

Camp Orders 2016-04

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Grand Army of the Republic

"Old Abe" Camp #8

Wisconsin Department

July 2016

Camp Summer Picnic will be held on Monday July 18th at 6:00pm with 7:00pm meeting at the home of Br. Kurt Kirk

W2154 Cottonville Court, Auroraville



Remember to bring utensils, a chair, and a dish to pass.

Please RSVP the Saturday before so I know how much meat to purchase and tables to line up if necessary.

To get to Kurt's house at W2154 Cottonville Ct, go north at the Hwy 21 and 49 intersection into Auroraville. Before the dam, at the Willow Inn, turn right on Cottonville Ct by the old store. Go down a few hundred yards and you will see a yellow house and garage. Coming from the North, follow 49 South and cross the dam, turning left at the Willow Inn. If you have any questions and to RSVP, please call 920-361-1194.

Please RSVP by Saturday July 18th for the Summer Picnic.

W2154 Cottonville Court, Auroraville

Brother Kurt Kirk 920-361-1194

Please bring a dish to pass and a chair

COMMANDER'S COMMENTS

CAMP COMMANDER
WILLIAM W. PARKER



I would like to say Thank you to all who participated in the Memorial Day services at King and Oshkosh, along with everyone who assisted in the grave dedication at Weyauwega. Thank you to Brother Dennis Jacobs for setting up a booth at Heritage Hill State Park during their Civil War weekend.

Right now our participation is weak at events and meetings, we need to work on changing this to make our camp successful. The next meeting is a potluck at Brother Kurt Kirks house in Auroraville Wisconsin.

I would like to congratulate Brother Allen Petit, who was elected our new Department Commander for Wisconsin, and Brother Paul Johnson who was awarded a certificate of appreciation for his excellent work on our department newsletter at this year's department encampment.

Our scheduled events are a bit light this summer, but we do have two upcoming events. August 11th to the 14th is our National Encampment in Springfield, Illinois. September 24th and 25th is the Civil War event at Old Wade House, this event will be a great time to recruit new members and educate the public about our organization.

Until We Meet Again, Goodbye and Safe Travels this Summer Season.

In F, C and L

William Parker

Commander Old Abe Camp 8



King Memorial Day Program at the King Veterans Home
Photograph by PCC Kirby Scott

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

2016 Camp Calendar

July 18th

Camp 8 Summer Picnic and Meeting

Location: Brother Kurt Kirk's home W2154 Cottonville Ct, Auroraville

August 11th – 14th

National Encampment

Location: Springfield, IL

September 19th

Camp 8 regular meeting 7pm

Location: Fire house #17 1813 Algoma Blvd Oshkosh WI

September 24th & 25th

Old Wade House Civil War

Location: Old Wade House Greenbush, WI

November 21st

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*

HATS IN THE CIVIL WAR

BY

PAUL JOHNSON

CAMP 8 PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

During the Civil War, the concept of “uniform” was a bit loose. In the beginning volunteer troops often showed up in their state issued uniforms, e.g. Wisconsin volunteers of the first 8 regiments were clad in gray uniforms. As the war progressed the army became more uniform, mainly due to the economy of equipping troops with factory made clothing, and economy of scale demanded sameness.

An excellent web source for information is <http://howardlanham.tripod.com/newindex.html>

It has to be remembered that regulations and the reality of the war era did not always mean uniformity, especially with officers who seem to treat “regulations” as “suggestions.”

Many photographs, especially of groups of officers show a wide interpretation of these suggestions, especially when it comes to hats.



The Hardee hat, also known as the Model 1858 Dress Hat and sometimes nicknamed the "Jeff Davis", was the regulation dress hat for enlisted men in the Union Army during the American Civil War. The Hardee hat was also worn by Confederate soldiers. However, most soldiers found the black felt hat to be too hot and heavy and shunned its use, preferring a kepi or slouch hat. In the Union Army, the most prominent wearers of the Hardee hat during the war were the soldiers of the "Iron Brigade", also known as the Black-Hats. However, the unadorned, plain and often field-modified Hardee hat was worn by Union troops especially in the Western theater.

The hat apparently was named after William J. Hardee, a career officer in the U.S. Army from 1838 until resigning his commission on January 31, 1861. Hardee was Commandant of Cadets at West Point from 1856 to 1860. He was lieutenant colonel of the 1st U.S. Cavalry until just before the war. In 1855, he published Rifle and Light Infantry Tactics for the Exercise and Manoeuvres of Troops When Acting as Light Infantry or Riflemen, popularly known as Hardee's Tactics, which became the best-known drill manual of both sides of the Civil War. He joined the Confederate States Army in March 1861 and eventually became a lieutenant general and corps commander.

U.S. Army regulations specified that the hat should be adorned with a brass hat device and a wool hat cord denoting the branch of service of the wearer: sky blue for infantry, scarlet for artillery, and gold for cavalry. The brim was to be pinned up on the right side for cavalrymen and artillerymen and on the left for infantry soldiers.

The officer version, which was privately purchased, had a ½ inch black silk binding and the branch service and eagle patch were embroidered and the hat cord was a black & gold cord with “acorn” tips





The kepi is most often associated with the American Civil War era, and continued into the Indian Wars. Union Officers were generally issued kepis for fatigue use. A close copy of the contemporary French kepi, it had a sunken top and squared visor. It was often called a "McClellan cap", after the Union commander of the Army of the Potomac, G.B. McClellan. For field officers, the caps were often decorated in a French-influenced style, with a dark velvet band around the base and black silk braiding on the crown. The kepi was also popular with various state units and as privately purchased headgear; e.g., it was standard issue in 1861 for New York infantry regiments.

The kepi is not to be confused with the model 1858 forage cap, sometimes called a "bummer cap", which evolved directly from the used by the regular army earlier in the 1850s (see the design of the crown, chinstrap, brim, and buckle).

The forage cap became the most common form of cap worn by U.S. regulars and volunteers during the American Civil War, though it is most commonly associated with the eastern theater of the war, since western troops generally preferred broad-brimmed felt hats. The M1858 forage cap, based on the French kepi, was the most common headgear worn by union troops even though it was described by one soldier as "Shapeless as a feedbag". There were two types of brims: the first, called the McClellan cap was flat; the second, called the McDowell cap, was curved.



U.S. Army regulations called for insignia to be put on the top of the cap, with branch of service (infantry, cavalry or artillery) in the middle, company letter above and the regimental number below. In 1863 the corps badge was introduced in the Army of the Potomac in an attempt to boost morale among the troops; this badge was also added to the cap. If the soldier was in the infantry the bugle horn was put below the disk, with the regimental number inside the infantry horn, the company letter above the horn and the corps badge above that. It should be noted, however, that more frequently than not the soldier lacked this degree of insignia. Occasionally, the branch of service, company letter or regimental number insignia was also used. After the Civil War, the forage cap fell into disuse; it was rarely worn, but was in use until the 1870s. Forage hats were like because as one diarist put it "we can carry more eggs in it."



Many troops would replace their regulation kepis with civilian hats (normally in black). Popular styles included the slouch hat with either a flat or round top (the latter was issued to the Garibaldi Guard with black feathers added to resemble the Italian bersaglieri hat), pork pie hat, telescope crown hat, flat cap, bowler hat or smoking cap (worn in camp when off-duty)



Marines were issued tall leather shakos before the war but in the field these were replaced with kepis (often with the red enameled brass M badge from the shako added)



Slouch Hats were private purchase and most often seen in Civil War photos associated with officers such as Geo. Meade and U.S. Grant. Western troops also purchased them because of the wide brim and high crown.

The chapeau de bras is only rarely seen in Civil War images, but was a regulation optional headgear. The regulations stated that a light French chapeau was optional for generals, staff officers and chaplains. The chapeau evolved from the tricorne hat of the Revolutionary era.

In the case of the chapeau or "bicorn" the front and back were cocked up and an ornamental cockade and strap with eagle were displayed in the front. Chapeau came to be worn in a "fore and aft" style rather than the side-to-side "athwart" style of Napoleon. Chapeaux de bras continued as a dress item into the Twentieth Century and were not given up by the Navy until 1940.



OLD ABE CAMP MEETING MINUTES, MAY 16, 2016

7:45 P.M.

Fire Station #17, Oshkosh
(four members present)

1. No meeting was held on this date due to lack of a quorum.
2. An informal discussion was held to make plans for activities at King, Oshkosh, and Weyawega on Memorial Day. The Camp Commander will follow up with phone calls and emails. Some very rough headcounts were made.

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

OLD ABE CAMP 8 IN ACTION



Double Grave Dedication on Memorial Day afternoon at Oakwood Cemetery, Weyauwega, Wisconsin.

We installed a new headstone for Teal who was a veteran from the Mexican American War and tried to enlist into the Civil War, but was unable to serve due to a chronic illness he received during the Mexican American War.

In the same cemetery was Ludwig Lange, a Civil War ancestor of our Sister Lu Ann Williams. He was a private in Company F, 6th Wisconsin.

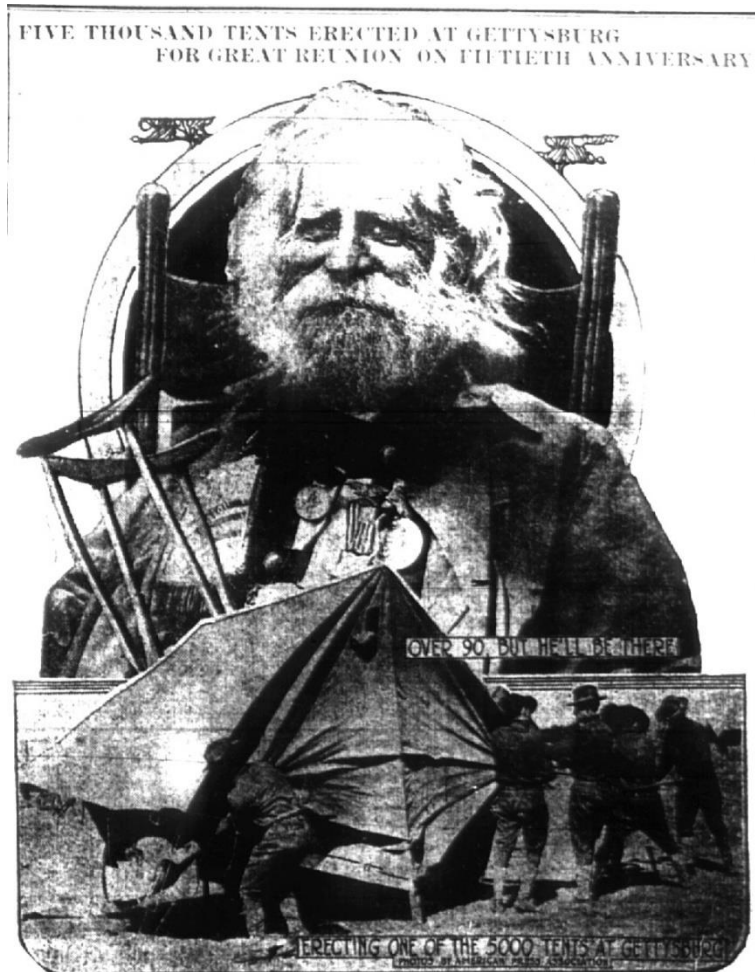
Photographs supplied by PCC Kirby Scott



Left

Group photograph from Memorial Day at Oakwood cemetery in Weyauwega.

Photograph supplied by PCC Kirby Scott



Above

Located this image on the front page of the Green Bay Gazette from June 27, 1913.

It was in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg.

**CIVIL WAR AT OLD WADE HOUSE
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO WORK
THE BOOTH**

SEPTEMBER 24TH AND 25TH

**OLD WADE HOUSE
GREENBUSH, WISCONSIN**

Camp Officers for 2016

Commander

William Parker – 351 17th Street North WI. Rapids, WI 54494
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Sr. Vice Commander

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Jr. Vice Commander

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Camp 8 Newsletter

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NEXT OLD ABE CAMPE 8 MEETING July 18th

**Picnic starts at 6:00pm at
W2154 Cottonville Court
Auroraville, WI.**

**Meeting starts at 7:00PM
After the cookout**

**Wear Your
Membership Badge**

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. 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



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