

## REMEMBERING COL. PIER

By PC-in-C Steve Michaels

*The following was last published in the October 2001 issue of our Camp Orders as one in a series of articles about the life and times of our Camp namesake.*

There's an indication as to the kind of a leader of men C.K. Pier was by one of his early letters. In Fall 1861, many men of the 1st Wisconsin Infantry were back in federal service, having re-enlisted for three years. Colwert Pier was not among them. He had decided to return to school. The 20-year old, bold veteran of three months, did not hesitate to counsel his comrades in the field:

"Six elements combined will make a perfect soldier, by which I mean one who is ready at all times for any emergency, and respected by all who know him. Promptness, decision, cheerfulness, sociability, cleanliness and quietness."

He proceeded to identify these qualities with the new officers of the 1st Wisconsin. Two years later, he apparently used his own advice when he successfully organized a company and nine others into the 38th Wisconsin. He was elected captain of the company and later commissioned lieutenant colonel of the regiment. He said, "Any captain who will think of and respect his men, will be thought of and respected in return...Let each one, treat every other one as a man should, and he will receive *manly* treatment himself. 'Like will produce like,' whether it be love or acorns. The proverb 'Like master like servant' finds no exception in the army, especially if composed of volunteers."

Pier's simple adherence to the golden rule was evident throughout his life. His "religion" or "belief" to act right began with his schooling in Universalism and matured with his practical experience in the school of the soldier.

*from Fond du Lac Saturday Reporter, October 19, 1861--Trenloc Letter 17.*

## With Our Sisters ...

*Below left*, DC Tom Brown, SVC Brian McManus, Brs. Pat Kulas and Bob Koenecke helped officially welcome new Allied Orders Sisters of the Mary Hutchins Tent #22, Daughters of the Union Veterans of the Civil War, after their installation at the LaFayette Church on Oct. 15.

*At right*, Sister Mary Ann Schallock offers samples of uniquely flavored jams to visitors at Trimborn Farms. (Note to readers: be sure to ask for the "Tequila Sunrise" flavor!)





## PARDONED BY LINCOLN IN 1865?



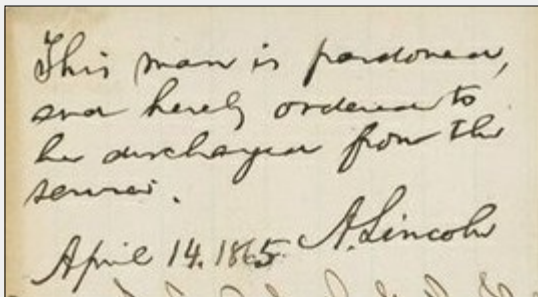
Author and researcher Dr. Thomas P. Lowry, who wrote “Sex in the Civil War – Stories the Soldiers Didn’t Tell,” allegedly signed a written statement in January admitting that he altered the date on a pardon document signed by President Abraham Lincoln.

The change to the documents original date of 1864 to the same day in 1865, made it appear to be a final compassionate step by President Lincoln on the day of his assassination.

The document with the fraudulent date was “discovered” in the Archives by Dr. Lowry some 13 years ago. The Woodbridge researcher and retired psychiatrist basked in the glory of his peers and historians everywhere as the new discovery was announced.

Unfortunately, Dr. Lowry apparently decided that this “find” would be the ultimate feather in a researcher’s cap, and amid the hundreds of loose records on pardons granted during the war period, he chose this one.

I’ve met Trevor Plante, the archive specialist who brought this alteration to light. Mr. Plante, a totally competent, dedicated and just plain nice young man, who delights in showing people the little known items in the collection, had noticed that the number “5” in the date 1865 appeared darker than the rest.



Officials at the National Archives discovered that a date on a document had been altered to make it appear as if it was the last official act by President Lincoln before his assassination.  
(Photo/National Archives)

When Mr. Plante checked the document against a list of writings issued by President Lincoln, he confirmed the alteration. Speaking with Mr. Plante this morning, the emotion in his voice showed.

“You just can’t imagine how upset I and the people who work with me [are],” Mr. Plante says from the National Archives in Washington, D.C. “We had come to know this man, he and his wife were here daily for years doing research. And doing it [changing the date] for personal gain. It’s just very upsetting.”

As someone who has researched in those hallowed halls, been security checked and given a list of rules, one of the biggest is the prohibition against fountain pens.

Lowry, it is now alleged, brought a special fountain pen with some fade-proof ink in that day, and carefully changed the historical document altering the date from 1864 to 1865 in the pardon, a Presidential edict that saved a young soldier from execution.

While the alteration appears obvious in the newspaper and online representations, they are high-resolution reproductions. In the much smaller original document, Plante says that “It all looks normal, except around the number five [where you can almost see something under it.]”

Mr. Plante acknowledges that some good has come from the situation.

“We now have video camera surveillance in all the research areas,” Mr. Plante says. “Our security has been totally upgraded as a result.”

Dr. Lowry’s actions will impact the thousands of people research in the Archives on a daily basis. Already your picture identification is checked, cell phones left at the admissions desk, and you are provided with a locker in which to place briefcases, sweater or jacket, and anything else you might have.

The rooms provide paper to be used in taking notes, and only pencils and ballpoint pens are permitted. All of this designed to help protect and preserve in their original condition, the millions of the country’s documents contained in the Archives holdings.

Now you will also be under surveillance and tightened security procedures.

## C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

For information on C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 or Auxiliary #4 contact:

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: SVC BRIAN McMANUS

## MEMBER'S BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER:

Congratulations to:

1-Tom Mueller  
9-Everett Nylund  
12-Skylar Brown  
13-Steve Dornbos  
17-M. Hans Liebert  
21-Pat Kulas



## CAMP CALENDAR

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|--------|---|
| 2 Nov. | Camp 1 and Auxiliary Meeting, 7 p.m., Milwaukee Soldiers Home, Building 1   |
| 5 Nov. | Veterans Day Parade- Milwaukee 11 a.m.  |
| 6 Nov. | Dept. Leadership Conference, 12:30-4:30 p.m., Milwaukee Soldiers Home, Building 1                                       |
| 4 Dec. | Camp 1 and Aux. Christmas Party and Camp 110th Anniversary, Meyers Family Restaurant, 76th & Forest Home Ave. 12-3 p.m. |
| 7 Dec. | Camp 1 and Auxiliary Meeting, 7 p.m., Milwaukee Soldiers Home, Building 1   |

## CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Q. What was a "housewife"?

A: A sewing kit furnished by a mother, sister, sweetheart or the Soldier's Aid Society

## IT IS "KING'S CORNER" ONCE AGAIN!

The BG Rufus King Historical Marker project began with a small group committee meeting in 2006, and came to a conclusion this month with the formal dedication ceremony. The marker is located in downtown Milwaukee at the northeast corner of Mason and Van Buren Streets, known in the mid-1800's as "King's Corner" due to the location of the Rufus King family home.

Former TV news anchor Joanne Williams, guest speaker and a Rufus King High School alumnae, along with school principal Dr. Samaranayake and RKHS students Angellic Ross and Yesenia Villaneuva, pulled down the coverings to unveil the new marker.



PDC Kent Peterson and PCinC Steve Michaels spoke about King's military career and accomplishments. Aux. 4 placed a memorial wreath and the Camp Honor Guard honored Gen. King with a rifle salute.