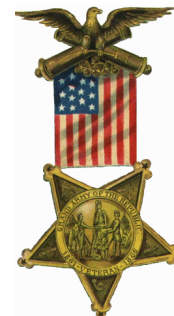




*Camp Orders 2015-01*  
**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**  
*Grand Army of the Republic*  
**“Old Abe” Camp #8**  
Wisconsin Department  
January 2015



**Camp January 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting Will Be Held At The White House Inn  
Located In Butte Des Morts, Wisconsin**

**Next Old Abe  
Camp 8 Meeting**

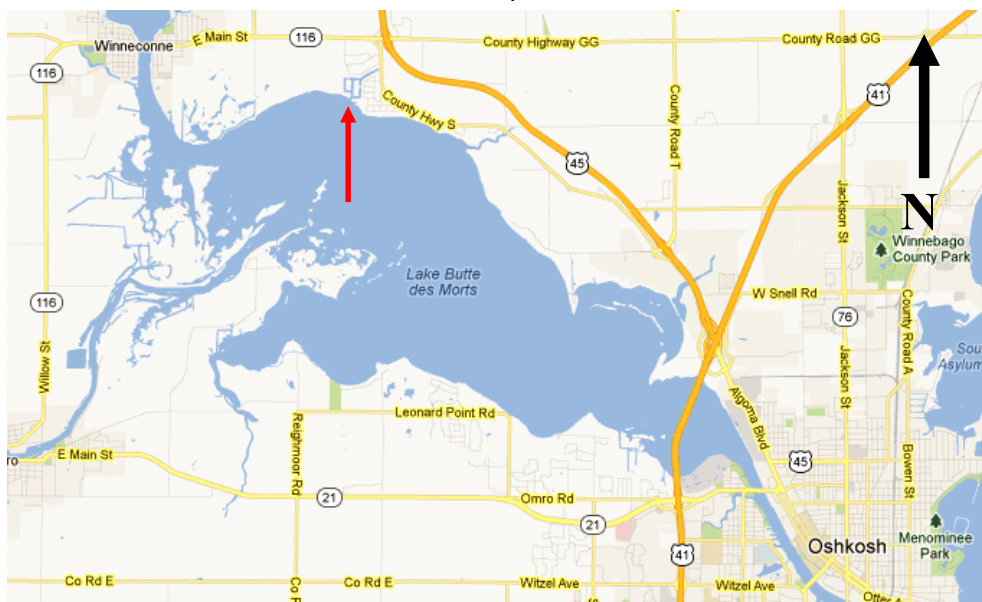
**Jan 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Meal begins at 6:00PM**

**Meeting starts at  
7:00PM at**

**The White House Inn  
5776 Main Street)  
Butte Des Morts, WI.**

**Wear Your  
Membership Badge**



Our January meeting, Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, is being held at Jimmy's White House Inn in Buttes Des Morts.

The White House Inn is an historic building with Civil War relics displayed in the main bar that belonged to Corp. Tunis LaFever, 27<sup>th</sup> Wis Inf. Tunis is the ancestor of White House Inn owner, Miles LeFever. Miles is an SUVCW member.

We plan on having dinner starting at 6pm. If you do not wish to join us for dinner, the regular meeting will start at the usual 7pm.

The purpose of having a dinner with our meeting is to enjoy social and fellowship time between members, which was very much a tradition with the GAR.

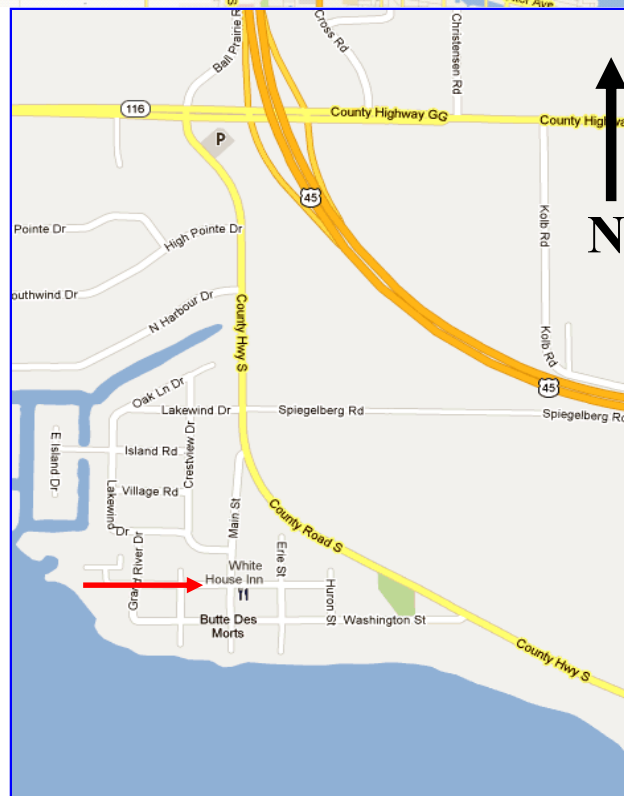
Additional information about the White House Inn can be obtained from: <http://www.whitehouseinnonline.com>

Please see the maps on this page.

**- Meeting Directions -**

From Oshkosh take Hwy 45 North, to Cty Rd S. In Butte Des Morts, turn left onto Washington St., then right onto Main Street.

From the North take Hwy 45 South to Cty Hwy GG. Go right, then left on Cty Rd S. Take Main Street South and the White House Inn will be on your left side.



# Commander's Remarks



*By Camp Commander  
William Parker*

Brothers welcome to 2015. This year marks the last year of our 150th celebration of the War Between the States. It marks the 150th anniversary of the passage of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment, the surrender of the various Confederate Armies and the Assassination of President Lincoln. Let us all take time throughout this year to reflect on the sacrifice and struggle of all Americans during this epic time in American history.

This year is also will also be a busy year for Old Abe Camp 8 our first meeting of the year will be Monday January 19th at 6pm at Jimmy's White House Inn in Butte des Morts. Our first event of the year will be at Kings Marsden Hall at 1pm for Bingo. This is a nice charitable event we do for the veterans of the King Home. February 7th will be the department of Wisconsin's midwinter

meeting and patriotic luncheon at Aliota's Restaurant in Milwaukee Wisconsin and in late February will be Echos of the Past Trade show in Oshgosh Wisconsin.

Please take time to enjoy the benefits of being a member of the SUVCW and I hope to see our camps brothers at meetings and events this year.

In Fraternity, In Loyalty and Charity

William W Parker  
Camp Commander  
Old Abe Camp 8  
wildbill@wctc.net

## **Bingo at the Veterans Home at King**

On Saturday, January 31, 2015, Old Abe Camp #8 will be doing Bingo at the Veterans Home located in King, WI at 1:00 pm. Bingo starts around 1:30 pm. We will be doing this in the Marden Center building.

This is a good time for the Camp to have exposure, help the veterans in need, and have a good time. Please try to make it. It will only last until 4 pm or so.

We will need people to bring cookies wrapped in zip locked bags with 2 cookies per bag We will need about 12 dozen cookies or enough for about 75 people.

Please wear your membership badge.  
Uniform is optional

For more information contact brother Kim Heltemes at:

[heltemesk@centurylink.net](mailto:heltemesk@centurylink.net)

# Edward S Bragg #8, ASUVCW

From the Auxiliary President:

Sister,



Edward S. Bragg #8 Auxiliary Camp held their elections on Nov 17, 2014 after the traditional "Bean Dinner". The new officers are President Kathy Heltemes, Secretary/Treasurer Lucy Peters, Chaplain Ann Kirk, and Patriotic Instructor LuAnn Williams

We are looking for three people to step up to be Council members and someone to be the Vice President. If anyone is interested, please let me know. We also need to know if you have any ideas for future activities besides what the Sons have scheduled and are also looking for some fundraiser ideas.

I would like to remind everyone Dues are due. They can be sent to Lucy Peters at 646 Rays Lane, Stevens Point, 54481. Dues are \$25 and can be made out to Edward S. Bragg Auxiliary#8 ASUVCW and are due by December 31, 2014.

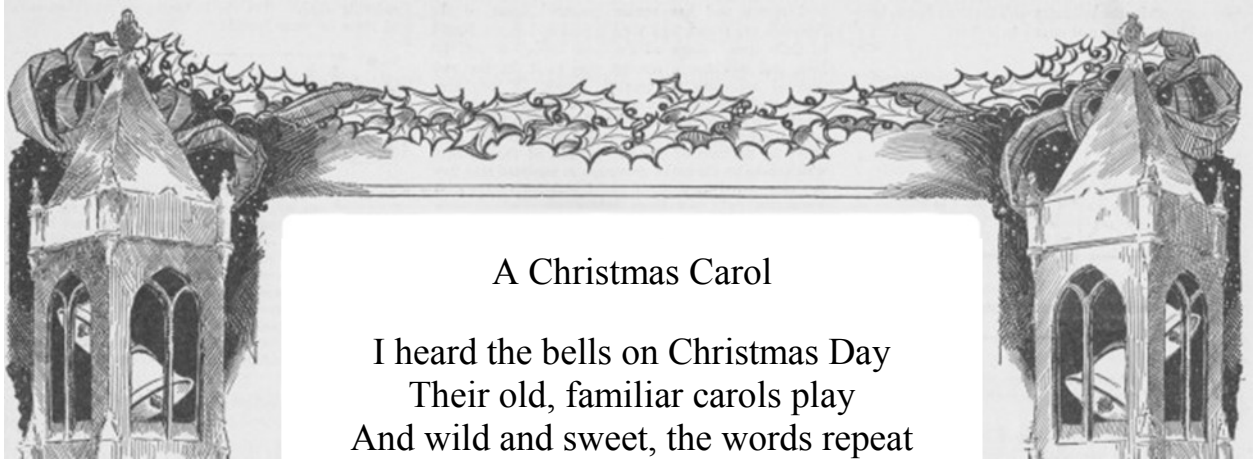
The next meeting is January 19 at Jimmies Whitehouse Inn at Butte de Mortes with dinner at 6pm and the meeting to follow. This is our Christmas get together. If you have never been to Jimmie's before you will enjoy seeing the history in the restaurant. The food is also great!

Bingo has been scheduled for Saturday, January 31 at 1:00 P.M. at the Veterans Home in King. We would like everyone that attends to please bring 2 dozen cookies each. They need to be bagged in packs of 2 cookies each. We serve these to the Veterans along with coffee after Bingo. They really appreciate the homemade cookies because they do not get those too often.

The Mid Winter State Encampment will be held on February 7, 2015. The meeting is held at 9:00 A.M. with the Annual Patriotic Luncheon at 12:30 P.M. shortly after the meeting. The encampment is held in Milwaukee in Wauwatosa. The Location is new this year. It will be held at Alioto's 3041 N. Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa. If you wish to attend a form will be attached to this newsletter.

Another event coming up in February is Echoes of the Past. This event is held in Oshkosh at the Winnebago Fairgrounds Building. The Auxiliary along with the Sons set up a table to promote and recruit for our organizations. It is a nice event featuring other historical organizations and items to buy.

I hope that each and everyone of you had



### A Christmas Carol

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play  
And wild and sweet, the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

LuAnn Williams  
Patriotic Instructor  
Edward S Bragg #8 Auxiliary

Till ringing, singing on it's way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

I would guess there are not many of you that have not heard or sung those words. It's a Christmas carol that has been around for a long time. One hundred and fifty-one years to be exact. Penned originally as a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow on Christmas Day 1863 out of despair. He had just lost his wife in a horrible fire and then news arrived that his son Charles, a Union soldier, had received crippling wounds during the Battle of New Hope Church in Virginia. I for one had no idea that it was written during the Civil War. Maybe that's because two of the original stanzas were omitted from the modern day carol. Let's read more:

Then from each black accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound, The carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men.

It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn, the households born  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said;  
For hate is strong, And mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

In 1863 I would think the United States didn't have too much to be merry about. The war had dragged on for years, instead of the predicted months. Wives and children did what they could to survive without their husbands and fathers. Particularly at

Christmastime the absence of the usual family traditions done by husbands and fathers made their absence so much more acute. Doesn't sound like much of a Christmas does it? Children of that day normally received small home made gifts, carved toys, cakes, apples and oranges. It was a far cry from the magnificent "this" or the oh so cool "that" which children of today receive. Think of the revolt that would happen if we gave our children an orange for Christmas. Now multiply that times every child in the United States. Scary isn't it? Back to 1863. Southern mothers told their children that Santa was a Yankee and would not be able to get through the Confederate pickets so that their children would not be disappointed when they received nothing for Christmas. General Sherman's soldiers disguised their horses with tree-branch antlers and delivered food to the families starving in the South. Soldiers thought of the blissful Christmases spent in the past with their families, which made their circumstances even more bleak. Soldiers use to bringing in the tree, watching their wives decorate it with sugared fruit, popcorn and spun glass ornaments and caroling in church were instead scavenging for firewood and singing drinking songs around a campfire. A day of rest and possibly a package from back home was what the soldiers hoped for. Sallie Brock Putnam of Richmond said "Never before had so sad a Christmas dawned upon us. Our religious services were not remitted and the Christmas dinner was plenteous of old; but in nothing did it remind us of days gone by. We had neither the heart nor the inclination to make the week merry with joyousness when such a sad calamity hovered over us." Our nation was a nation torn by war and conflicting emotions, the thought of it is almost overwhelming to me. This brings us to the final stanza...

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Hope was still alive. Hope that the war would soon be over. Hope that Sherman's gift of the City of Savannah to President Lincoln would bring the war to a close.

As I reflect on the words of this poem, I can't help but be thankful for all of the things our ancestors did before us. So many of us take these freedoms for granted, we push the hardships that these men and women endured aside. As we go about celebrating our holiday, take just a few minutes to be thankful, truly thankful for the freedoms we enjoy. Think about it, talk about it, just saying thank you out loud, even if no one is listening. I was once told that the best way we can honor our dead, is by talking about them, they will hear us.

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day, has new meaning to it, don't you think?



# 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 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting** **Traditional Bean Supper & Elections**

Our November meeting was our traditional bean supper. After our supper we held our regular meeting, which included the election of officers for the 2015 year.

The following are your newly elected officers:



**COMMANDER**  
**Br. William Parker**



**JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER**  
**& DELEGATE**  
**Br. Jeff Williams**



**SENIOR VICE COMMANDER**  
**& COUNCIL**  
**Br. Dennis Jacobs**



**SECRETARY**  
**Br. Alan Petit**



# November 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting

## Traditional Bean Supper & Elections



**TREASURER**  
**Br. Kurt Kirk**



**COUNCIL**  
**PCC Kirby Scott**

### **Echoes of the Past Trade Fair**

**Feb 28, 2015**  
**March 1, 2015**

*at the Winnebago Co. fairgrounds, Oshkosh, Wisconsin*

Times are Sat. 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. and Sun 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

We will have a large merchant booth (9' by 11' deep) with one table provided.

2 chairs are provided (we may need to bring more along)

We will get 4 free wristbands. More will have to pay.

There are a lot of interesting items to see & buy.

We need bodies to man the display so that everyone has a chance to circulate.

*Sign-up sheet at the January meeting.*

*email [wildbill@wctc.net](mailto:wildbill@wctc.net) for more information & directions.*



# The Cushing Brothers

Paul Johnson  
Patriotic Instructor



Paymaster Milton Buckingham Cushing, Jr.



Lt. Howard Bass Cushing



Lt. Alonzo Hersford Cushing



Cmdr William Barker Cushing

Over the years attention has been paid to Alonzo Cushing and the movement to award him the Medal of Honor. This movement was begun with a letter writing campaign to Sen. William Proxmire (D-Wis) in the 1980's.

In researching Alonzo I uncovered the story of the four brothers who served in the Civil war.

## **Paymaster Milton Buckingham Cushing, Jr. USN**

Little is known about the Older brother other than he was born April 20, 1837, In Columbus Ohio. He entered the navy at the outbreak of the Civil War. He was appointed Acting Assistant Paymaster in the U.S.N., 20 August 1864. Passed Assistant Paymaster, 23 July 1866, and Paymaster, 12 March 1869, in which capacity he served until 1882. His last active duty was in 1879 and 1880, when he acted with the fleet in the Mediterranean. He died January 1, 1887 in Dunkirk, N. York and is buried in Forest Hill Cemetery, Columbus, Franklin, Ohio

## **Lt. Howard Bass Cushing**

Howard was born Aug.22, 1838 in Milwaukee, Wis. In 1862, Cushing enlisted in the 1st Illinois Light Artillery and saw action at the Battle of Shiloh and the siege of Vicksburg. After his younger brother, Alonzo, was killed at Gettysburg in 1863, he took his place in the 4th U.S. Artillery, and stayed there for the duration of the war.

After the Civil War, Howard was stationed at Fort Washington, Md., drilling recruits. In late 1867,

he transferred to the 3rd Cavalry and within a few months became a first lieutenant, commanding Troop F. In late 1869, he was in the Guadalupe Mountains of southwest Texas, where he attacked Mescalero Apaches who had stolen livestock. On March 2, 1870, Troop F left Fort Craig, New Mexico Territory, for the Arizona Territory, where Cushing continued his pursuit of Indians. On May 26, 1870, a wagon freight train traveling from Tucson to Camp Grant was attacked by Indians, resulting in many deaths, including that of Hugh Kennedy, part owner of a ranch and store on the San Pedro River. After a long and difficult scouting mission, Cushing located the attackers and reported killing 30 of them. On May 5, 1871, in the Whetstone Mountains of Cochise County, Cushing was ambushed by Apache warriors.

He and his friend William H. Simpson, a mining engineer from San Francisco, were killed in the Battle of Bear Springs on May 5, 1871. The rest of the command retreated to Fort Crittenden.

## **Lt. Alonzo Hersford Cushing**

Born on 19 January 1841 in Delafield, Wis. and was raised in Fredonia, N. York. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point in the class of June 1861 and was immediately commissioned a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Cushing participated in most of the campaigns and battles of the Army of the Potomac up to and including Gettysburg.

On the afternoon of 3 July 1863, twenty-two year-old 1st Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing, commanding Battery A, 4th U.S. Artillery, gazed through his field glasses at massed ranks of Confederate infantry advancing across a smoke-shrouded field toward his position on Cemetery Hill about a mile south of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Although severely wounded by shrapnel in the shoulder, abdomen, and groin, the five-foot-nine-inch Cushing refused to leave his post. Bleeding profusely and in intense pain, the lieutenant could barely speak and had to relay his orders to Sgt. Frederick Fuger, his second in command.

Cushing and his comrades of the Union II Corps, Army of the Potomac, were on the receiving end of a 13,000-man infantry assault ordered by General Robert E. Lee, the commander of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. Popularly known as "Pickett's Charge," the attack against the Union center involved not only Maj. Gen. George E. Pickett's division, but also the divisions commanded by Maj. Gen. Isaac R. Trimble and Brig. Gen. James J. Pettigrew. The assault occurred on the third and final day of the Battle of Gettysburg, a rebel artillery bombardment that had preceded the infantry assault had not only left Cushing grievously wounded, but had also killed or injured many of his men and horses while disabling all but two of his guns. The area resembled a slaughterhouse. Cushing ordered his last two working guns to be wheeled up to the stone wall and directed that they fire double-shotted canister, a lethal anti-personnel round. As the Confederates surged to within one hundred yards of the wall, a rebel bullet entered Cushing's mouth and exited out the back of his skull, killing him. Since his wounding, Cushing had remained on the ground for over ninety minutes and had contributed mightily to the eventual repulse of the rebel assault, thereby securing a Union victory at Gettysburg. Cushing was later buried with full honors at West Point, his alma mater.

Cushing will be the 64th Soldier to receive the Medal of Honor for actions during the Battle of Gettysburg.

### **Cmdr William Barker Cushing, USN**

Born Nov. 4, 1842 In Delafield, Wis., but like his brother was raised in Fredonia, N. York. He attended the U.S. Naval Academy from 1857 until March 1861, when his high-spirited behavior led to his resignation.





At the outbreak of the Civil War, however, he pled his case to United States Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles himself, was reinstated and went on to acquire a distinguished record, frequently volunteering for the most hazardous missions. His heroism, good luck and coolness under fire were legendary.

He developed into "something" — a prodigy of behind-the-lines warfare, a forerunner of today's Navy SEAL. In North Carolina and Virginia, he led many daring raids and reconnaissance missions. In his most memorable triumph, in October 1864, he led a small party up the Roanoke River in North Carolina in a mission that had been turned down by other officers who regarded it as certain suicide. Eight miles up the river, at Plymouth, he sank the CSS Albemarle, a ferocious ironclad that had beaten the best of the federal Navy and rolled back hard-won federal gains.

Will accomplished this while standing in an open boat in a driving rain, under withering fire from soldiers on the shore, by patiently floating a mine under the enemy ship while its guns bore down upon him.

For this feat, Will received the "Thanks of Congress," a recognition that in its time was regarded as more prestigious than the Medal of Honor, and his reputation spread around the world. He died Dec. 17, 1874 at just 32 years from "sciatic tuberculosis," a diagnosis that could cover a number of diseases that would be more specifically identified today. Outside the Navy, his reputation largely died with the people who knew him. Five ships in the U.S. Navy have been named USS Cushing after him, the last one (DD-985) was decommissioned in September 2005.





## OLD ABE CAMP MEETING MINUTES, NOV. 17, 2014

0. Pledge of Allegiance-6:54 P.M. Fire Station #17, Algoma Blvd., Oshkosh.
1. Opening ceremony (11 members & 1 guest present)
2. Roll call of officers.
  - a. Commander-here.
  - b. SVC-here.
  - c. JVC-absent. K. Heltemes appt. to fill in.
  - d. Secretary-present.
  - e. Treasurer-present.M. Mladenik appointed Guide. A. Heise appointed Guard.
3. Minutes. Motion by W. Parker. Second by M. Bouchette. Minutes of 9-15-14 approved.
4. Treasurer's report. \$4868.39 in checking acct. CD's same as last time. \$500.00 check outstanding for the Camp Randall Memorial. We will change banks due to present bank charging fees to our acct.
5. Any sick or distressed brothers or family?
  - a. Randy Novak-is doing fair, stabilized a bit.
  - b. Dan McGraw- healing up okay. A ways to go yet.
  - c. Alan Heise-has lost several family members.
6. Introduction of visitors & guests. PDC Tom Brown here for swearing in of new officers.
7. Any new applications to review and/or acceptance? None.
8. Any member initiations? None.
9. Any communications and/or bills to address?
  - a. Thank you card from Bob & Jean Spiegelberg, for the Williams dedication.
  - b. Thank you card from Karen Zinda, Portage Co. Historical Society.
10. Prior business. None.
11. New business.
  - a. Need to set up January bingo date at King. Kim?
  - b. Need to book White House Inn for January meeting and dinner. Kirby.
12. Past events.
  - a. Wade House-good weather-went well.
  - b. Vintage Adventure-Neenah-Oct. 4-rained and blew all day- very cold- 36 degrees-K. Scott-A. Petit-J. Schumann.-otherwise went well.
  - c. Portage Co. Hist. Soc.-Halloween at Heritge Park-W. Parker-K. Scott-went well.
13. Future events & dedications.
  - a. Feb. 7-Dept. Mid-winter meeting and patriotic luncheon-new place- Aliota's Hwy 100, Milwaukee.
  - b. Feb. 28-Mar. 1-Echoes of the Past trade fair-Oshkosh fairgrounds.
  - c. May 24?-25?-Cushing dedication-Delafield.
  - d. Jun. 6-Department encampment.

- e. Jul. 17-19-Camp Randall Memorial dedication.
- 14. Patriotic Instruction. Mike Bouchette presented a very complete history of the “Sultana” disaster of 1865.
- 15. Any other old or new business?
  - a. Raffle drawings.
    - 1. 1st. prize. Rifle. Don Olson, Madison.
    - 2. 2nd. prize. Book set. Richard Merkel, Kiel.
    - 3. 3rd. prize. Print. Darren Klingerman, Verona.
  - b. Elections.
    - a. Commander-William Parker nominated.
    - b. SVC- Dennis Jacobs nominated.
    - c. JVC-Jeff Williams nominated.
    - d. Secretary- Alan Petit nominated.
    - e. Treasurer-Kurtis Kirk nominated.
    - f. Council I- Kirby Scott nominated.
    - g. Council II-Dennis Jacobs nominated.
    - h. Council III-Paul Johnson nominated.
    - i. Delegate-Jeff Williams nominated.

All nominees were declared elected unanimously due to everyone running unopposed. PDC Tom Brown swore in the new officers. List of appointed staff will be presented later.

- c. Camp dues and fee schedules for 2015. Motion to keep the same schedule made by K. Scott. Second by K. Kirk. Passed.
- 16. Has anyone done anything for the good of the order? None.
- 17. Closing ceremony. 8:25 P.M.

Submitted by Pcc Alan Petit, Secretary  
Old Abe Camp #8, Dept of Wisc., SUVCW

### ***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.

### **RENEWAL - NOTICE**

**Dues Are 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**

# 2015 Camp Calendar

## **January 19<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM**

Camp 8 regular meeting & Dinner

Location: Jimmy's White House Inn Buttes Des Morts, WI

## **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1:00 pM**

Veterans Bingo

Location: Marden Hall, Veterans Home, King, WI

## **February 7<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM**

Mid-Winter Meeting

Location: Alioto's Restaurant, 3041N. Mayfair Rd, Wauwatosa, WI

Patriotic Luncheon , 12:30PM

## **February 28<sup>th</sup> & March 1<sup>st</sup> 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM Sat. 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM Sun.**

Echoes of the Past Trade Fair

Location: Sunnyview Expo Center Oshkosh, WI

## **March 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM**

Camp 8 regular meeting

Location: Fire Station #19, Oshkosh, WI.

## **April 11<sup>th</sup>**

Lincoln Tomb Ceremony

Location: Springfield, IL

## **May 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM**

Camp 8 regular meeting

Location: Fire Station #19, Oshkosh, WI.

## **July 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM**

Camp 8 regular meeting & picnic

Location Walter Beltz Historical Landmark Church, Auroraville, WI

## **August 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>**

2015 National Encampment

Location: Richmond, Virginia

## **September 21<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM**

Camp 8 regular meeting

Location: Fire Station #19, Oshkosh, WI.

## **November 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM**

Camp 8 regular meeting, election of officers, & traditional bean supper

Location: Fire Station #19, Oshkosh, WI.

*Please send information on events that you are aware of to be included in this newsletter to:  
dennergb@hotmail.com*



# Alonzo Hersford Cushing

Cushing was born in what is now the city of Delafield, Wisconsin and raised in Fredonia, New York. His younger brother was future Union Navy officer Lt. William B. Cushing. They were the youngest of four brothers who eventually served in the Union forces (Their brother Howard was also killed while fighting the Chiricahua in 1871).

## Civil War service

Cushing graduated from the United States Military Academy in the class of June 1861, and received commissions as second and first lieutenant on the same day. He was brevetted major following the Battle of Chancellorsville. Cushing commanded Battery A, 4th U.S. Artillery at Gettysburg, and was hailed by contemporaries as heroic in his actions on the third day of the battle. He was wounded three times. First, a shell fragment went straight through his shoulder. He was then grievously wounded by a second shell fragment, which tore into his abdomen and groin. This wound exposed his intestines, which he held in place with his hand as he continued to command his battery. After these injuries, a higher-ranking officer said, "Cushing, go to the rear." Cushing, due to the limited number of men left, refused to fall back. The severity of his wounds left him unable to yell his orders above the sounds of battle. Thus, he was held aloft by his 1st Sergeant Frederick Fuger, who faithfully passed on Cushing's commands. Cushing was killed when a bullet entered his mouth and exited through the back of his skull. He died on the field at the height of the assault. He was 22 years old.

His body was returned to his family and then interred in the West Point Cemetery in Section 26, Row A, Grave 7. His headstone bears, at the behest of his mother, Mary, the inscription "Faithful unto Death."

Cushing was posthumously cited for gallantry with a brevet promotion to lieutenant colonel.

## Medal of Honor

Cushing was nominated for a belated award of the Medal of Honor, beginning with a letter campaign in the late 1980s by constituents of Senator William Proxmire of Wisconsin. The measure was also advocated by Congressman Ron Kind of Wisconsin's 3rd congressional district. In 2002, Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) nominated Cushing for the Medal of Honor and, following a lengthy investigation, the U.S. Army approved the nomination in February 2010. In order for the medal to be awarded, it had to be approved by the United States Congress. It was announced on May 20, 2010 that Cushing would receive the Medal of Honor, 147 years after his death.

However, the provision granting Cushing the Medal of Honor was removed from a defense spending bill by Senator Jim Webb (D-VA) in December 2012. In December 2013, the Senate passed a defense bill that included a provision granting Cushing the Medal of Honor. The nomination was sent to the Defense Department for review, before being approved by President Barack Obama. On August 26, 2014, the White House announced Cushing would be posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. On November 6, 2014, 151 years after Alonzo Cushing's death, President Obama presented the award at a ceremony at the White House, attended by two dozen relatives of the Cushing family.

## Legacy

Alonzo H. Cushing Camp #5 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War serves the Ozaukee County region of Wisconsin. A small state park in Delafield was dedicated to the memory of Cushing and two of his brothers, William and Howard. While the park remains dedicated to the memory of the Cushing brothers, it is now the property of the City of Delafield. Cushing Elementary School in Delafield (part of the Kettle Moraine School District) is also named after the brothers. A stone monument in honor of Cushing marks the spot where he was killed during the Battle of Gettysburg. The marker is located on Cemetery Ridge, along Hancock Avenue, at The Angle.

## Medal Of Honor Presentation – 6 November 2014



*President Obama stands with Helen Loring Ensign as he awards the Medal of Honor posthumously to Army First Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing for conspicuous gallantry, on Nov. 6, 2014 at the White House in Washington, D.C.*

First Lieutenant Alonzo Cushing was decorated today with the nation's highest military honor -- more than 150 years after he was shot three times and later killed by Confederate forces in the 1863 Battle of Gettysburg.

President Obama made a rare presentation of the Medal of Honor to a Civil War veteran during a small ceremony in the Roosevelt Room with Cushing's relatives.

"This medal is a reminder that no matter how long it takes, it is never too late to do the right thing," Obama said.

Cushing commanded an Army artillery battery that was defending Cemetery Ridge in a grueling fight that would become a turning point in the Civil War. He continued to push his men forward despite being wounded.

"I'm mindful that I might not be standing here today as president had it not been for the ultimate sacrifices of those courageous Americans," Obama said. "Today we honor just one of those men, Lieutenant Alonzo Cushing, who, as Lincoln said, gave their last full measure of devotion."



Helen Ensign, Cushing's cousin twice removed, accepted the medal on his behalf. The award marked the culmination of a 40-year effort by the family and lawmakers from Wisconsin, where Cushing was born. Congressman Ron Kind (D) and Jim Sensenbrenner (R) both attended the ceremony. It should be noted that Rep Kind is a Member of L. G. Armstrong Camp #49 Wis. Dept S.U.V.C.W.

The honor for Cushing required a congressional exemption because under rules for the award, which was created during the Civil War, it must be presented within three years of a qualifying act of heroism.

More than 1,500 Civil War veterans received Medals of Honor, but only enlisted men were authorized to receive it initially. Congress changed that a few months before the Battle of Gettysburg, but Cushing was never nominated. It was widely thought that promotions were enough recognition for officers.

The 22-year-old Cushing, a graduate of West Point, where he is now buried along with 16 other Medal of Honor recipients, subsequently took on legendary status for his leadership under fire.

It was not until a woman in his hometown of Delafield, Wisc. Margaret Zerwekh pushed forward his case 40 years ago that the military and Congress considered him for the award.

"When she discovered this story, she spent over 25 years researching, writing letters and raising her voice to ensure that this American soldier received the recognition that he so richly deserved," Obama said. "And what's more, she even managed to bring Republicans and Democrats together to make this happen. Margaret, we may call on you again sometime in the

### Images from our November Bean Dinner Meeting



William Park aka Wild Bill being sworn in as Camp Commander

Closing of the Annual Bean Dinner Meeting.





# Camp Officers for 2015

## Commander

William Parker – 351 17<sup>th</sup> Street North, WI Rapids, WI 54494  
(715) 424-2627 [wilbill@wctc.net](mailto:wilbill@wctc.net)

## Sr. Vice Commander

Dennis Jacobs – 329 N. Jackson St #5 Green Bay, WI. 54301  
(920) 471-7824 [dennergb@hotmail.com](mailto:dennergb@hotmail.com)

## 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  
(920) 982-2374 [apetitsuvcw@hotmail.com](mailto:apetitsuvcw@hotmail.com)

## Treasurer

Kurtis Kirk - W2154 Cottonville Court. Berlin, WI 54923  
(920) 361-1194 [kkirk000@centurytel.net](mailto:kkirk000@centurytel.net)

## Patriotic Instructor

Paul Johnson - 8804 Pine Lake Road Hiles, WI 54511  
(715) 649-3359 [johnson@newnorth.net](mailto:johnson@newnorth.net)

## Chaplain

PCC Vince Barker – W6109 Colonial Drive Appleton, WI 54914  
(920) 993-0676 [vbarker@new.rr.com](mailto:vbarker@new.rr.com)

## Delegate

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

## Graves Registration

PCC Vince Barker - W6109 Colonial Drive Appleton, WI 54914  
(920) 993-0676 [vbarker@new.rr.com](mailto:vbarker@new.rr.com)

## Memorials

PCC Kim Heltemes - W2570 Archer Avenue Pine River, WI 54965  
(920) 987-5911 [heltemesk@vbe.com](mailto:heltemesk@vbe.com)

## Historian

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

## Camp Council

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

## Camp Council

Paul Johnson – 8804 Pine Lake Road Hiles, WI 54511  
(715) 649-3359 [johnson@newnorth.net](mailto:johnson@newnorth.net)

## Camp Council

Dennis Jacobs – 329 North Jackson Street #5 Green Bay, WI 54301  
(920) 471-7824 [dennergb@hotmail.com](mailto:dennergb@hotmail.com)

## Newsletter Editor

Dennis Jacobs – 329 North Jackson Street #5, Gree Bay, WI 54301  
(920) 471-7824 [dennergb@hotmail.com](mailto:dennergb@hotmail.com)



**Camp 8 Newsletter**  
**Dennis R Jacobs**  
**329 N. Jackson St #5**  
**Green Bay, WI 54301**  
**dennergb@hotmail.com**

## **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 18 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!** **Membership**

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

**For New Membership, Contact:**

**Jr. Vice Jeff Williams**

**970 Christian Dr, Oshkosh, WI 54901**

**(920) 237-4752      wildbill@wctc.net**



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