

*Priming  
the  
musket*

PCC Patrick Fallon re-searches manuals about the proper procedure. See the special two-page insert.

C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP #1

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C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SERIES 2020

CAMP ORDERS

JUNE 2020

THREE-TIME RECIPIENT OF THE MARSHALL HOPE NEWSLETTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

**CENTENNIAL OF WOLCOTT STATUE IS  
VERY SPECIAL TO ONE CAMP BROTHER**

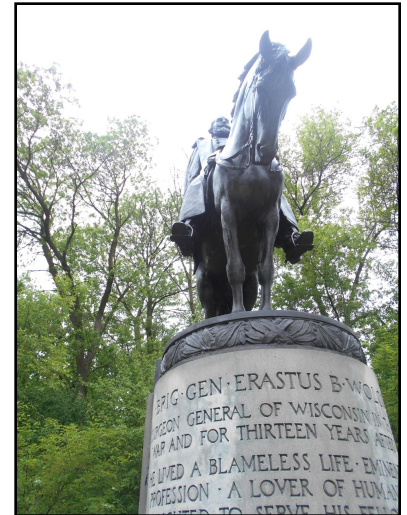
By Tom Mueller, PCC

The recent centennial anniversary for the large E.B. Wolcott statue in Milwaukee was quite poignant for Brother Ron Washburn of Camp 1: His great-grandfather was the main speaker at the dedication.

The statue of Wolcott on a horse is in Lake Park and salutes his service as Wisconsin surgeon general in the Civil War and as a pioneer and leader in the medical profession.

The keynote speaker at the June 12, 1920, event was Jerome A. Watrous of the 6th Wisconsin Infantry, who began as a private and advanced to sergeant major and then adjutant. In 1920 he was commandant of what is now the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King.

Watrous said that as surgeon general, Wolcott "exerted a powerful influence in keeping ablaze



Jerome A. Watrous, a private who advanced to adjutant of the 6th Wisconsin Infantry in the Civil War, was the main speaker at the 1920 dedication of the E.B. Wolcott statue in Milwaukee's Lake Park. His great-grandson is Ron Washburn of Camp 1, a VA medical chief and professor in South Carolina who also serves in the Medical Corps of the Navy Reserves.

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**The next Camp meeting will be Wednesday, July 8, very likely on Zoom. New Brother Peter Keepman, who became an Eagle Scout a few months ago, will have the patriotic presentation.**

# WOLCOTT WAS SURGEON GENERAL IN THE WAR

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the fires of patriotism and in recruiting for the Army and Navy in this state. He visited many of the battlefields, where he cared for the sick and wounded, and sent messages of comfort to fathers and mothers. ... tens of thousands of dollars that he earned as physician and surgeon went to the comfort and the health of the needy."

Washburn says: "My great-grandfather's words rang true to Wolcott's contributions to our beautiful country. Wolcott's actions as a wartime and peacetime healer and physician-leader exemplified a blend of compassion and patriotism."

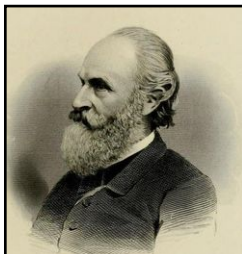
Washburn has been a member of the Camp since 2008, and now lives in Isle of Palms, S.C. He grew up in Lake Bluff, Ill.

"I was impressed by Wolcott's statue during childhood visits to Milwaukee, and am now honored to join Colonel Watrous in honoring Surgeon General Wolcott," Washburn adds.

He also notes: "At the age of 60, Watrous again joined the Army – this time to help fight the Spanish-American War. And at the age of 78 he TRIED to join the Army to help fight World War I. He reassured them he could still march, but this time they turned him down.

"It is in large part because of Jerome's enthusiasm that I decided to volunteer for the Navy at age 63, two years ago. ... I plan to remain until my age waiver expires in 2022."

Washburn's day jobs are in a topic very much



E.B. Wolcott

in the news: He is chief of infectious diseases at the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center in Charleston S.C., and professor of medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, at the Medical University of South Carolina. He specializes in treating the full spectrum of different types of infectious diseases.

The Wolcott statue and pedestal reach 15 feet, 4 inches high above their base. The pedestal is inscribed: "Gen. Erastus B. Wolcott. Surgeon General of Wisconsin in the Civil War and for thirteen years afterward. He lived a blameless life. Eminent in his profession. A lover of humanity. Who delighted to serve his fellowmen, his city state and nation."

In the decades before the Civil War, Wolcott had been a surgeon in the U.S. Army, was trustee of the state hospital for the insane after 1860, regent of the University of Wisconsin after 1850 and vice president of the State Historical Society in 1861.

When the war began, Wolcott was one of the first appointments made by Gov. Alexander Randall.

"The experience and skill acquired by him in that position (Army surgeon), combined with his well-known character as a man of integrity and judgment, prompted Gov. Randall ... to elect him to fill the very responsible position," E.B. Quiner said in his history of Wisconsin in the war.

"... In this the governor evinced the principle ... that the troops which he should send to the field from Wisconsin should be made as efficient as possi-

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## REMEMBERING COL. PIER: WITH HIGH SOCIETY

***These monthly articles about our Camp namesake are written by PCinC Steve Michaels. This item first was published in the June 2000 Camp orders.***

By June 1877, C. K. Pier had become a successful attorney, newspaper owner / editor, a bank vice president, a savings bank director and president of several manufacturing companies. His social status had grown and Pier was improving and expanding his home, as well as constructing a model opera house and hall on his property.

In early July, Pier put a fine, large sailboat on Lake DeNeveu. The lake, southeast of Fond du Lac in the Town of Empire, was named for the French pioneer who purchased the land surrounding it in 1838.

Nearly 40 years later, it was still a picturesque setting with oak openings along the shoreline and still owned by the DeNeveu family. The family was part of town society, which was composed of the state's leaders. It's easy to understand how a distinguished veteran and businessman of French descent, whose family had been the first white people in the county, might be invited to sail on the private lake.

The exclusivity was short-lived. A month later, the DeNeveu Lake Club was organized for the purpose of acquiring land on the west shore for a park, boat houses, bath houses and other recreational buildings.

***From Milwaukee Sentinel, July 7, 1877; History of Fond du Lac as Told by its Place Names, by Ruth S. Worthing, 1976***



## LINCOLN AND THE IRISH



*In his patriotic presentation at the June meeting, PCC David Howard discussed excerpts from the 2018 book, "Lincoln and the Irish: The Untold Story of How the Irish Helped Abraham Lincoln Save the Union," by Niall O'Dowd.*

*The promotional summary of the book at amazon.com says:*

*"When Pickett charged at Gettysburg, it was the all-Irish Pennsylvania 69th who held fast while the surrounding regiments broke and ran. And it was Abraham Lincoln who, a year earlier at Malvern Hill, picked up a corner of one of the Irish colors, kissed it, and said, 'God bless the Irish flag.'*

*"... Niall O'Dowd gives unprecedented insight into a relationship that began with mutual disdain. Lincoln saw the Irish as instinctive supporters of the Democratic opposition, while the Irish saw the English landlord class in Lincoln's Republicans. But that dynamic would evolve, and the Lincoln whose first political actions included intimidating Irish voters at the polls would eventually hire Irish nannies and donate to the Irish famine fund.*

*"When he was voted into the White House, Lincoln surrounded himself with Irish staff, much to the chagrin of a senior aide who complained about the Hibernian cabal. And the Irish would repay Lincoln's faith – their numbers and courage would help swing the Civil War in his favor, and among them would be some of his best generals and staunchest advocates."*

*Here is further research on some aspects of the book.*

Lincoln's rise came at a time when one million famine-plagued Irish were flooding into America, when the population of the United States was 23 million. About 159,000 Irish fought for the Union, and 25,000 for the Confederacy.

Lincoln was a Republican, a party that had a deep anti-Irish Catholic core because of the influence of the Know-Nothings.

The Know-Nothings, formally known as the Native American Party and the American Party from 1855 onwards, was a far-right nativist political party and movement that operated nationwide in the mid-1850s. It was primarily an anti-Catholic, anti-immigration and xenophobic movement, originally starting as a secret society. Adherents to the movement were to simply reply "I know nothing" when asked about its specifics by outsiders, providing the group with its common name.

Lincoln made it clear that he had no truck with the Know-Nothings. He expressed his disgust in a private letter in August 1855.

"I am not a Know-Nothing – that is certain. How could I be? How can anyone who abhors the oppression of negroes, be in favor of degrading classes

of white people? Our progress in degeneracy appears to me to be pretty rapid.

"As a nation, we began by declaring that 'all men are created equal.' We now practically read it 'all men are created equal, except negroes.' When the Know-Nothings get control, it will read 'all men are created equals, except negroes and foreigners and Catholics.' When it comes to that I should prefer emigrating to some country where they make no pretense of loving liberty – to Russia, for instance, where despotism can be taken pure, and without the base alloy of hypocrisy.

By 1856, the Whig Party that Lincoln belonged to had destroyed itself over slavery and the violence of the Know-Nothings.

In the war, Irish-Americans often formed their own regiments, notably the 69th New York and the 90th Illinois Infantry. The 69th New York flew a green flag with a golden harp on it, symbolizing Ireland.

After the First Battle of Bull Run, the 69th New York was incorporated into a larger unit, the Irish Brigade. At the 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg, the brigade charged up Marye's Heights, suffering 41.4 percent casualties. At Gettysburg, the Irish Brigade held a Catholic mass before facing Pickett's Charge.

It was during the Seven Days Campaign of 1862 that the brigade began to earn its reputation for steadiness in battle. At the Battle of Malvern Hill, it engaged in a bloody hand-to-hand fight with the Louisiana Tigers, many of whom also were Irish-born. Afterward, one colonel requested new muskets to replace the ones damaged in the melee, but the corps commander, Gen. Edwin V. Sumner, refused because he thought the men had simply lost them.

The general changed his mind when he was shown a pile of muskets with splintered stocks, bent barrels and twisted bayonets. One soldier told him, "The boys got in a scrimmage with the Tigers, and when the bloody villains took to their knives, the boys mostly forgot their bayonets, but went to work in the style they were used to, and licked them well, sir."

Soon after, whenever Sumner prepared for battle he would ask, "Where are my green flags?" and he once quipped that if the Irishmen ever ran from the field he would have to run as well, according to <https://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/12/11/the-fighting-irish-brigade/>



# E.B. Wolcott statue turns 100 – continued from page 2

ble before they left the sate, not only in outfits of clothing, camp equipage, and if possible, arms and accoutrements, but in that important particular of a complete and adequate supply of medicine and instruments, as well as an efficient medical staff.”

Wolcott said in one of his reports to the state: “Absolute qualification for the responsible duties of the (surgeon) position is what I have endeavored to secure. All will admit the indispensable necessity of a thorough medical education, but no one will concede the fact that all thoroughly educated medical men are adapted to the arduous duties of the military surgeon.”

After the war, Wolcott was a prime mover in establishing the Milwaukee Soldiers Home, where a Wisconsin historical marker honors him for all his work.

It says: “The hospital was established in 1867, and Dr. Wolcott was appointed by Congress to the national governing board. Dr. Wolcott was a founder of the State Medical Society in 1841 and the Medical Society of Milwaukee County in 1846. He made surgical history in 1861 as the first physician to remove a diseased kidney. In 1869 he married Dr. Laura J. Ross, the first woman admitted to a medical society in Wisconsin and one of the first three American woman physicians. She erected the monument to Dr. Wolcott in Milwaukee's Lake Park.”

Wolcott died in 1880 at the age of 75, and GAR Post #1 was established nine days later and named for him. Col. C.K. Pier was member No. 312.

As for Watrous, 33 years after the Civil War, he was commissioned as a major in the U.S. Army with the outbreak of the Spanish-American War in 1898. He served as paymaster of the Department of Columbia, headquartered in Portland, Ore., before being sent to Manila in the Philippines in 1900. He was made chief paymaster of the Department of the Southern Philippines in 1901, and promoted to lieutenant colonel in 1904. Shortly after, Watrous retired from the military and returned to Wisconsin.

Watrous died at age 81, almost exactly two years after the statue was dedicated. Wolcott and Watrous both are buried at Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee.

**Anthony Maresca of Brookfield and Peter Keepman of Wauwatosa have joined our Camp as associate members.**

**Welcome, Anthony and Peter!!!**

## CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

**Q:** On the battlefield, what was an insult?

**A:** A sudden, open, unconcealed attack upon a fortified position with the intent of capturing it before an effective defense could be mounted. This is according to <https://www.battlefields.org/glossary/civil-war-terms#V>

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Steve Michaels
- 9 – Patrick Fallon
- 14 – Ron Washburn
- 16 – Tom Brown



**Camp Commander – Brian Craig**  
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**and <http://www.sucw-wi.org>**

**Report address changes to editor Tom Mueller,**  
**PCC, at [thewisconsin3800@gmail.com](mailto:thewisconsin3800@gmail.com)**

**Your Banner is not forwarded by the Postal Service, so you need to report a new address to us.**

## CAMP CALENDAR

**In the pre-pandemic world, we would be previewing Camp activities and events here. For now, we continue to offer a bonus trivia about diseases:**

**Q:** What was the disease erysipelas?

**A:** An acute, febrile infectious disease, caused by a specific streptococcus and characterized by a diffusely spreading deep-red inflammation of the skin or mucous membranes. It is pronounced er-uh-SIP-uh-luh-s.

# HALF COCK: PRIMING PROCEDURE EXPLAINED

By PCC Patrick Fallon

A question was posed to me after the May 30 ceremony at Calvary Cemetery regarding the proper method of priming the musket. Here are the methods prescribed in the School of the Soldier sections of Hardee's Rifle and Light Infantry Tactics, Casey's Infantry Tactics, Gilham's Manual for the Volunteers and Militia, and the 1863 U.S. Infantry Tactics manuals.

**Har-dee's:** Prime. One time and two motions.

167. (First motion.) With the left hand raise the piece till the hand is as high as the eye, grasp the small of the stock with the right hand; half face to the right; place, at the same time, the right foot behind and at right angles with the left; the hollow of the right foot against the heel. Slip the left hand down to the lower band, the thumb along the stock, the left elbow against the body; bring the piece to the right side, the butt below the right forearm – the small of the stock against the body and two inches below the right breast; the barrel upwards, the muzzle on a level with the eye.

168. (Second motion.) HALF COCK (emphasis added) with the thumb of the right hand, the fingers supported against the guard and the small of the stock – remove the old cap with one of the fingers of the right hand, and with the thumb and fore-finger of the same hand take a cap from the pouch, place it on the nipple, and press it down with the thumb; seize the small of the stock with the right hand.

**Casey's:** Prime. One time and two motions.

174. (First motion.) With the left hand raise the piece till the hand is as high as the eye, grasp the small of the stock with the right hand; half face to the right; place, at the same time, the right foot behind and at right angles with the left; the hollow of the right foot against the left heel. Slip the left hand down to the lower band, the thumb along the stock, the left elbow against the body; bring the piece to the right side, the butt below the right forearm – the small of the stock against the body and two inches below the

right breast, the barrel upwards, the muzzle on a level with the eye.

175. (Second motion.) HALF COCK (emphasis added) with the thumb of the right hand, the fingers supported against the guard and the small of the stock – remove the old cap with one of the fingers of the right hand, and with the thumb and fore-finger of the same hand, take a cap from the pouch, place it on the nipple, and press it down with the thumb; seize the small of the stock with the right hand.

**Gilham's:** Prime. One time and one motion.

114. Place the thumb of the right hand on the hammer (the fingers remaining under and against the guard), and HALF COCK (emphasis added) the piece; brush off the old cap, and with the thumb and first two fingers of the right hand take a cap from the pouch, place it firmly on the cone by pushing it down with the thumb, and seize the piece by the small of the stock.

**1863 U.S. Infantry Tactics:** Prime. One time and two motions.

167. (First motion.) With the left hand raise the piece till the hand is as high as the eye, grasp the small of the stock with the right hand; half face to the right; place, at the same time, the right foot behind and at right angles with the left; the hollow of the right foot against the left heel. Slip the left hand down to the lower band, the thumb along the stock, the left elbow against the body; bring the piece to the right side, the butt below the right forearm – the small of the stock against the body and two inches below the right breast, the barrel upwards, the muzzle on a level with the eye.

168. (Second motion.) HALF COCK (emphasis added) with the thumb of the right hand, the fingers supported against the guard and the small of the stock – remove the old cap with one of the fingers of the right hand, and with the thumb and fore-finger of the same hand take a cap from the pouch, place it on the



PCC Patrick Fallon researched a question from the honor guard about the procedure for placing the percussion cap, and whether the rifle should be at half cock or other. The honor guard from Camps 1 and 15 conducted the small, private Memorial Day ceremony on May 30 at Calvary Cemetery.

*Continued on next page*

# WEAPONS MANUALS PROVIDE ANSWERS

*Continued from previous page*

nipple, and press it down with the thumb; seize the small of the stock with the right hand.

**1863 U.S. Infantry Tactics:** Prime. One time and one motion.

454. HALF COCK (emphasis added) the piece with the thumb of the right hand, keeping the piece in its place with the left; displace the old cap, and, with the thumb and first two fingers of the right hand, take a cap from the pouch, place it upon the cone, push it down with the thumb, and seize the piece by the small of the stock.

A few brief notes regarding these excerpts: First, the term “cone” is interchangeable with the term nipple; and second, the 1863 U.S. Infantry Tactics contains two different sections on Prime, one for the rifle and one for the musket. Third, a cap

pouch is the same thing many of us refer to as a cap box.

Brothers, as you can see, four different manuals all specifically state that the hammer is to be at half cock when priming. This is to lessen the chance of the weapon accidentally discharging and injuring either yourself or others.

If you are having difficulty placing a cap on your weapon with the hammer at half cock, the only remedy I can suggest is to practice doing so. With enough repetition, you will find doing this correctly becoming easier. Keep in mind that unlike competition black powder shooters, you are not being timed on how quickly you can load your weapon, nor are you being expected to fire three aimed shots per minute like a trained, experienced Civil War soldier. For our purposes, safety trumps speed.

