

Bless the nurses

That's what we all are saying amid the pandemic, and Civil War soldiers did, too. See page 2 for the story of nursing.



C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SERIES 2020

CAMP ORDERS

MAY 2020

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

HONORING THEIR MEMORY, BUT SAFELY

Here it is time for us to be holding the big Memorial Day celebration at Calvary Cemetery that we do every year. But COVID-19 has sidelined that event, as it has done to so many events all over the country. This is indeed a strange year.



PCinC Steve Michaels provides a briefing about placing flags at Calvary Cemetery to volunteers and Brother John Thielmann (in protective mask).

**From the
Commander –
Brian Craig**

However, the Sons did get out to do our annual flag-placing at veterans' stones in Calvary Cemetery on May 16. We had a nice turnout of seven Sons, one Auxiliary and a few friends to help with this project. It also was a great way to finally get out of the house. And this was a project that could be done safely with proper "social distancing."

This year is the first in decades that the Camp will not be holding a commemoration on the official holiday. But we still aim to maintain our string of observances, which dates to 1927. So on Saturday (May 30, which is the tradition-

al date of Decoration Day; later to become Memorial Day), we will hold a brief, private observance.

Not as grandiose as our celebrations of the recent years, but something we can do within the guidelines of the current crisis. And this goes straight to the heart of why our order was founded – to preserve the memory of the fallen heroes. Yes, it is nice to keep our streak of continuous years hosting this event alive. But that is not nearly as important as preserving the memory of our veterans.

Continued on page 4

The next Camp meeting will be Wednesday, June 10, very likely on Zoom. We hope that some from the roster will join the regulars in this session, which is easy to log onto. PCC David Howard will have the patriotic presentation.

VOLUNTEER NURSES FOUGHT FOR SOLDIERS

This article was written by Alice P. Stein and appeared in the September 1999 issue of America's Civil War. See the entire article at <https://www.historynet.com/civil-war-nurses>

They came from the paneled drawing rooms of the nation's great mansions, the log lean-tos of the far frontier and the chaste confines of Eastern convents.

Lacking professional training but endlessly resourceful, the volunteer nurses of the Civil War labored tirelessly to bring aid and comfort to the sick and wounded soldiers on both sides of the fighting.

Wartime hospital facilities, particularly early in the conflict, were primitive and disorganized. Military and societal protocol banned women from field hospitals, so most nursing duties continued to be assigned to men.

But increasing numbers of casualties and the overburdening of aid facilities soon broke down gender-related strictures on nursing and spurred the nation's women into taking immediate and decisive action to help.

Clara Barton, who later founded the American Red Cross, brought supplies and help to the battlefronts before formal relief organizations could take shape to administer such shipments. Acting entirely on her own, the Massachusetts-born Barton personally collected food, clothing and medical supplies for the hard-pressed Union Army after the Peninsula campaign in 1862. She later served in a similar capacity at other engagements.

Religious orders also responded by sending their own trained nurses to staff field hospitals near the front. Within a few months of the war's onset, about 600 women were serving as nurses in 12 hospitals. Eight Catholic orders sent nuns to serve.

In April 1861, Dorothea Dix and a hastily assembled group of volunteer female nurses staged a march on Washington, demanding that the government recognize their desire to aid the Union's wounded. Although not a nurse, Dix was nationally known as a crusader for enlightened care of the mentally ill, and her grandfather, Elijah Dix, had been a prominent Boston physician.

As the war dragged on, other women augmented the work of Dix's corps and the volunteer nuns. Soldiers' wives, residents of battlefront areas and representatives of newly formed organizations such as the U.S. Sanitary Commission all helped care for sick and wounded soldiers.

While Dix was gathering her forces in Washington, Mary Ann Bickerdyke was taking matters into her own equally dedicated hands in Galesburg, Ill. Before the war, she had received training in botanic and homeopathic medicine and had been engaged in private-duty nursing. Recently bereaved by the untimely death of both her husband and young daughter, she felt divinely called to spend her remaining life relieving human suffering.

On a Sunday in June 1861, Bickerdyke listened as her pastor, Edward Beecher, brother of Henry Ward Beecher and Harriet Beecher Stowe, told of the need for volunteer help in the military camps in nearby Cairo, Ill. When Bickerdyke saw the poor condition of the hospital in Cairo, she immediately began a determined cleanup effort that quickly spread to the other five military hospitals in the area.

Although he gave her only a grudging welcome at first, J.J. Woodward, a surgeon with the 22nd Illinois Infantry, later praised Bickerdyke as "strong as a man, muscles of iron, nerves of finest

Continued on page 4

REMEMBERING COL. PIER: EDWIN A. BROWN GAR POST

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

Col. C.K. Pier took over command of the Edwin A. Brown GAR Post #130 in Fond du Lac in January 1885. That spring, he issued a long circular, announcing exercises for Memorial Day, including a list of graves of 82 Union soldiers in cemeteries near the city.

The post had been chartered a year earlier, so this was the second year that it was in charge of the day's program. This included a procession over a mile long and the new tradition of paying respects to the post's namesake.

The honorable George E. Sutherland, a member of the post and popular speaker of the time, delivered a short address at the grave of Capt. Brown, who was killed at Antietam. A year earlier, Capt. Brown's widow and daughter had presented Post #130 with a flag.

The Rev. John P. Hale then delivered the oration of the day.

From Milwaukee Sentinel, May 31 and June 1, 1884; May 24, 1885



SURGEON'S KIT: BORERS AND BONE SAWS



For the May patriotic presentation, Brother Jeff Lesar offers this item from smithsonian.com about surgeon kits.

More than 475,000 soldiers were wounded in the Civil War, and veterans' accounts sometimes read as if the maimed might have preferred to join the 620,000 dead.

A Union colonel wounded in 1863 wrote, "When I was carried into the (field hospital) and looked about, I could not help comparing surgeons to fiends."

An Alabama private wrote, "I beleave the Doctors kills more than they cour."

After the war, former U.S. Surgeon General William Hammond said it had been fought "at the end of the medical Middle Ages." And a Union surgeon said "we knew nothing about antiseptics," and so "we operated in old blood-stained and often pus-stained coats ... We used undisinfected instruments from undisinfected plush-lined cases."

About 70 percent of the wounds were to the extremities, and often the preferred treatment was amputation.

That fate befell 70,000 patients, including Rebel soldier James E. Hanger, who became the war's first documented amputee after a cannonball destroyed his left leg in fighting at Philippi, Va., on June 3, 1861. Hanger designed his own prosthesis and went into business. Hanger Inc. is still a leading purveyor of orthotic and prosthetic care. See <http://www.hanger.com/Pages/default.aspx>



A well-equipped surgeon had a set of Liston's amputating knives (left side of photo), double-bladed for dividing tissue; bone-cutting forceps (bottom middle) a trephine set, for cutting or boring a circular hole in the skull (top middle), a Hey's saw, also for skull perforation top (left side of right box) a bone saw (looks like a hacksaw) and a chain saw (coiled up under the blade of the bone saw) for more-delicate bone removal.

Robert Liston (1794 to 1847) was a Scottish surgeon noted for his skill and speed in an era prior to anesthetics, when speed made a difference in terms of pain and survival. The knife was made out of high-quality metal and had a typical blade length of 6 to 8 inches. See more at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liston_knife

The trephine was used for drilling into the skull. The National Museum of Health and Medicine describes the procedure: "Trephination involved drilling a circular hole into the skull to relieve pressure from bleeding or to remove fragments of bone pressing on the brain. Trephinations were fatal in over half of the 220 operations performed by Union surgeons." See more at <https://www.mddionline.com/10-medical-devices-used-during-civil-war> and http://www.medicalantiques.com/civilwar/Civil_War_Articles/Trephining_during_Civil_War.htm

The chain saw features a steel blade that is jointed in such a way that it allowed a surgeon to reach behind a bone and remove a section of it without damaging nearby soft tissue. This saved arms and legs that had been wounded in battle but did not require amputation. Cutting bone, however, often resulted in shortening limbs and rendering them useless.

Commander

continued from page 1

Looking to the future, we have the Department Encampment coming up in Waukesha on June 13, as planned (so far). This is at the Clarke Hotel in Waukesha, 314 W. Main St.

We have seen several events cancelled this summer, and some of the parades that have brought us money in the past likely will dry up – at least for this year. We still have the event at Old Falls Village in Menomonee Falls July 18-19 that has not (as of this writing) been cancelled. But everything is so up in the air still.

Thank goodness there are a few constants in life upon which we can all depend. Summerfest in late June and early July!!! And the Brewers' season!!! And the NFL!!! And the Olympics!!!

Oh, wait a sec ...

Nurses fought for soldiers – continued from page 2

steel; sensitive, but self-reliant, kind and tender; seeking all for others, nothing for herself.”

Another tireless champion of the wounded was Hannah Ropes. An experienced nurse, she had gained prewar recognition as a reformer and abolitionist and was acquainted with many New England political leaders.

In 1862 Ropes became the matron of the Union Hotel Hospital in Washington, D.C., where volunteer nurse Louisa May Alcott also served. In her book “Hospital Sketches,” Alcott described Ropes’ actions as casualties arrived from the Battle of Fredericksburg: “The hall was full of these wrecks of humanity ... and, in the midst of it all, the matron’s motherly face brought more comfort to many a poor soul, than the cordial draughts she administered, or the cheery words that welcomed all, making the hospital a home.”

In her own published diary and letters, Ropes spoke often of her particular regard for the enlisted man. In October 1862, she wrote, “The poor privates are my special children of the present,” and described “the loss they have experienced in health, in spirits, in weakened faith in man, as well as shattered hope in themselves.” Later, she wrote to her daughter, Alice, “I owe no man anything but love.”

Ropes died in January 1863 of typhoid fever, the same disease that shortened Alcott’s nursing service.

The nurses left a heritage far beyond a country’s gratitude for bodies salvaged and spirits renewed. Observing the difference they had made, both the public and the medical community finally came to recognize nursing as a legitimate profession.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Q: What was a hot shot?

A: A solid-shot projectile that was heated white- or red-hot in a specially constructed furnace. Its purpose was to set fire to wooden ships or wooden buildings inside fortifications. See <http://www.civilwarartillery.com/glossary/glossary.htm>

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

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- 23 – Joel Schanning



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

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.

CAMP CALENDAR

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

Q: Last month we talked about small-pox. What were other major Civil War diseases?

A: They ran the gamut from dysentery and pneumonia to typhoid, measles, tuberculosis, malaria and more. See <https://www.civilwaracademy.com/civil-war-diseases>