

*Another
jumbo
edition*

This month's newsletter is seven pages, one month after a nine-page issue. In older times, the Camp Orders was only a standard four pages.

C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP #1

SUVCW



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SERIES 2023

CAMP ORDERS

JUNE 2023

CHOSEN AS THE 2022 BEST CAMP IN THE NATION



BIG GUN HELPS HOST DEPARTMENT ENCAMPMENT



The June 3 Department Encampment, organized by Camp 1 and Auxiliary 4, featured a visit from CinC Bruce Frail of Rhode Island, center in bottom row. PCinC Steve Michaels brought the replica Mountain howitzer from his yard. Extra hands were needed for getting it in and out of the Lions Clubhouse. See inside for TWO pages of Encampment coverage.

The next Camp meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 12, at the Lions Clubhouse, 7336 St. James St., Wauwatosa. Patriotic Instructor Paul Eilbes will have the patriotic presentation.

IN MEMORIAM: BROTHER TOM REMINGTON

Thomas George Remington, 88, of Kenosha, died May 28 at the Hospice Alliance Hospice House in Kenosha.

Remington joined the Camp in 2010, and his relative of record was Pvt. Lucius Johnson Hebard, Co. K, 4th Wisconsin Cavalry.

Remington was born in Kenosha on March 8, 1935, the son of the Wesley and Ruby (Hebard) Remington. He was educated in local schools and graduated from Kenosha High School in 1953.

Tom then served in the US Army from 1953 until his honorable discharge in 1955. He was proud to be part of an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., in 2014.

After his service, he was a letter carrier for U.S. Postal Service in Kenosha for more than 30 years. He received many commendations for his dedicated and safe driving, and retired in 1990. He was a longtime member of the National Association of Letter Carriers.

Following his retirement, he volunteered at



Remington

the Civil War Museum.

On Dec. 4, 1993, he married Patricia Ann "Penny" Kosecki in Kenosha. Penny lovingly cared for Tom through many health issues he battled later in life.

He was treasurer of the Kenosha Running Club and ran numerous marathons. Tom also served as treasurer of the Kenosha County Genealogy Society, and meticulously researched several branches of his family tree.

He was a longtime Packer season ticket holder and attended the "Ice Bowl" game at Lambeau Field in 1967.

Survivors include his wife; a son, Christopher (Kathryn) Remington; two grandchildren and a stepson. Burial was on June 9 at Sunset Ridge Memorial Park, 4300 Green Bay Road, Kenosha, with full military honors. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Hospice Alliance would be appreciated.

A longer obituary is at https://memorials.prokofu-neralhome.com/thomas-remington/5201439/index.php?_ga=2.219089756.490871638.1686062048-786378534.1686062048

REMEMBERING COL. PIER: THE 3-MONTH MEN

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

The quality of the young men who served with Pvt. C.K. Pier in Company I, 1st Wisconsin Infantry (3 months), was remarkable when you consider what happened after they were mustered out in August 1861.

The Company I "Badger Boys" were comprised of three officers and 76 men.

Twenty-four re-enlisted as privates in other units. Eight were given noncommissioned positions as corporals, first sergeants, commissary sergeants and quartermaster sergeants. Seven gave their lives in service to their country at places like Shiloh, Perryville, Murfreesboro, Kennesaw Mountain, Chaplin Hills, Chickamauga and Pensacola. One man was killed in a railroad accident.

Pvt. George Gates jump-started a medical career with his appointment as a second hospital steward in the regimental hospital.

While the company's three officers were retained, almost a third of the company's men (25) were either appointed or elected to officer grade, most in the 14th, 21st and 32nd Wisconsin Infantry Regiments. Six became field grade officers, including 2nd Sgt. William Burrows and Pvt. Kelsey Adams, who were made majors with the 32nd Wisconsin and 47th Wisconsin, respectively.

C.K. Pier was not the only soldier from Company I to return home and raise more troops for the Union and rise to the rank of colonel. First Sgt. Lyman Ward was appointed colonel of the 14th Wisconsin and 4th Sgt. Eddy Ferris rose from captain to lieutenant colonel of the 14th. They returned to Fond du Lac with little more than a third of their regiments surviving. And Pvt. Roswell Sawyer rose from lieutenant to assistant adjutant general on the staff of Brig. Gen. Charles Smith Hamilton.

Colwert K. Pier was an outstanding soldier patriot, but it should be remembered that he was part of a very committed and capable group of men, during a very patriotic and emotional time.

From History of Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, Western Historical Company, Chicago 1880; Roster of Wisconsin Volunteers in the War of Rebellion, 1861-1865, Wisconsin Adjutant General, Democrat Printing Co., Madison 1886



'PROFESSOR LOWE' AND THE BALLOON CORPS



PDC Kent Peterson compiled this report from <https://www.thoughtco.com/balloon-pioneer-thaddeus-lowe-1773711> and other websites.

Thaddeus Lowe was a self-taught scientist who became a pioneer of ballooning in America. His exploits included the creation of the first aerial unit in the U.S. military, the Union Army's Balloon Corps.

Lowe's original goal, in the years just prior to the Civil War, was to pilot a balloon across the Atlantic from the United States to Britain.

Thaddeus Sobieski Coulincourt Lowe was born in New Hampshire in 1832. As a child, he had little opportunity for education, so by borrowing books, he essentially educated himself, developing a special fascination for chemistry. While attending a chemistry lecture on gases, he became fascinated by the idea of balloons.

In the 1850s, when Lowe was in his 20s, he became a traveling lecturer, calling himself "Professor Lowe." He would speak about chemistry and ballooning, and began building balloons and giving exhibitions of their ascents. Turning into something of a showman, Lowe would take paying customers aloft to earn money.

Lowe opened a factory to build balloons for customers across the United States, using some of his profits to construct the largest balloon ever attempted, The City of New York, which had a diameter of 103 feet. Lowe had become convinced that high-altitude air currents were always moving eastward, and planned to ride those currents across the Atlantic Ocean to Europe. (Today we call those currents the jet stream.)

But first, as a test flight, Lowe took a different balloon he had built to Cincinnati, with a plan to fly on the eastward air currents to Washington, D.C. In the early morning of April 20, 1861, Lowe took off, sailed at high altitudes over the Blue Ridge Mountains, and finally picked what appeared to be a safe place to land.

It turned out to be Unionville, S.C., and according to his own account, he was arrested as a Yan-

kee spy. He established his identity as a man of science, and was allowed to return home, where he had received word from Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase to come to Washington with his balloon.

He offered to help the Union cause. During a demonstration attended by President Lincoln, Lowe ascended in his balloon, observed Confederate troops across the Potomac through a spyglass, and telegraphed a report back to the ground.

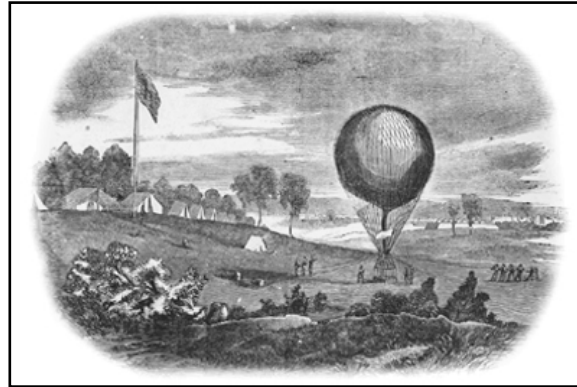
Convinced that balloons could be useful as recon tools, Lincoln appointed Lowe as chief aeronaut of the Union Army's Balloon Corps.

On Sept. 24, 1861, Lowe made a flight over Arlington, Va., and was able to see formations of Confederate troops about three miles away. His information was used to aim Union artillery at them. This was, apparently, the first time troops on the ground were able to aim at a target that they could not see themselves.

Lowe eventually was able to build a fleet of seven balloons. But the Balloon Corps proved problematic. It was difficult to fill the balloons with gas in the field, even though Lowe developed a mobile device that could produce hydrogen gas. And the intelligence gathered by the "aeronauts" was typically ignored or mishandled. After issues were raised about the costs of the program, and concerning leadership, Lowe resigned in August 1863, and the Balloon Corps was disbanded.

After the war, with 18 patents, from ice-making machines to the production of heating-gas and its distribution, Lowe became a very wealthy man. He moved to Los Angeles in 1887 and built a 24,000-square-foot mansion, complete with an observatory and four-story tower.

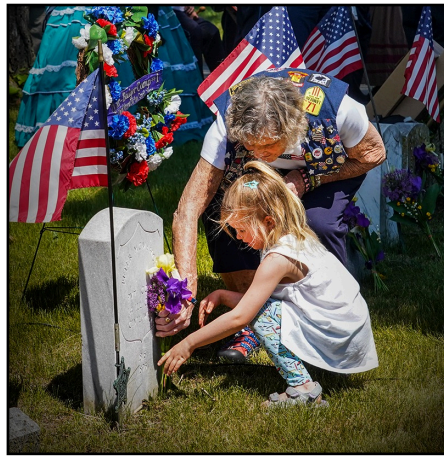
In 1891 he incorporated the Pasadena & Mount Wilson Railroad Co. and built the Mount Lowe Railway into the hills above Altadena. It found quick success, but by 1899 Lowe had gone into receivership and eventually lost the railway. His fortunes had been all but lost, and he lived out his remaining days at his daughter's home in Pasadena, where he died in 1913 at age 80.



Here is Thaddeus Lowe's balloon named Enterprise, drawn in Harper's Weekly (1861). It is starting a reconnaissance mission at Gen. Irvin McDowell's headquarters.

Memorial Day scenes

Memorial Day speaker Ruby Scheuing, a Vietnam War nurse, helped one of the children decorating graves. Chaplain Dean Collins, retiring after organizing the Camp event since 1996, celebrated Mass with Archbishop Jerome Listecky.



Memorial Day photos by Kent Peterson; Cutler event by Tom Mueller

The Civil War Round Table of Milwaukee dedicated the replacement obelisk for Maj. Gen. Lysander Cutler on May 28 at Forest Home Cemetery. The Camp was there with a uniformed presence. From left are Paul Eilbes, Mike Benton and Tom Hesse, members of both the Round Table and the Camp.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Q: What was the "Flying Flotilla?"

A: In April 1861, Navy Secretary Gideon Welles authorized Samuel Livingston Brees and James Harmon Ward to form a "flying flotilla" of light vessels to patrol Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. The name soon was changed to the Potomac Flotilla. On June 27, 1861, as the flotilla engaged Confederate batteries at Mathias Point, Va. Ward was shot through the abdomen, becoming the first U.S. naval officer to be killed in the war. This is from <https://americancivilwarhighcommand.com/navies/squadrons-of-the-us-navy/> It is assembled by John Eason.

JULY BIRTHDAYS



2 – Steve Michaels	14 – Ron Washburn
9 – Patrick Fallon	16 – Tom Brown
12 – Clifford Howard Jr.	25 – Ron Aronis

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

July 4: The first parade of summer will be at 9 a.m. in the Humboldt Park neighborhood. This is a paid event for the Camp and Auxiliary. Come and help march for part of the way, or cheer on those who do.

July 15-16: Civil War Encampment at Old Falls Village in Menomonee Falls. Starts at 10 a.m. each day. At Pilgrim Road and County Line Road. Go north from the freeway.

July 28-30: At German Fest, Herr Brother John Thielmann and several from the Camp will talk about the Deutsch soldiers in the Civil War. Visit the tables in the cultural tent.



In front of a replica cannon and stacked rifles, Camp 1 member Michael Deeken of Brookfield is sworn in. Deeken also has upgraded his membership to lineal, for Pvt. Henry Carter of the 24th Wisconsin Infantry, Co. G.



Scenes from Department Encampment



Auxiliary National President Allison Pollitt, in the sash, came home to the Milwaukee area to preside. CinC Bruce Frail, right, hobnobbed with PCinCs Steve Michaels, left, and Ken Freshley of Ohio.



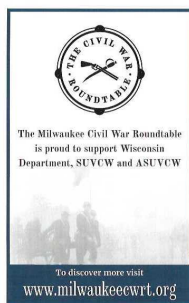
The 140th Wisconsin Department Encampment was held in Wauwatosa, hosted by Camp 1 and Auxiliary 4.

Camp 1's 13 delegates were among the 33, representing six of the Department's seven Camps. In addition to the business sessions, which reviewed recent activities, decided expenditures and voted on officers, the Encampment initiated two new members, one of them a descendant of a Sons organizer in Wisconsin.

Commander-in-Chief Bruce Frail visited from Rhode Island, and PCinC Ken Freshley from Ohio also attended. Freshley joined Camp 1 last February as a dual member.

The Wisconsin Department of the Auxiliary to the SUVCW held its 109th Encampment.

A wide variety of GAR and Sons historical artifacts were on display, and presentations were given by the Milwaukee Civil War Round Table and the Milwaukee Preservation Alliance. Goodie bags, camaraderie with the Auxiliary and a tour of the renovated Milwaukee Soldiers Home all made for a great event.



For the first time in many, many Department Encampments, there was an extensive printed program of historical reports and paid advertising. Kepi-waving and hurrahs to PDC Kent Peterson.

Photos here, on pages 1 and 6 by Kent Peterson

DESCENDANT OF DEPT. AND CAMP FOUNDER GETS MEMBERSHIP

In the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, we're often catching up with our past. This happened most recently at the Wisconsin Department's 140th Encampment, held June 3 in Wauwatosa. The descendant of one of our Department's principal founders was invited to give a speech. J. Philip Walthers, the great-grandson of Frederick Julius Walthers, spoke in detail about "F.J." and his family's tradition of military service going back several generations in Europe.

When the Sons of Veterans organized in Wisconsin, F.J. Walthers was appointed the 3rd Grand Division's assistant inspector general and an aide to the commander-in-chief. In late 1883, he organized Milwaukee's Robert Chivas Camp 7, the predecessor of Badger Camp 1, and was elected its captain (Camp commander). He resigned this post when he went to Madison. In October 1885, while attending Law School there, he organized Col. Charles Gill Camp 15 and again was chosen captain. He served until elected to the colonelcy (commander) of the Wisconsin Division (Department) on July 24, 1886. Before leaving office in August 1887, the number of Wisconsin's working Camps had risen from three to 25.

In late 1888, Walthers organized and was elected commander of Milwaukee's C.K. Pier Camp 35. He led the Camp for three years and remained active through its 1901 merger with Camp 1.

During the 1889 National GAR Encampment in Milwaukee, Walthers served on the Sons of Veterans Committee, coordinating support, as well as a separate Sons campfire program and reunion. He was one of 24 brothers on the Department charter. Over the next three decades, he served in various capacities at the Camp, Department and national level.

Walters was elected junior vice commander-in-chief at the 1919 National Encampment. Despite a post-World War 1 depression, competition from new veterans' organizations and an uncertain political climate, he was convinced of our Order's great possibilities. He saw the Sons exerting an educative influence on the citizenry, especially youth, and upholding the guarantee of our Constitution for present and future generations.



The Walthers tradition of enthusiasm, hard work and perseverance continued over the next four generations. F.J.'s son became an electrical engineer and founded the William K. Walthers Model Railroading Company. While Phil Walthers retired as CEO a few years ago, he remains the company's chairman of the board.

Phil was known to C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1, because he had spoken at the Camp's centennial meeting in 2001. Upon his return to speak at this year's Department Encampment, he was presented with a membership in the Camp. His wife and son witnessed the event.

The past is never very far away, and catching up to it can be a very rewarding experience.

PCinC Steve Michaels presents Sons membership to J. Philip Walthers.

Walthers' relative of record is Capt. William Walthers of the 34th Wisconsin Infantry, Co. K.

Another new member of the Camp is John Helmenstine of New Berlin, whose relative was Pvt. William Helmenstine, 49th Wisconsin Infantry, Co. A.

Yet another new member is Dale Bspalec of Grafton, an associate member.

Welcome, all three Brothers!!!



WHERE WE SERVED AND FOUGHT

– A SERIES SALUTING THE ANCESTORS OF CAMP 1 BROTHERS



Edwin A. Brown is the ancestor of PDC Tom Brown, Jeremy Brown and Skylar Brown.

Camp 1 Brother Ron Washburn's ancestor, Jerome Watrous, was one of Brown's men in Co. E.

As PDC Tom Brown recounted in a 2012 article in the Camp Orders about his great-great grandfather:

"He escaped death on Sept. 14 but was heard to say he would be killed in the next battle. An unidentified soldier from Company B of the 6th Wisconsin was driving an ambulance as the Army neared Antietam Creek. With the battle looming, Brown insisted on rejoining his company, saying to others in the Ambulance Corps, 'I am going to my death, boys, but I am going into battle all the same.'

"Brown raised his sword and shouted in a nervous voice to the men of his company, 'Company E, on the right by file into line.' An instant later, a bullet struck him in the mouth and killed him."

THE BROWN FAMILY'S ANCESTOR: CAPT. EDWIN A. BROWN

Was in the 6th Wisconsin Infantry, Company E.

Was from Fond du Lac.

Mustered in on July 16, 1861, as first lieutenant. Became captain on Sept. 18 of that year.

Killed at Antietam on Sept. 17, 1862.

The 6th Infantry was part of Gen. Irvin McDowell's advance on Richmond March 25 to 29, 1862, and in operations against Gen. Stonewall Jackson June 2 to 11. Reconnaissance to Frederick's Hall Station and Spotsylvania Court House Aug. 5 to 8.

Then the Iron Brigade unit was in the Battle of Cedar Mountain, Va., Aug. 9, and Gen. John Pope's campaign in northern Virginia Aug. 16 to Sept. 2. Action at Gainesville Aug. 28. Battles of Groveton Aug. 29; Bull Run Aug. 30, and South Mountain, Md., Sept. 14.

See <http://civilwararchive.com/Unreght/unwiinf1.htm#6thinf>

Born Feb. 21, 1832.

Died Sept. 17, 1862.

Buried at Rienzi Cemetery in Fond du Lac.

Some of Brown's letters to home are at <http://www.ironbrigade.net/Brown/brown-war1.htm>