

**Col. Pier's  
Camp  
descendant**

The Where We Served feature this month focuses on a current Brother who is C.K. Pier's great-great grandson. See page 5.



C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SERIES 2023

## CAMP ORDERS

OCTOBER 2023

**CHOSEN AS THE 2022 BEST CAMP IN THE NATION**

### LOST GRAVES AT POOR FARM TO BE HONORED

Five Civil War veterans who were buried in pauper's cemeteries will be honored on Veterans Day, with the help of Camp 1. Their graves are among thousands that had been disinterred or lost in the last century.

The event will be held at 11 a.m. Nov. 11, the time and date of the World War I armistice, on the County Institutions grounds in Wauwatosa, at West Watertown Plank Road and 87th Street. Also being honored is a vet of the Spanish-American War.

It is organized by the Descendant Community of Milwaukee County Grounds Cemeteries, with major help from Camp 1 Chaplain Dean Collins. Camp 15 also will participate, which is particularly meaningful because one of the soldiers served under its Col. Hans Heg.

The event "aims to pay homage to veterans interred over a century ago in any of the four County Grounds cemeteries," says Judy Klimt Houston, president of the group.

"Our dedicated team of genealogists endeavors to research the 7,700 names in the Poor Farm Cemetery burial ledger."

Over the years, the group obtained a memorial stone for another vet, Pvt. Herman Borghardt, who served in the 41st New York Infantry. Borghardt died in 1898, and a stone finally was placed earlier this year.

Borghardt was among 700 to 1,300 re-



This sign marks the site of one of the paupers' cemeteries at the Milwaukee County Institutions. The other cemeteries have been lost, dug up or even paved over. Photo from Historical Marker database, at <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=51464>

*Continued on page 4*

**The next Camp meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 8, at the Lions Clubhouse, 7336 St. James St., Wauwatosa. Chaplain Dean Collins will have the patriotic presentation.**

Brothers from all over the Department Zoomed in for an orientation seminar on Sunday. Segments included the context of formation of the national SUVCW in 1881, tangible and intangible methods and results, the many badges and the Allied Orders.



## Reviewing, honoring, dedicating



The Camp, Auxiliary and the 29th Colored infantry, Company F, dedicated three tombstones on Oct. 1 at Forest Home Cemetery.

## Help Wreaths, help Camp

We again are a designated fundraising group to help provide holiday wreaths for Wood National Cemetery on National Wreaths Across America Day – Saturday, Dec. 16.

Sponsor a wreath for a veteran's grave at Wood for \$17. In doing so, you are honoring all veterans and active military members by placing live, balsam wreaths on the headstones of our nation's service members.

The Camp's sponsorship page is at <http://www.suvcw-wi.org/camp1/waa>. When you sponsor a wreath, \$5 comes back to the Camp.

## REMEMBERING COL. PIER: HIS BATTLEFIELD SURGEON

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

On the afternoon of June 17, 1864, during the 38<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Infantry's charge on the enemy's works in front of Petersburg, a musket ball hit Col. C.K. Pier in the left leg, just above the knee. The ball passed out near the artery on the right side of that leg. The next day, when Federal lines were pushed up near the city, Pier was struck on the instep of his left foot by a fragment of exploded shell.

The 38<sup>th</sup>'s surgeon, Dr. Henry L. Butterfield, cared for the wounds in Pier's tent until they healed.

Born in New Hampshire, Dr. Butterfield came to Wisconsin in 1847, at age 24, and became Waupun's first physician. Soon he was elected to the State Assembly, elected president of the town's library association, became a charter member of the Odd Fellows and was a member of one of the area's finest debating societies.

He was able to open a new office and his name was circulated as a candidate for mayor.

C.K. Pier's wound to the left foot, though little more than a bruise or contusion, proved to be the most serious and painful of any he received during the war. It's likely that it not only served as a constant reminder of the battlefield, but of surgeon Butterfield's care and compassion as well. When Butterfield died of a stroke at his home in Waupun in June 1882, at age 59, C.K. Pier attended the funeral.

*From A History of Waupun: 1839-1939, published by Waupun Centennial Celebration, July 1-4, 1939; Federal Census of 1850, Dodge County, Wis.; Milwaukee Sentinel, Sept. 8, 1864, Oct. 24, 1876, March 19, 1878, and June 20, 1882; Pension file of C.K. Pier, June 18, 1890*





TRYING TO TRACK DOWN  
STATEMENTS IN OBIT



*Last March, the "Where We Served" feature in the Camp Orders featured Pvt. John Henry Howard, ancestor of the Howard family – PCC David Howard, Clifford Howard and Clifford Howard Jr. In this story, David Howard delves into aspects of the 1905 newspaper obit that he provided.*

My ancestor was Pvt. John Henry Howard, 7th Wisconsin Infantry.

Rosemary Lettman, a cousin of my Dad, Paul Howard, sent him a tintype picture and the newspaper obituary of Pvt. Howard.

The obituary was entitled, "WAS SAVED BY GRANT." I thought that was stretching it. Why would Gen. Grant save him?

The obit said "he was captured by the Confederates and sentenced to be hung, but Gen. Grant, a personal friend, sent word to the Confederate officers that if Howard was executed, two of the captive Confederate officers would be executed in retaliation."

But why would they want to hang a private? And how did John get to know the general? Well, through another cousin we found out that one of our relatives had the last name of Dent. Grant had married a Dent (Julia Boggs Dent, who was from a plantation near St. Louis. She was the daughter of Frederick and Ellen Wrenshall Dent).

So maybe that was a connection.

The sentence was changed to imprisonment in Andersonville, Ga.

The obit then said that "Howard was the chief prosecuting witness against Captain (Henry) Wirz, the officer in charge, when he was tried and executed after the war."

Well, I researched that and could not find any mention of John in the trial records.

I found out from the muster rolls from the National Archives that Pvt. John Howard went out with a lieutenant, on a Secret Service mission and was caught by the Confederates, on June 28, 1864.

# WAS SAVED BY GRANT

John Howard, 80, who died Monday, was a veteran of the Mexican and civil wars. He was captured by the Confederates and sentenced to be hung, but Gen. Grant, a personal friend, sent word to the Confederate officers that if Howard was executed, two of the captive Confederate officers would be executed in retaliation. On this representation the sentence was commuted to imprisonment in Andersonville. He was the chief prosecuting witness against Capt. Wirz, the officer in charge, when he was tried and executed after the war. The funeral will be held Wednesday afternoon from the late residence, 444 South Pierce st. Mr. Howard was a member of George C. Drake post. Three sons and two daughters survive him.

David Howard used this 1905 obituary when he bought this tombstone for Pvt. John Howard.



The Wisconsin roster says it was June 21. Neither says where this was, but the 7th was in the siege of Petersburg, Va., at this time.

On April 14, 1865, President Lincoln established the Secret Service agency. Later that night he was shot at Ford's Theatre. That was 10 months after Pvt. Howard, with that lieutenant, went on a Secret Service mission.

There were several units that referred to themselves as "Secret Service" from the start of the war. Even the Confederacy's Signal Corps had a covert agency called the Confederate Secret Service Bureau.

Today, the Secret Service's mission is two-fold: protection of the president, vice president and others; and investigations into crimes against the financial infrastructure of the United States.

Its website of <https://www.secretservice.gov/thoseothersecretsservices> says:

"The name 'Secret Service' is not to be confused with earlier organizations within the United States War Department that used the same title. Many of the clandestine services involved in intelligence gathering, as well as numerous early detective agencies, generally refer to 'secret services.' ...

"The War Department 'Secret Service' during the Civil War or early detective agency 'secret services' are not the United States Secret Service formed within the Treasury Department" after the war.

The obit also said Howard was in the Mexican War of 1848. But the Milwaukee County Historical Society archivist could not find any records.

## Lost vets' graves – continued from page 1

mains disinterred a decade ago because of expansion of Froedtert Hospital. Incomplete plot maps made it impossible to identify his particular grave. Collins and then-Camp 1 CC Brian D. McManus played a leading role in a memorial before the project.

The bones have been under study at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee ever since.

Other disinterments or construction projects on the sites of Poor Farm cemeteries have been done over the decades.

“Alas, the historical accounts reveal a lack of precise maps pointing to sections and plots for the thousands laid to rest ... between 1852 and 1974,” Klimt says. She is so involved in this because four of her relatives were buried somewhere there.

The Civil War vets being honored Nov. 11 are:

– Pvt. G. Friedrich Bartsch, 34th Wisconsin Infantry, died in 1875.

– August Behrens, who was in undetermined federal infantry units, died in 1903.

– Pvt. Charles H. Bender, 72nd Illinois Infantry, died in 1883.

– Pvt. William Herman Benz, of Heg’s 15th Wisconsin Infantry, who died in 1909.

– Drummer boy and musician William B. Craig, 17th and 32nd Wisconsin Infantry, died in 1901.

According to <https://sites.uwm.edu/milwaukee-county-poor-farm-cemetery/>

“Currently, UWM cares for individuals ... who were disinterred in two separate time frames (1991-1992 cohort and 2013 cohort) in advance of development projects and as provided for by Wisconsin Statute §157.70 (Wisconsin Burial Site Preservation statute). UWM is temporarily caring for the 2013 cohort on behalf of the Wisconsin Historical Society, until such time that the Wisconsin Historical Society makes a final disposition decision” about the remains.

UWM discusses the history of the Poor Farm cemeteries and disturbing of graves over the decades at <https://sites.uwm.edu/milwaukee-county-poor-farm-cemetery/history/> It says the cemeteries had more than 10,000 burials.

### CIVIL WAR

#### TRIVIA

**Q:** What other notable news event happened at Ford’s Theatre?

**A:** After Lincoln’s assassination, the building was closed immediately. A year later, it was turned into government offices and renovated, but then there were years of complaints about structural issues. On June 9, 1883, one of the brick support piers in the basement collapsed. Floor by floor, the columns collapsed, leaving a 40-foot hole through all three stories of the building. Twenty-two workers were killed and 68 injured. More at <https://www.mps.gov/foth/learn/foth/historyculture/the-collapse-of-ford-s-theatre.htm>

### NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



1 – Tom Mueller  
2 – Billy Cole

12 – Skylar Brown

**Camp Commander – Grant Johnson**  
[grant.johnson@responsory.com](mailto:grant.johnson@responsory.com)

414-940-3113 or 262-432-0183

SVC – Joe Fallon [jf1776@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:thewisconsin3800@gmail.com) Your Banner is not forwarded by the Postal Service, so you need to report a new address to us.

### COMING UP

#### Pauper cemetery veterans:

Nov. 11, 11 a.m., County Institutions grounds. See page 1.

#### Holiday potluck party: Dec.

13, 6 p.m. We will dine with the Auxiliary, one hour before the regular meetings.

#### Wreaths Across America:

Dec. 16, 11 a.m. at Wood National Cemetery.

#### Patriotic Luncheon Feb 4:

The speaker will be Nic Bur, Lincoln presenter and one of our Memorial Day mainstays.

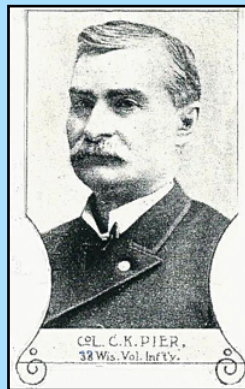


# WHERE WE SERVED AND FOUGHT

– A SERIES SALUTING THE ANCESTORS OF CAMP 1 BROTHERS



The photo above is from three years before the Civil War. The photo at right is from around the time of Pier's death, three decades after the war.



In 2016, former Auxiliary National President Danielle Michaels and some from the Camp paid tribute at Pier's grave while at a Fond du Lac event. Photo by Tom Mueller



## BROTHER BILL LIEBERT'S ANCESTOR: COLWERT K. PIER

The beloved patriot, whose name is on our Camp, was from Fond du Lac.

First was a private in the 1st Wisconsin Infantry (three-month unit), Company I, from April 20, 1861, to Aug. 21 of that year. The 1st fought at Falling Waters, Va., on July 2.

Then Pier was lieutenant colonel of 38th Wisconsin Infantry, serving from March 10, 1864, to July 26, 1865. Wounded at Petersburg in June 1864.

On March 24, 1865, Pier was assigned to command the 109th New York Infantry after all its officers were killed. Pier returned to the 38th Wisconsin on April 30. He was promoted to colonel on July 19, 1865, but was not mustered.

The 38th was near Petersburg from June 1864 to April 2, 1865, with its list of action including the mine explosion, Weldon Railroad and Hatcher's Run. It received Rebel Peace Commissioners Stephens, Hunter, Campbell and Hatch through lines under flag of truce on Jan. 29, 1865. In the closing days of the war, it was in the Appomattox Campaign.

See <http://www.civilwararchive.com/Unreght/unwiinf3.htm#38thinf>

E.B. Quiner's 1866 history of the 38th is at <https://content.wisconsinhistory.org/digital/collection/quiner/id/17141>

Born on June 7, 1841.

Died April 14, 1895.

Buried at the tiny Pier Cemetery in Fond du Lac.