

Where
we
served
and
fought

This issue of the Camp Orders begins a series honoring Brothers' relatives of record. See the special insert.

C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP #1

SUVCW



C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP # 1

SERIES 2021

CAMP ORDERS

SEPTEMBER 2021



Relatives of Pvt. Leonard Hinkley of the 24th Wisconsin attended the dedication. In photo at the right, they are Hinkley's great-nephew, John Wood, left, of West Bend, and Lee Tan of Brookfield, g-g-nephew. Chaplain Dean Collins delivers a dramatic reading of what his ancestor in the 24th went through at Chickamauga, along with Hinckley and the other soldier we funded a stone for, Commissary Sgt. John Roberts.



WE HONOR 24TH WISCONSIN WITH 2 STONES

The Camp and Auxiliary on Sunday dedicated their two latest tombstones at Forest Home Cemetery; both for soldiers in the 24th Wisconsin Infantry.

The Camp's stone is for Sgt. John F. Roberts, of Milwaukee, who was in Company B, before and after spending a few months as commissary sergeant for the regiment. He enlisted on Aug. 11, 1862, and transferred to the Veter-

ans Reserve Corps on April 10, 1864, mustering out June 30, 1865. He died in 1878.

The Auxiliary's stone is for Pvt. Leonard Hinkley, of Eagle in Waukesha County, who was in the regiment for its entire time, from Aug. 5, 1862, to June 10, 1865. He was in Company A, and for a

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The next Camp meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 13, at the Lions Clubhouse, 7336 St. James St., Wauwatosa. Brother Jeff Lesar will have the patriotic presentation.

READING SHOWS TURMOIL AT CHICKAMAUGA FOR 24TH

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few months was in the regimental band. He died in 1918.

Chaplain Dean Collins, whose relative, Pvt. George Verhaalen, also was in the 24th, delivered a dramatic reading about the regiment at Chickamauga, where Verhaalen was wounded and captured.

The reading was constructed by PCC Tom Mueller from "The 24th Wisconsin Infantry in the Civil War," a 2003 book by William J.K. Beaudot. The moving passage included Verhaalen's Company K along with Roberts' B and Hinkley's A.

Here it is:

The day was Sept. 20, 1863.

All was in confusion and chaos: The thunderous roar of artillery and musketry, the guttural shouts and final earthly screams of men, the acrid powder smoke seizing nostrils. All was a sensory jumble.

Captain Edwin Parsons of Company K recalled hearing a colonel shout the order for Company K to break into platoons.

"Then away we go, double-quick into the jaws of death," Parsons wrote several days later. "Down the road amidst clouds of dust for a half a mile; then to the right over the fields. But all the other troops here have given way and are breaking in confusion through our ranks.

"Now the order 'Forward into line,' and splendidly did the 24th come into line, forward, with a yell, and form our line at the crest of a hill and within 50 feet of the enemy's line. The two regiments on our right have given way. Now the regiment on our left goes, but still stands the gallant 24th," Parsons said.

As blocks of gray regiments pressed up the hill toward them, one man in Company B shouted,

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REMEMBERING COL. PIER: LUMBER VENTURE IN MERRILL

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

C.K. Pier's obituary claimed that in 1881 he "gave the city of Merrill, then a straggling, struggling village, the start to a wonderful growth it witnessed ..." In truth, Pier assumed charge of his father's lumber business in 1880, when the Lincoln County city of about 2,000 already had an annual capacity of 10 million board feet plus 2 million shingles.

Nonetheless, Pier left the Fond du Lac Savings Bank, which his father also had founded, to manufacture lumber in Merrill. Four years earlier, in 1876, C.K. Pier had started the Fond du Lac Building Association and the Fond du Lac Harrow Co., and was an officer of the Mihills Manufacturing Co. The Building Association sold paints and building materials, summer screens and painted blinds. The Mihills firm manufactured sashes, doors, blinds and moldings. With these commercial outlets established, it was time to concentrate on production of the raw material, wood.

Fond du Lac's lumber interests had peaked between 1868 and 1878, and new sources for the growing community had to be made available. Train service to Merrill had started in late 1879.

In 1881, a sawmill on the west side of Merrill was completed. The Merrill Manufacturing Co. (no relation to the present company by that name) was owned by C.K. Pier, Charles Mihills and Hamilton R. Skinner, who was the manager. Skinner was Pier's brother-in-law and a onetime Fond du Lac grain dealer.

The Mihills family was an asset to both the lumber business and the Merrill company. The eldest, Uriah, was a contemporary of Pier's father and had come to Fond du Lac after the Civil War, engaged in lumber and manufacturing business and in politics. He was chairman of the Committee on Lumber and Manufactures.

The oldest nephew, Guindon, was a lumber salesman and was vice president, secretary and superintendent of Mihills Manufacturing. He had married C.K. Pier's niece. Guindon's brother, Charles, had worked in lumberyards for 12 years before becoming a stockholder and manager of the Fond du Lac Building Association.

C.K. Pier sold the Merrill lumber business, probably in 1888, before moving to Milwaukee and becoming executive secretary of the 1889 National GAR Encampment. His obituary also says this about the Merrill lumber venture: "He wrought well for others there, if he did not make a fortune himself."

From History of Business in the City & County of Fond du Lac, A.T. Glaze, editor, P.B. Haber Printing Co., Fond du Lac 1905; History of Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, Western Historical Company, Chicago 1880; The History of Merrill, Wisconsin: The Jenny Years 1847-1881 by Sharon S. Thatcher, Merrill Historical Society Inc. 2000; Milwaukee Sentinel, 15 April 1895; Milwaukee Telegraph, 20 April 1895.



WISCONSIN AND THE ELECTION OF 1860



At the September Camp meeting, CC Brian Craig presented this excerpt from the book "Wisconsin in the Civil War," by Frank L. Klement.

The political picture of the 1850s in Wisconsin was both a complex and changing one.

The Democratic Party dominated in the early 1850s. But frauds of various kinds – what one historian called “scandalous irregularities” – characterized the administration of Gov. William Barstow and helped to make the fledgling Republican Party respectable.

On the national scene, the Southern wing of the Democratic Party held the reins of government, and Wisconsin members fussed and fretted. President James Buchanan, a Democrat from Pennsylvania, contributed to the Democratic dissatisfaction by trying to force a pro-slavery constitution on Kansas.

Stephen Douglas of Illinois split with the president on the question of Kansas, and most Wisconsin Democrats sympathized with Douglas and looked to him as a leader. They liked his advocacy of western interests, his promotion of railroads, his faith in a dynamic and expansive America. They also liked his moderate stand on the emotional issues of the day, his boldness of speech and his flair for dramatics.

In 1860, most Wisconsin Democratic editors were saying Douglas was the best presidential candidate. But not all agreed.

Wisconsin Republicans, on the other hand, had every reason to feel optimistic. From its beginnings in 1854 in a little white schoolhouse in Ripon, the Republican flame had spread across Wisconsin like a prairie fire, and in other northern states, too.

Gov. Alexander Randall, re-elected in 1859 for a second term, wore the Republican label. The party far outnumbered Democrats in the State Legislature. Wisconsin Republicans looked back upon the national election of 1856 with some satisfaction. John Fremont, their presidential candidate, had carried the state with 55 per cent of the vote, but took only 33 per cent nationally vs. Buchanan and former President Millard Fillmore of the Know Nothings.

Wisconsin Republicans believed they would do even better in 1860, but were divided about the top of the ticket. A Racine editor thought Fremont the best bet again. Other Wisconsin prophets thought Salmon P. Chase of Ohio, Edward Bates of Missouri and Simon Cameron of Pennsylvania. As a boom in the nation for William H. Seward of New York spread, he captured the imagination of Wisconsin Republi-

cans. Rufus King of the Milwaukee Sentinel and Carl Schurz of Watertown, prominent leader of German immigrants, waved the Seward banner energetically.

Abraham Lincoln’s name never was seriously mentioned, even though he had visited the state the year before, speaking in Milwaukee, Racine and Janesville. At the state convention in February 1860, Wisconsin elected 10 delegates to the national convention. No one was surprised when they were instructed to vote for Seward.

The state’s Democratic delegates that went to Charleston, S.C., to nominate Douglas found their party hopelessly split. A rump session held in Baltimore nominated Douglas, while the Southern wing of the party, holding its own convention, named John C. Breckinridge.

Wisconsin Republicans sent to Chicago to nominate Seward likewise failed in their mission. On the third ballot, Lincoln was nominated; Schurz, hoping to heal factional wounds, then seconded the motion to make Lincoln’s nomination unanimous.

While Lincoln staged a stay-at-home campaign, receiving delegates and visitors, Douglas and the Democrats waged a vigorous fight. His itinerary took him to Wisconsin, where he gave formal speeches in Milwaukee and Fond du Lac. But in Kenosha, where he attempted to give an impromptu speech, he was met by a jeering crowd, which should have been a hint that not all was well.

Wisconsin GOP leaders generated some enthusiasm for Lincoln, organizing “Wide-Awake” clubs to march in torchlight parades, applaud at rallies and cheer party orators. They touted Lincoln as a westerner, a common man, a practical politician. They talked up “Honest Abe” and praised the homely virtue of rail-splitting. Rufus King brought Seward to Wisconsin to enliven the campaign.

Republicans never tired of emphasizing a homestead plank that appealed to Wisconsin residents; it proposed that a head of family could obtain a 160-acre farm through “actual settlements and cultivation.”

Nationally, Lincoln took 39.8 per cent of the popular vote, to 29.5 for Douglas, 18.1 for Breckinridge and 12.6 for John Bell of the Constitutional Union. In Wisconsin, Lincoln rolled, with 56.6 per cent to 42.7 for Douglas.

The Democratic schism, Lincoln’s image and the homestead plank had as much to do with putting Lincoln in the White House as anything else.

24TH WISCONSIN

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“get ready, Jim, and lay low for the sons of bitches.” Jim, whose last name was Heth, would remember that little episode for the rest of his life.

The book says one man in Company A told his parents, “Brigadier General William Lytle rode along in front of the line, waving his hat and sword and cheering the men on.”

Lytle, the brigade commander, prepared to give his second line the order to charge when a bullet pierced his head.

The general had sustained a ghastly wound, and fell head-first to the ground.



National awards for Ludka, Collins highlight meeting

Two national awards were presented at the recent Camp meeting by PCinC Steve Michaels. Brother Tom Ludka, left photo, received a Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star. It was bestowed in 2020 but could not be presented physically, because the National Encampment was virtual. Dean Collins this year received the Chaplain William Corby Award.

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

A: What was a “subterra shell?”

Q: This was a land mine, also called a torpedo. West Point graduate Gabriel Rains first experimented with a tactical explosive device in 1840, during the Seminole Wars in Florida. The “Rains Patent” was a mine made of sheet iron, with a fuse protected by a brass cap covered with a solution of beeswax. It was detonated either by direct contact with the friction primer or the buried shell, or movement of an object attached to the primer by strings or wires. After the siege of Yorktown in 1862, Rains, a Confederate brigadier general, and his men planted land mines along their retreat route. More at <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/historic-innovation-land-mines-and-why-weve-struggled-get-rid-them-180962276/>

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY

13 – Paul Eilbes



Camp Commander – Brian Craig
(414) 418-9776

SVC – PDC Tom Brown (414) 429-8979
<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 when doing 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

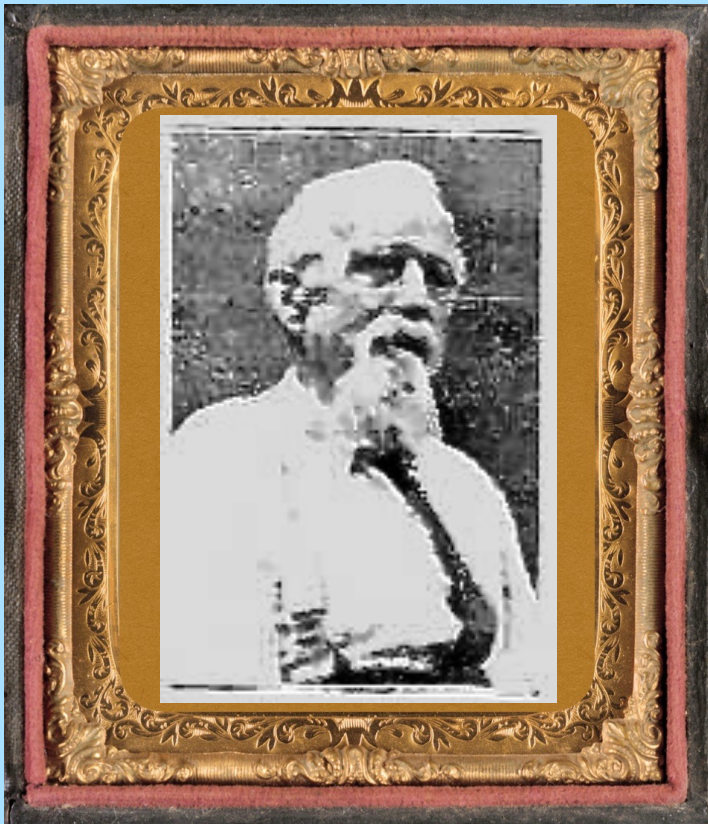
Here is a reminder of activities in the next few weeks.

120th anniversary: Across a variety of events and in the Camp Orders, we will honor the 120th anniversary of the merger of the C.K. Pier Camp and Badger Camp # 1.

Christmas party, Patriotic Luncheon and more: It will be a busy fall for the planning of these items, depending on the state of the pandemic, too.

WHERE WE SERVED AND FOUGHT

— A SERIES SALUTING THE ANCESTORS OF CAMP 1 BROTHERS



BROTHER DAVE CURRAN'S ANCESTOR: PVT. JAMES CURRAN

Enlisted in 6th Illinois Cavalry, Co. C, on Sept. 3, 1861, then was a U.S. Marine and later in 42nd Illinois Infantry. Dates and ranks not known. Released in March 1865 from prison camp at Cahaba, Ala.

Was from Jacksonville, Ill.

The 6th Cavalry was mustered in at Camp Butler near Springfield, Ill., and was in Grant's Central Mississippi Campaign of November 1862 to January 1863, and the siege of Port Hudson, La., May 24 to July 9, 1863. Then it fought all over Tennessee.

The 42nd Infantry began in July 1861, and in 1864 was in the Atlanta Campaign, with many battles before and after. See lists at <http://civilwararchive.com/Unreght/unilcav1.htm#6th> and <http://civilwararchive.com/Unreght/unilin4.htm#42nd> Info on prison camp at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cahaba_Prison

Born June 15, 1835.

Died Jan. 18, 1927.

Buried at Lansing in Allamakee County in northeastern tip of Iowa, in Wexford Immaculate Conception Cemetery.

