

Search tool gets a new address

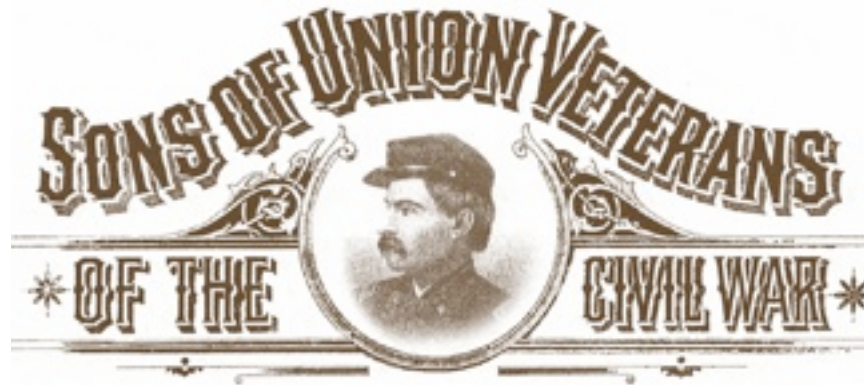
Russ Horton's spiffy roster tool at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum has a new address:

<https://wisvetsmuseum.com/research/civil-war-database/>

The tool has multiple search boxes and allows for partial spellings of a name; great flexibility.

C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SUVCW



C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SERIES 2021

CAMP ORDERS

APRIL 2021

THREE-TIME WINNER OF THE NATIONAL MARSHALL HOPE NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

HELPING MICHIGAN FAMILY HONOR THE FIRST BURIAL AT WOOD, 150 YEARS LATER

By Tom Mueller, PCC

Penny Afton Sage drove from Grand Rapids, Mich., to Milwaukee last fall to try to find the grave of her g-g-g-grandfather, Pvt. John Afton.

Afton, of Grand Rapids, died in 1871 at what was then the Northwestern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, and was the first man buried at what is now Wood National Cemetery.

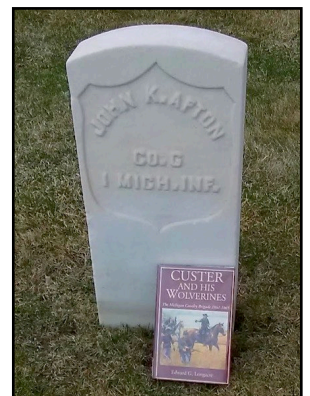
Afton-Sage saw no cemetery at Wood's administrative address of 5000 W. National Ave., and when she did find a cemetery in the area, she walked around looking for two hours. But she actually was in Calvary Cemetery; Wood is on the other side of the power transmission lines.

She finally left empty-handed and exasperated.

Then came a bolt out of the blue this spring: Our Camp emailed her because she had put a brief biography on Afton's Find a Grave page a year ago, which made her relatively easy to track down. Afton's status as the first at Wood is well-known in the history and patriotic communities, and the Camp wants to honor him on his 150th anniversary.

Afton-Sage quickly responded: "You have 'NO IDEA' how excited I am to hear from you. ... We spent a night in

Continued on page 3



Penny Afton-Sage lives in her ancestor's hometown of Grand Rapids, Mich. Pvt. John Afton was in the 1st Michigan Infantry and then in George Armstrong Custer's Michigan Cavalry Brigade.

Pending any resurgence of the pandemic, we aim to resume meeting in person – at the Lions Clubhouse, 7336 St. James St., Wauwatosa, at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 12. PCC David Howard will have the patriotic presentation.

CAMP FUNDS STONE FOR VET WHO DIED IN 1878

Brother Tom Ludka and Marge Berres put nine more unmarked graves at Forest Home Cemetery up for adoption, and the Camp quickly funded the stone for one of them.

Sgt. John F. Roberts died on May 15, 1878.

Roberts, of Milwaukee, was in the 24th Wisconsin Infantry, Company B, and for a time was commissary sergeant for the regiment.

He served from Aug. 11, 1862, to June 30, 1865. He was promoted to commissary sergeant on Jan. 10, 1863; returned to company in May 1863, and transferred to the Veterans Reserve Corps on April 10, 1864.

Also at Forest Home, the cemetery foundation has slated five historically significant, private stones for replacement as soon as funds can be raised. Three involve the Civil War. See <https://foresthomcemetry.com/monument-preservation-projects>

One is for Brig. Gen. Lysander Cutler, who first was the colonel of the 6th Wisconsin Infantry. His family obelisk is eroded, the foundation says.

Another is the broken monument for brothers

William and Rudolph Wechselberg, both of Company D of the 1st Wisconsin Infantry. William was killed at Chickamauga in 1863 and his body was returned. His brother was killed at Perryville, Ky., in 1862 and is memorialized, but not buried at Forest Home.

Another worn stone is for brothers William and Augustus Hyde. William, of the 1st Wisconsin Heavy Artillery, was killed at Bull Run in 1862. Augustus was in the 16th Wisconsin Infantry and died of disease in 1862 at Pittsburg Landing, Tenn.

Last year, the worn limestone headstone of Capt. Timothy Maynard of the 63rd Pennsylvania Infantry was replaced with a black granite monument. Maynard was killed in 1863 at Kelly's Ford, Va., while in the act of giving a drink of water to a wounded rebel soldier; a legend on the stone.

The Forest Home Historic Preservation Association is dedicated to preserving and restoring historically significant monuments. "Each year we focus on a few monument preservation projects to properly restore these ancient gravestones and preserve the memory of important residents," it says.

REMEMBERING COL. PIER: COLLEGE IN ILLINOIS AT AGE 16

These monthly articles about our Camp namesake are written by PCinC Steve Michaels. This item first was published in the April 2001 Camp Orders.

In 1857, when Colwert Kendall Pier was 16, he was sent to Lombard College in Galesburg, Ill. He had completed his education in Fond du Lac's schools and now was headed for higher learning.

This college choice was not without motive. Lombard had been founded by Universalists as Illinois Liberal Institute in 1851. In 1852, Pier's great uncle, Paul Raymond Kendall, was appointed principal and, in time, normal president. He taught courses offered in the first years. Prof. Kendall's cousin, Harriet Kendall, soon was added to the faculty, too. Both were Universalists, believing in individual freedom to seek and interpret the truth.

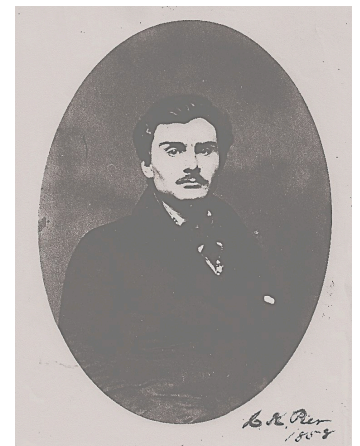
In 1855, the Institute's building burned and Benjamin Lombard, a Universalist of considerable means, offered \$20,000 if the school was renamed after him. By 1857, when Pier arrived, a new structure had been built on an 80-acre tract and quality education again was being provided.

Galesburg, a town of about 5,400 people in the prairie land of west-central Illinois, was steeped in the anti-slavery movement and was a depot on the Underground Railroad.

It's not certain how long Colwert stayed at Lombard College. If he remained through 1858, it's very likely that he witnessed the fifth Lincoln-Douglas debate at Galesburg's Knox College on Oct. 7. Before a crowd of 10,000, Lincoln first made his moral argument against slavery.

Pier's experience at Lombard undoubtedly helped him form early opinions about religion, freedom and moral responsibility, which would serve him throughout life.

From: Universalism: A Kind & Gentle Religion Tradition Was Once Dynamic in Galesburg, by Rex Carrington; History of Knox, 1830-1899 by Herman Muelder, Knox College historian; History of Fond du Lac County, Wis., Western Historical Co., Chicago 1880; Genealogical notes of Mrs. Dorothy Hendall Steinhardt; Milwaukee Sunday Telegraph, 15 April 1880



Colwert K. Pier in 1858



WOOD'S FIRST BURIAL WAS CAPTURED AT GETTYSBURG



PVT. JOHN AFTON — *continued from page 1*

Milwaukee and, of course, my main interest in the beautiful city was to check out John's grave. I was SO DISAPPOINTED!"

At what she thought was Wood, "We were very impressed with the old building at the old entrance of the cemetery. There was no one in the building nor was there anyone else wandering around the cemetery. We were alone to find and visit John's grave. We attempted to use the map at the gate kiosk to find our way around but were unsuccessful. The cemetery has very few section markers and it is not easy for newbies to navigate."

So on Afton's anniversary May 22, the Camp will guide Afton-Sage and a few other Michigan relatives to their ancestor's grave, and will hold a small, private, COVID-safe commemoration.

We invited her to attend our April meeting via Zoom and gave the facts that were gathered for this story, and she discussed her facts.

Afton is buried in the isolated area north of

the freeway and south of the power lines, in Section 5-II, Grave 163B. Calvary is on the other side of the power lines, as is Section 1 of Wood.

While his stone says 1st Michigan Infantry, Afton's record at the Soldiers Home leads to a fascinating twist of his story: He also served in the 7th Michigan Cavalry and was captured at Gettysburg – age 54 or 55 at the time.

The 7th Cav made a dramatic saber charge on July 3, led by 23-year-old Brig. Gen. George Armstrong Custer. It is in several books, along with another charge a few hours later by the 1st Michigan Cav.

Thirteen men in the 7th Cav were killed on July 3, and 52 wounded, according to its history at <https://www.suvcwmi.org/research.php> Afton and 38 others were captured or missing; he did not return to his unit until Oct. 1. It is not known whether he was a horseman or support staff.

Afton-Sage, who has worked on her family's

Continued on page 4

CUSTER SHOUTED, 'COME ON, YOU WOLVERINES!!!' IN SABER CHARGE

Pvt. John Afton's 7th Michigan Cavalry made a dramatic saber charge at Gettysburg, led by Brig. Gen. George Armstrong Custer.

"Come on, you Wolverines!!!" was the cry of Custer, 23, as he led Afton's 7th Cav, a very new unit, in the July 3 charge.

The charge is in several books, including this passage from "Gettysburg: Day Three," a 2001 book by Jeffrey D. Wert:

"The Virginians and Michiganders were face-to-face at point-blank range. 'Bullets were flying mightily thick,' asserted a Northerner. Lieutenant Clark declared, 'It was kill all you can; do your best each for himself.' The fury swirled along the fence as nearly 700 men used sabers, revolvers and carbines. Custer's horse was struck, and he borrowed a bugler's mount.

"Numbers of Michiganders dismounted and knocked down sections of the fence. Through the gaps the Yankees 'went pell-mell.'

"The breakthrough scattered the Virginians, who bolted up the hillside. The Michiganders pur-

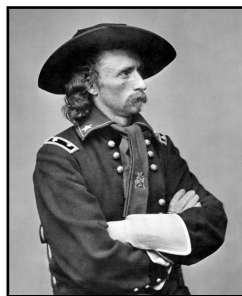
sued, a surge of blue-jacketed horsemen roiling toward Rummel's woods. Coming toward them, however, were more mounted Rebels" from five regiments.

Later, Custer led the 1st Michigan Cav on a saber charge with the same cry.

Afton's 7th Cav was organized from October 1862 to June 1863. Most of it did not leave Grand Rapids until two months before Gettysburg. Afton enlisted on Feb. 23.

The saber charge was on the farm of John and Sarah Rummel, about four miles east of Gettysburg.

"Charges and counter-charges left the fields filled with bodies, the crops trampled and the fences wrecked," according to <https://gettysburg.stonesentinels.com/battlefield-farms/rummel-farm/> "After the Confederates withdrew, John found two sets of men, Union and Confederate, who had died struggling with each other. One of the pair still had their fingers tightly clenched in each other's flesh. Over 30 dead horses were scattered about his property."



Custer in about 1865

AFTON DIED AFTER 2 YEARS AT SOLDIERS HOME

Continued from page 3

genealogy for more than three decades, provided his pension application. It says he “was wounded in his right hand on the third day of July 1863 either by a piece of shell or by buckshot at the Battle of Gettysburg.”

It adds: “In May 1864, whilst in camp with his regiment in Virginia, near City Point, about the last of May or first of June he was attacked with chronic diarrhea with which he has suffered ever since. At the same time he was also attacked with bronchitis from which he still suffers.” He was in two hospitals.

The application was filed April 28, 1865.

Afton had received a disability discharge from the 7th Cav on Dec. 1, 1864, and from the 1st Infantry on June 24, 1862, where he served in Co. G for 11 months. He was admitted to the Milwaukee Soldiers Home on Sept. 1, 1869.

The Michigan rosters are easily accessible online, courtesy of the Michigan SUVCW. Afton appears by various spellings and initials.

Sorting of the roster is available via its link to the HathiTrust Digital Library. It is tedious at best, but it shows Afton was the only man in Co. K who was captured at Gettysburg.

The commander of the 7th Cav was Col. William Mann. Afton’s Company K was led by Capt. Herman N. Moore.

Three sons of Afton – Charles, James and Phillip – served in the 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics. All entered in December 1861; two left when their enlistments ended in 1864 and the third stayed to September 1865.

Only one other man from the 7th Cav is at Wood, according to a sorting of the extensive Sons database for the cemetery.

Bugler Edward Carroll died in 1931, six decades after Afton, and is buried in Section 25. He was in Afton’s same Co. K and enlisted at age 18 in December 1862, two months before Afton joined. Thus he was at Gettysburg, too.

No other men from Afton’s 1st Michigan Infantry are buried at Wood.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

A: This was Final Jeopardy on the “Jeopardy” of March 12, so we’ll give the answer first: “Eight presidents have visited this battle site with an Algonquian name about 50 miles from Washington; for McKinley, it was a return visit.”

Q: The winning question: What was Antietam? The Camp Orderers has pursued this answer and found it is defined as a “place name, eastern U.S., from an Algonquian word perhaps meaning ‘swift water.’” So says the Online Etymology Dictionary at <https://www.etymonline.com> William McKinley was a 19-year-old commissary sergeant in the 23rd Ohio Infantry during the battle. President McKinley returned to the Antietam battlefield on May 30, 1900 – Memorial Day – to dedicate the Maryland State Monument. See <https://www.mps.gov/anti/learn/historyculture/presidential-visits-to-antietam.htm>

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 7 – James Cook
- 23 – Brian Craig
- 25 – Bill Seaman



Camp Commander – Brian Craig
(414) 418-9776

SVC – PDC Tom Brown (414) 429-8979

<https://www.facebook.com/CKPierBadger>
and <http://www.suvcw-wi.org>

**Report address changes to editor Tom Mueller,
PCC, at thewisconsin3800@gmail.com
Your Banner is not forwarded by the Postal Service,
so you need to report a new address to us.**

MEDICAL CORNER

Q: What are some facts about soldiers and tuberculosis?

A: About 14,000 troops died from tuberculosis during the war, and countless more had latent (no symptoms for long periods) forms of the disease, according to <https://civil-warmedicalhistory.weebly.com/diseases.html> Common symptoms that occurred with tuberculosis were a chronic cough, bloody sputum, fever, night sweats and weight loss.

Before what we know as Wood National Cemetery opened with the 1871 burial of Pvt. John Afton, residents of the Soldiers Home were buried in a small plot in near-by Calvary Cemetery.

PCC Steve Michaels wrote this article more than a decade ago for the website of the West Side Soldiers Aid Society.

The group disbanded in 2018 and its website removed most of its pages, including this one.

There also is a Soldiers Lot at Forest Home Cemetery, but those burials did not start until 1872.



Calvary Cemetery

Calvary Cemetery's Soldiers' Lots by Steve Michaels

In 1856, the Right Reverend John Henni, Milwaukee's first Catholic Bishop, purchased 55 acres at North 55th Street & Bluemound Road. Calvary Cemetery was consecrated on All Souls Day, November 2, 1857.

In 1866, the Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee donated a plot of land (Block 5C, Lot 38) for the burial of Catholic Civil War veterans. The first was Pvt. David Tenny (headstone: "Tenney"), a blind veteran from Wautoma, who was the only resident of the downtown Soldiers Home shelter buried there. He died on July 23, 1866, of consumption.



Others were residents of the new Northwestern Branch of the National Home for Disabled American Soldiers:

- Pvt. Patrick Manning, probably Co. B, 1st WI Hvy. Art., died 26 Mar 1867
- Smn. Michael Maloney, USN, died 19 Aug 1867
- Pvt. Thomas O'Rourke, Co. G, 14th MI Inf., died 19 July 1869 (headstone: 19 Apr 1869)
- Pvt. James Bradley, Co. C, 2nd NY Inf., died 30 Sep 1869
- Pvt. Michael O'Regan, co. F, 95th NY Inf., died 19 Dec 1869
- Pvt. Thomas Crannell (headstone: Cranwell), Co. H, 1st IL Cav., died 22 Dec 1869
- Pvt. Michael Harmon (headstone: Hannon), Co. K, 78th NY Inf., died 23 May, 1870
- Sgt. Patrick O'Brien (headstone: O'Brier), 48th NY Inf., died 11 Jul 1870 (headstone: 12 Jul 1870)
- Pvt. Cesar Deregen (headstone: Ceaser Deregen), Co. C, 2nd MN Inf., died 15 Aug 1870
- Pvt. Egnas Schilling (headstone: Eugene Shilling), Co. E, 5th MO and Co. A, 2nd VRC, died 13 Jan 1871
- 2Lt. Robert Slattery, 2nd RI Hvy Art., died 19 Feb 1871
- Pvt. Thomas Kinney (headstone: Kinny), Co. E, 19th WI Inf., died 21 Feb 1871
- Pvt. Urban Otto, Co. M, 13th PA Cav., died 12 Mar 1871
- Pvt. Dennis McInerney (headstone: Denis McInmary), Co. H, 23rd IL Inf., died 26 Mar 1871
- Pvt. Charles Schribner, Co. E, 1st WI Inf., died 11 Apr 1871
- Pvt. James Gollar (headstone: Gollin), Co. C, 65th NY Inf., died 14 Apr 1871
- Pvt. Eugene Oudin (headstone: Ondin), Co. E, 47th NY Inf., died 27 Apr 1871 (headstone: 26 Apr 1871)
- Pvt. John G. Ring, Co. G, 100th NY Inf., died 3 Aug 1874
- Pvt. John Feeley, Co. B, 51st IN Inf., died 12 Oct 1874
- Pvt. Thomas Connolly (headstone: Connelly), Co. A, 69th NY Inf., died 13 Jan 1875
- Pvt. Michael Hamel, Co. B, 52nd WI Inf., died 9 Oct 1877
- Pvt. Michael O'Leary, Co. I, 3rd WI Inf., died 19 Jul 1878
- Pvt. Hugh Seely, unit and death date unknown.

Calvary's Soldiers' Lot allowed for two dozen burials. More than three quarters of the spaces were used before the Soldiers Home cemetery was opened in May 1871. It was apparent that more space was needed. In 1876, a much larger section was donated at the south end of the Cemetery within Block 14. In the south central part of that block are 690 burials.