



**Camp Orders 2018-01**  
**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**  
*Grand Army of the Republic*  
**“Old Abe” Camp #8**  
 Wisconsin Department  
 January 2018



**Camp January 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting Will Be Held At The White House Inn  
 Located In Butte Des Morts, Wisconsin**

Next Old Abe  
 Camp 8 Meeting  
 Thursday Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>

Meal begins at 6:00 PM  
 Meeting starts at 7:00 PM

The White House Inn  
 5776 Main Street  
 Butte De Morts, WI.

Wear Your  
 Membership Badge



Our January meeting, Thursday, January 18<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, 27th Wis Inf. Tunis is the ancestor of White House Inn owner, Miles LeFever.

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 you left side.

**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**

# Commander's Comments

**Camp Commander  
Dennis R. Jacobs**



I hope you all have had a happy and joyful holiday season. I am glad to report we had a nice group of people representing the camp at King Veteran's Cemetery for Wreaths Across America on December 16<sup>th</sup>. I would like to thank everyone who showed up to brave the cold that day. The cemetery looked really nice with the white snow cover and the green wreaths against the veteran's headstones.

With the New Year comes many opportunities to be an active member in the camp. Please check the camp calendar for information on events. I look forward to seeing my fellow brothers in the coming year.

As a reminder, we have our winter dinner meeting on Thursday January 18<sup>th</sup> at The White House Inn at Butte De Mortes. Dinner at 6 PM with meeting starting about 7 PM. Besides the meeting, we have bingo at King Veterans Home on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm.

Our next event is Bingo at the King Veteran's Home on January 27<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm. For those available, we need people verify bingo cards and to hand out quarters. We also need people to bring cookies. See the ad on this page for details

Happy New Year  
In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty  
Dennis R Jacobs  
Camp Commander



December 5<sup>th</sup>, Br. Don Blaney and wife Kathy presenting Civil War history and stories to students from Valley Christian School at the Veterans Museum in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Photo by Br. Don Blaney

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

On Saturday, January 27, 2018, Old Abe Camp #8 will be hosting 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)

# Wreaths Across America 2017



A few of the members waiting  
for the start event.  
Photo by Br. Rich Beggs



## Wreaths Across America King Veteran's Cemetery King, Wisconsin December 16, 2017

PCC Vince Barker (top)  
Br. Rich Beggs (right)  
CC Dennis R Jacobs (lower right)  
DJV Kirby Scott (lower left)  
PDC Kim Heltemes (left)

Photos by Department Junior  
Commander Kirby Scott



# 2018 Camp Calendar

## January 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM

Camp 8 regular meeting & Dinner

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

## January 27<sup>th</sup>, 1:00pm

Veterans Bingo

Location: Marden Hall, Veterans Home, King, WI

## February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 AM

Dept. of WI Midwinter Meeting

Location: Aliuoto's Restaurant, Wauwatosa, WI  
with Patriotic Luncheon at 12:30 PM

## February 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</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 19<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM

Camp 8 regular meeting

Location: Fire House #17 1813 Algoma Blvd Oshkosh WI

## April 14<sup>th</sup>, 10:00AM

Lincoln Tomb Ceremony

Location: Lincoln Tomb in Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield, IL

## May 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 PM

Camp 8 regular meeting

Location: Fire House #17 1813 Algoma Blvd Oshkosh WI

## May 20<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 AM – 3:00 PM

King Veterans Home Open House and Car Show

Location: King Veterans Home, King WI.

## May 28<sup>th</sup>

Memorial Day

## June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Wisconsin State Department Encampment

Location: King Veterans Home, King, WI.

## June 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>

Pinecrest Historical Village Civil War Weekend

Location: Pinecrest Historical Village, Manitowoc, WI.

## June 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>

Heritage Hill Civil War Weekend

Location: Heritage Hill Living History Park, Green Bay, WI.

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

Camp 8 regular meeting & picnic

Location to be announced

## September 17<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM

Camp 8 regular meeting

Location: Fire House #17 1813 Algoma Blvd Oshkosh WI

## September 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>

Wade House Civil War Weekend

Location: Wade House, Greenbush, WI.

## November 12<sup>th</sup>

Camp 8 Annual Bean Dinner, Meeting and Camp Elections

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*

## Echoes of the Past Trade Fair

### Feb 24-25, 2018

*Sunnyview Expo Center, 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.

*email [dennergb@hotmail.com](mailto:dennergb@hotmail.com) for more information & directions.*

### **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 News Letter Editor. Deadline for a submission is 3 weeks prior to a meeting.

### **Mid-Winter Department Meeting And**

### **Patriot Luncheon**

February 3, 2018

Alioto's Restaurant 3041 N. Mayfair Rd.,  
Wauwatosa, Wis.

9:00AM - Noon Meeting 12:30 PM Luncheon

RSVP for Luncheon

See Department Winter Newsletter for Full Details

**Patriotic Instruction**  
**By**  
**Paul Johnson**  
**Camp 8 Patriotic Instructor**

Contrary to popular thinking, the average soldier in the Civil War seldom went hungry. True, he did not always have fresh vegetables, fresh eggs, roast beef, baked potatoes, and soft bread, but he did not starve. Late in the war the Confederates often did without many meals, but this was late in the war.

In 1861-65, as 80 years later, the home folks often did without, that "the boys" could have the best food and the best clothing available. This was particularly true in the South. The industrial North provided the uniforms and transportation which the home looms and the small carriage-makers of the South could not, so the Northern troops and civilians fared much better.

Both the North and the South had, basically, a farm economy, so until late in the war plenty of food was grown - although there was often no one to harvest it and no way to transport it after it was harvested. Again, the South was in far worse straits than the North. Much of the rich Virginia countryside, the breadbasket, had been ravaged, to say nothing of the fantastic damage done by Sherman on his march through Georgia and hence through the Carolinas.

The basic rations of both armies consisted of four items. These were hardbread, beef, beans and coffee. Let's take these first.

Hardbread. Hardtack, shipsbiscuit, pilot bread: call it what you will. It was little other than flour and water. Still it was the second basic food of both the North and the South. Here is a recipe which appeared in The Encyclopedia of Cooking in 1902.

Dissolve 1 lb. German yeast in 1/2 gallon warm water.

Stir in 7 pounds flour and work well.

Mix teacupful of above into each 1/4 pound of flour.

Work into dough. Break (roll) well.

Cut off pieces of proper size, roll out, dock.

Bake in slow oven.

Those of you who have eaten it know the taste, but few of you have eaten it when it was several weeks or months old. It was 3 1/8 inches long, 2

7/8 inches wide, and 1/2 inch thick, and hard as a rock. Sometimes it was moldy from being boxed too soon, while still warm. Properly aged before being packed, even mold hesitated to attack it. The weevils, yes; the mold, no. But the weevils could be driven out by heating it over a fire or by soaking it in boiling coffee.

To make it edible it was usually broken up and soaked in the coffee or in the soup made of desiccated or dehydrated vegetables. Some men mad "skillygalee," hardtack soaked in water and fried in pork or bacon fat. Some, if a subtler were near, and if they had any money, would toast it over the fire and then put butter on it.

There were many jokes and stories about the uses and joys of 'tack: the Texan who swore he struck a piece of steel against the stuff to start a fire, or the Kansas sergeant who was eating a piece of 'tack one morning and bit into something soft -- a tenpenny nail.

Ten to twelve of these usually made one pound and were considered a ration in the field. But, this was often reduced in both the North and the South, and, in many cases, such as Vicksburg, Petersburg, Chattanooga, and at times in the Valley, to less than one biscuit per day.

Beans. The next basic food. Not the canned Boston baked beans we know today, but dried, white navy beans. Generally they were soaked overnight if at all possible; in fact, they were cooked overnight if at all possible. In half raw form they are something to remind one of the "Georgia Militia" verses of Goober Peas. Fifteen pounds of peas or beans were issued with every hundred rations to troops in garrison. That is one helluva lot of beans. Have you ever seen them swell?

Beef. The third staple of all troops. Generally, by the time they got it, it had been salted, but with any major troop movement, there was always a herd of cattle driven along with it, by hired drovers or by the soldiers themselves. In this way the beeves could be slaughtered as they were needed.

This was done particularly in the West and the Trans-Mississippi where there was the necessary graze.

Unfortunately, it was not always possible to have fresh beef along, so salt beef or salt pork was used. The hit or miss methods used by many army meat contractors - meat purveyors - did little to enhance their prestige, and did a whole lot to increase the burden of medical orderlies and regimental surgeons. How many men became ill or died from eating bad beef will never be known, but it is an established fact that there were a lot more casualties from illness than from enemy action.

Coffee. There is not record of exactly what type of coffee was issued to the Northern troops. Neither the Library of Congress nor Official Records give any clue, other than the fact that the North bought the very best coffee it could buy. The South bought anything it could buy. Coffee was really more important to the average soldier than anything else he could beg, borrow, or steal. It got him up in the morning and put him to bed at night. Properly made it could float a horseshoe, or dissolve it. Like the Missouri River, it was too thick to swim in and too thin to walk on, and would make a jackrabbit spit in a rattlesnake's eye.

Some of the Southern substitutes for coffee were corn, rye, chicory, acorns, okra seed, can stalks, parched rice, wheat, cotton see, sorghum, English peas, peanuts, and beans. There was even some coffee made from sweet potatoes. The usual method was to mix several of the above and try to fool one's friends and messmates. The sediment obtained from sweet potato coffee was also said to be one of the best cleaning agents for carpets, drapes, and other household accessories.

I shall try to divide this into two parts: the Union and the Confederacy. The Confederate will be somewhat longer as the Union foods and rations were pretty routine throughout, but the southern armies had much of a problem both at home and in the field.

General Orders No. 54, dated 10 Aug. 1861 specified the ration to be 22 ounces of soft bread or flour, or 1 pound of hardbread; fresh beef was to be issued whenever possible, rather than salt; 1 pound. of potatoes three times per week whenever practicable; 12 ounces pork or bacon, or 1 pound 4 ounces salt or fresh beef. To every 100 rations 15 pounds beans or peas AND 10 pounds rice or hominy; 10 pounds green coffee or 8 pounds roasted (or roasted and ground) coffee; 1 pound 8 ounces

tea; 15 pounds sugar; 4 quarts vinegar; 3 pounds 12 ounces salt; 4 ounces pepper; and 1 quart molasses. By 7 July 1863 this was reduced or modified to 12 ounces pork or bacon; 1 pound 4 ounces fresh or salt beef; 18 ounces soft bread or flour, or 12 ounces hardbread, or 1 pound 4 ounces of corn meal.

To these camp rations were added one pound and four ounces of star candles and four pounds of soap.

The field rations consisted of 1 pound of hardbread and desiccated or compressed potatoes or mixed vegetables, at the rate of 1 1/2 ounce of the former and 1 ounce of the latter for each ration of beans, rice, peas, or hominy.

The same orders told commanding officers that beans, peas, salt, and fresh potatoes might be purchased, issued, and sold by weight and that a bushel of each should be estimated at 60 pounds. When necessary, fresh fruits and vegetables, dried fruits, molasses, pickles, or any other proper food might be purchased and issued in lieu of any other component.

I mentioned the desiccated potatoes and mixed vegetables earlier. They were much the same as the dehydrated vegetables that were issued to the troops in WWI and WWII. They were just that, and were compressed into a small compact packet which, when tossed into a can or bucket of water, swelled to many times its normal size. These were never popular, probably due to the fact that they were heavily spiced and seasoned as a preservative measure. They were generally used only as a last resort when the men could get nothing else.

In addition to the beef there was much pork eaten. This, too was either salted or on the hoof. Again, when large numbers of troops were on the march the authorities tried to provide them with fresh pork.

To us today this seems very drab, very "same," much like the "K" rations of subsequent wars, however, let us not forget "foraging" the troops, with their usual resourcefulness, came up with the right answer. Nothing was sacred to a forager. He took honey, eggs, poultry, potatoes, onions, sorghum, and all other garden truck. These were considered the property of the troops that got to them first, particularly in enemy country. It goes without saying that this was done by both the North and the South. In Virginia, of course, after four years of war, there was little left to take, nor was there much left in Georgia after Sherman's passage. This was the exception, however, rather than the rule. While on garrison duty many soldiers made friends with the

local civilians. In this way they were able to buy, or were invited to meals in the homes in the area. One such meal reported was:

Warm biscuits, corn bread and honey, fried ham, stewed punkin sass, good coffee, sweet milk, and buttermilk. We could not have had a better meal.

In another letter an Ohio soldier tells of making a call on one of his "Secesh" friends who had moved from Kentucky to the Cumberland River country of Tennessee. They became "good" friends as she was from Lexington and he imagined himself from Lancaster. He writes:

I called for dinner. She could not refuse a brother Kentuckian, and she prepared an excellent meal, for which she charged the very reasonable sum of fifty cents. I offered her a five. She could not change it so of course I could not pay her. I bid her 'good-day' hoping the next time I would have the change. This is the second time I have visited this good Kentucky sister. There were three of us went out to her farm and drove off a hog about a mile from camp and the same distance from the corn field. We chased the same, shooting at it six times with a revolver, but missing it. Then we ran it down and beat it to death with rocks. Then we skun it and took it to camp. We kept the hams which was as much as we could make use of, and sold the forequarters for \$2.40, which paid the butchers very well for their troubles. We did not use it for ourselves, but brought it in for the whole mess - 16 in all. We are not allowed to draw fresh pork, but you see we soldiers have instituted an underground railway of our own, on which we run a great many little extras into camp. We sill have fresh pork as long as we remain in this part of Tennessee.

The second method of obtaining the extras was from sutlers. From these licensed traders, the 1860s version of the PX, one could buy pickles, cheese sardines, cakes, candies, cigars, wine, beer, whiskey, champagne, pens, writing paper, needles and thread and all the other little things that mean so much. What did it matter that the pies were rubbery and tough, or that the whiskey was new, forty-rod, white lightning.

The sutlers' wagons followed the troops when they were on the move and were assigned special areas in each camp. The prices charged were outrageous at times, particularly after a payday, and the sutlers ran the risk of losing their entire store to an irate regiment for some real or fancied insult. Nevertheless, the sutlers played an important

part in the Civil War and were the forerunners of the Ships Stores or Post Exchanges of today.

The third way of getting extras was by mail from home. In many letters and stories we see mention of butter, cheeses, jams, jellies, cookies, cakes, and many other items. Unfortunately, the postal department was not always too efficient, or the brigade was moving too fast, and these foods were often stale, rancid, or moldy. Still, they all helped to keep up what we now call "morale."

There were three main problems with which the Confederate soldier had to contend.

1. The blockade.
2. Poor transportation facilities.
3. A crotchety doctor, some of whose acquaintances believed him insane, and who has been described as peevish, obstinate, condescending, and fault finding. This was the Confederate Commissary - General of Subsistence, Lucius B. Northrop.

Northrop's only previous service, other than being an 1831 graduate of the USMA, was as a lieutenant in the Indian Wars where he was wounded. Still, in 1861, he was appointed Colonel and Commissary General of the CSA. Possibly this man was the most disliked man in the whole South, although he did have one of the most unpleasant jobs. He may have had a bad job, but he did a worse one. He did nothing to inspire the confidence of anyone. Davis stuck by him, however, throughout the war, and he was not discharged until February 1865 when the Confederate house passed a bill DEMANDING his removal. He was an "expert bureaucrat." Everything was done by the system and no sword was allowed to cut the red tape. At First Manassas the country around was brimming with wheat, beef, vegetables, and everything else needed by an army in the field, but Northrop insisted that all supplies be shipped to the army from Richmond. Granted that this protected the countryside from the ravages of foragers, but it also left all that food for the Yankees the next time they moved through. Another example of his lack of ability is pointed up in a letter dated 17 November 1862 from R.E. Lee to Governor George Randolph of Virginia and at that time the Secretary of War of the CSA.

The future supply of subsistence for the army is to me a source of great anxiety. I have endeavored all in my power to economize that which now exists, and to provide for future wants. While in the valley, the complaints of the officers of an insufficient



supply of food for the troops became so general that after consultation with the Chief of Commissary of the army I increased the ration of flour to 1 1/8 pounds and of beef to 1 1/4 pounds. At that time we were using four ground in the valley and collecting a quantity of beef on the hoof. No other part of the ration could be furnished to the men except salt, nor could the men increase their fare by the purchase of bread, vegetables, etc. Their whole ration consisted of meat and bread. It was stated that one great cause of straggling was the insufficiency of the ration to appease the hunger of the men.

Thus, in the midst of the rich and so far unravaged Shenandoah Valley the men were still not permitted to live off the country, except for those VERY few things they were permitted to buy.

During Northrop's tenure speculation was rife. Everyone who was selfish enough to do so was hoarding (and there were many) and profiteering became a fine art. Many wartime fortunes were made. For example, on 26 June 1862 a contract was let to George W. White to furnish all beef on the hoof to all troops in the field south of Springfield, Missouri at 6 1/2 cents per pound. There is a subsequent letter in file and published in the Official Records from General Pike, commanding the area, stating that White was a speculator and a thief, and that he, Pike, could buy all the beef he needed at 3 1/2 cents per pound. Pike also says that White was a former business partner of Senator Oldham of Texas. Everything one reads, everything one sees, regarding the subsistence of the Confederate troops points to one fact: Northrop was incompetent, bureaucratic, and the worst thing that could have happened to the South.

On 19 January 1863 John Beauchamp Jones, the Confederate war clerk who had the president's ear wrote him, with proper endorsements, that many soldiers stationed in the city (Richmond) had offered to bring cattle, pigs, vegetables, and other provisions to the city if they were provided with the wagons and the men with which to move them. Northrop refused to endorse it, but did refer it to Seddon, who vetoed it, and returned it to Jones with a letter congratulating the troops on their loyalty and patriotism, but saying that the country people needed it worse than the city folks did and that the city did not really need it. This, at a time when flour was \$200.00 a barrel and butter was

\$8.00 a pound!

Still later, the commissioners of the Confederate States, meeting in Augusta, suggested that to supplement meat, 10,000 invalids and exempts be detailed to fish. The Commissioners felt, that by fishing the available waters, the meat ration could be augmented for both the troops and the civilians, in spite of the blockade. Again Northrop said NO because he did not feel the sea would provide, even though the Bible said would. Besides, it had been tried before and hadn't worked, and now there was no twine for nets and seines.

In March of 1863, he wrote a letter to Seddon with the complaint that commanding officers were interfering with the rations, saying that "... it was unauthorized and inadvisable for many reasons, but under the existing circumstances it is mischievous. It is not to be expected and it is not the fact that commanding officers are the best judges of the subsistence of a country and they are not to be permitted to issue any orders respecting ratios whatever. If they think the best is not done let them say so to the Secretary of War who can inform himself and act. Any further action by the commanding officers only tends to render the army dissatisfied and to cause too rapid consumption of supplies.

He did say in the same letter, however, that the subsistence of the different divisions of the army should, if possible, be from the productions of the district wherein they respectively operate. It was obvious here, though, that he was forced to make that concession due to the condition of the southern railroads.

Before supplies got too short and before prices went to the sky, there is a record of an estimate of funds required for the subsistence of 475,000 men from 1 January 1863 to 30 June 1863 (181 days). This would require 86,575,000 rations at \$1.12 each; 1,000,000 gallons of molasses at \$1.00 per gallon; and 1,000,000 gallons of whiskey at \$2.50 per gallon. The foregoing is supplemental to the one submitted 12 December 1862 and was necessitated by the greatly increased cost of all the articles constituting the ration. Imagine a revision of costs upwards only 18 days after the original estimate. How is that for inflation!

Those of you who are so inclined may figure out how much whiskey went with each ration.

Eggleston tells how he was stationed at one time on the South Carolina coast in an area where there was an abundance of rice, pork, and mutton. At the time, however, the officials in the commissary department saw fit to feed the entire army on flour and bacon, which, if issued to troops in that part of the country at all, had to be brought several hundred miles by rail. The post commissaries tried without success to make use of the provisions in the surrounding countryside which could be bought for one third less than the cost of the flour and bacon. Finally a captain discovered that the men were entitled by law to commutation in money for their rations, and acting upon that, the men were able to buy, with the commutation money, an abundance of fresh fruits and vegetables, and most companies even saved money for future use out of the surplus.

One of the most pressing problems was the lack of grain for bread. There was much squabbling and name-calling between the government authorities in Richmond and the various state governments. Each, of course, was looking out for its own interests. The states each wanted the wheat for flour and for whiskey. The government also wanted it for flour and for whiskey. Both eventually hired impressment officers to impress not only grain, but everything else that could be used in the war effort. Some even tried a method of taking part of each crop as a tax measure. This served only to arouse the competitive instincts of the populace and many farmers refused to harvest their crops, or to bring that which was harvested to town for fear of impressment. Much of their wrath was directed at Northrop, who deserved it. Unfortunately, however, the whole South had to suffer for the stupidity of one man. Throughout the war, after that, in some parts of the South, entire crops were allowed to rot on the ground, were fed to animals, or were made into a farmer's own brand of rot-gut whiskey in his own still. It is recorded that right up to the surrender and within 50 miles of Appomattox, there was enough fresh fruit and fresh vegetables to last the remaining Confederate army at least thirty days.

As the war dragged on, and as the country became more "foughtover," there came to be less food with every day. The daily ration was reduced and reduced, and reduced again, and it could not be supplemented by foragers. The area had been

so scourged by prior parties that there was nothing left to take.

As early as the spring of '64 hunger became universal in the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee's men were reduced to digging dandelions, sorrel, wild onions, and it as all they could get. Elsewhere in the South, at this time, the troops themselves were eating quite well. Prices had gone sky-high, but in the country where there had been fighting, the foraging was very good. There is no record at all of the troops in the West going hungry. Possibly they had no time to do any cooking, but they always had 'tack, bacon, or salt beef or pork. In the East, however, meal was \$50.00 a bushel; bacon was \$8.00 a pound, by the hundred; a large wild turkey was \$100.00; a demijohn of wine was \$500.00; potatoes were \$1.00 a quart; chickens were \$35.00 a pair; and turnip greens were \$4.00 a peck. In April corn was selling at \$1.25 a bushel in Georgia and Alabama, while in Richmond it was \$40.00 a bushel! All of these figures, of course, were in Confederate money.

To summarize: While troops in the field, both North and South, had little variety, they were seldom more than twelve hours away from a meal of some sort. They might not have had time to cook it, or they might have had to eat their salt beef raw, BUT the food was there. At the war's end Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia were cut off and could receive no supplies from the West which was literally a land of plenty. They had to endure the privations of any defeated army. The blockade did not cut off food supplies other than luxuries, as the South was LARGELY self-producing, but a complete breakdown of transportation made it impossible to move the vast stores available to where they were needed the most.

The North on the other hand, with an intact, efficient railway system, and control of the sea and major waterways, was able to build up vast supply depots at such places as City Point, Savannah, and New Orleans. It was able to feed many of these men better than they had ever eaten in their lives, while at the same time the Confederates were starving, unable to reach the cornucopia just over the mountains.

OLD ABE CAMP #8 MEETING MINUTES, NOV. 13, 2017

1. Opening Ceremony-7:10 P.M. Fire Station #17, Oshkosh
2. Roll call of officers: (5 members present)
  - CC-present
  - SVC-excused
  - JVC-excused
  - Sec-present
  - Trea-present
3. Treasurer's Report.
  - CD \$1032.91. Other CD \$4421.10. Checking \$2542.27.
  - No minutes from September. No meeting held. No quorum.
4. Sick or distressed brothers.
  - A. Petit and W. Parker were ill this last weekend.
5. Guests: Past C-in-C Steve Michaels.
6. New members: Jeff Soll joined and Dwight Perkins rejoined.
7. Old business:
  - a. U.S. Flag moving along. Working on stars. Will send to CC.
  - b. Adjustable flagpoles. Delivered and paid for. Alan Petit.
  - c. Flag disposal ceremony. Pick a date in the spring.
  - d. Waupaca Cty. Indexing project for all vets for whole cty.
  - e. Grave dedication. Louis Pues. Riverside, Oshkosh. Pick a spring date.
8. New business.
  - a. Camp #8 will host state encampment in King. Jun. 2, 2018. More later.
  - b. Dues for 2018 set at \$40.00/year and initiation at \$1.00.
  - c. Camp #8 will purchase several last soldier markers for nearby ctys.
9. Past events:
  - a. Plover-Copp's- Brat Fry. We made \$45.00. Too hot and no one came.
  - b. National Encampment-Lansing. Went very well.
  - c. Mohican Veterans Day- Kirby Scott setup a small display
10. New events:
  - a. Wreaths Across America. Dec. 16, 2017 at King Vets. Home.
  - b. January bingo game at King. No date set yet.
11. Any other bills and/or communications to address? NONE.
12. Any other new or old business? NONE.
13. Patriotic instruction. See items in newsletter.
14. Anybody do anything for the good of the order? Dennis Jacobs gave talk about cemetery symbolism at a Veteran's Day event.
15. Elections:

CC- Dennis Jacobs	All nominees ran unopposed and were
SVC-Kurtis Kirk	elected unanimously.
JVC-Ron Arndt	
Sec.-Alan Petit	
Treas.-Kurtis Kirk	Past C-inC Steve Michaels installed the
Council I-Kirby Scott	new officers.
Council II-Mike Mladenek	
Council-III-William Parker	
Delegate-Paul Johnson	
16. Next meeting at Jimmie's White House. 3rd . Thursday in January, 2018.
17. Closing: 8:45 P.M.

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

You're invited to our 48th Annual  
**PATRIOTIC LUNCHEON**  
Honoring Presidents Washington, Lincoln and McKinley  
Saturday, February 3, 2018 at 12:30 p.m.



**Guest Speaker: National SUVCW Chaplain Jerome Kowalski**

**“Let the Virginian Wait”**

Major Gen. George Henry Thomas remembers Lincoln (the president who kept him waiting).

**Location: Alioto's Restaurant**

3041 N. Mayfair Rd., Wauwatosa, Wis.

*(exit Hwy. 45 at Burleigh; east to Hwy. 100; turn right to restaurant)*

**Buffet includes:**

Tenderloin Tips with Noodles or Roast Turkey with Sage Dressing  
Served with assorted relish tray, pasta salad, mixed vegetables, buttered new potatoes, Jello,  
tossed green salad, Italian bread, coffee, tea or milk, sheet cake for dessert

**Hosted by C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 and Auxiliary #4**

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

For more information, call (414) 614-3690

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Reserve your seat now for Milwaukee's premier patriotic event! Mail this form and check (\$20 per person), payable to C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 to Elizabeth Craig, 4622 W. Mill Rd., Milwaukee, WI 53218

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Organization(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ No. of meals: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Please sponsor an ad in our Patriotic Luncheon program booklet!

# Camp Officers for 2018

## Commander

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

## Sr. Vice Commander

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

## Jr. Vice Commander

Ron Arndt – N10998 Town Hall Road Marion, WI 54950  
(715) 754-4842 [roliarndt@frontiernet.net](mailto:roliarndt@frontiernet.net)

## Secretary

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## Treasurer

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## Patriotic Instructor

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## Chaplain

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## Delegate

Paul Johnson - 8804 Pine Lake Road Hiles, WI 54511  
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## Graves Registration

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## Memorials

PCC Kim Heltemes - W2570 Archer Avenue Pine River, WI 54965  
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## Historian

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## Newsletter Editor

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**Camp 8 Newsletter**  
**CC Dennis R Jacobs**  
**329 N. Jackson Street #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 9 of this newsletter. Visit the Department of Wisconsin website, and Camp 8 Webpages, at [www.suvcw-wi.org](http://www.suvcw-wi.org). Also, visit the national SUVCW website at [www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org). Camp 8 also has a Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/pages/Old-Abe-Camp-8-Sons-of-Union-Veterans-of-the-Civil-War-SUVCW/192313178329](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Old-Abe-Camp-8-Sons-of-Union-Veterans-of-the-Civil-War-SUVCW/192313178329).*

*Membership is open to male descendants of a Union Civil War soldier. Application is made through National, Department, or local channels to become a member of a Camp. Some documentation about your ancestor is required – assistance is available through the Camp.*

*Membership is also available for males who cannot prove lineage to a Civil War soldier.*

*The initial dues for a new member are pro-rated through the year, and an initiation fee does apply.*

*Contact the Jr. Vice officer below for information.*

## **Join Old Abe Camp 8! 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**



**Find us on  
Facebook**

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