

HENRY HARNDEN CAMP #2 NEWS

Fall/Winter 2020

HONORING LAST SOLDIERS

Our Camp is actively participating in the Last Soldier Program, which seeks to install and dedicate a special marker/flag holder at the grave of the last Union Civil War veteran to be buried in each county in the United States where such a burial has taken place.

On October 10, 2020 we conducted dedication ceremonies in Dane, Jefferson, and Rock Counties.



Last Soldier Marker

CORONAVIRUS AFFECTS MEETINGS

The Brothers of C.K. Pier/Badger Camp #1 have advised they will not be able to host the traditional Department Mid-Winter Meeting and Patriotic Luncheon. Alioto's Restaurant will not be available and an alternate site in the Milwaukee area could not be located. Department Commander Brian McManus has asked Hans C. Heg Camp #15 if it could host a Department Mid-Winter Meeting at its historic La Fayette Church building in rural Elkhorn. A new furnace would need to be installed. Stay tuned for further developments.

At the national level, the 2020 National Annual Encampment has been cancelled, as have the Remembrance Day activities and parade in Gettysburg. The Lincoln Tomb Ceremony and Luncheon remain on the schedule for April 17, 2021 in Springfield.

Our next monthly Camp meetings are being held by Zoom at 9:00 AM on 10/24, 11/21, and 1/16. Please contact Camp Commander Fred Campbell in advance at campfred@chorus.net or (608) 444-1356 to obtain the online access code to participate. The Annual Meeting of the Camp will be held in person on 12/19 upon completion of the Wreaths Across America observance noted below.

PUBLIC GATHERINGS ARE STILL ON

Camp #2 is still participating in public events for Veterans Day, November 11, and Wreaths Across America Day, December 19, with both events taking place at Madison's Forest Hill Cemetery. The events start on both dates at 11:00 AM at the Soldiers Rest Section at the West end of the cemetery. Our Camp will continue ceremonies at the Union Rest Section at the East end of the cemetery, immediately following conclusion of the observances at Soldiers Rest.

THE FAMOUS FAIRCHILDS OF FOREST HILL

During our Veterans Day gathering at Union Rest, we will recognize the Fairchild Family, whose burial plot is located nearby.

The pater familias, Jairus Fairchild was elected Wisconsin's first State Treasurer in 1848, and as the first Mayor of the City of Madison in 1856. His two oldest sons, Cassius, born in 1829, and Lucius, born in 1831, had political careers. Cassius was elected to the Madison Common Council in 1858, as chairman of the Wisconsin Democratic Party in 1859, and to the Wisconsin Assembly in 1860. Lucius entered the political scene, as a Republican, after the Civil War.

All three of Jairus's sons served in the Union forces during the Civil War: Charles was a Paymaster in the U.S. Navy; Lucius rose through the ranks to become the commanding Colonel of the 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment; and Cassius was appointed Major of the 16th Wisconsin in October 1861, and promoted to Lt. Colonel two months later.

Lucius was severely wounded while leading the 2nd on July 1, 1863 at the Battle of Gettysburg, and his left arm was amputated above the elbow on the first day of the battle.

Cassius also received a severe wound during the Battle of Shiloh in April of 1862. After surgery to remove a bullet from his hip, he returned to his regiment for the remainder of the war, with promotion to Colonel in 1864. In recognition of outstanding service, Lucius and Cassius were promoted by President Lincoln to Brevet Brigadier General of U.S. Volunteers.

After Gettysburg, Lucius resigned his commission and returned to Wisconsin in time to be elected Secretary of State in the November 1863 elections. In 1865 Lucius was elected Governor, the first of eight Civil War veterans to be elected to that post.

Cassius died of his Shiloh wounds in 1868, during the second of Lucius's three terms as Governor. Beginning in 1871, Lucius was appointed to a series of diplomatic posts in Europe, culminating as Ambassador to Spain from 1880 to 1881.

Lucius was a leader in the veteran community. He was a founding member of the Cassius Fairchild Post of the Grand Army of the Republic in Madison in 1867. In February 1886 he was elected Commander of the G.A.R.'s Department of Wisconsin, and in August of the same year he was elected National Commander. His official portrait, now in the collection of the Wisconsin Historical Society, was painted by John Singer Sargent in 1887.

Lucius died in Madison in May 1897 and is buried in the Family plot with his parents, brother Cassius, and Sister Sarah.

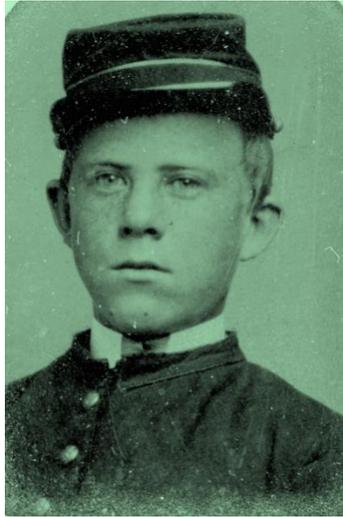


Members of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association Salute the Fairchilds on Memorial Day 2018.

CHARLES MOULTON: FROM BOY SOLDIER TO LAST VETERAN

Camp #2 officers, along with representatives of the Daughter of Union Veterans of the Civil War, of the Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and of the Mazomanie Historical Society, dedicated the Last Soldier Marker for the last Union veteran to be buried in Dane County at the Mazomanie Cemetery on October 10, 2020.

Susan Fallon, the National Chaplain of the Auxiliary, and the recipient of the 2020 Dr. Mary Edwards Walker Award from the Department of Wisconsin, served as chaplain for the dedication.



Charles F. Moulton in Uniform, courtesy of Mazomanie Historical Society

Along with 26 other men from Mazomanie, Wisconsin, fifteen-year-old Charles F. Moulton volunteered for service with Company K of the 40th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment in the late spring of 1864. Charles's 28-year-old uncle Frank joined the same company.

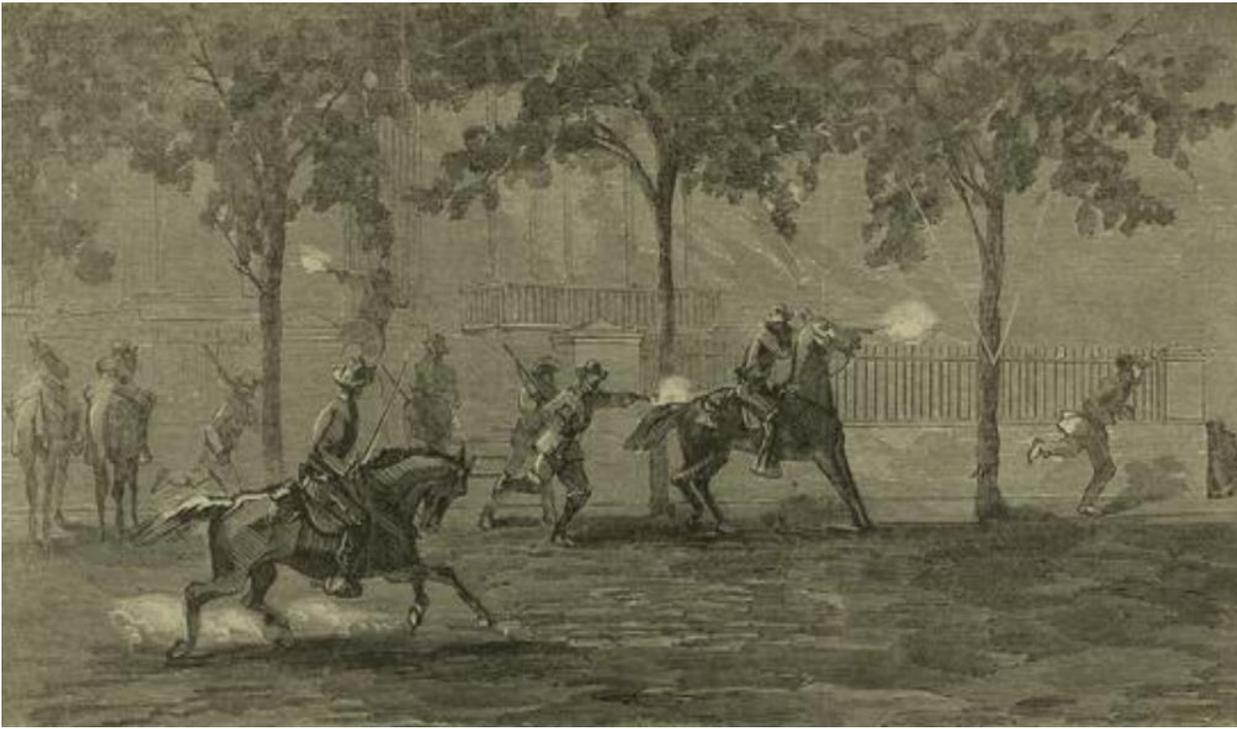
A military draft was in effect in the loyal states in 1864, and Wisconsin's military authorities labored to meet increasing calls for volunteer troops to replenish losses in existing units and to form new regiments of infantry, cavalry, and artillery. Volunteer enlistments partially offset quotas of the unpopular draft, and Wisconsin authorities argued with Washington to receive proper credit for voluntary enlistments.

With this backdrop, the governors of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin urged the President and the War Department in April 1864 to allow the recruitment of "100 day" regiments. These units, generally composed of raw recruits, were intended to relieve veteran troops from garrison duty and permit those soldiers to join generals Grant and Sherman in their aggressive eastern campaigns.

Wisconsin was authorized to form three "100 day" infantry regiments, the 39th, 40th, and 41st. The 40th Infantry Regiment was mustered into service at Camp Randall in May 1864 and shipped out to Memphis with the other "100 day" Wisconsin regiments in June. Its service was uneventful except for one notable clash of arms known as the Second Battle of Memphis. On August 21, two thousand Confederate raiders under Nathan Bedford Forrest made a pre-dawn dash into Memphis with the aim of capturing the Union commanders in their headquarters. The Confederates were eventually repulsed by the Wisconsin troops, who suffered casualties in the fight. At least two men in Company K of the 40th were wounded in action.

The rebels nearly secured their goal of capture. Major General Cadwallader C. Washburn, who had been elected to Congress from Wisconsin before the war, fled from his headquarters under fire, but wearing only his nightshirt. The raiders claimed his uniform and equipment as trophies of war, but returned Washburn's gear later in the day under a flag of truce.

This embarrassing incident made the pages of Harper's Weekly, and prompted the general who had been replaced by Washburn to quip, "At least I was able to keep the Confederates out of Western Tennessee, while Washburn couldn't keep them out of his bedroom."



“General Washburne’s [sic] Escape”, Harper’s Weekly, December 31, 1864.

To this day there is a street in downtown Memphis bearing the name “General Washburn’s Escape Alley”.

The 40th returned to Wisconsin and was mustered out of service on September 16, 1864, with the thanks of President Lincoln and of Governor Lewis. Uncle Frank Moulton, who had been promoted to corporal, returned to his family in Mazomanie and would later write a popular history of the early settlement of the village.

Charles Moulton, who mustered in with the rank of musician, and mustered out as a private, immediately volunteered for service with Battery F of the 1st Wisconsin Heavy Artillery Regiment, which had been established in September 1864. Charles’s father, Stillman Moulton, enlisted in the same unit. Battery F left for the defenses of Washington by November 16, and was assigned to Fort Ellsworth on a strategic point to the west of Alexandria, Virginia. (The George Washington Masonic Memorial is now situated on the same site.)

Charles returned to Wisconsin after his artillery service. He was listed in the 1885 and 1895 Enumerations of Civil War Veterans as a resident of Mazomanie. In the 1930 census Charles was shown as living in Madison’s 10th Ward with his wife, Lucy, son Frank S., and daughter-in-law Virginia. (Son Frank became a highly accomplished architect in Madison, credited with designs for the Memorial Union, the main building of the University of Wisconsin Hospital, Kennedy Manor, Langdon Hall, and other significant public and private structures. The couple had no children.)

While he was living in Madison, Charles was elected Sheriff of Dane County (1896) and as Sergeant at Arms of the Wisconsin Assembly (1925 and 1927). Members of the legislature addressed him as “Colonel Moulton” as a sign of affection and respect. When interviewed by the Wisconsin State Journal, Moulton recalled that he enlisted at age 14 [a slight miscalculation] and participated in a coin toss with another youthful recruit to determine who would be the drummer boy for his unit. Moulton offered, “He won so I carried a musket.”

Moulton also claimed the distinction of having voted for President Lincoln at the age of 15. He quoted his company commander as saying, “Any man that’s old enough to come into the army is old enough to vote, and you go right ahead and vote.”

He was elected as the statewide leader of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1936, and was previously the Commander of the Lucius Fairchild Post #11 in Madison. At the age of 90 he was buried in the Mazomanie Cemetery on January 30, 1940.



“Colonel’ C.F. Moulton”. Image courtesy of the Wisconsin Historical Society.

Sources:

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Civil War Database of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Graves Registration Database.

U. S. Census for 1930, 10th Ward, City of Madison, Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Historical Society Archives: 1885, 1895, and 1905 Enumerations of Civil War Veterans Residing in Wisconsin.

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Wisconsin State Journal January 20, 1929; June 15, 1936; January 30, 1940.

Kelsey, “C.C. Washburn: The Evolution of a Flour Baron”, *Wisconsin Magazine of History*, Vol. 88, No. 4, Summer 2005, p. 48.

Frank Wolf, *Civil War Mazo Manie*, Mazomanie Historical Society, 2020.

Wikipedia entries for 1st Wisconsin Heavy Artillery and for Fort Ellsworth.

Researched and written by Department of Wisconsin Senior Vice Commander John Decker, with thanks to Frank Wolf, Historian of the Mazomanie Historical Society.

A DISPUTATIOUS PEOPLE

I wrote the following piece in anticipation of last year's Department Encampment, when I was Department Patriotic Instructor. I think it is pertinent in today's political season. – John Decker

Rick Atkinson, author of "The British Are Coming", a new history of the first three years of the American Revolution, has gained much recent attention.

In an interview, Atkinson said, "Americans are, and always have been, a disputatious people." He argues that the American Revolution wasn't just a war for independence. It was also a civil war. He estimates that 18% to 20% of the colonial population were Loyalists, rather than Patriots, and were unwelcome, to say the least, in communities in which Patriots gained the upper hand. Ultimately, Loyalists were commonly expelled, either to the Old Country, or to Canada.

Not long ago I read a history of the War of 1812 by historian Eric Foner. He viewed that war as a continuation, an effort to complete, the Revolutionary War. The title of his book: "The Civil War of 1812." In it he highlights the efforts to conquer Canadian lands and the former Americans located there. He also notes the war divided popular opinion in the United States in profound ways.

The 1790s were a period of high partisanship, in which Americans adhered to the Federalist or Republican parties, and engaged in vicious verbal attacks upon their political opponents, who they viewed as enemies. A fever pitch was reached in the Presidential election of 1800, which pitted John Adams against Thomas Jefferson. These Revolutionary comrades became bitter foes, although they reconciled much later in life – in time for their near simultaneous deaths on the 50th anniversary of Independence Day, in 1826.

After the election was determined in the House of Representatives, Jefferson gave a first inaugural address in which he pleaded eloquently for national unity and personal indulgence. Here is some of what he said:

All . . . will bear in mind this sacred principle, that though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will, to be rightful, must be reasonable; that the minority possesses their equal rights, which equal law must protect, and to violate would be oppression. Let us then, fellow citizens, unite with one heart and one mind. Let us restore to social intercourse that harmony and affection without which liberty and even life itself are but dreary things

Every difference of opinion is not a difference of principle. We have called by different names brethren of the same principle. We are all Republicans; we are all Federalists. If there be any among us who would wish to dissolve this Union or to change its republican form, let them stand undisturbed as monuments to the safety with which such error of opinion may be tolerated where reason is left free to combat it.

I know indeed that some honest men fear that a republican government cannot be strong, that this government is not strong enough. But would the honest patriot, in the full tide of successful experiment abandon a government which has so far kept us free and firm on the theoretic and visionary fear that this government, the world's best hope, may possibly want the energy to preserve itself?

I trust not. I believe this, on the contrary, the strongest government on earth. I believe it the only one where every man, at the call of the law, would fly to the standard of the law, and would meet invasions of the public order as his own personal concern.

Sometimes it is said that man cannot be trusted with government of himself. Can he, then, be trusted with the government of others? Or have we found angels in the form of kings to govern him? Let history answer this question

I repair then, fellow citizens, to the post you have assigned me. With experience enough in subordinate offices to have seen the difficulties of this greatest of all, I have learnt to expect that it will rarely fall to the lot of imperfect man to retire from this station with the reputation and the favor which bring him into it

I shall often go wrong through defect in judgment. When right, I shall often be thought wrong, by those whose positions will not command a view of the whole ground. I ask your indulgence for my own errors, which will never be intentional, and your support against the errors of others, who condemn what they would not, if seen in all its parts.

Let me return to quoting author Rick Atkinson from one of his interviews:

The nation was born disputatiously. This is a country that has friction within the body politic in our genome. It's a very ornery people of 1775 and why should we be surprised that we are an ornery people today?

However difficult our difficulties are today, however burdensome they seem today, we've had much more difficult periods in our national history and we have survived it somehow. We not only survived it; we've triumphed ultimately.

In difficult times leaders have emerged who have helped us to get where we need to go. We've been fortunate enough to see men like George Washington and Abraham Lincoln and Dwight Eisenhower, and there's a long list of them, and they share frequently a long list of traits that we recognize as really admirable among our leaders. And we should demand that. We should be insistent that a good, noble, accomplished people be led by good, noble, accomplished leaders.





HENRY HARNDEN CAMP #2

DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

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