



Camp Orders 2016-03
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Grand Army of the Republic
“Old Abe” Camp #8
Wisconsin Department



**Camp May 16th Meeting Will Be Held At Oshkosh Fire Station
#17, 1813 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI**



Our March meeting, Monday, May 16th, is being held at Oshkosh Fire Station #17, 1813 Algoma Blvd, Oshkosh, WI.

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

- Meeting Directions -

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

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

Commander's Comments

Camp Commander

William W. Parker



Spring has sprung, and we begin our preparations for the spring events. May 14th and 15th I will be at Pinecrest Village Civil war reenactment near Manitowoc Wisconsin we will have a small recruit booth there. Also on Sunday May 15th for those who want to remain close to home our information booth will be set up at the King Open house at the King Veterans home. Of course I can't forget to mention Memorial Day on May 30th the camp will be split between Oshkosh and King for the services there. Also June 11th is the Wisconsin Department encampment in Wind Lake Wisconsin.

Monday May 16th will be our next meeting at the Oshkosh fire station. This will be an important meeting as we will be discussing finishing off the ceremonial flag project we began last summer, we purchased 2 new camp flags but we still need to get the new national flags and poles for everything. I got a very nice quote from Squaw Creek Sutlery in Texas that makes silk flags with hand painted stars for \$300 apiece. Also we need to discuss buying some new flag holders for cemeteries as our stock pile has run out. So please try to attend.

Pinecrest Historical Village Civil War Reenactment

We need your assistance at the Old Abe Camp 8 booth

Saturday May 14, 2016 9am - 4pm

Sunday May 15, 2016 9am - 4pm

King Veterans Home Open House

Sunday May 15, 2016 10am - 3pm

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

To receive a copy of the Edward S Bragg #8, ASUVCW Newsletter
Email LuAnn Williams Lulabell0806@yahoo.com

2016 Camp Calendar

- May 14th – 15th, 9 AM – 4 PM** Pinecrest Historical Village Civil War Reenactment
Location: Manitowoc, Wisconsin
- May 15th, 10 AM – 3 PM** King Veterans Home Open House
Location: King, Wisconsin
- May 16th, 7:00 PM** Camp 8 regular meeting
Location: Oshkosh Fire Station #17
- May 30th** Memorial Day – Oshkosh & King Veterans Home
Location: Oshkosh Riverside Cemetery & King, Wisconsin
- June 11th** Wisconsin State Department Encampment
Location: Wind Lake, Wisconsin
- June 25th- 26th, 10 AM - 4:30 PM** Heritage Hill State Park Civil War Reenactment
Location: Green Bay, Wisconsin
- July 18th, 7:00 PM** Camp 8 regular meeting & picnic
Location to be announced
- August 11th – 14th** National Encampment
Location: Springfield, IL
- September 19th, 7:00 PM** Camp 8 regular meeting
Location: Oshkosh Fire Station #17
- September 24th – 25th** Civil War at Old Wade House
Location: Old Wade House, Greenbush, WI
- November 21st, 7:00 PM** Camp 8 regular meeting, election of officers, & traditional bean supper
Location: Oshkosh Fire Station #17

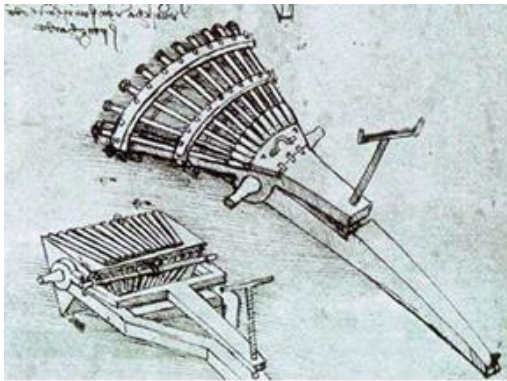
*Please send information on events that you are aware of to be included in this newsletter to:
dennergb@hotmail.com*

The Gatling Gun and Beyond

Paul Johnson

Patriotic Instructor

The Gatling gun is considered a forerunner of the modern machine gun. First a little background. Ever since the development of the first firearms in China in about the 10th Century (13th century in Europe) there has been a search on to make them fire more rapidly. One of the earliest designs was made by Leonard DaVinci in 1481 with his design for a multi-barreled cannon.

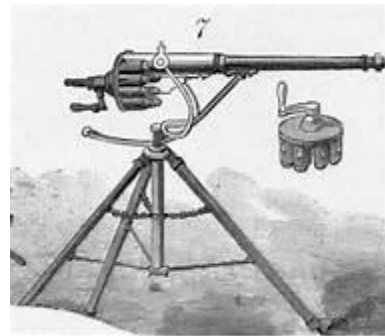


The way Leonardo DaVinci saw it, the problem with the canons of the time was that they took far too long to load. His solution to that problem was to build multi-barreled guns that could be loaded and fired simultaneously.

This idea forms the basis of war inventions like DaVinci's 33-barreled organ, which featured 33 small-caliber guns connected together. The canons were divided into three rows of 11 guns each, all connected to a single revolving platform. Attached to the sides of the platform were large wheels.

All the guns on the organ would be loaded and then, during battle, the first row of 11 would be fired. The platform would then be rotated to properly aim the next row of cannons. The idea was that while one set of canons was being fired, another set would be cooling and the third set could be loaded. This system allowed soldiers to repeatedly fire without interruption.

The weapon is referred to as an "organ" because the rows of canon barrels resemble the pipes of an organ. Leonardo DaVinci's design for the 33-barreled organ is generally regarded as the basis for the modern day machine gun.



Although, on May 15, 1718, Englishman James Puckle patented his machine gun, the world's first

Puckle's invention was a flintlock, the form of firearm ignition at the top of technology of the time. It consisted of a single barrel and a cylinder pre-loaded with 11 separate firing chambers of a musket ball and powder charge in each. Puckle intended regular musket balls for use against Christians, while for fighting Muslims a different cylinder would be used to fire special cubical bullets, which he perceived as extra deadly.

Puckle intended his gun to be used aboard ships as defense against enemy sailors attempting to force a boarding. Although never mass produced and certainly not a commercial success, Puckle did manage to sell a few to John Montagu (later the Master-General of the Ordnance) for use in an expedition to capture St. Lucia and St. Vincent (islands in the Caribbean Sea).

Montagu was a notorious practical joker although there is no evidence he bought the "machine guns" as a joke.

Unlike previous attempts at rapid fire guns, such as lining up many loaded barrels and firing them either all at once or one after the other, the Puckle Gun could be quickly loaded again and again by using pre-loaded cylinders. As with other efforts at rapid fire, firearms really were not suited to become machine guns until metallic case self-contained ammunition was invented.

Since Puckle's invention did not really serve in any numbers or effectively and was not an evolutionary step in the progression of modern automatic weapons it is more of an historical curiosity rather than a milestone.

The acknowledged precursor to the modern machine gun was invented by Richard Gatling.

Gatling was no novice inventor. In fact, by 1861 he was already independently wealthy thanks to his genius for invention.

As a boy, Richard Gatling got to work with his dad as he was perfecting the invention of a cotton seed planter, and a machine for thinning young cotton plants. In his mid-teens, Gatling worked in the county clerk's office; but by the time he was twenty, he had gone into business for himself.

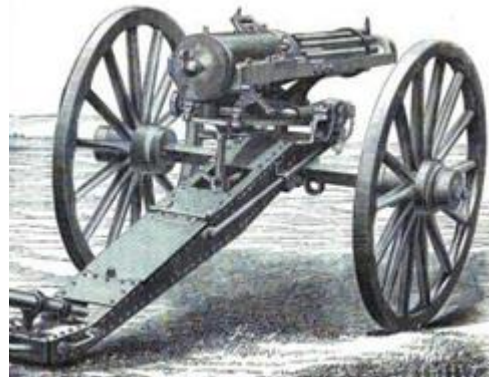
His first solo invention was a propulsion screw for steam powered ships. Unfortunately, when he went to Washington D.C. to patent his design, he found that an almost identical design had been patented just a few short months earlier.



Throughout the rest of his life, Gatling would go on to invent a wheat planting drill (1839), a double-action hemp break (1850), a steam tractor (1857), a steam powered ram and a new gunmetal alloy during the war years, and a motorized tractor many years later.

He also received patents for improvements on his own inventions as well as improvements to bicycles, toilets, and many more...

The Gatling gun was a hand-crank-operated weapon with 6 barrels revolving around a central shaft. The cartridges were fed to the gun by gravity through a hopper mounted on the top of the gun. 6 cam-operated bolts alternately wedged, fired, and dropped the bullets, which were contained in steel chambers. Gatling used the 6 barrels to partially cool the gun during firing. Since the gun was capable of firing 600 rounds a minute, each barrel fired 100 rounds per minute.



The gun had a number of problems, however. The bores were tapered, and often the barrels and chambers did not exactly align, affecting accuracy and velocity. The chamber system itself, in which a paper cartridge was contained inside a capped steel chamber, was both expensive and fragile. While the gun showed much promise and fired the standard .58-caliber ammunition, it had so many drawbacks and was so radical in both design and purpose that Gatling was unable to interest the U.S. government. The army purchased none of his guns, but Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler, after a field test, purchased 12 for \$1,000 each and two were used on the Petersburg front in 1864 and apparently were considered successful.

In Jan. 1865 Gatling's improved Model 1865 gun was tested by the Ordnance Department. Among other things, this weapon used rim-fire copper-cased cartridges instead of the steel-chambered paper variety. Though this model did not see service, it was adopted officially in 1866. Having at last received government approval, Gatling began to sell his guns throughout the world; they achieved lasting fame in the post-war years.

It was after the war that the gun began to sell in substantial quantities to the US army and overseas and brought death to many a foreign field. The British army and navy were issued with Gatlings from 1874 and France and Russia were the other principal foreign customers. The last American version was the US Army's 1903 model, dating from the year Gatling himself died and used until Gatlings were dropped altogether in 1911.

In the 1920's the slang word for any gun was a "gat"

There were other attempts at a rapid fire guns made.

The Gatling is commonly seen as the first manual machine gun used by the US military, but it was preceded by several other designs, including the Union Repeating Gun. Also known as the Ager Gun or the Coffee Mill Gun, it was a single-barrel crank operated weapon developed prior to the adoption of self-contained cartridges. Without reliable and suitably powerful (the early rim-fire cartridges were fairly anemic compared to contemporary muzzle loading charges) self-contained cartridges, the task of developing a reliable and effective repeating weapon was quite difficult. The method used by the Union gun was to use steel cylinders to act as both cartridge and chamber – not unlike the English Treeby repeating rifle of roughly the same time. Each cylinder would be loaded with powder, wad, and projectile (or a premade paper cartridge) and have a percussion cap affixed to its back face, much like a modern primer.

These loaded cylinders would then be loaded loose into the hopper atop the gun. Turning the gun's crank would rotate a cylinder to pick up cylinders from the hopper, move them into firing position, move a locking wedge into place behind to more or less seal the breech, release a hammer to fire the round, drop the locking wedge out of engagement, and drop the now-empty cylinder out the left side of the gun. Those cylinders would be collected and reloaded – this system was also closely copied by the very first Gatling guns, before brass-cased cartridges became available.

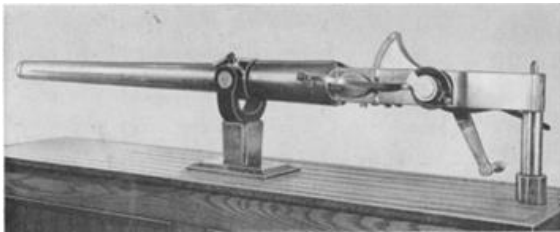
The Union Repeating Gun had the luck of being one of the first guns of its type proposed to President Lincoln and the Union Army. Lincoln was something of a gun nut himself, quite interested in new technology. He took a personal interest in the gun after seeing it demonstrated in New York in the summer of 1861, and personally ordered 10 of them over the objection of the Ordnance Department. A further order of 50 more guns was made by General McClellan. The guns performance was mixed, and they saw use only in a handful of engagements. Certainly, they were not the decisive weapon Lincoln had probably envisioned, and that letdown would temper his enthusiasm for new weapons throughout the remainder of the Civil War.



*96th Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment
with a Union Repeating Gun*

The name "Ager Gun" comes from a sales agent for the gun in England named Wilson Ager, who filed a patent for it in England. The "Coffee Mill Gun" moniker comes from the appearance of the gun and its feed hopper. The actual designer is a bit uncertain, but is probably either William Palmer or Edward Nugent (or both of them working together). The guns were manufactured by the American Arms Company, which had been formed specifically for this gun. After the end of Civil War hostilities, the guns were sold off as surplus, less a few kept in arms collections.

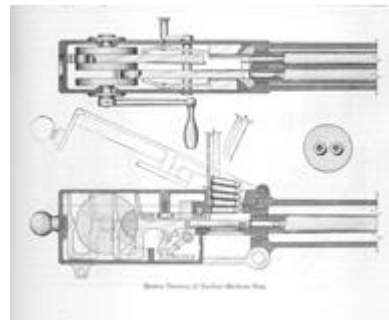
The Union was not the only party trying to develop a rapid fire weapon. The Williams Gun was a Confederate gun that was classified as a 1-lb cannon. It was designed by Capt. D.R. Williams, of Covington, Kentucky, who later served as an artillery captain with a battery of his design. It was a breech-loading, rapid-fire cannon that was operated by a hand-crank. The barrel was 4 feet long and 1.57-inch caliber. The hand crank opened the sliding breech which allowed the crew to load a round and cap the primer. As the crank was continued, it closed the breech and automatically released the hammer. The effective range was 800 yards but the maximum range was 2000 yards.



Approximately 40 were made to supply 7 different Confederate batteries. These were made at F. B. Deane Jr. & Son, Lynchburg, Virginia, Tredegar Iron Works, Richmond, Virginia, and Skates & Co, Mobile, Alabama. At the end of the war, 4 examples of this gun were captured to sent to West Point. The West Point Museum retained one gun. Other examples are now located at Kentucky Military History Museum the Virginia Museum of the Civil War at the New Market Battlefield State Historical Park, and the Watervliet Arsenal Museum.

During the early trials of the gun, the Richmond Daily Exchange dated May 20, 1862, reported that: "General Floyd attended a trial of the Williams' mounted breech-loading rifle, which is claimed will throw twenty balls a minute a distance of fifteen hundred yards". Some sources say it could fire 65 rounds per minute but accuracy was greatly reduced due to the manual loading. The Union troops did not know what the gun was. Some describe it as a rifled cannon. Others reported that it fired nails, probably on account of the noise the projectile made as it tumbled. The Williams Gun was not perfect and the Union had much better rapid-fire weapons than the Confederacy.

Efforts to rapid fire continued after the war in 1885 came the Gardner Gun.



Gardner Gun's bridged the technology gap between the heavy and complex Gatling and the 1905 Maxim fully automatic machine gun.

It is generally estimated that only twenty-one U.S. made guns were manufactured, some sources claim around fifty.

Historical records indicate that only eighteen were sold to the U.S. Government, with most going to the U.S. Navy.

The last original gun made is now in the Smithsonian collection. Many more were sold to foreign governments, particularly England, who set up their own production facility. The Gardner was the last hand actuated "machine" gun

The true machine gun relies on a constant cycle of loading, firing and ejecting cartridges as long as the trigger is depressed.

In 1870 a Lt. D. H. Friberg of the Swedish army designed and patented a fully automatic, recoil-operated machine gun, known as the Kjellman machine gun. The first commercially successful self-powered machine gun was invented in 1884 by Sir Hiram Maxim. The "Maxim gun" used the recoil power of the previously fired bullet to reload rather than being hand-powered, enabling a much higher rate of fire than was possible using earlier designs such as the Nordenfelt and Gatling weapons. Maxim also introduced the use of water cooling, via a water jacket around the barrel, to reduce overheating. Maxim's gun was widely adopted and derivative designs were used on all sides during the First World War. The design required fewer crew and was lighter and more usable than the Nordenfelt and Gatling guns. First World War combat experience greatly increased the importance of the machine gun.

Heritage Hill State Park - Green Bay
Civil War Event

June 25th & June 26th

10 am - 4:30 pm

**Come and meeting the public,
Promote Old Abe Camp 8**

Memorial Day 2016

May 30th

Oshkosh - Riverside Cemetery 10:30 am

&

King Veterans Home - King Wisconsin 10:30 am

Grave Dedication at Oakwood Cemetery - Weyauwega

Meet at cemetery at Noon, 1pm Ceremony

OLD ABE CAMP MEETING MINUTES, MAR. 21, 2016

1. Started 7:05 P.M. Motion to dispense with the ritual for tonight. Passed. K. Heltemes gave the chaplain's prayer. Fire Station #17, Oshkosh (six members present)
2. Roll call of officers: NONE.
3. Treasurer's report: NONE.
4. Any sick or distressed brothers? K. Scott has had some heart surgery (2 stents) and needs more. He will be the U.W. hospitals for his work. Send him your support.
5. Introduction of guests. NONE.
6. New members. NONE.
7. Prior business:
 - a. The July picnic will be at K. Kirks house. All other 2016 meetings will be held here, at Fire Station #17, Oshkosh.
 - b. Raffle Need 1st, 2nd, & 3rd. Prizes? After discussion, decided not to hold a raffle this year. Camp #8 has \$9800.00 in the bank which we are not using and just sitting on. We will set up our display anyway for recruitment and informational purposes.
8. New business:
 - a. New member packet. New member packet needs to be re-done. K. Heltemes W. Parker, A. Petit, and the Camp JVC are involved. Revise old version with some stuff from Camp #1.
 - b. Recruiting brochure needs to be done over. Nat'l brochures are available.
 - c. Camp #8 website, on the dept. website needs some work
9. Past events:
 - a. January bingo session at King. A few roadbumps, but otherwise went well.
 - b. February Dept. Mid-winter meeting. Went well. Good numbers attended.
 - c. February Echoes of the Past trade fair. Low numbers of the camp in attendance. Otherwise went well.
 - d. March Dept officer's meeting. Recruiting and retention was the focus. Summary. We are not a reenactor's group.

10. Camp 8 received several pup tents from a museum/library in the valley.
Thank you.
- a. May 14-15-Pinecrest Village, Manitowoc. CW event. Some of camp will go there.
 - b. May 15-King open house-some of camp will go there. A.Petit, J. Waid, B. Peters/, K. Kirk? Others?
 - c. May 30-Memorial Day-Camp splits between Oshkosh and King. See newsletters for more information or e-mail camp officers. May be more at Bowler later in the day.
 - d. Jun. 11-2016 Dept Encampment. See Dept. website or camp newsletter for more information. Register by Jun. 3. to attend. NOTICE Call, Email or write me. A. Petit, Camp secretary for a credentials card in order to vote. Email or call or write. Cards can be had at our nextmeeting, May 16, or at the Dept. encampment. I will be there early.
 - e. Apr. 30-UW-SP march in honor of a US-SP ROTC cadet who died before. None of us likely to go. Too old, too infirm. Check with W. Parker.
11. Any communications or bills to address? NONE.
12. Any old or new business?
Jun 25-26-Heritage Hill-Green Bay, Wisc.-CW event. Contact the park.
13. Patriotic instruction. See Newsletter.
14. Anything for the good of the Order?
K. Heltemes and D. Jacobs are going to do some CW presentations.
15. Closing. Closed at 8:03 P.M.

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

Heard ye of "Old Abe" the war eagle who went
From his home by the Lakes to the far sunny coasts,
To share the brave fortunes of that regiment
Which numbered the Eighth in *Wisconsin's* proud hosts?
When army clouds mingled in that civil storm
Which hung o'er the nation in deep lowering gloom,
Above a horizon of breastworks his form,
The emblem of Liberty, proudly did plume.
Away in the dimness of uncertain strife
He spread his bold flight towards Victory's sky -
Tho' treason smote hard at the National life -
And soared to her parapets looking on high.
From whence mangled Slavery, low at the feet
Of proud stamping battle, he stooped then to spurn,
And homeward flew back with the brave boys to meet
The loved ones who waited to hail their return.

Publication: The Christian Recorder

Date: October 28, 1897

Title: Old Abe, the War Eagle of Wisconsin.

Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania





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. Also, visit the national SUVCW website at 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.

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 Ron Arndt

N10998 Town Hall Rd, Marion, WI 54901

(715) 754-4842

roliarndt@frontiernet.net



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