



## *Camp Orders 2015-06*

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

*Grand Army of the Republic*

**"Old Abe" Camp #8**

Wisconsin Department



### **Camp November 16<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 16<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 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Supper starts at 6:00 PM,**

**Please bring a dish to pass, your  
own beverage, and place setting.**

**Meeting and Election starts at**

**7:00 PM**

**Location is:**

**Oshkosh Fire Station #17  
1813 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI.**

### **- 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 COMMENTS

**CAMP COMMANDER**  
**WILLIAM W. PARKER**



We need you.

We need you to come to the November 16<sup>th</sup> meeting at the Oshkosh fire station. It's your camp, your vote matters. How you vote determines for the next year what direction the camp takes. We need your participation. 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 Chaplin, Color Bearer, Camp Guide, Camp Guard, Camp Counselor, Camp Historian, Civil War Memorials Officer, and Graves Registration Officer. Officers if you currently sit in one of these positions please let me know as soon as possible if you want to keep your post or move up. Also if a member is interested in becoming a camp Officer please contact me. There is a job description attached in this newsletter.

Participation will be the key issue discussed at the next meeting which has been an issue lately. Our last meeting was cancelled due to lack of participation only 4 showed up. Also we lost out on Wade House Civil War reenactment raffle sales our biggest event due to lack of participation. Without your help our camp cannot thrive, we cannot discharge the business of the camp and we cannot grow our membership. Without the members of the camp there is no camp. It is not about us as individuals it about honoring the legacy of our ancestors. On paper our camp is strong as we have 43 members but when we don't see these members we are truly weak. Thank you to all who have participated in our events this year.

I would like to thank everybody who has supported me for the past year as camp commander and I would also like to say that I don't feel like my work or time is finished so if I am nominated and elected I will stay on for the next year.

Thank you. In F, C and L  
William Wayne Parker  
Camp Commander

## **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**

# Edward S Bragg #8, ASUVCW

**Auxiliary President**

**Kathy Heltemes**

Hi Sisters,

Hope this finds everyone healthy and ready for the upcoming holiday Season.

Our next Auxiliary meeting will be Monday, November 16, 2015 at 6P.M. with our annual Bean dinner and meeting to follow at 7P.M. The meeting will be held at Fire Station #17, 1813 Algoma Blvd in Oshkosh. It is at the Southern end of Riverside Cemetery. We ask everyone that attends to please bring either some type of a bean dish, desert or whatever you think would be appreciated to eat! Please bring your own drinks and utensils. I will bring paper plates and napkins for everyone.

I would like to remind everyone that it will be that time of year to hold elections for officers for the Auxiliary. Please let me know if you are interested so I can put you on the ballot. We have the following positions available: President, Vice- President, Treasurer/Secretary, Patriotic Instructor, Chaplain and 3 Council Members. We will hold elections at this meeting following the Bean dinner.

It is that time of year when dues can start being collected for the following year 2016. Dues are \$25. They can be brought to the Bean dinner and given to Lucy Peters. If you are not coming to the dinner they can be mailed to Lucy Peters at 646 Rays Lane Stevens Point, WI 54481. The check can be made out to Edward S Bragg Auxiliary #8 ASUVCW. They are due by December 31, 2015.

Our last meeting at King in September I was the only present member that attended so unfortunately I could not have a meeting. I am going to ask each and every one of you going forward if you could please email me and let me know if you are going to attend the meeting or if you will not be present. I am hoping each of you has my email if not it is [heltemesk@centurylink.net](mailto:heltemesk@centurylink.net). My phone number is (920)987-5911 and my cell is (920)851-2649. Even if you could just let me know your intentions with a quick email or phone message that would be so appreciated.

Future events that are scheduled so far is the Bingo at the Veterans Home in King at 1:30 P.M. on Saturday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January. We all make about 2 dozen to 4 dozen cookies and wrap them in groups of 2 in sandwich bags to give to the Veterans after the Bingo. If any of the sisters can make this event we truly appreciate the help. The Bingo usually last about 2 hours.

I hope to see you at the Bean Dinner on November 16. Please let me know if you can or cannot attend. Thank you Ladies! See you soon!

In F, C, & L,

Kathy Heltemes



# 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 16<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 2015 – 2016 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 Chaplin, 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

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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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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.



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### 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.



### OLD ABE CAMP MEETING MINUTES, SEPT. 21, 2015

Marsden Hall, King Army Veterans Home, King.

4 members and 1 guest present

1. There was no meeting on this date due to a lack of quorum of the camp members.

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

November 16<sup>th</sup>

Camp 8 Election of Officers and Traditional Bean Dinner 7pm

Location: Fire House #17 1813 Algoma Blvd Oshkosh WI

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

# Women in the Civil War

By Paul Johnson

Patriotic Instructor

In many ways, the coming of the Civil War challenged the ideology of Victorian domesticity that had defined the lives of men and women in the antebellum era. In the North and in the South, the war forced women into public life in ways they could scarcely have imagined a generation before.

In the years before the Civil War, the lives of American women were shaped by a set of ideals that historians call “the Cult of True Womanhood.” As men’s work moved away from the home and into shops, offices and factories, the household became a new kind of place: a private, feminized domestic sphere, a “haven in a heartless world.” “True women” devoted their lives to creating a clean, comfortable, nurturing home for their husbands and children.

## *Did You Know?*

More than 400 women disguised themselves as men and fought in the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War.

During the Civil War, however, American women turned their attention to the world outside the home. Thousands of women in the North and South joined volunteer brigades and signed up to work as nurses. It was the first time in American history that women played a significant role in a war effort. By the end of the war, these experiences had expanded many Americans’ definitions of “true womanhood.”

## *Fighting for the Union*

With the outbreak of war in 1861, women and men alike eagerly volunteered to fight for the cause. In the Northern states, women organized ladies’ aid societies to supply the Union troops with everything they needed, from food (they baked and canned and planted fruit and vegetable gardens for the soldiers) to clothing (they sewed and laundered uniforms, knitted socks and gloves, mended blankets and embroidered quilts and pillowcases) to cash (they organized door-to-door fundraising campaigns, county fairs and performances of all kinds to raise money for medical supplies and other necessities).



Clara Barton Nurse,  
Founder of the American  
Red Cross

But many women wanted to take a more active role in the war effort. Inspired by the work of Florence Nightingale and her fellow nurses in the Crimean War, they tried to find a way to work on the front lines, caring for sick and injured soldiers and keeping the rest of the Union troops healthy and safe. In June 1861, they succeeded: The federal government agreed to create “a preventive hygienic and sanitary service for the benefit of the army” called the United States Sanitary Commission. The Sanitary Commission’s primary objective was to combat preventable diseases and infections by improving conditions (particularly “bad cookery” and bad hygiene) in army camps and hospitals. It also worked to provide relief to sick and wounded soldiers

By war’s end, the Sanitary Commission had provided almost \$15 million in supplies—the vast majority of which had been collected by women—to the Union Army. Nearly 20,000 women worked more directly for the Union war effort. Working-class white women and free and enslaved African-American women worked as laundresses, cooks and “matrons,” and some 3,000 middle-class white women worked as nurses.

The activist Dorothea Dix, the superintendent of Army nurses, put out a call for responsible, maternal volunteers who would not distract the troops or behave in unseemly or unfeminine ways: Dix insisted that her nurses be “past 30 years of age, healthy, plain almost to repulsion in dress and devoid of personal attractions.” (One of the most famous of these Union nurses was the writer Louisa May Alcott.)

Army nurses traveled from hospital to hospital, providing “humane and efficient care for wounded, sick and dying soldiers.” They also acted as mothers and housekeepers—“havens in a heartless world”—for the soldiers under their care.



Dr. Mary Edwards Walker  
First Female surgeon to  
serve in Civil War  
First woman to be  
awarded the Medal of  
Honor



Sketch of uniform worn  
by Hannah Ewbanks

Another group of women served as what was known as “Vivandieres”

Vivandieres did not fight in battles but were often armed, earned honors, and were sometimes captured by the enemy. Their most important contribution was the essential medical care they provided as field nurses. As battles raged, vivandieres made their way through the wounded offering immediate medical care. Calculating the exact number of women who served as vivandieres is nearly impossible. Neither North nor South recognized the service of and they are rarely mentioned in official records. Their courage and brave deeds are recorded in personal accounts and post-war regimental histories. We know that two such women volunteered as vivandieres in two Wisconsin regiments: Eliza Wilson with the 5<sup>th</sup> Wis and Hannah Ewbanks with the 7<sup>th</sup> Wis. Their service was brief, Hannah, sister of Sgt Thomas Ewbanks left camp in Washington in June of 1862 and Eliza went home a few months later. Neither had been near a battle.

### *Women of the Confederacy*

White women in the South threw themselves into the war effort with the same zeal as their Northern counterparts. The Confederacy had less money and fewer resources than did the Union, however, so they did much of their work on their own or through local auxiliaries and relief societies. They, too, cooked and sewed for their boys. They provided uniforms, blankets, sandbags and other supplies for entire regiments. They wrote letters to soldiers and worked as untrained nurses in makeshift hospitals. They even cared for wounded soldiers in their homes.

Many Southern women, especially wealthy ones, relied on slaves for everything and had never had to do much work. However, even they were forced by the exigencies of wartime to expand their definitions of “proper” female behavior.

#### *Slaves and Freedwomen*

Slave women were, of course, not free to contribute to the Union cause. Moreover, they had never had the luxury of “true womanhood” to begin with: As one historian pointed out, “being a woman never saved a single female slave from hard labor, beatings, rape, family separation, and death.” The Civil War promised freedom, but it also added to these women’s burden. In addition to their own plantation and household labor, many slave women had to do the work of their husbands and partners too: The Confederate Army frequently impressed male slaves, and slave owners fleeing from Union troops often took their valuable male slaves, but not women and children, with them. (Working-class white women had a similar experience: While their husbands, fathers and brothers fought in the Army, they were left to provide for their families on their own.)

#### *A Women’s Proper Place?*

During the Civil War, women especially faced a host of new duties and responsibilities. For the most part, these new roles applied the ideals of Victorian domesticity to “useful and patriotic ends.” However, these wartime contributions did help expand many women’s ideas about what their “proper place” should be.

### ***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 [suvcw-wi.org](http://suvcw-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 Newsletter Editor. Deadline for a submission is 3 weeks prior to a meeting.

## Our Wisconsin Women

By LuAnn Williams

Auxiliary Patriotic Instructor

In 1860 Wisconsin was a “frontier state.” Money was tight, debt was the norm, bartering was commonplace. Believe it or not we had no cheese factories. Wisconsin butter was known as “Western grease” in the East. Pretty much all of the inhabitants were farmers. Men greatly outnumbered the women. More than a third of our population was foreign born. Less than 1% of the population in 1860 had been born in the South. In all of the state in 1860 we had 0 slaves. Wisconsin rallied however when the President asked for support, Wisconsin was very much against slavery. However, not all men were eager to go to war to support the cause. Many of the immigrants came to the United States to avoid military conflict in their homelands. When, in 1862, the government announced a draft, riots broke out in towns like Port Washington and Luxemburg. In the end more than 90,000 soldiers from Wisconsin participated in the war in the South. Of those, 12,000 fathers, sons, brothers, and husbands would not return. Those that did return often were “broken”, both physically and mentally. Some were crippled, some were alcoholics, some diseased. Many returned to a state whose culture they no longer knew and loved. When I think of the Civil War it’s hard for me to wrap my mind around it. It happened there, or down South, or somewhere but not here. There may not have been any battles here, but that is not to say that Wisconsin was not impacted at the home front.

Wisconsin women were put to the test. With their men gone, these women had to work their farms if they were to survive. Women from the states out East were shocked when they learned that our Wisconsin women were working the fields. Our ancestors helped make Milwaukee the largest shipper of wheat. Wisconsin wool began replacing the Southern cotton that was no longer available. In this respect, Wisconsin women were able to step up to the plate, something that the Southern women had more problems with. Between 1860 and 1870 the number of Wisconsin women in industries and commercial businesses grew by 500%. Our economy boomed as we provided goods to our soldiers, and we were able to do it without threat of battlefields in our backyards.

The beer industry in Wisconsin grew by leaps and bounds during the Civil War. Apparently the beer tasted better than the water in the trenches. No surprise there I guess since we had so many soldiers that were born in Germany. Cheese making also became a huge industry. We were able to supply it to our troops and it was easily transported. In 1861 we did not have a single cheese factory, but in 1865 we had 30.

When our soldiers were injured and hospitalized, once again the Wisconsin women stepped up to the plate. Women like Cordelia Harvey demanded that our soldiers were better taken care of. Her persistence resulted in the establishment of 3 hospitals for our soldiers in Wisconsin, one in Madison, one in Milwaukee and one in Prairie du Chien.



The Civil War essentially opened many doors for Wisconsin women not only in industry and commercial endeavors, but also in education. Because so many of its students went off to war, the University of Wisconsin created what they called the normal department so that women could be trained as teachers. Prior to that time the University was strictly male. One professor even said that the “experiment” had been a success. Once again proving that Wisconsin women have the gumption to get things done.

I guess what I am saying here is we should be proud not only of the men that went off to war, but of the women that stayed behind. So often we look at the big picture, only to forget about the supporting cast. We are fortunate that we come from such good stock. We need to educate ourselves about the role that Wisconsin, and Wisconsin women played in the Civil War. There are so many stories that are overlooked, we have much to learn.

#### Editorial

The brothers of Camp #8 have embarrassed me in a major way. Our last camp business meeting was ALMOST held on the 21st. at King. I was there (camp secretary), Kim was there, Bill (camp commander) was there, Dennis Jacobs (SVC) was there, and 1(one) guest, that the camp commander invited was there. The guest was a brother transferring from a Florida camp. He is a new resident of this area. He was the 5th man present. We did not have a meeting due to lack of quorum. We did have a very friendly conversation and are tighter than ever. I was ashamed of Camp 8 in that we could not welcome our guest as a member of camp 8. This is the first time that I ever attended a camp meeting that was cancelled due to lack of interest since the camp was chartered in 1999.

Our camp has 43 members. The best we have ever turned out for a meeting was 15. I have the records. Why? Why did you join? Because the members badge looks nice and important? Because the name brother of the SUVCW sounds good?

Because SUVCW sounds good on a resume?

I joined because SUVCW was a heritage organization that honored my Civil War ancestor. By our second camp meeting I was appointed a camp officer. And I dug in, to be worthy. My personal opinion is if you are going to do something, do it right.

So again, we have 43 members. Most of whom are paper members and have never attended a meeting or a camp event.

Ask me my choice. 43 members, most of whom are members in name only, or 20 members, of whom we can assemble 12? Do I make myself clear? I would rather face hell with 6 trusted companions than with 43 questionable people. Now you consider this and make your choice as secretary, if you decline to stay with us, and leave I will respect that stand more than that of a false members who stay. We do not need members in name only, just for their dues check. We will get by without you.

PCC Alan O. Petit  
Secretary, Old Abe Camp #8  
Dept. of Wisc, SUVCW

# Camp Officers for 2015

## Commander

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## Sr. Vice Commander

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## Jr. Vice Commander

Jeff Williams – 970 Christian Drive Oshkosh, WI 54901  
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## Secretary

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## Patriotic Instructor

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## Camp 8 Newsletter

Dennis Jacobs  
329 N. Jackson Street #5  
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dennergb@hotmail.com

**Next Old Abe Camp 8 Meeting  
will be on November 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Supper starts at 6:00 PM**

**Meeting starts at 7:00 PM**

**Location is:**

**Oshkosh Fire Station #17  
Oshkosh, WI.**

## 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) 232-4752**



Find us on  
**Facebook**

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