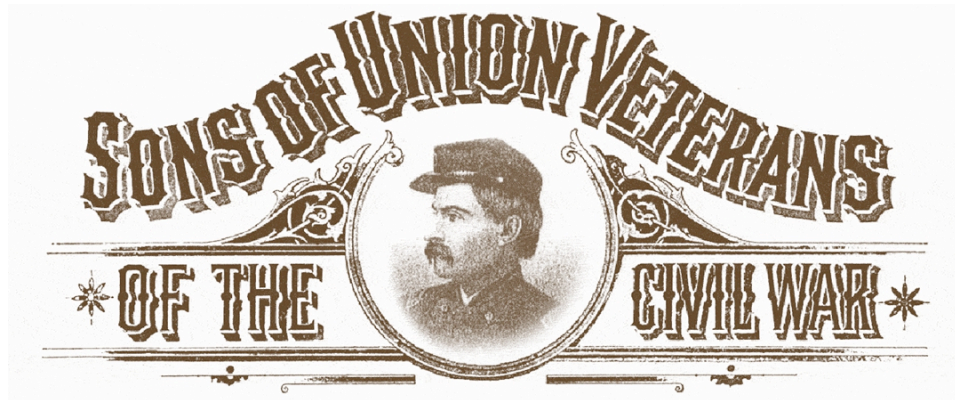




The Camp and the generosity of its Brothers and the Auxiliary made the holidays far brighter for children of needy area veterans. See page 2.

C. K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SUVCW



**C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1**

**SERIES 2012 CAMP ORDERS JANUARY 2012**

RECIPIENT OF THE 2001 AND 2008 MARSHALL HOPE NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

**COMMANDER'S CORNER**

Brothers,

The Camp and Auxiliary presented gifts and gift cards to veterans and their families on 21 December. Well-done, and thank you to all who donated to this worthy cause.

Several Camp and Auxiliary members gave our meeting rooms a good cleaning. PC-in-C Steve Michaels took the time to polish the switch plate and door hardware. The Camp's future sure looks brighter now.

One of the Camp's goals for 2012 was to mark the graves of six Union Veterans of the Civil War with GAR markers. On 9 January, seven GAR markers were placed at the Sylvania Cemetery, which is located on the west frontage road of I-94 between Highways KR and 11 in the Town of Yorkville in Racine County. The condition of other Union Veterans' graves there also was checked, and all have GAR markers now. Pictures of each grave were taken for the Camp archives.

The listing of hundreds of Union Veterans' graves at Forest Home Cemetery is nearing its final count. Once the list has been verified by our Camp's graves registration officer, Br. Tom Ludka, we can begin making sure the names all are entered into the National SUVCW Grave Registration database. A mighty task, but well within our Camp's reach.

The SUVCW Constitution states that for each 10 Brothers in a Camp, there shall be one member on the Welfare Committee to look after any Brother in need. So we need two more Brothers to help SVC Jeff Lesar and Br. Tom Myers. Please contact them for information on how to help.

Coming events for the Camp include a presentation on Civil War memorials in southeastern Wisconsin by Michaels on 28 January at the Civil War Museum in Kenosha, the Patriotic Luncheon / Mid-Winter Meeting on 4 February, and the Sons / Auxiliary member orientation on 26 February. I look forward to seeing you there.

*CC Brian D. McManus*



**Next Camp meeting:**

The next Camp meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday 1 February, 2012, in Building 1 of the Milwaukee Soldiers Home. We will be discussing the Feb. 4 Patriotic Luncheon / Mid-Winter Meeting, planning our spring actions and much more. PCC Patrick Fallon will provide the Patriotic Presentation.



## REMEMBERING COL. PIER: HIS NEIGHBOR'S WAR

By PC-in-C Steve Michaels

*This first was published in the January 2002 issue of Camp Orders, as one in a series of articles about our Camp namesake.*

On April 14, 1861, young Colwert Pier and a neighbor's son, Christian Klock, spent an hour or more discussing the firing on Fort Sumter. Both decided to enlist and signed the muster-roll the next morning: Pier's name appeared first, Klock's second.

Who was Pier's companion and what became of him?

Christie Klock, as he was known in Fond du Lac, was a year older than Pier and one of 19 children in his family. The Klocks came to Fond du Lac in 1855 from St. Lawrence County, New York, farmed 100 acres and later owned a mill.

Klock served with Pier in Co. I, 1st Wisconsin Infantry (3 mos.) from April to August 1861. The next month, he re-enlisted in Co. K, 1st Wisconsin (3 yrs.) and was immediately promoted to 1st Sergeant. The following May, he was promoted to 2Lt. He took part in the battles of Perryville and Stones River that fall and winter. Spring 1863 brought a promotion to 1Lt. and the Tullahoma Campaign. The battles of Chickamauga and Missionary Ridge plus the Atlanta Campaign followed. On July 1, 1864, Klock was promoted to captain. He participated in the battles of Chattahoochee, Peach Tree Creek, Atlanta and Jonesboro before being mustered out that October. Colwert Pier, meanwhile, was adjusting to life in the trenches before Petersburg.

In May 1865, Christian Klock got married. He and his wife, Adelia, were childless and there was a sense of restlessness in the household. The Klocks moved to Texas in 1874. Christian and another Fond du Lac native farmed adjoining ranches 12 miles from Waco. Only a few years earlier, a suspension bridge had been built and the railroad extended through Waco. The city quickly became the hub for commerce and the gateway for settlers and businessmen moving into south and west Texas.

Unfortunately for Klock, a hailstorm in 1879 destroyed his crops and 56 panes of glass in his house. He recovered sufficiently and became a successful sheep raiser.

In the 1890s, Klock moved to Monroe County, Georgia, and was a landlord, renting land to black tenant farmers.

from "History of Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin," Western Historical Company, Chicago 1880; 1900 Federal Census – Georgia; and Milwaukee Sentinel



We sure made kids happy!!! Together with the Auxiliary, the Camp and Santa (Br. Eric Graff) provided holiday cheer for 17 family members of needy veterans. Brothers contributed \$700 to our veterans' relief effort, and another \$310 was provided by the Camp via a match.



# TRUE GRIT

BY BR. GERALD T. (G.T.) REGAN



My last report to the Camp (Camp Orders July 2010) covered the defense of the St. Louis Arsenal against the second attempt by secessionists to capture it, along with a few details about the pursuit of the secessionists to prevent them from gathering reinforcements and making another attack.

Because of the recent film based on the 1968 novel "True Grit" by Charles Portis, some interest in Confederate Gen. Sterling Price has arisen and deserves explanation. Price had been put in command of the Missouri State Guard by Gov. Claiborne F. Jackson after the defeat at the Arsenal.



Br. G.T. Regan carefully researched how Rooster Cogburn, portrayed by John Wayne in the 1969 movie, used two guns in an attack and thus kept the reins in his mouth.

There is a puzzle in understanding the reality, the book and each of the two movies based on the book. In Portis' book, a deputy federal marshal named Reuben "Rooster" Cogburn has a cat named Gen. Sterling Price.

The career of Portis progressed from journalism to other forms of writing, including five novels, one of which was "True Grit." Some commentators think Portis gave Cogburn a cat to show that his personality was not completely violent. The name of the cat has a certain consistency with the fact that both the real Gen. Price and Roster Cogburn served part of the Civil War in the Indian Territory of present-day Oklahoma.

There is another consistency in that Cogburn rode with Capt. William Quantrill after the Confederate guerrilla had supported Price's first conquest of Lexington, Mo. Cogburn may well have heard about Price from Quantrill, who went on his own after serving under Price. Quantrill thought Price was a pussycat as a general and set out on his own. The battle of Lexington occurred after the battle of Wilson's Creek and gave the secessionists control over the Missouri River again for a brief time. Quantrill's riders each carried multiple revolvers, as did Portis' Cogburn. The idea of riding into battle with the reins in your teeth seems to have come from Quantrill, too.

Portis' book was made into a film in 1969. The cat made two appearances. The book was made into another film in 2010. The cat made no appearance in the second film. An explanation for that may lie in the fact that the 2010 film was made from the perspective of Mattie Ross, the young girl who had hired Roster Cogburn to catch her father's murderer. The girl thought all cats were wicked and that she could see Satan in their sly faces.

Price and Jackson had been given several hours to leave St. Louis, after Union Gen. Nathaniel Lyon's victory at the Battle of Camp Jackson. With infantry and vessel-based howitzers, Price and Jackson were forced to retreat to the south. The Confederacy had acknowledged their existence as a Confederate state even though the Union had not. In Arkansas, Price rebuilt an army and planned a fourth attack on the arsenal in St. Louis. By the time he was ready to implement his plan, the war was almost over, but he thought he could ruin Lincoln's chance of a re-election by inflicting a defeat at St. Louis.

Price's strategy was to capture the St. Louis, Iron Mountain and Southern Railroad. The southern end of the railroad was protected by the Union's Fort Davidson, next to Pilot Knob. That was a long way from his base in Arkansas, so he did not have many field pieces. He got reinforcements, and was able to approach Fort Davidson with about 15,000 men. The fort was staffed with only 1,500 under Gen. Thomas Ewing.

Nevertheless, Price's forces were so weakened that he abandoned his plan to take St. Louis and fled, finally, to the Indian Territory.

## C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP #1

For information on C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 or Auxiliary # 4, contact:

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### BROTHERS' BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

Congratulations to:

- 1 – Roger Merkel
- 1 – Kent Peterson
- 6 – Jeff Lesar
- 12 – Todd Wilber
- 15 – Joe Fallon



The graves of seven Brothers in Sylvania Cemetery in Racine County have new GAR markers, courtesy of CC Brian McManus and the Camp. This man, Pvt. William Lee of the 4th Wisconsin Regiment, was killed at the Mississippi River stronghold of Port Hudson, La., on June 14, 1863, according to records. Confederates surrendered July 9 after a Union siege.



PDC Kent Peterson and the Camp worked for five long years on the Rufus King plaque project, which finally came to fruition and dedication in October. He received this Camp Commendation at the Jan. 4 Camp meeting.

## CAMP CALENDAR

28 Jan.: "Our Invisible Civil War Memorials," 1 p.m., by Steve Michaels, at Kenosha Civil War Museum

1 Feb.: Camp 1 and Auxiliary Meeting, 7 p.m., Milwaukee Soldiers Home, Building 1

4 Feb.: Patriotic Luncheon / Mid-Winter Meeting, Bluemound Gardens Restaurant, 11703 W. Bluemound Road, Wauwatosa

26 Feb.: Sons / Auxiliary Member Orientation, 12:30 p.m., Milwaukee Soldiers Home, Building 1

1 March: Camp 1 and Auxiliary Meeting, 7 p.m., Milwaukee Soldiers Home, Building 1

10 March: American Heroes Ball (for Reclaiming Our Heritage), 7 p.m., Marian Center for Nonprofits, Milwaukee

### CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Q: What was the longest pontoon bridge of the war?

A: The bridge was 2,200 feet long and crossed the James River in 1864 during the Petersburg campaign. It was built by 450 Union engineers.

Reclaiming Our Heritage announced this month that it will go for at least one more year – on June 2 and 3 (Saturday and Sunday). See the news at <https://forohmilwaukee.org/News.html>