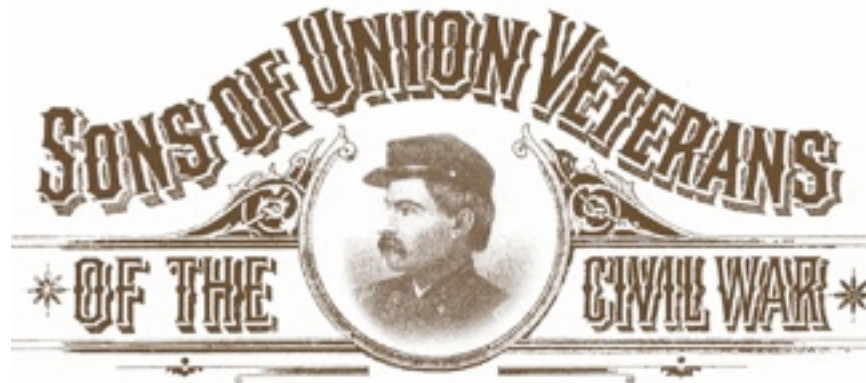


**1943
death: Col.
Pier's
Last
Soldier?**

A newly reported grave in South Dakota was a man in the 38th Wisconsin Infantry who died in 1943. There are more than 500 graves of Col. Pier's men in the national database, and the new man is the Last Known Man.

C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP #1

SUVCW



C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SERIES 2023

CAMP ORDERS

AUGUST 2023

CHOSEN AS THE 2022 BEST CAMP IN THE NATION

PETERSON EARNS NATIONAL AWARD

PDC Kent Peterson has been given an elite national Meritorious Service Award as one of CinC Bruce Frail's last acts in office. It is so elite that the reasons are given in a sealed envelope, which PCinC Steve Michaels brought home from the National Encampment and will present it to Peterson in September. Congratulations, Kent!!!! You are one of the Camp's most-reliables!!!! The Encampment was in Nashua, N.H. Story on page 2.



The Wisconsin contingent gathers around new CinC Peter J. Hritsko Jr. of Ohio, who is in the sportscoat in the front row. Camp 1's contingent was CC Grant Johnson, PCinC Steve Michaels, Department JVC Patrick Fallon and PDC Tom Brown.

The next Camp meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 13, at the Lions Clubhouse, 7336 St. James St., Wauwatosa. JVC Tom Hesse will have the patriotic presentation.

NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT FEATURES AWARDS, ELECTIONS

PDC Kent Peterson received one of the four Meritorious Service Awards given by the commander-in-chief at the recent 140th National Encampment in Nashua, N.H.

The award from outgoing CinC Bruce Frail is in a sealed envelope that will be given to Peterson at the Sept. 13 Camp meeting, or earlier. We assume this was for the landmark printed program and everything else that Peterson did for the June 3 Department Encampment, attended by Frail.

Overall, the Meritorious Service Award is given for “exceptional service to the Order or to society.”

The award list was posted on the General Orders area of SUVCW national website a week after the National Encampment. The other Meritorious Service honors went to Sons in Texas, Rhode Island (Frail’s son Benjamin, who held three national posts and was his chief of staff) and Illinois. Frail also gave a Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star to a member of the Department of Chesapeake.



Outgoing National Auxiliary President Allison Pollitt receives the past president pin from her mother, Danielle Michaels, who also is a past national president. Pollitt served two years.

Camp 1’s successor as best Camp in the nation is Colonel Louis R. Francine Camp #7, Department of New Jersey, and Frail’s reasons given were “for their support of Toys for Tots, veterans groups locally, headstone replacement and procurement and returning Civil War artifacts to their rightful states.”

Continued on page 4

REMEMBERING COL. PIER: BRIEF BID FOR STATE SENATE

These monthly articles about our Camp namesake are written by PCinC Steve Michaels. This item first was published in the August 2003 Camp Orders.

During the summer of 1884, C.K. Pier was serving on the Republican State Committee and gearing up for a run at political office. Just before Memorial Day, he leased a bank building in Fond du Lac for use as Republican headquarters.

He resigned his chairmanship of the Blaine & Logan Club, an organization focused on getting the two elected as U.S. president and vice president. By the end of July, Pier announced he was a candidate for State Senate and wished to serve as commissioner of pensions.

The colonel’s compassion for the less-fortunate was readily apparent. In a time before social welfare and government programs, he wrote:

“... Republicans will not intentionally forget those (soldiers) still living, or the dependents, the needy widows, mothers, fathers or children of those who have died that the nation might live. And yet records show 100 of these are in the poorhouses of Wisconsin today, and it is an equally well-established fact that there are thousands sick and suffering, unable to procure the ordinary necessities of life ... many are yet dying for want of proper care ...”

Pier relied heavily on a letter-writing campaign. Newspapers published excerpts and thereby disseminated Pier’s message to the masses.

The colonel’s father had been one of the founders of Fond du Lac. Edward Pier also had served four years in the State Senate almost 30 years earlier. Therefore, the younger Pier enjoyed a high level of name recognition and it seemed his political fortune was assured.

However, C.K. Pier did not win the crowded GOP primary. Perhaps he entered the race too late. And four months does not seem long enough to mount a campaign for such a post. The colonel was one of eight candidates and it was difficult to distinguish himself, despite his war record, his good intentions and name.

Someone with more political experience and savvy won, and Pier never again ran for public office.

From Milwaukee Sentinel: May 25, July 2, 13, 23, 27, 30 and Aug. 1, 1884



PIER'S LAST SOLDIER?

BY PCC TOM MUELLER



A 1943 death in South Dakota is the last known member of Col. C.K. Pier's 38th Wisconsin Infantry, according to a check of the more than 500 listings for the regiment in the SUCVW national graves database.

Pvt. William J. Grace died on Dec. 31, 1943, at age 97, and is buried at Rest Haven Cemetery at Alpena in Jerauld County, which is in east-central South Dakota.

Jerauld County has a population of only about 1,700, and Alpena 300. Alpena is about 50 miles from Mitchell, S.D., which is well-known to travelers for the Corn Palace.

Grace was from Monroe, Wis., and served in the 38th's Company D, from March 12, 1864, to July 26, 1865, when the 38th was mustered out.

His grave was submitted this spring to the national SUCVW graves database by John Surman, PDC of the Department of Nebraska and the Dakotas. Surman is its current Department GRO.

I serve on the national graves registration committee and handle submittals every day – and could not help but notice the man from the 38th and then the eye-popping year of death.

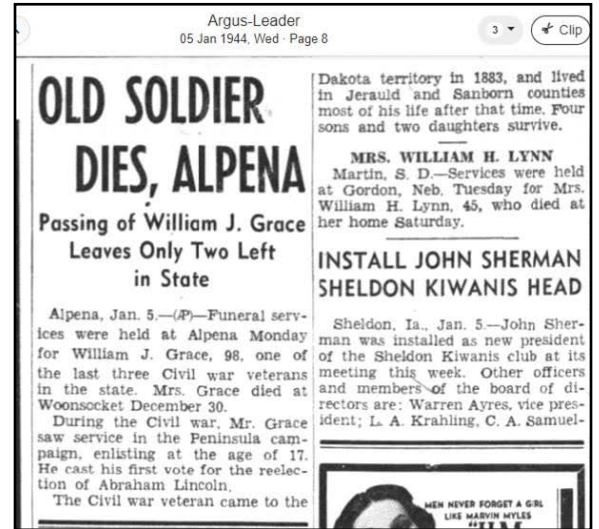
Surman provided Grace's obit from the Argus-Leader newspaper from Jan. 5, 1944, which said this "was one of the last three Civil War veterans in the state." It also said he "came to the Dakota territory in 1883, and lived in Jerauld and Sanborn counties most of his life after that time."

Grace's stone says 1944, but "my date of 1943 is based upon the South Dakota death certificate index and obituaries," Surman says. The newspaper said he was 98, but Surman's data means he was 97.

Surman has submitted about 2,000 graves in the past year and a half from his region, with some



William Grace is in a family plot at Alpena, S.D. The date on his tombstone is wrong; it should be 1943. Photos from Find a Grave.



A newspaper in South Dakota reported only two other known Civil War veterans remained after Grace's death.

who had lived in South Dakota for years but are buried in other states.

It is technically possible that a later man for the 38th can emerge anywhere. While more than 500 of Pier's vets are in the national database, that still leaves 300 or more out there somewhere. Thus we can say only that Grace is the last KNOWN one. Of the men in the database, Grace easily beats two men (buried in Trempealeau County, Wis., and in Michigan) who died in 1941 and another who died in 1940 (buried in California).

The captains of Grace's Co. D were James Woodford (likely from Dodge County) until Aug. 1, 1864; William H. Foster of Monroe until April 17, 1865, and then Benjamin S. Kerr of Monroe to the end of its service.

NEW CINC IS PETER J. HRITSKO JR. OF OHIO

Continued from page 2

Camp 1 received the award a year ago from outgoing CinC Michael A. Paquette.

Frail also presented three Mary Walker Awards, one of which went to Allison Michaels Politt, who has just finished two terms as national Auxiliary president. Politt is from Franklin, Wis., and now lives in Missouri.

The other Mary Walker Awards went to the national presidents of Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War and Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic.

The new CinC is Peter J. Hritsko Jr. of Ver-

million, Ohio, who moved up from SVC.

His great-great grandfather was killed in the Civil War, and “his interest to serve his country and rally his troops to increase morale and perseverance is something I share,” Hritsko said in his statement of candidacy.

Sue Freshley of Willoughby, Ohio, a dual member of Auxiliary 4, is the new national Auxiliary president. PCinC Ken Freshley, her husband, is a dual member of Camp 1.

These Auxiliary 4 members will hold offices:

- Denise Oman, supply officer. She has served two terms as national president.
- Danielle Michaels, national counselor and historian. She is a past national president.
- Susan Fallon, liaison for women veterans. She is a past Department president.

The 141st National Encampment will be in Louisville, Ky., next July 31 to Aug. 3.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Q: Why was Mary Walker’s Medal of Honor rescinded decades later, and then given back decades after that?

A: In 1865, Walker was awarded the MOH by President Andrew Johnson, even though she was a civilian who never had been a commissioned officer in military service. The citation said she “devoted herself with much patriotic zeal to the sick and wounded soldiers, both in the field and hospitals.” That civilian status is why Walker’s medal was rescinded in 1917, two years before she died – along with 910 other MOHs for various reasons, because of the lack of regulations for the medal. In 1977, due to the persistent efforts of the Walker family, the Army Board of Corrections restored the MOH to Walker. More at https://www.army.mil/article/183800/meet_dr_mary_walker-the_only_female_medal_recipient_and_https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_Edwards_Walker

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 18 – Rich Young | 21 – Dale Bspalec |
| 21 – Bob Nix | 23 – Jim Brinks |

Camp Commander – Grant Johnson
grant.johnson@responsory.com

414-940-3113 or 262-432-0183

SVC – Joe Fallon jf1776@yahoo.com

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

The SUVCW is a tax-exempt organization under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)3, as per the Internal Revenue Service. Donors thus are allowed to deduct contributions they make to C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1, if they do not use the standard deduction on their taxes.

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.

COMING UP

Sept. 2: St. Francis Days parade, 11 a.m. Hail to the hardy souls from the Camp and Auxiliary who will be doing it for the third time this summer.

Oct. 1, 1:30 p.m.: We will dedicate three tombstones at Forest Home Cemetery funded by the Camp and Auxiliary; see the story in the July newsletter. The 29th Colored Infantry, Co. F, will join us.



Ach ja – a grand time helping at German Fest

It was a “wunderbar” three days for the many Camp and Auxiliary members who helped Brother John Thielmann carry on with his traditional displays at German Fest at the end of July. Clockwise from above, JVC Tom Hesse helps a patron, PCC Tom Mueller (left in that photo) helps Thielmann open up for the second day of the fest, and Mike Benton helps a frau hoist a sword. It was difficult to tell who had more fun in the three days – the Brothers or the stein-toters.



Camp and Auxiliary members got set for the South Milwaukee parade on July 29. A special guest was Pat Kulas of Camp 15, third from the right.



PCinC Steve Michaels, right, and PDC Tom Brown presented our Camp wreath at Camp 56's Last Soldier event in Duluth, Minn., on Aug. 12. Albert Woolson died in 1956 and was the last Union vet to pass away.

Photos by Kent Peterson, Maggie Menard-Mueller and Kirby Scott

WHERE WE SERVED AND FOUGHT

– A SERIES SALUTING THE ANCESTORS OF CAMP 1 BROTHERS



Photos
from
Find a
Grave



Why did Bodenstab's service start nearly seven months before his 27th Regiment as a whole?

From page 760 of E.B. Quiner's Wisconsin history: "The discontinuance of recruiting for new regiments in August of that year (1862) left the regiment with only seven companies full. An order authorizing the recruiting of three more companies was received, and, under the supervision of Colonel (Conrad) Krez, the organization was completed, and the regiment mustered into the United States service on the 7th of March, 1863."

BROTHER TOM HESSE'S ANCESTOR:

1ST LT. JULIUS BODENSTAB

Was in the 27th Wisconsin Infantry.

Was from the Town of Herman in Sheboygan County.

Started on Aug. 21, 1862. The 27th Wisconsin as a whole was not mustered in until nearly seven months later, on March 7, 1863.

Bodenstab first was a second lieutenant in Co. C, then promoted to first lieutenant in Co. I starting on March 17, 1863, 10 days after the regiment was mustered in.

Bodenstab and the entire 27th were mustered out on Aug. 29, 1865.

The 27th was part of the siege of Vicksburg Miss., then moved into Arkansas, helping capture Little Rock on Sept. 10, 1863. It then was at places like Jenkins' Ferry, Camden and Pine Bluff. In 1865, it was sent to Alabama and was in the siege of Spanish Fort and helped capture Fort Blakeley just before the war ended.

See <http://www.civilwararchive.com/Unregst/unwiinf2.htm#27thin>

E.B. Quiner's 1866 history of the 27th is at <https://content.wisconsinhistory.org/digital/collection/quiner/id/16697>

Born Jan. 13, 1834

Died June 2, 1916

Buried at Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee.