill vacancies which may occur in elected Camp offices.

#### **Activities**

The activities of the Camp Council should include:

- 1 Devising and recommending measures for preserving and increasing the funds of the Camp.
- 2 Making the Camp's investments, leases, and other contracts.
- 3 Settling and disposing of all disputed accounts between the Camp Treasurer and Brothers of the Camp.
- 4 Examining the books, vouchers and other financial papers of the Camp.

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## Traditional Bean Supper & Elections

5 Reviewing and passing upon a quarterly financial report of the Camp.

6 Filling for the unexpired term by of a majority vote of the Council any vacancy which may occur in an elected Camp office.

### **Job Descriptions for the Camp's appointed positions**

#### **PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR**

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of the office of Patriotic Instructor is to educate and provide Brothers and the general public with information that will help to foster patriotism among the membership and the populace in general.

##### **Activities**

The activities of the Camp Patriotic Instructor should include:

- 1 Presenting at each Camp meeting information on such items as - (a) Civil War military, civilian and other great American leaders, (b) National and state holidays, (c) The United States Flag, (d) Duties of citizenship such as voting, (e) Great Civil War battles and battles of other wars, and (f) Great American artifacts and sites.
- 2 Providing public displays and orations on patriotism as called upon.
- 3 Providing awards of recognition to deserving individuals as deemed necessary or ordered by the Camp.

#### **CHAPLAIN**

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of the office of Chaplain is to conduct such devotional services as directed by the Camp or Department.

##### **Activities**

The activities of the Camp Chaplain should include:

- 1 Conducting prayer at all meetings.
- 2 Conducting grave site services for Brothers and important dignitaries.
- 3 Conducting memorials for grave dedication or rededication ceremonies of veterans - especially Union veterans.
- 4 Serving as custodian of the Camp Bible unless assigned to another Camp officer.
- 5 Preparing an annual necrology of Camp Brothers and submitting the list to Department Chaplain.
- 6 Serving as coordinator for the Camp's Memorial Day

ceremony.

7 Becoming familiar with the duties of the office as set forth in the Order's Rituals and Ceremonials.

#### **HISTORIAN**

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of the office of Historian is to collect and preserve all historical and biographical material pertaining to the Civil War, to members of the Grand Army of the Republic, and to members of the Order.

##### **Activities**

The activities of the Camp Historian should include:

- 1 Maintaining and cataloging all historical, biographical and/or photographic material given to or developed by the Camp regarding the Civil War, Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW).
- 2 Such material would include but not be limited to the following: newspaper articles, Post/Camp membership records, Post/Camp meeting minutes, old Post/Camp financial records, photographs, and donated memorabilia.

#### **COUNSELOR**

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of the office of Counselor is to serve as a legal advisor to the Commander and to the Camp.

##### **Activities**

The activities of the Camp Counselor should include:

- 1 Advising the Commander and the Camp on such legal issues as may come before them.
- 2 Upon request of the Commander, providing advice and interpretation of the Camp's Bylaws, the Order's Constitution and Regulations, and on parliamentary questions.

#### **GUIDE**

##### **Purpose**

The purpose of the Guide is to assist the Commander in the floor work of the Ritual during the Camp meeting and to follow any orders given by the Commander.

# November 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting

## Traditional Bean Supper & Elections

### Activities

The activities of the Camp Guide should include:

- 1 Ensuring that the Camp room is proper order and that the altar and stations are properly arranged.
- 2 Instructing candidates for membership per the instructions of the Order's Ritual and Ceremonials.
- 3 Acting as an escort for all visitors.
- 4 Ascertaining if everyone present is entitled to remain for the Camp meeting.
- 5 Becoming familiar with the duties of the office as set forth in the Order's Ritual and Ceremonials.

### COLOR BEARER

#### Purpose

The purpose of the office of Color Bearer is to care for the Camp colors and to assist the Camp Guide during the Camp meeting.

#### Activities

The activities of the Camp Color Bearer should include:

- 1 Placing the altar cloth and an unopened Bible on the altar prior to the opening of the Camp.
- 2 Placing station banners at the stations prior to the opening of the Camp.
- 3 Assisting the Guide in ascertaining if everyone present is entitled to remain for the Camp meeting.
- 4 Presenting the United States Flag during the Pledge of Allegiance by the Camp.
- 5 Attending to the altar and stations by removing altar cloth, Bible and station banners following the close of the Camp.
- 6 Becoming familiar with the duties of the office as set forth in the Order's Ritual and Ceremonials.

### GUARD

#### Purpose

The purpose of the office of Guard is to secure the door to the Camp meeting and to admit only those Brothers and visitors who are qualified or entitled to enter.

#### Activities

The activities of the Camp Guard should include:

- 1 Securing the door of the Camp meeting.
- 2 Checking dues receipts or cards of Brothers and admitting only qualified Brothers and authorized visitors.

- 3 Allowing no one to enter during the opening or closing of the Camp.
- 4 Allowing no one to enter during the initiation of candidates.
- 5 Becoming familiar with the duties of the office as set forth in the Order's Ritual and Ceremonials.

### GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER

#### Purpose

The purpose of the Graves Registration Officer is to locate, record, ascertain the condition of and bring to the attention of proper authorities the need for repair or replacement of the grave markers/memorials of Civil War veterans buried in the jurisdiction of the Camp.

#### Activities

The activities of the Camp Graves Registration Officer should include:

- 1 Conducting an inventory of the cemeteries located within the confines the Camp's geographical boundaries and documenting the presence of Civil War veteran grave markers and memorials.
- 2 Bringing to the attention of appropriate governmental agencies the existence of grave markers/memorials in need of rehabilitation or replacement.
- 3 Assisting private parties and governmental agencies in the completion of applications for new federal grave markers for Civil War veterans.
- 4 Providing documentation of location and condition of Civil War veteran grave markers/memorials to the Department Graves Registration Officer.

### CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS OFFICER

#### Purpose

The purpose of the Camp level Civil War Memorials Officer is to coordinate the locating, physical examination of, and recording of all memorials dedicated to Union Civil War soldiers and sailors (outside the care of the National Military Parks, and the U. S. Departments of Defense, or Veterans' Affairs) within their respective geographic boundaries. This includes all sizes of monuments (with or without sculpture), those with Civil War era cannon and inert ammunition, memorial fountains, memorial buildings, memorial windows (stained glass), historical markers, and even small plaques.

#### Activities

To prevent a duplication of effort on the part of a Camp's



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membership, the Camp Civil War Memorials Officer should:

- 1 Coordinate the search for, physical examination of, photographing of, and recording of Civil War Memorials (as described above) located within the confines of the Camp's geographical boundaries.
- 2 Maintain observation of care and upkeep for "local" Civil War Memorials – and bring any shortcomings to the attention of the property owners and community government where the memorial is located.
- 3 Provide documentation of location and condition of Civil War Memorials (via SUVCW Form CWM 61) to the Department Civil War Memorials Officer.



### Neenah's Vintage Adventure

On Saturday, October 4th, Old Abe Camp #8 set up a display in downtown Neenah for the Neenah Historical Society's Vintage Adventure. The weather was awful with 37 degrees, rain, and a very blustery cold wind. The 1st Alabama Cavalry Co. M. did not set up with us because of the cold but our members toughed it out and the Neenah Historical Society was very grateful that we did. Although the crowd was small, they were very enthusiastic



## OLD ABE CAMP MEETING MINUTES, September 15, 2014

1. Pledge of Allegiance-7:04 P.M. Marden Hall, King Veteran's Home.

2. **Opening Ceremony.** (9 members present)

3. **Roll call of officers**

- a. Commander-here
- b. SCV-here
- c. JVC-here
- d. Secretary-here
- e. Treasurer-here

4. **Minutes.** Motion by K. Heltemes. Second by W. Parker. Minutes of 5-19-14 approved.

5. **Treasurer's report.** As of 10-31-14 there is \$5423.64 in checking and \$10,707.05 in CD's. Camp received \$40.00 check for 2014 dues from Kerry Calba. Secretary will contact him as to his intentions. Camp. Check for \$100.00 from Jean Spiegelberg for Williams dedication.

6. **Any sick or distressed brothers.**

a. Randy Novak has been getting treatments for his illness but the progress is slow to none.

b. Dan McGraw is improving from his plane wreck.

c. Alan Heise has lost his father-in-law and a son-in-law.

7. **Introduction of visitors and guests.** None.

8. Any new applications for review and/ or acceptance? None.

9. **Any communications and/or bills to address?** Card and check for \$25.00 from Sheri Yaeso for the Williams dedication.

10. **Prior business.** None.

11. **New business:**

a. Auxiliary Future. Auxiliary has a change in president and also needs to change the brochures. Wait until after the next election

12. **Past Events:**

a. Stockbridge-Munsee CW Commemoration Alan and Bill there. Went well.

b. Memorial Day services in Oshkosh, Bowler, & King. Camp members at each. Went well.

c. Department Encampment. Several members present. Camp #8 holds the Commander's, SVC's, and the Secretary's positions. \$1.00 increase in department per capita for 2015.

d. Williams dedication at Block Cemetery. Went well. Two donations to the camp

e. Kentuck Days at Crandon. V. Barker was there.

f. Nehemiah Thurlow dedication at Wittenburg. Three camp members there. We got by.

g. National Encampment. Two camp members present. Business sessions argumentative. Rest was ok. Alatoona Pass Wisconsin Memorial dedicated. Hotter than a pistol.

h. Nathan Strang Memorial dedication in Berlin. Went well.

12. **Future Events:**

a. Wade House-Sept 27-28. Sign up sheet circulated. Same as last year.

b. Living History in Neenah-Oct 4. Need people there.

c. Veteran's Day. Courthouse steps. Come early. Starts at 11:00 A.M.

d. Next meeting. Bean Dinner and elections. Nov 17, 2014. Fire Station #17, Oshkosh, Wisc. Dinner at 6:00 P.M. Meeting at 7:00 P.M.

13. **Patriotic Instructor's presentation.** None.

14. **Any other old or new business?**

a. Sell raffle tickets.

b. Change signers on our camp checking account. Gordon's name is still on the books.

c. Amount on check to the Camp Randall Monument. B. Peters moved that we send \$500.00 and K. Kirk seconded it. Approved. Kurt will send check to Alan Hembel.

15. **Has anyone done anything for the good of the order?** No response.

16. Closing Ceremony. 8:17 P.M.

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

# 2014 Camp Calendar

## November 11<sup>th</sup>

Veterans Day services

Location: County courthouse, Oshkosh, WI

## November 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 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*

Saturday morning  
bacon & coffee  
cooking at Wade  
House.



## 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**



# Patriotic Instructor

by Paul Johnson

## Civil War Blue Water Navy

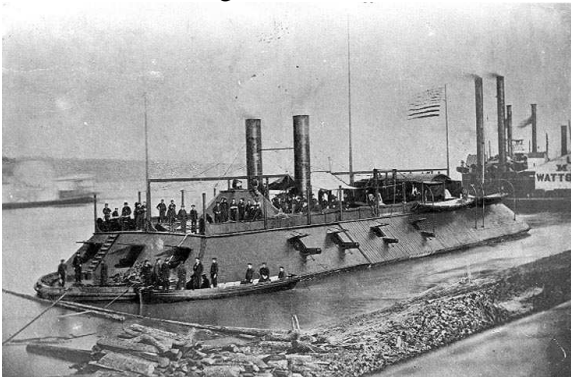
The term *brown-water navy* originated in the American Civil War. As a blueprint for the "strangulation" of the Confederate States of America, Winfield Scott's Anaconda plan called for a two-pronged approach by first blocking the South's harbors and then pushing along the Mississippi River, effectively cutting the Confederate territory in two while also robbing the South of its main artery of transport. The U.S. Navy was assigned the blockade of the seaports, while a new force of gunboats and river ironclads, together with regular army units, would take, or at least lay siege on, the Confederate forts and cities along the Mississippi.

The brown water navy started as an Army project, the boats were built and crewed by the U.S. Army, with the naval officers commanding them being the only direct connection to the U.S. Navy. By the autumn of 1862, the boats and their mission were transferred to the Department of the Navy.

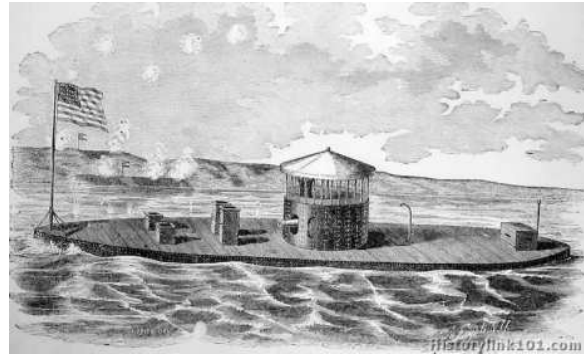
The influence of the Monitor and the Virginia was not lost on Commander John D. Rodgers, who commenced riverine operations.

At first he purchased three river steamers and converted them to gunboats, but without armor they lacked the ability to attack forts.

Rodgers contracted for seven new gunboats to be named after cities along the rivers they were defending. These "city class" ships, the "backbone of the river fleet," were 175 feet long and had a 50-foot beam.



USS Cairo



USS Monitor

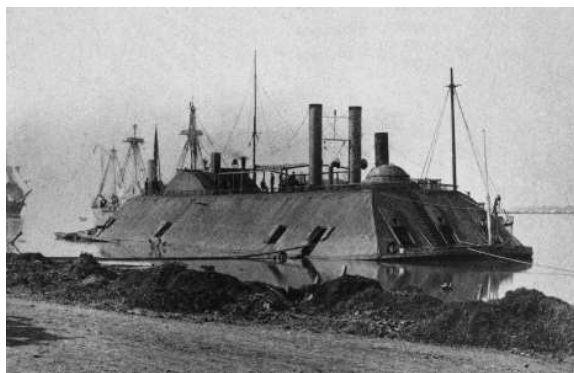
A casemate covered the entire ship with heavy armor protecting the forward part. To reduce draft, they had lighter armor amidships and astern (on the theory that most of the fighting would be head-on), hence they were vulnerable in these areas. The boats were built to carry 13 large guns each. Because of the need to get them out quickly, they mounted any guns available, a collection of old fashioned 42-pounders supplied by the Army, and some 8-inch and 32-pounder Navy guns. They were in effect floating artillery batteries.

For several decades steamships had developed on the western rivers where the calm waters and ready accessibility of fuel favored the early crude engines (wood). Hence the gunboats went to war relatively independent of wind and current. They were part of a broad revolution in naval design and warfare that would play a key role in keeping the Union intact. They became the spearhead which dismembered the Confederacy along the Mississippi.

# Patriotic Instructor

by Paul Johnson

The three wooden gunboats accomplished much. They could not, however, take the offensive against forts the Confederates erected at Columbus on the Mississippi below Cairo, at Fort Henry on the Tennessee River just below the Kentucky border, or nearby at Fort Donelson on the Cumberland. The semi-ironclads built for this purpose were commissioned by Flag Officer Andrew H. Foote in mid-January. Foote had relieved Rodgers. Now he had the spearhead to split the Confederacy from the north. At once he and General Grant pressed for permission to attack, and on 2 February the combined forces sailed up the Ohio en route to assault strategic Fort Henry.



*USS Essex*

Grant's troops embarked in transports at Cairo and Paducah and following Foote's gunboats advanced on Fort Henry. The soldiers were landed 5 miles above the fort according to prearranged plans for a combined assault on 6 February. However, the troops made slow headway in the mud and the gunboats attacked alone. They opened fire at 1,700 yards which was briskly returned by the shore batteries. Foote pressed on knocking out all but four of the Confederate guns. *Essex* was disabled and other ironclads were struck, but Foote closed to point-blank range pouring a hail of fire into the fort until it surrendered.

While the Brown Water Navy aided the Union cause in many ways, there is one very notable exception — The Red River Campaign — recognized by historians as one of the least successful plans of the war.



Retreat of the Red River Flotilla over the dam

The Union had four goals at the start of the campaign:

- To destroy the Confederate Army.  
commanded by Taylor
- To capture Shreveport, Louisiana, Confederate headquarters for the Trans-Mississippi Department, control the Red River to the north, and occupy east Texas.
- To confiscate as much as a hundred thousand bales of cotton from the plantations along the Red River.
- To organize pro-Union state governments in the region.

The plan called for Gen Nathaniel Banks to take 20,000 troops up from New Orleans to Alexandria, on a route up the Bayou Teche, where they would be met by 15,000 troops sent down from Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's forces in Vicksburg, Mississippi, and under the command of Brigadier General A.J. Smith. Smith's forces were available to Banks only until the end of April, when they would be sent back east where they were needed for other Union military actions. Banks would command this combined force of 35,000, which would be supported in its march up the Red River towards Shreveport by Union Navy Rear Admiral David Dixon Porter's fleet of gunboats. At the same time, 7,000 Union troops from the Department of Arkansas under the command of Maj. Gen. Frederick Steele would be sent south from Arkansas to rendezvous with Banks in his attack on Shreveport, and to serve as the garrison for that city.

# Patriotic Instructor

*by Paul Johnson*

after its capture.

Porter designed a formidable battle fleet. It consisted of ironclads, tinclads (lightly armored gunboats), a timberclad (which used wood as armor plating), high-speed rams, three river monitors (with revolving turrets), and support vessels. Porter's fleet carried 210 heavy guns. Sherman's men brought their own troop transports and supply vessels. Banks also used some steamboats. The entire fleet numbered 90 boats.

Porter's choice of vessels was centered on overwhelming firepower and did not take into account the vagaries of the tortuously winding, often shallow Red River. His heaviest ships carried too deep a draft for the sandy-bottomed, snag-filled river.

The Campaign started March 10 and lasted until May 22, 1864. There were two major battles; the Battle of Mansfield and Battle of Pleasant Hill. There were several other skirmishes.

The failure to capture and hold Shreveport and the fact that the river had been in spring flood at the beginning and was falling to summer levels meant that Porter's fleet and troops accompanying were at risk.



Col Joseph Banks

Step forward, Lt. Col Joseph Bailey, Acting Chief Engineer of the 19<sup>th</sup> Army. He suggested building a dam so as to release Admiral Porter's fleet imprisoned by low water above the Falls at Alexandria at the close of the futile Red River expedition in 1864.

Bailey had been a lumberman in Wisconsin and had there gained the practical experience which taught him that the plan was feasible. He was Corps at this time, and obtained permission to go ahead and build his dam. In the under-taking he had the approval and earnest support of Admiral Porter, who refused to consider for a moment the abandonment of any of his vessels even though the Red River expedition had been ordered to re-turn and General Banks was chafing at de-lay and sending messages to Porter that his troops must be got in motion at once.

Bailey pushed on with his work and in eleven days he succeeded in so raising the water in the channel that all the Federal vessels were able to pass down below the Falls. "Words are inadequate," said Admiral Porter, in his report, "to express the admiration I feel for the ability of Lieut. Colonel Bailey. This is without doubt the best engineering feat ever performed. . . . The highest honors the Government can bestow on Colonel Bailey can never repay him for

the service he has rendered the country."

For this achievement Bailey was promoted to colonel, brevetted brigadier general, voted the thanks of Congress, and presented with a sword and a purse of \$3,000 by the officers of Porter's fleet. He settled in Missouri after the war and was a formidable enemy of the "Bushwhackers" till he was shot by them on March 21, 1867. He was born at Salem, Ohio, April 28, 1827

The Red River Campaign was a Union failure, the outcome of which did not have a major impact on the war. Conversely, it may have extended the length of the war by several months as it diverted Union efforts from the far more important objective of capturing Mobile, Alabama. That event did not occur until 1865, and could probably have been accomplished by June 1864 if not for the Red River Campaign.



# WADE HOUSE CIVIL WAR WEEKEND

The weekend of September 27-28 Old Abe Camp #8 participated in the 24<sup>th</sup> annual Wade House Civil War Weekend in Greenbush, WI.

Our Camp display was set up once again next to photographer David Rambow in sutler's row. We had perfect weather for this event and raffle tickets sold well.





# WADE HOUSE CIVIL WAR WEEKEND

This tin type picture below of Old Abe Camp #8 Commander Kirby Scott was taken at this years' Wade House behind our Camp's display by photographer David Rambow, of DC Rambow, Wet Plate Photography, who had his display set up next to ours. Please visit his website here: <http://dcrambow-wetplatephotography.yolasite.com/>



# Camp Officers for 2014

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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 17 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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