



Here is one of C.K. Pier's men in the 38th Wisconsin – Pvt. Samuel Girard of Company I. He was from Oshkosh and served from May 3, 1864, to June 7, 1865. He died at age 72 in 1889 and is buried at Embarrass in Wau-paca County. Photo from Find a Grave.



C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SERIES 2021

CAMP ORDERS

JULY 2021

A new view of our old meeting room

Auxiliary President Toni Howard checks out the Camp's former meeting site in the thoroughly remodeled Building 1 of the Milwaukee Soldiers Home. Far nicer than when we were booted in 2014. PCC David Howard and Toni took photos galore in a tour of the home, led by Laura Rinaldi. See page 3 and the special insert.



FINALLY MEETING THE PUBLIC AGAIN

I am not saying “all is right with the world” just yet, but things definitely have moved in the right direction in recent months. And with the Bucks and their NBA championship, things are looking great for Milwaukee's pride and spirit!!!

Ditto for our Camp – July has brought a return to normal, of sorts.

On the weekend of July 17-18,

From the Commander – Brian Craig

the Camp and Auxiliary 4 participated in the Civil War Encampment at Old Falls Village in Menomonee Falls. Many Brothers and Sisters came out to support the effort, and there was a great crowd on both Saturday and Sunday.

The Auxiliary sold its canned

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The next Camp meeting will not be until Sept. 8, but we are confident that in August you will keep reading about the war, visit some battle sites when you travel – and always honor your ancestor and the Boys in Blue.

We were in grand style in Menomonee Falls

Hail, hail, the gang was all here!!! We turned out in force at the Civil War Encampment on July 17-18, the first real public event in a year. We had our picture taken on the steps of the historic schoolhouse. "Children of all ages" got PCC David Howard's briefing about artifacts, and the Auxiliary's canned goods drew lots of interest, just like in the good old days before COVID-19.



REMEMBERING COL. PIER: LAW WORK AND BEYOND

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

At an early age, Colwert K. Pier excelled at composition and elocution. Speaking schools and debating clubs attracted Pier, and he often participated. Upon returning from Lombard University in Galesburg, Ill., he started preparing to become a lawyer. He was 20 when he first studied law with Fond du Lac Judge Robert Flint, and was prepared for admission to the Bar when the Civil War broke out.

At the end of his three-month service in the 1st Wisconsin, Pier spent another three years studying, first at the Albany Law School and then in the law offices of Gillet and Conklin in Fond du Lac. His study again was interrupted when he was appointed lieutenant colonel of the 38th Wisconsin.

After being mustered out of service in August 1865, Pier returned home and was admitted to the Bar. Before the year ended, he had become a partner in the law firm he last studied with. He soon earned an enviable reputation.

But Pier's law career was not to be a destination. Rather, it was part of a journey, setting the stage for future business endeavors. In 1870, he bought a two-thirds interest in the Fond du Lac Commonwealth newspaper. And in 1874, he gave up what was a solo law practice to serve as president of the Savings Bank, replacing his ailing father. Circumstances and a boundless public spirit never allowed him to return to law full-time.

C.K. Pier contributed liberally to the poor, the welfare of veterans, and was a friend to all benevolent enterprises, including the Sons of Veterans, and these interests took increasingly more of his time.

From History of Fond du Lac County, Wis.; Western Historical Company, Chicago 1880



TOURING THE 'NEW' BUILDING 1 AND OLD MAIN



By Tom Mueller, PCC

Three Camp and Auxiliary members have toured the thoroughly remodeled Building 1, which was our longtime meeting site at the Milwaukee Soldiers Home.

They report the transformation was amazing, going from a decrepit, creaky, untouched-for-60-years-or-longer facility to a bright, modern place for homeless veterans or those who were at risk for being homeless. Building 1 and Old Main, which was in even worse shape, were transformed along with four smaller buildings in a \$44 million project.

PCC David Howard, Auxiliary President Toni Howard and Chaplain Dean Collins went on tours led by Laura Rinaldi, one of the mainstays of Reclaiming Our Heritage, which ended in 2012. The goal of the event was to help save the buildings.

Camp 1 was booted from Building 1 in 2014 when the VA's hopes and plans for the housing were beginning to be formulated. Construction did not begin until years later, and the work was finished in the last few months.

Rinaldi is taking small groups to the 1867 Old Main and Building 1.

Collins says the two buildings are now "a spectacular sight; so bright, clean and well-designed for the veterans who actually live there."

At Building 1, which was the Administration Building of the Soldiers Home, "the downstairs, where the old post office was, has been restored to include all of the old mailboxes; they look brand new!!! But of course they are decorative only. Adjacent (behind) the mailboxes is a long fully equipped kitchen. The whole thing looks so good, I wish I could move in myself."

David Howard took photos every time he saw something neat or important, which was often. "The Camp's old meeting room "is rather nice. No chipped



Old Main and its striking windows now are better than ever. Laura Rinaldi (at left in bottom photo) gives a tour. Photos here, on page 1 and in the special insert are by David and Toni Howard.



plaster, all painted and with a new sofa, table and chairs and a game table," he said.

He also saluted the new windows. When the Camp was there, if we opened a window, a book had to be used to prop up the sash. And in our last meeting, the heat and water already had been shut off.

Toni Howard said: "Building 1 was beautifully restored. Everything was so bright and clean. The meeting room that the Auxiliary ladies met in was re-done and set up as a lounge. It had several chairs in there and a table. It was a far cry from when we met in there.

Continued in special insert

Commander

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goods, which are always a hit. And many patrons stopped and check out our booth, from artifacts to weapons to photos of our commemorations and cemetery work. See the event photos on page 2.

Menomonee Falls was the only such event that was held last year, and there have not been a lot of them so far this year, either. But it does signify a return to something resembling normal for the world of Civil War expos, and being able to meet the public again. Gee, we missed people, and having to keep our Memorial Day observances as private affairs in 2020 and 2021 really was difficult.

In addition to Menomonee Falls, we were in a parade in South Milwaukee Saturday. After a year of no parades in 2020, it was good to have one this year



It was not easy in the heat, but the foursome persevered and showed their true colors in the South Milwaukee parade – from left, PCinC Steve Michaels, Pat Kulas of Camp 15, PDC Tom Brown and Bill Seaman. Photo by Kent Peterson.

that we could march in. Another step toward returning to normal!!!

August brings with it the 140th National Encampment, which is being held in St. Louis this year. Not virtually, as the one was last year; and that was delayed for two months, too. Another thing now going back to normal.

We hope the pace will continue to build speed.

In September, we will observe our forthcoming 120th anniversary in a tombstone dedication at Forest Home Cemetery. And we are circulating our speaker's flyer to history groups and libraries, with the long list of topics that Brothers and Sisters have great expertise in. We are ready, willing and able to educate them about many aspects of the Civil War. And such things raise money to carry out our

missions, too.

So look out, world; here we come.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

A: What were “in the air” and “refused” to battlefield commanders?

Q: An unprotected flank was “in the air,” while a protected flank was a “refused flank.” Used as a verb, “to flank” is to move around and gain the side of an enemy position, avoiding a frontal assault. <https://www.battlefields.org/glossary-civil-war-terms#flank>

JULY BIRTHDAYS

Oops, we somehow ran the August list last time. Apologies, July guys.

2 – Steve Michaels
9 – Patrick Fallon

12 – Clifford Howard Jr.
14 – Ron Washburn
16 – Tom Brown
25 – Ron Aronis



COMING UP

Here is a reminder of activities in the next few weeks.

National Encampment: Aug. 4-9 in St. Louis. Many details at <https://www.suvcw-mo.org/2021-national-encampment.html> But act NOW because some deadlines have passed or are imminent.

Forest Home and the Camp's 120th anniversary: In late September, we will dedicate our most recent tombstones and start commemorating our December anniversary. Stay tuned.

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

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TOUR SHOWS RESULTS OF \$44 MILLION PROJECT

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“The steps leading up to the second floor were really nice,” Toni reported. “They seemed nice and solid with no creaking sounds,” and no longer tilt to one side.

“The vets in Building 1 share a very nice communal kitchen with a nice stove and refrigerator to do their cooking. Everything for the vets as far as the restoration is new. It seemed like a nice and welcoming place to live for the vets. They will deserve something like this to live in.”

As for Old Main, David says: “The floor of the first floor is wood, original to the building. Each of the four floors that we toured had impressive windows to the east in the tower section.”

Those distinctive windows always were a main feature of the Old Main, and now are better than ever.

Overall, the project provides 101 supportive housing units. It is detailed at <https://milwaukeesoldiershome.com>

Old Main has 70 one-bedroom apartments and 10 two-bedroom apartments; 11 are reserved for women only, in a separate, secure area of the building. Plus flexible lounge areas for gathering, a club room with kitchenette, dining area and billiards, a business center with 12 computers to use, a workforce skills training center, two fitness areas, multiple laundry facilities and offices for on-site building management, security and care coordination services.

Building 1 now has 14 single-room occupancy units, five shared restrooms, a shared laundry room, various lounge areas for gathering, a club room with a foosball table and TV lounge, the shared kitchen and shared dining areas.

The Zablocki VA Medical Center will provide case management and supportive services. All residents will have access to on-site help such as peer-to-peer counseling, benefits assistance, education training, employment assistance and sobriety maintenance.



This communal kitchen is in Old Main. A similar one is on the ground floor of Building 1, which has 14 single-room occupancy units.

COMPLEX FINANCING PACKAGE BROUGHT NEW DAY FOR SOLDIERS HOME

The partnerships and financing plan that resulted in bright new days for Old Main and Building 1, along with four smaller buildings, were broad-based and complex.

Here are the details, from <https://alexander-company.com/projects/the-soldiers-home/>

As part of an Enhanced Use Lease agreement with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, The Alexander Co. of Madison and Housing Authority of

the City of Milwaukee preserved and rehabilitated the six vacant buildings.

For nearly four decades, Alexander has earned national recognition specializing in historic preservation, urban revitalization and adaptive reuse.

The VA was involved in all aspects of the project, including issuing the initial request for pro-

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AGENCIES TEAM UP IN NEW ERA AT SOLDIERS HOME

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posals and managing the Enhanced Use Lease.

The Housing Authority was brought in as the owner. The Center for Veterans Issues is operating the facilities, with the Zablocki VA Medical Center providing case management and supportive services.

The Alexander Company and Ramlow / Stein served as architects, with J.P. Cullen as lead general contractor.

The Greater Milwaukee Foundation managed the fundraising campaign and received individual contributions. The Milwaukee Preservation Alliance served as the fiscal agent, assisting with fundraising and providing public outreach, with advocacy efforts reaching back 10-plus years.

The Alexander Company creatively arranged a “complex capital stack” to finance the \$44 million project – through a hybrid structure using both 9 percent and 4 percent federal low-income housing tax credits, federal and state historic tax credits, military construction funds, capital magnet funds, a Save America’s Treasures grant from the National Park Service, multiple corporate foundations and the contributions of 650-plus individual donors as part of the Every Hero Deserves a Home capital campaign.

The Soldiers Home grounds were declared a national historic landmark by the National Park Service in 2011.

The Alexander Company has restored buildings all over Wisconsin and the nation. See <https://alexandercompany.com/projects/>



The tour proceeds to Building 1, which now sports a thoroughly upgraded and modern entry, balcony and windows. Below is a “before” picture from The Alexander Company.

