

The USS Milwaukee

The ironclad river monitor was commissioned at the end of August 1864 and hit a mine near Mobile, Ala., seven months later. It sank in shallow water. See page 3.

C.K. PIER BADGER CAMP #1

SUVCW



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SERIES 2022

CAMP ORDERS

SEPTEMBER 2022

CHOSEN AS THE 2022 BEST CAMP IN THE NATION

BUSY ACTIONS BY BEST CAMP IN THE USA

It is now the fall season. We had quite a busy schedule this past summer.

We marched in the Humboldt Park parade on the Fourth of July, the South Milwaukee parade July 30 and the St. Francis parade on Sept. 3; all with the Auxiliary.

We participated in the Old Falls Village Civil War event July 16-17. We talked with people about the war, participated in the morning raising and afternoon lowering of the flag on the grounds and talked to people about our organization. The Auxiliary sold items and talked about various topics.

We participated in headstone dedication ceremony with the Mil-

From the Commander
- PDC Tom Brown

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This is a beautiful Civil War memorial at Turner Hall in downtown Milwaukee. It lists the 26 local members of the German-American organization lost in the Civil War. Brother Peter Keepman has catalogued it as part of another big project as the Camp's memorials officer. Keepman's 15-page report will be emailed to you in the next few days.

The next Camp meeting will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12, at the Lions Clubhouse, 7336 St. James St., Wauwatosa. PDC Tom Brown will have the patriotic presentation.

Commander

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waukee Civil War Round Table and Daughters of the American Revolution in May. We also talked about various topics on July 10 at the Oak Creek Historical Society.

As you can see, we were quite busy. Then at the National Encampment, we received the Commander-in-Chief's award for the best Camp in the nation for our work throughout the years. Our efforts did not go unnoticed.

The Department also got a national certificate of recognition for its efforts in making Wisconsin complete in the Last Soldier Project.

Camp 1 did its part, placing Last Soldier markers as far away as in Eau Claire and Kewaunee Counties, and attending placements done by other Camps. All counties now have the special marker on the grave, and a small ceremony was done at each.

We need as many brothers as possible to continue these kinds of efforts. Volunteer often and have fun.



Directly behind the Auxiliary in the South Milwaukee parade in July were two of the Camp's youngest members – Peter Keepman, 20, left, and Skylar Brown, 17, right. They dramatically lowered the average age of the delegation. Between them is PDC Tom Brown, Skylar's grandpa. At right, Nancy Phillips, a 3g-granddaughter of Pvt. John Afton, the first burial at Wood National Cemetery, was escorted to his grave by PCC Tom Mueller. She traveled from North Carolina for the American Legion convention in August and asked for help. We honored Afton in 2021.



REMEMBERING COL. PIER: PIONEERS REMINISCE

These monthly articles about our Camp namesake are written by PCinC Steve Michaels. This item first was published in the September 2002 Camp Orders.

Col. C.K. Pier was one of the early members of Fond du Lac's Old Settlers' Club. Organized in October 1874, the club was initially composed of about 60 county residents and their wives, who had located there no later than 1850. Pier of course qualified ... he was born there in 1841.

The club's purpose was to perpetuate the history of the early Fond du Lac County settlers by collecting and preserving personal reminiscences, while renewing acquaintances with fellow pioneers.

On a Sunday in September 1875, the first Old Settlers' Picnic was held at the fairgrounds, at the time located on South Main Street. At 10:30 a.m., horses, ox teams and mules, carrying men, women and children, 1,000 strong and forming a large caravan, as in pioneer days, headed into town under the stirring strains of fife and drum. In Agricultural Hall, pork and beans, corn bread, pumpkin pie, cider and "apple sass" were served. Afterwards, everyone gathered in groups and chatted about old times and new, and the children were occupied in various sports.

C.K. Pier was one of four guest speakers, who furnished stories about the trials, struggles and victories of the county's builders. His father had been one of the first settlers. The speakers held the audience's attention for two hours despite the scorching heat and lack of shelter. This was one of Pier's first documented public speaking engagements.

Two years later, Pier was elected vice president of the Old Settlers' Club. However, the death of his father, growing business interests and involvement with veterans' affairs precluded him from an active role.

A later generation continued to hold annual reunions well into the 20th Century.

From Fond du Lac County, Wis., Past & Present, edited by Maurice McKenna, S.J. Clarke Pub. Co., Chicago 1912; Fond du Lac County, a Gift of the Glacier, by Michael Mentzer, Fond du Lac County Historical Society 1991; Milwaukee Sentinel, Sept. 2 and 3, 1874.



THE SHORT LIFE OF THE USS MILWAUKEE



After coming across two sentences about it in an 821-page book, PCC Tom Mueller presented this little-known topic at the September Camp meeting. Most of this story is from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Milwaukee_\(1864\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Milwaukee_(1864)) and <https://sites.google.com/site/29ofoundation/civil-war-navies/the-monitors>

The USS Milwaukee was an ironclad river monitor and the first ship of the Milwaukee class, which consisted of four vessels. She was commissioned on Aug. 27, 1864, and supported Union forces in attacks on Confederate fortifications at Mobile, Ala., in early 1865 – and quickly struck a mine and sank in shallow water.

The wreck was raised in 1868 and broken up for scrap that was used in the construction of the famous Eads Bridge in downtown St. Louis, Mo., which still stands today.

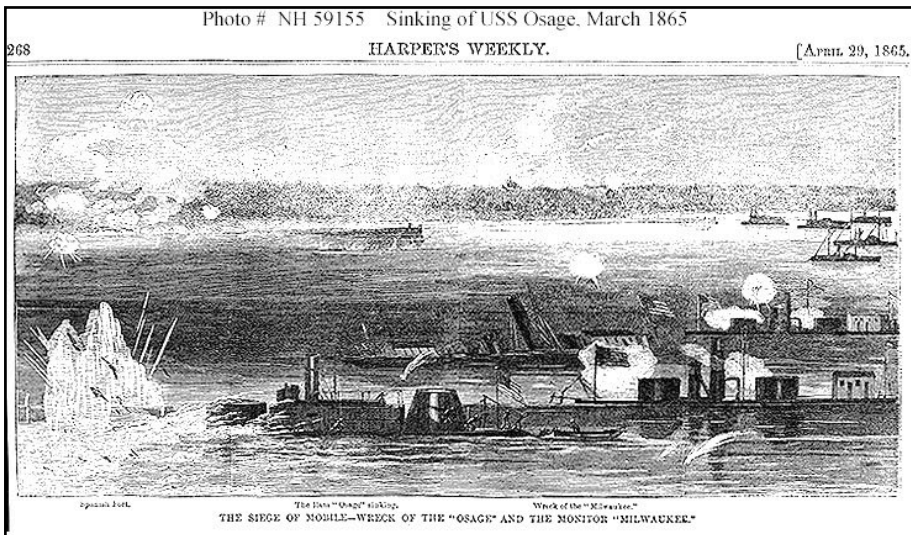
The Milwaukee's main armament was four smoothbore, muzzle-loading 11-inch Dahlgren guns, mounted in two twin-gun turrets. Her forward turret was designed by James Buchanan Eads and the rear turret by John Ericsson. Each gun weighed about 16,000 pounds and could fire a 136-pound shell up to a range of 3,650 yards.

The cylindrical turrets were protected by eight layers of wrought-iron one-inch plates. The sides of the hull consisted of three layers of one-inch plates, backed by 15 inches of pine.

The Milwaukee was 229 feet long and had a crew of 138.

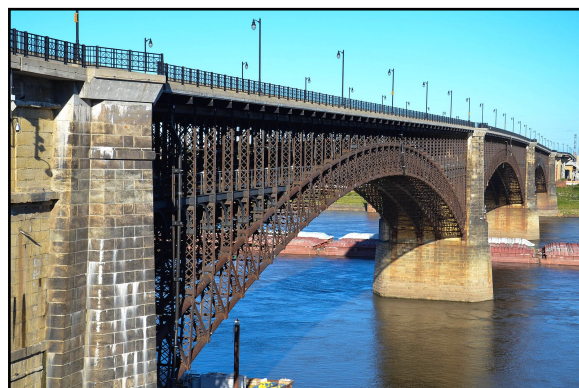
Although Adm. David Farragut's "Damn the torpedoes" victory at the Battle of Mobile Bay on Aug. 5, 1864, had closed the port of Mobile to blockade runners, the city itself had not been taken. The Confederates fortified the approaches to the city and heavily mined the shallow waters surrounding it.

Spanish Fort was an eastern defense to Mobile, and the battle to capture it began on March 27, 1865. On that day, Milwaukee and several other Union ships attempted to cut off Mobile from Spanish Fort. On March 28, Milwaukee and her sister ship



The hulk of the ironclad river monitor USS Milwaukee was in this drawing that ran in Harper's Weekly on April 29, 1865.

Parts of the Milwaukee were used for the historic Eads Bridge in St. Louis, Mo., finished in 1874 and still a major thoroughfare today.



Winnebago steamed up the Blakeley River to attack a Confederate transport and forced it to retreat.

But while returning downriver, Milwaukee struck a mine in an area previously swept. She remained afloat forward, which permitted her crew to escape without loss. Another of her sisters, Kickapoo, rescued the survivors.

Many Wisconsin regiments were at the siege and battle of Spanish Fort and near Mobile.

The Milwaukee-class monitors were created because the Navy wanted river ironclads that could mount four 11-inch Dahlgren guns and have a draft no more than 6 feet. The previous class, Neosho, carried only two 11-inch Dahlgrens and had a draft of 4 feet, 6 inches.

The Milwaukee-class ships all were built at Carondelet, in the St. Louis area. Although Milwaukee

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USS MILWAUKEE

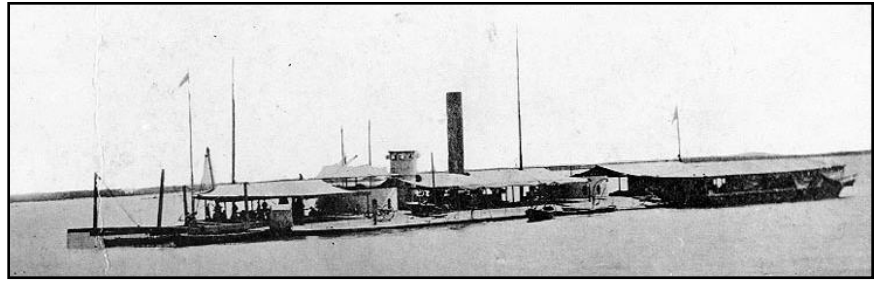
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was the first in her class, she was the last to be commissioned (August 1864). Kickapoo was commissioned in July 1864, Winnebago in April 1864 and Chickasaw in May 1864 (those three vessels were named for native American tribes).

The Winnebago and Chickasaw arrived in time in the Farragut battle, but not the Milwaukee and Kickapoo.

Three years after being crippled, the wreck of the Milwaukee was raised and towed to St. Louis and broken up; her iron was used in the construction of the Eads Bridge across the Mississippi River near today's Gateway Arch, which is to the south.

It was the world's first steel-truss bridge. The span is named for its designer and builder, James Buchanan Eads. Work on the bridge began in 1867, and was completed in 1874, and in 1964, it was de-



This is the USS Milwaukee in action, with a mine rake attached to her bow and awnings spread over the deck. The Milwaukee was the first in a four-ship class. U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command Photograph. From <https://www.history.navy.mil/our-collections/photography/numerical-list-of-images/nhsc-series/nh-series/NH-60000/NH-60651.html>

clared a National Historic Landmark. It is not one of the bridges carrying today's interstate highway traffic.

Milwaukee was the first of five ships to carry the city's name. The current one is a Freedom-class littoral combat ship, built in Marinette, Wis., and commissioned in November 2015 in Milwaukee. She serves in the Naval Surface Force Atlantic. See <https://www.surflant.usff.navy.mil/lcs5/>

CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

Q: What did soldiers mean when saying Quarter-master Hunter and a Robber's Row?

A: That first bit of soldier talk was about a shot or shell that goes long over the lines and into the rear; the second was the place where sutlers set up to do business. This is from a list compiled at <http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~poindeexterfamily/geology/CivilWar.html> by G. M. Atwater.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAY

13 – Paul Eilbes



COMING UP

Tombstone dedication Oct. 8, 11 a.m.: We will dedicate the Camp and Auxiliary's two latest tombstones at Forest Home Cemetery.

Wreaths Across America: The Camp again will be a designated fundraising group to help provide wreaths for Wood National Cemetery on National Wreaths Across America Day, which will be Dec. 17. Stay tuned for specifics.

Patriotic Luncheon Feb. 4: It is never too early to mark your calendars for one of our signature events – the 53rd Annual.

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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 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.

WHERE WE SERVED AND FOUGHT

— A SERIES SALUTING THE ANCESTORS OF CAMP 1 BROTHERS



PCC BRIAN CRAIG'S ANCESTOR: CPL. CHARLES HENGEN

Was in the 28th Wisconsin Infantry,
Co. A.

Was from Delafield, and mustered
in on Aug. 18, 1862.

Mustered out on Aug. 23, 1865.

Hengen was in the 28th from the start to the finish of the regiment. It helped repulse the attack on Helena, Ark., on July 4, 1863, and was in the expedition against Little Rock from Aug. 11 to Sept. 10, capturing that Confederate state capital on the last day. It later was in the campaign against Mobile, Ala., and its defenses, from March 17 to April 12, 1865.

See <http://civilwararchive.com/Unregst/unwiinf2.htm#28thinf>

Also see PDC Kent Peterson's extensive website about the unit, <http://www.28thwisconsin.com> Peterson's relative of record was in another company of the 28th.

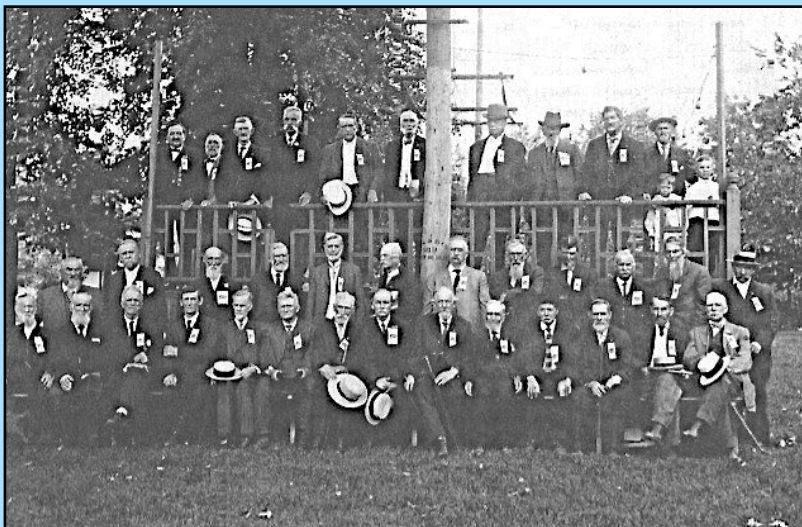
Born Oct. 15, 1842.

Died Jan. 5, 1927.

Buried at St. John Chrysostom Cemetery at Delafield.

Note: John Chrysostom (born about 347 and died in 407) was an important Early Church Father who served as archbishop of Constantinople. The Church Fathers were ancient and influential Christian theologians and writers who established the intellectual and doctrinal foundations of Christianity.

More at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Chrysostom and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_Fathers



The 28th Wisconsin Infantry gathered for a reunion in 1914, likely at Cutler Park in Waukesha. Charles Hengen is at upper right with two boys. That area of the photo that is enlarged above this photo. PCC Brian Craig says one of the boys is his grandfather, David Craig.