

Over the months, we decided we could not feasibly hold our huge Memorial Day event. But we still with honor the GAR's most sacred day – with a private activity for the Camp and Auxiliary at 2 p.m. Sunday (May 30) at Calvary Cemetery. A small contingent of the First Brigade Band will play, at its request.

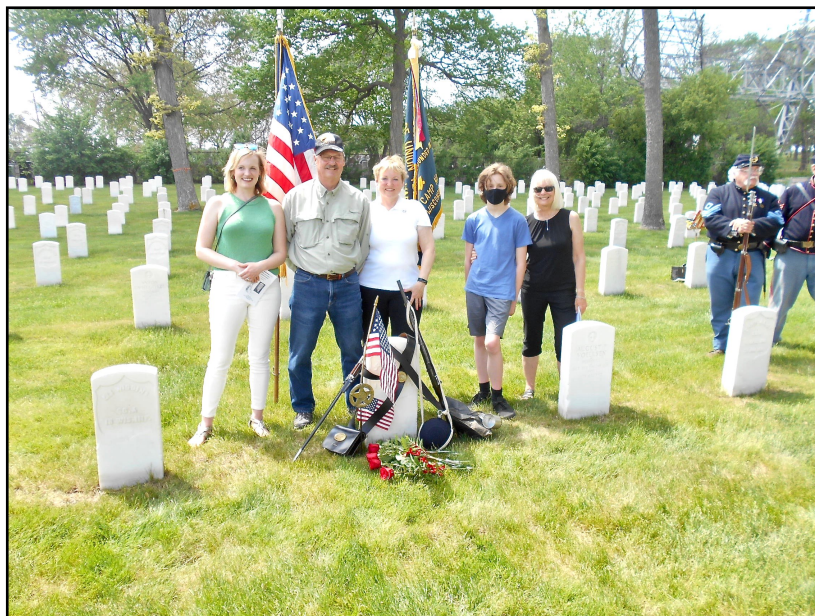


C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SERIES 2021

CAMP ORDERS

MAY 2021



Family travels, and we honor 1871 burial

Descendants of Pvt. John Afton, including 12-year-old James Beahan of Spring Lake, Mich., a 5-g-grandson, traveled to Milwaukee last weekend to honor him on the 150th anniversary of his death. More photos on page 2.

BEHIND-THE-SCENES EFFORTS WERE VITAL

Things are F-I-N-A-L-L-Y getting back to some semblance of normal in our world. After more than a year of pandemic, and most everything cancelled, and our lives put on hold, we are making strides toward normalization.

**From the
Commander –
Brian Craig**

This month, we had our first in-person Camp 1 meeting in more than a

year. Last weekend, we held a small, private commemoration honoring the 150th anniversary of the first burial at what is now Wood National Cemetery – our first event since last July.

Those are small steps. But at least things are trending toward the positive.

I think it behooves me to take some time to thank those that have

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The next Camp meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 9, at the Lions Clubhouse, 7336 St. James St., Wauwatosa, PDC Tom Brown will make the patriotic presentation.

C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SUVCW

Remembering first burial at Wood



The grave was decorated with items from the GAR ritual such as the canteen and haversack, and roses placed by the family.

Pvt. John Afton, of the 1st Michigan Infantry and 7th Michigan Cavalry, died at the Milwaukee Soldiers Home on May 22, 1871.

After family placed roses and returned to the safety of shade on a stifling, 88-degree day, we recited the GAR ritual and Bill Seaman played Taps.

The Camp found the family a few months ago and organized the ceremony. The story was detailed in last month's Camp Orders.



Penny Afton-Sage visits Afton Circle, which is a tribute to her relative on the far west side of Wood National Cemetery. The street curves through Sections E to L.

Photos by Maggie Menard-Mueller and Tom Mueller



REMEMBERING COL. PIER: CHATS WITH CONFEDERATES

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

Pvt. Colwert Kendall Pier's last station with the 1st Wisconsin Infantry (3 mos.) in August 1861 was at Monocacy, Md., where the regiment was guarding the canal in that vicinity. The "Military History of Wisconsin" states "nothing of importance occurred."

In fact, Pier wrote, "Pickets of two armies are stationed opposite each other on the banks of the Potomac. At first both parties were inclined to keep out of sight behind trees and fences; indeed, several shots were fired across the river, and it appeared as though hostilities were to be kept up even between the pickets.

"But there was too much 'cold blood' about such shooting, and finally after we had exposed ourselves repeatedly, indeed all the time, while reading, talking or fishing they hollered 'we would like to talk with you.' We told them it would be very agreeable to us, and at the same time walked down to the water's edge ... unarmed, they still remained behind the trees out of sight and it was some time before they would be convinced, we had not men secreted who were intended to fire on them.

"First, they wanted liquor, inquiring 'had we any,' and offering one dollar per quart if we would get some for them. Finding they could get no whiskey of us they (two of them) commenced heaping 'curses abundant' upon 'you Black Republican N----- Abolitionists etc., etc.'

"We refused to talk back in the least in their style, or give information regarding our army, but willing to talk on personal or local affairs, always addressing them kindly as 'pickets,' 'Virginians' or 'fellow countrymen' and when we parted it was with much better feelings than when we met. At least they said they liked us, and should never have had any trouble with us, and promised not to shoot us unless we did at them.

"Today after the pickets had been changed on both sides (each party probably having informed his successor of what had transpired), communication was again opened and resulted in two of our persons ... and three of them meeting in the middle of the river, heartily shaking hands, exchanging names and assuring each other they would be friends when the war was over, and tomorrow are to meet again to exchange papers ..."

From Fond du Lac Saturday Reporter, 10 April 1861 (Trewloc Letter); Military History of Wisconsin by E.B. Quiner



SOUTH CAROLINA CADETS AND U.S. MARINES IN THE WAR

COMPILED BY PCC DAVID HOWARD



I, like you, have seen many movies and TV programs about the war. A few depict young Southern military cadets, who seemed to be 10 to 16 years of age, led by their teacher, going out to fight the Union Army and not having much chance of being effective.

Now, the “Rest of the Story:” The cadets were college students – military cadets at the Citadel and the Arsenal Academy in South Carolina, both establishments for U.S. training of future military officers.

So when South Carolina seceded, on Dec. 20, 1860, there obviously was a question of roles for these young men.

Just a few weeks later, on Jan. 9, 1861, cadets were manning artillery emplacements in Charleston Harbor when a merchant ship, *Star of the West*, loaded with supplies and reinforcements for Fort Sumter, arrived. The Citadel’s superintendent, Col. Peter Stevens, ordered gunners to fire on the ship.

Although *Star of the West* received no major damage, her captain, John McGowan, considered it to be too dangerous to continue and turned about. The mission was abandoned, and *Star of the West* headed for her home port of New York Harbor.

Three months later, on April 12, Fort Sumter, a tariff collection point in Charleston Harbor, was bombarded by the Confederates. That was the start of the war, but the cadets were awarded a streamer for their January attack on the *Star of the West*.

At the end of 1864, the Confederate cadets from South Carolina were called to a defense that actually would result in combat. This would be the battle of Tulifinny, S.C. Union Marines, soldiers and sailors were sent to break the Charleston and Savannah Railroad, and their attack surprised the Confederate infantrymen defending the position. The cadets rushed to the fight at the double-time.

During that first night, on Dec. 6, the cadets did little because they arrived as the Union troops were digging into their defensive positions while the Confederate attacks gave way.

But the next morning, the cadets were one of the main components of an attack on the Union positions. They came under rifle fire and responded with a bayonet charge, but were driven back. They secured their wounded and dropped back to their own defenses. In this role, they earned praise from nearby infantry units for their disciplined fire. They even pursued the Marines, attacking them during the final Union pullback.

The cadets made up more than one-third of

the Rebel force during the battle.

As for the U.S. Marine Corps, its main contribution during the war was aboard the ships of blockading squadrons and inland river flotillas.

In late November 1861, Marines and sailors landed a reconnaissance force from the USS *Flag* at Tybee Island, Ga. It later would be the Army base for bombardment of Fort Pulaski. In April and May 1862, Union Marines participated in the capture and occupation of New Orleans and the occupation of Baton Rouge, La., which helped secure Union control of the lower Mississippi River basin.

At the Battle of Mobile Bay in August 1864, Marines on Adm. David Farragut’s flagship, the sloop of war USS *Hartford*, helped beat back an attempt by the Confederate ram *Tennessee* to sink the vessel. Cpl. Miles M. Oviatt, aboard the nearby sloop of war USS *Brooklyn*, and seven other Marines received the Medal of Honor for their roles in the battle.

The USMC numbered only 2,000 just prior to the war. Between expiring enlistments and resigned commissions, the USMC manpower fell to just a little over 1,000 men.

On the other side, the Confederate States Marines were established by an act of the Confederate Congress on March 16, 1861. Corps strength was authorized at 46 officers and 944 enlisted men but actual enrollment never came close to that.

It had 16 officers (and 100 enlisted men) resigning or deserting from the U.S. Marine Corps.

Confederate Marines saw their first naval action aboard CSS *Virginia* (formerly USS *Merrimack*) off Hampton Roads, Va., March 8-9, 1862. Near the end of the war, they were part of the naval brigade that fought at Sailor’s Creek, Va.

From Drewry’s Bluff and other major posts (Wilmington, Charleston, Pensacola, Norfolk, Galveston and Savannah), Marine detachments were parceled out to serve on major warships and for special operations, including the captures of USS *Underwriter* and USS *Water Witch*, and an attack to free Confederate prisoners of war being held at Point Lookout, Md.

More about the cadets at <https://www.wearthemighty.com/mighty-history/civil-war-battalion-citadel-cadets/>

More about the USMC in the war at <https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/2018/12/19/us-marines-in-the-civil-war/> and civilwarhome.com/marines.htm

More about Confederate Marines at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Confederate_States_Marine_Corps

SALUTING THE EXTRA EFFORTS DURING PANDEMIC

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helped keep Camp 1 operating over the course of the past year-plus.

The most important thing is that we were able to meet virtually, due to the graciousness of Junior Vice Commander Grant Johnson. He set up all the Zoom meetings, which allowed us to maintain our proper meeting schedule. This would have been a nearly impossible task if we had to do it via emails or phone calls. The deepest thanks goes out to our very dedicated Brother!!!

Words of thanks also go to PCinC Steve Michaels and PDC Kent Peterson, who along with Johnson turned our Patriotic Luncheon (which had to be cancelled) into a very successful Patriotic Function.

They worked hours on end to put together a web event that none ever had done before, and they made it look like they had been doing it for years. The February event came off almost seamlessly and seemingly effortlessly – though they worked for weeks beforehand trying to figure out how to carry out the mission.

Another special thanks goes out to PCC Tom Mueller for writing up the Camp newsletter each month. Besides his strenuous task of being the Camp secretary, he is also editor of the newsletter, for which he gets not enough praise. It takes a lot of time, I am sure, to get the newsletter done properly – story planning, writing, photos, editing, layout, proofing. Doing the newsletter – along with consistent nagging of the Camp commander to get his article done – must be truly a chore. But it is a chore he does with so well every month.

During the pandemic, it has been a measure of the skill and dedication of our Camp treasurer to keep the books where little money came in, but some money still went out. Peterson has done a remarkable job. One would think that in such a year with events being cancelled and such, that the treasurer job would be very simple. But just the opposite, it has been a most trying year for anyone in that position.

And for keeping your commander aware of things that need to be discussed at each upcoming meeting, another thank you to Mueller. Each month he sends a “pre-meeting note” so that I will have the ability to sound halfway intelligent during the meeting. For this I cannot thank you enough, Tom!!!

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

A: What was a gum blanket?

This piece of equipment was the standard infantry ground cover. Between 1860 and 1866, the Union bought or made 1,893,007 of them and issued one to every soldier. They were among the first items given to a recruit and offered protection against rain and muddy ground. See <https://ndemancipationproject.wordpress.com/resources/objects/gum-blanket/> and <https://regtm.com/product/gum-blanket-rubber/>

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 21 – Tom Heinen
- 23 – Joel Schanning



Camp Commander – Brian Craig
(414) 418-9776

SVC – PDC Tom Brown (414) 429-8979

<https://www.facebook.com/CKPierBadger>
and <http://www.suvew-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.

COMING UP

With the nation rapidly returning to normal, we resume this handy reminder of activities in the next few weeks.

– Sunday (May 30): Mini-Memorial Day commemoration, 2 p.m. at Calvary Cemetery.

– June 5; Department Encampment, begins at 8:45 a.m. at Lafayette Church near Elkhorn. **Deadline for receipt of signup by mail is May 31, so do it ASAP** – more info from DC Brian McManus at commander@suvew-wi.org or PCC Tom Mueller at thewisconsin3800@gmail.com