



No matter what the season, Camp members always work to salute to our ancestors.

PDC Tom Brown, left, and Chaplain Dean Collins bundled up at the extremely cold Wreaths Across America in December. Photo by Kent Peterson

C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP #1

SUVCW



C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SERIES 2023

CAMP ORDERS

JANUARY 2023

CHOSEN AS THE 2022 BEST CAMP IN THE NATION

ACT NOW TO GO TO PATRIOTIC LUNCHEON

The deadline is NOW for getting your spot in southeastern Wisconsin's premier Presidents Day tradition – the 53rd Annual Patriotic Luncheon on Saturday, Feb. 4.

The speaker will be Marquette University Professor Emeritus Dr. James Marten, and his topic is near and dear to the SUVCW: Lincoln's promise to the veteran, widow and orphan.

The luncheon is held by the Camp and Auxiliary 4, and again is at Alioto's in Wauwatosa.

The flyer ran in past two newsletters. Given the late hour now, make your reservation ASAP by contacting Kent Peterson at kapeterson0681@gmail.com or Tom Mueller at thewisconsin3800@gmail.com



**Keepsake
for award
as being the
best**

The Camp has created this challenge coin honoring its award of being best in the nation. It soon will be on its way to members. The coin was made by our longtime friend, the Erffmeyer & Son Co. of Milwaukee, which dates to 1934. A challenge coin is a military tradition, as described at <https://customchallengecoins.net/history-of-the-challenge-coin/>

Past luncheons have attracted 80 to 100, representing more than 30 patriotic and history organizations. They

Continued on page 2

The next Camp meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 8, at the Lions Clubhouse, 7336 St. James St., Wauwatosa. CC Grant Johnson will have the patriotic presentation.

HISTORY AUTHOR TO SPEAK AT FEB. 4 LUNCHEON

Continued from page 1

come for the history, networking, camaraderie – and of course the traditional \$1 raffle featuring books and products galore.

The event is our biggest fund-raiser of the year, and proceeds go toward things like tombstones, aiding current veterans' groups, historic preservation and education at community events and elsewhere.

Marten has written or edited more than 20 books, starting in 1998.

His current book project is tentatively called "A Social History of the Long Civil War: The Soldiers, Families, and Communities of the Sixth Wisconsin Volunteers," which will focus



James Marten

on the long-term effects of the war on that Iron Brigade regiment.

Marten's other works include "The Children's Civil War," "Sing Not War: The Lives of Union and Confederate Veterans in Gilded Age America," "America's Corporal: James Tanner in War and Peace, a short biography of the disabled Civil War veteran and activist James "Corporal" Tanner, and "Buying and Selling Civil War Memory in Gilded Age America."

Marten also has edited or written other books about children and youth, such as "War and Childhood in the Era of the Two World Wars."

REMEMBERING COL. PIER: MENTIONED WITH BIG GAR LEADERS

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

On Feb. 24, 1886, the newspaper reported that Commander Fairchild, ex-Commander Cheek, Col. Pier, Judge Meyer and others attended the annual campfire of the Oshkosh GAR. While hundreds had been invited, it's interesting that these four from out-of-town were singled out – and that Pier was among the names.

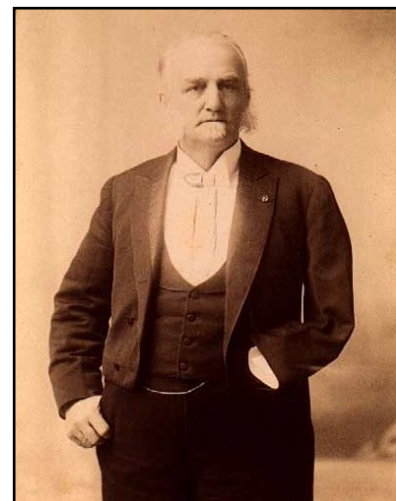
Lucius Fairchild had been elected Wisconsin GAR Department Commander only three weeks earlier. At 54, "the empty sleeve" already had served as Wisconsin secretary of state, governor, U.S. consul to Liverpool and Paris, and minister to Spain. Later that year, he was elected National GAR commander-in-chief. During the war, he had commanded the 2nd Wisconsin Infantry, losing his left arm at Gettysburg. In 1866, he had become a charter member of Wisconsin's first GAR post.

Philip Cheek Jr., who was Pier's age (45), was a charter member of Baraboo's Joe Hooker Post #9. He had served in Company A, 6th Wisconsin Infantry, and was wounded at Antietam. His brother, Robert, had been killed at Petersburg. After the war, Cheek was made clerk of Circuit Court, became an attorney, served as district attorney and was about to be elected commissioner of insurance on the Republican ticket. Cheek had been GAR Department commander from 1883-'84, deputy assistant adjutant general and now was Fairchild's senior aide-de-camp. A month earlier, he organized Green Bay's GAR Post. Because both Cheek and Fairchild were Iron Brigade members, it's likely they also were in Oshkosh to confirm accommodations for the Brigade's reunion there that August.

"Judge Meyer" probably was 61-year-old George H. Myers, who was the first man to open a law office in Outagamie County, in Appleton in 1849. He too served as a district attorney, was appointed county judge during the war, but resigned to become adjutant of the 50th Wisconsin Infantry. He served 11 years as postmaster before being appointed to fill the unexpired term as 10th Circuit Court judge.

Pier was a newcomer to the GAR. But his role as the 1880 Soldiers Reunion organizer, as well as a business leader and vocal Republican supporter, had elevated him to a status he had not previously enjoyed. He was now mentioned in the same sentence with the larger-than-life legendary figures of the Grand Army.

From Soldiers & Citizens Album, Brown & Brown, 1888 & 1890; History of the Bench & Bar of Wisconsin, H.C. Cooper, Jas. & Co., Chicago 1898; and Milwaukee Sentinel, Feb. 24, 1886



Lucius Fairchild, the amputee from Gettysburg who became Wisconsin governor and then Department and national GAR commander.



UNION DEFENDER'S DAY TO THE PATRIOTIC LUNCHEON

BY PCINC STEVE MICHAELS



The combining of Lincoln and Washington's birthday observances into Presidents Day ... February's designation as Black History Month ... Preoccupation with current events ...

All of these have distracted the public from observing Abraham Lincoln's birthday – Union Defender's Day.

Feb. 12 is recognized in 10 states. It last failed to make federal holiday status in 1968, when Washington's birthday was observed on the third Monday in February. In 1971, the day was renamed Presidents' Day.

Lincoln's birthday first was recognized in 1866, less than year after his death. A ceremony was held at the Capitol, and President Andrew Johnson, his cabinet and others were present.

The Sons of Veterans, USA, was responsible for the first nationwide observance, in 1889. In General Order #17, CinC George B. Abbott requested that all Camps hold appropriate services to celebrate Lincoln's birthday.

Based on the celebration's success, Abbott recommended that the observance be made one of our Order's features, be noted in its constitution, and be called "Sons of Veterans Day." The 1889 National Encampment instead voted to call it "Union Defender's Day."

C.K. Pier Camp 35 held Milwaukee's first tribute on Feb. 12, 1890, at old Plymouth Church. Gov. William Hoard spoke on "Lincoln as Humanitarian and Humorist." One Brother spoke on "Lincoln as Boy and Man." C.K. Pier's daughter and early Auxiliary sister, Kate Pier, recited the Gettysburg Address.

The next year, 1,000 people turned out to hear two addresses, a paper delivered, and singing by a Chicago female vocalist, formerly of Milwaukee.

By 1893, there were two Milwaukee Camps and two separate Lincoln programs. That same year, Jerome Watrous wrote a highly laudatory article, le-

gitimizing the Sons and commending them for Union Defender's Day. Watrous was an eminent citizen, newspaper editor and SVC of the Wisconsin GAR Department. Some Grand Army men either misinterpreted his support as suggesting they hold similar celebrations, or believed the Sons were incapable of sustaining the tradition. So at least twice, the GAR took over the observance: in 1894 and 1897.

In 1896, Badger Camp 1 and C.K. Pier Camp 35 held an enthusiastic meeting. A Southern attorney spoke eloquently on the harmonious union of the nation, the character of Lincoln, a legal holiday commemorating his birth, and great hope for the country's future.

As the newly merged Camp 1 in 1902, C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 observed Union Defender's Day with a new feature: food!!!

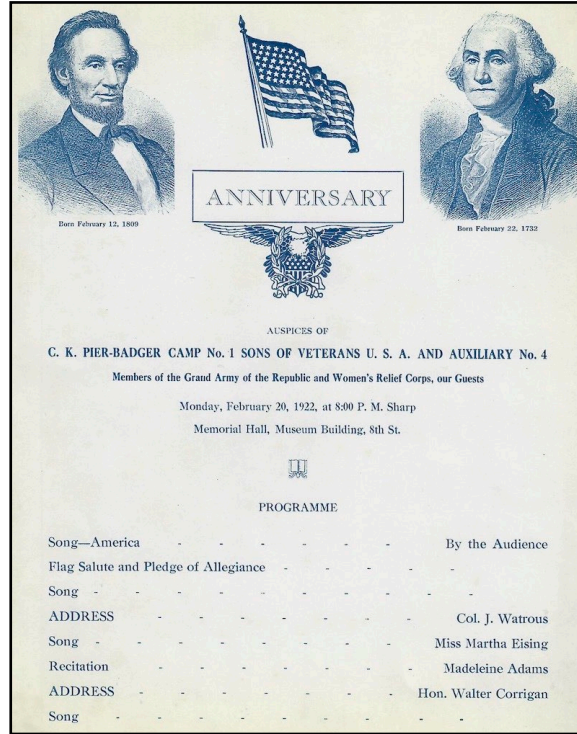
About 100 members of the Sons and various GAR Posts heard patriotic utterances and war songs for *three hours*. Former U.S. Rep. Gerry W. Hazelton spoke on "The Life & Work of Abraham Lincoln."

Then mess call resounded shrilly through the hall, calling the guests to the banquet. Camp founder PDC Frederick Julius Walthers presided as toastmaster.

After dinner, representatives from each GAR Post made addresses, and future GAR Commander-in-Chief Augustus Weissert predicted the Sons would become the strongest organization in the country.

In 1917, the observance was pre-empted by a program at the Auditorium, welcoming boys who served on border duty. Four Brothers were among those honored.

By the 1920s, the day's identity changed, becoming a Lincoln-Washington celebration. In 1927, the observance was held on Feb. 26 in a lecture hall.



This is the program from the 1922 Lincoln-Washington celebration, held by C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 and Auxiliary 4.

Continued on page 4

Honoring Lincoln – continued from page 3

The Allied Orders hired a bus to bring comrades from the Soldiers Home.

A recurring feature of later Washington-Lincoln dinners was William P. Bryant, one of Milwaukee's last two surviving Civil War veterans. Even at age 93 in 1941, Bryant could recite the Gettysburg Address from memory!!!

Over the years, the event was held at the Red Arrow Club, Simpson M.E. Church and the YMCA. As many as 160 to 175 people attended. But by 1970, the membership of the Sons and ladies' orders had aged. They either could not drive at night or felt it was no longer safe to drive downtown at night. So

the event became a luncheon in 1971.

As Allied Orders membership dwindled, it was advantageous to cooperate with other hereditary societies. The disadvantage was a loss of identity. The coalition broke apart in the 1980s and the Sons continued to hold their luncheon, hosting speakers on various topics. But by 1995, attendance had dropped to seven.

The next year witnessed a return to focusing on Union Defender's Day. We looked to other organizations and societies to boost attendance, had speakers from colleges and universities, and introduced fundraising to sustain future programs.

Cheers to all who made patriotic presentations in 2022, and to the newsletter's exploration of other topics!!!

January: The Cahaba, Ala., prison camp.

February: Lee rejected turning to guerilla warfare.

March: Lincoln's career as a wrestler.

April and October: Procurement and production of small arms.

May: The Sharps rifle.

June: The burning of Columbia, S.C.: Was it a war crime? Plus a list of all known Confederate graves in Wisconsin.

July: All about rifles and rifling.

August: The 1st Wisconsin Heavy Artillery.

September: The short life of the USS Milwaukee, an ironclad river monitor.

November: The 54th Massachusetts at Battery Wagner.

December: How the 19th Wisconsin Infantry was one of the first regiments to enter Richmond.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Q: How many fought on the two sides in highly divided Kentucky?

A: About 100,000 served in the Union Army. After April 1864, when the Union began recruiting African-American soldiers in Kentucky, almost 24,000 joined. The Confederates had 25,000 to 40,000 Kentuckians. Details at <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/house-divided-civil-war-kentucky>. There were 17 Kentucky Union cavalry regiments, and 54 infantry.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 – Kent Peterson
1 – Grant Johnson

15 – Joe Fallon

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

One of the Camp's two flagship events of the year is very near, and the second will arrive soon enough:

Feb. 4: Patriotic Luncheon at Alioto's in Wauwatosa.

May 29: Memorial Day commemoration at Calvary Cemetery.

This year, help us honor your – and our – ancestors.

WHERE WE SERVED AND FOUGHT

— A SERIES SALUTING THE ANCESTORS OF CAMP 1 BROTHERS



Photo from Find a Grave.

STATEMENT FROM PENSION RECORD CONCERNING
CAPTURE AND IMPRISONMENT AT SALISBURY, NC

"While being commanded on the 4th day of March 1865, I with some other Comrades going out foraging and being at a mill grinding corn, mostly all of the Command were captured by the Rebels and I and the other Comrades were transported to Salisbury, North Carolina to be confined to prison. There we were treated in such a mean manner that we had either to starve on fame or go to work in order to get a better human like food. All the ration I did receive consists of about 6 ounces corn bread and pint cup of rice boiled in water, of which 3/4 were water, they called it sub. I then concluded to go to work as we were requested and from that time I received almost a better meal."

GEORGE DASCHER
5 Jul 1888
Pvt, Co. K., 26th Wis Inf
Former POW at Salisbury, NC

George Dascher made the above statement about being held at the notorious Salisbury prison camp as part of his pension materials. Joel Schanning, his g-g-grandson, has been a Sons member since 1978.

More about Salisbury at <https://www.ncpedia.org/confederate-prison-salisbury> and <https://salisburyprison.org/PrisonHistory.htm>

**BROTHER
JOEL SCHANNING'S
ANCESTOR:
PVT. GEORGE DASCHER**

Was in the 26th Wisconsin Infantry,
Company K.

From Sauk City in Sauk County.

Mustered in on Aug. 12, 1862.

Mustered out on June 20, 1865. He was "absent sick" at muster out of regiment two months after being released as a POW.

Captured on March 5, 1865, at Seedsville, S.C., according to Wisconsin roster. Schanning wrote a biography for the Camp that says this was along Thompson Creek near Cheraw, which is near the border with North Carolina and today has a population of about 5,000. Paroled a month later.

The 26th Wisconsin fought at many places, such as Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Mission Ridge, in the Atlanta Campaign, the siege of Savannah and the Carolinas Campaign.

See <http://civilwararchive.com/Unreght/unwiinf2.htm#26thin>

Born on March 14, 1843.

Died on Oct. 13, 1930.

Buried at Upper Montana Ridge Cemetery in the Town of Montana in Buffalo County. Find a Grave puts him at Lower Montana Ridge Cemetery, which is two miles away. Another genealogical site merely says he is in Montana Ridge Cemetery.