



Wisconsin Department Dispatch



Spring 2002

Dept. General Orders 2002-01

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Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
SUVCW

Where is the SUVCW?

By Commander Randy Novak

As this new season of re-enactments, school presentations, graves and monuments work, and other Camp projects becomes more active, this Department pledges continued support to the Camps and our sisters in the Sons of Union Veterans Auxiliary, and to the other members of the Grand Army of the Republic Allied Orders.

The gilded age of our country's society was a time when fraternal organizations of all types were the popular social activity of the day. Often, reminders of large fraternal groups are visible only because of an emblem that exists on the exterior of a building, now used for other purposes. The SUVCW seems to have gotten past the low point as numbers indicate our membership, at all levels of the organization, is continuing to grow – though still just a fraction of it's former self.

Typically, when we join an organization, whether professional, hobby, or social club of some type, we send our money in to a National headquarters (often professionally managed) and maybe join a local chapter. If an issue arises which affects the club, we think – OK, what are they going to do about it – after all we pay our membership money to be represented by that organization! The "Sons" is a little different. There is no fancy office building full of administrative types and professional lobbyists. The organization has it's foundation, it's roots, in **you**, the member. You are not just a member of the organization - you truly **are** the organization. Every time you close a meeting you are reminded by Camp Ritual that you are conducting your life and daily activities as a "Son".

Why are we members of this organization. Did we join to be a member of another club?

(Continued on page 2)

2002 Lincoln Tomb Ceremony Nears

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, assisted by the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, and the Lincoln Deathday Association, Inc., are sponsoring the 46th annual ceremony which will commemorate the 137th anniversary of the death of Abraham Lincoln at the Lincoln Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, at 11:00 A.M., Monday, April 15.

At the luncheon afterward, Professor Phillip S. Paludan of the University of Illinois at Springfield, noted Civil War scholar and historian, will be the featured speaker.

The Illinois Department also will host its annual memorial ceremony honoring Dr. Benjamin F. Stephenson and celebrating the 136th anniversary of the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic. The ceremony will be held on Sunday, April 14th at Dr. Stephenson's grave site in Rose Hill Cemetery in nearby Petersburg, IL.

The Renaissance Springfield Hotel, located at 701 East Adams Street, Springfield, will be our headquarters.

Details are found on the Dept. Web site at:
www.suvcw-wi.org/lincolntomb.html

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What makes this group different? Is it any different? Our organization exists because a group of veterans realized they themselves could not be around forever, and they wanted their sons to carry on their patriotic work. Our veteran ancestors were members (Grand Army of the Republic) because they had shared a common, but unique, experience. They were extremely proud of their part in what they had accomplished, and realized it's historical significance. **We** are members because we have pledged to take their place, to represent them, in modern society. This is sort of a family obligation for many of us, as we also share a common, but unique, history. Being a member can and should be fun and personally rewarding, but it may take some hard work, and time, and money – think of it as a light version of the sacrifices they had to make. As you are proud of your family heritage or country's history, be likewise of your organization, it's origins, and your part in it. You are part of a group that is a continuation of our Nation's Civil War history. There was only one American Civil War, there was only one GAR, and there is only one SUVCW. The SUVCW is a direct link to the Union Civil War soldier. It is the only organization created by the common Union soldiers, for their sons and subsequent generations. No other Civil War related organization can make that claim – I guess that's what makes this group different.

You are part of a privileged fraternity, but being a Sons member can be more than paying your dues and going to a few meetings. It can mean sharing your knowledge and interest of history with others. It can mean taking the initiative and starting a project – an unlimited number of opportunities are waiting. It can mean, participating with other veteran and patriotic groups at local observances - you don't have to be dressed up in a Civil War uniform. It **should** mean you are doing this as a representative of your Camp, your Department, the National SUVCW, the GAR. Even when acting as an individual, you are a member

Member Orientation takes to the Road

Continuing to build on last year's initial offering of a New Member Orientation session, officers from Camp 1 are running three of the same orientation sessions in 2002. This year, the name has been shortened to Member Orientations, reflecting the realization that ANY member, not just new comers, will benefit by attending one of these half-day information sessions.

At right, members of Camp 5 listen and take notes at the February 16th presentation in Grafton. A second session was held the following week in Pewaukee, and the third session is scheduled for April 7th at Milwaukee School of Engineering in downtown Milwaukee. Any member may attend; please pre-register with PDC Steve Michaels at (414) 425-4648. More information is also available on the Department Web site.

Participants in the February Member Orientations were:

Camp #2 and #4:

Timothy W. Barrett
Scott Gutzke
David Hinkley
James L. Johnson
Jeremy Johnson
Eric J. Sprengle



Camp #5:

PCC Ronald M. Aronis
Andrew P. Bollen, III
Richard J. Rohan
Bryan M. Giese
Lyman Elliott, Jr.
Kathy Cieski-Rohan



Camp 5 orientation (above) and below, PDC's Steve Michaels (left) and Fred Murphy demonstrate proper badge placement.

and representative of this fraternity. Your veteran ancestors and GAR members were a proud bunch, don't let them down – be proud of what they created for you.

You do not need to be a member active in your Camp to take an active part of the Sons. Likewise, if you are in a Camp and want to work on a project – talk to a Camp or Dept. Officer – tell them you want to do something. Start thinking now about what your Camp, or what you as a member can accomplish for this coming year. What will you be doing on Memorial Day? The Fourth of July? Maybe collect worn American Flags? Champion the restoration of a monument? At what events can you set up a display for recruiting? Take the initiative.

One thing you can think about is attending the National Encampment this year. It's in Springfield, Illinois – you can take a little extra time and visit the Lincoln tomb and other historical sites. Meet members from other parts of the country and listen to what they are doing. Offer your support to activities that interest you. This year one of our Wisconsin members is running for election into a National office - join us and support Steve Michaels in his bid for National Junior Vice Commander.

The gist of all this is that you can't get much closer to Civil War history, than living it as a member of the SUVCW.

Commander Randy Novak

2002 Mid-Winter Meeting and Patriotic Luncheon

The Mid-winter Department Meeting in February was attended not only by Department officers and members, but for the third consecutive year, the Commander-in-Chief also participated. Held once again at the Midway Motor Lodge. All of the officers present provided verbal reports of the progress made to date in their respective assignments. Some of the items reported include:

SVC Kent Peterson said there would be four Department Dispatch newsletters published this year instead of the usual three. Each issue will be a bit smaller, but the end result is an extra issue and a savings on postage. He's also obtained a new address for the Department Web site, where he's been tracking visitors which include some international viewership. The Department Dispatch and the newsletters from Camps 1, 4 and 8 are now archived online.

Graves Registration Officer Brian Peters reported that there have been 580 graves registered since June 2001. He challenged all Camps to replace at least two headstones this year. Brothers Bruce Laine, James Benware and Don Strube are assisting with handling database entry of our graves reports.

Treasurer Dale Brasser distributed copies of a new form he developed to help organize requests for expense reimbursement from the Department.

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For the third consecutive year, our Commander-in-Chief has visited us for the Mid-Winter Meeting and Patriotic Luncheon events. C-in-C Powell (above, standing) greatly enjoyed his time here and was impressed with our Camp and Department operations.



This past October, PDC Steve Michaels announced his candidacy for the National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief post. Elections for all National officer positions will take place during the National SUVCW Encampment in Springfield, Illinois, on Saturday, August 10th. Here is his message to our Department.

PDC Steve Michaels Announces Candidacy for National SUVCW Post

Time passes quickly. It has been both a pleasure and an honor for me to serve our Order and Department. I've enjoyed the many friendships that I've made. I also love the Sons' work and would like to continue to serve you as National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief.

I believe my past experience and service makes me uniquely qualified for this position. As you have observed, I am a builder, an organizer and communicator. I will bring these talents and skills to each of the issues that affect us at the National level.

I've been an advocate for both physical and professional growth in the Sons. You've seen remarkable changes here in our membership, our Camps, and our leadership in recent years. In addition, opportunities for personal development at Member Orientations and Region Conferences have been introduced. Booklets and other publications have added to our members' understanding of our Order.

We have a number of great opportunities ahead of us and I would like to help the SUVCW take advantage of these. But I need your active support to accomplish this; I need your vote at this year's National SUVCW Encampment, August 9-10th, in Springfield, Illinois. Please make every effort to attend.

Fraternally,

PDC Steve Michaels

PDC Steve Michael s JVCinC Campaign: SUVCW Membership Timeline

May 1993	Joined the SUVCW Ohio Department as a Member-at-Large
August 1994	Attended 1st National SUVCW Encampment in Lansing, Michigan.
December 1994	Transferred membership to C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1, Dept. of Wisconsin. Published <i>Introduction to the SUVCW</i> for new members.
February 1995	Elected to 1st of 4 terms as Camp #1 Commander, reorganizing Camp and tripling its membership over the next four years.
June 1995	Elected Dept. Sr. Vice Co. Began Camp visitations.
August 1995	Won National SUVCW Essay contest; presented award at the National Encampment in Columbus, Ohio. Appointed to 1st of two terms on National HQ Staffing Committee.
February 1996	Served first of 6 terms as chair of the annual Patriotic Luncheon. Participation increased from 7 to 101 in five years.
May 1996	Published the <i>Camp Companion</i> , to be used in improving Camp management and programs.
June 1996	Began publishing <i>Wisconsin Department Dispatch</i> three times a year.
July 1996	Joined Sons of Veterans Reserve.
June 1997	Elected to 1st of three terms a Wis. Department Commander. The Department's membership doubled during this time. Helped organize three new Camps. Initiated Dept. fundraisers.
July 1997	Published Volume I of <i>Dept. of Wisconsin History (1882-1902)</i> . Commissioned captain in the Sons of Veterans Reserve and appointed as 4th Military District Chief of Staff, Public Info Officer and Commander of HQ Company. Editor of semi-annual District newsletter.
August 1997	Appointed to 1st of two terms on National History Committee.
October 1997	Project Officer for Region conference in Milwaukee--largest attendance.
June 1998	Published volume II of the <i>Dept. of Wisconsin History (1903-1923)</i> .
October 1998	Appointed to chair the 1st of 4 terms as chair of the Central Region conference Steering and Training Committee, responsible for the conference's professional development program.
February 1999	Published the <i>Junior Handbook</i> .
August 1999	Appointed to one term as chair of the National Fraternal Relations Committee.
October 1999	Published the SUVCW <i>Recruiting Handbook</i> and several recruiting pamphlets for use in the Department.
December 1999	Elected to 1st of three terms as Camp #1 Secretary/Treasurer.
June 2000	Elected to chair Department Council, establishing sites for future Dept. Encampments and establishing financial planning. Continued to serve as Dept. Eagle Scout Certificate Coordinator.
July 2000	Reappointed as captain in SVR, 4th Mil. Dist. Chief of Staff, Public Info Officer and Co. of HQ Company. Editor of semi-annual District newsletter.
August 2000	Published <i>How to Organize an SUVCW Camp</i> .
November 2000	Organized curriculum for SUVCW Member Orientation Course.
February 2001	Instructed at 1st Member Orientation course.
April 2001	Published <i>Centennial History of C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1</i> .
June 2001	Elected to Dept. Council.
August 2001	Served on National Encampment Resolutions Committee. Manned first SVR Recruitment display at the Encampment, resulting in several new enlistments.
October 2001	Announced candidacy for National Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief.
November 2001	Awarded the SVR Meritorious Service Award during the Remembrance Day event in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.



Manitowoc and the Salomon Brothers *by Br. Kent Salomon*

In 1927 the citizens of Manitowoc, Wisconsin erected a monument on the lawn of the Manitowoc County Courthouse to honor four brothers for their service in the Civil War.

The Salomon brothers were immigrants from Halberstadt, Prussia who distinguished themselves in Civil War service. Two led Wisconsin regiments and a third was one of Wisconsin's Civil War governors.

Brevet Brigadier General Charles Eberhard Salomon was born on June 24, 1824. He served as Colonel of the 5th Missouri Volunteers, May 4, 1861. He followed his brother, General Frederick Salomon, as Colonel of the 9th Wisconsin Volunteers and was Brevet Brigadier General March 13, 1865. He was mustered out of service December 3, 1865. He died January 1894 in Salt Lake City, Utah.



Charles E. Salomon



Frederick Salomon

His troops repelled three confederate attacks at Jenkins Ferry, Arkansas. He died March 8, 1897 in Salt Lake City, Utah and is buried in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Edward Salomon, Civil War Governor of Wisconsin, born August 11, 1827 in Halberstadt,

Prussia. Edward was a lawyer in Milwaukee and was elected Lieutenant Governor in 1861 with Governor Louis P. Harvey. When Governor Harvey was drowned in the Tennessee River while inspecting Wisconsin troops after the Battle of Shiloh, Edward succeeded him in April 1862 and served the



Edward Salomon

remainder of the term until 1864. He died April 21, 1909 in Germany at Frankfurt am Main.



Herman Salomon

regiment (Bissen's) and was discharged at end of term as Sgt. of the 1st Missouri Volunteer Engineer Regiment at East Point, Georgia on September 28, 1864. He died September 20, 1881 and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Manitowoc, Wisconsin.



Manitowoc's memorial to the Salomon brothers.



Wel come New Members!

The Department of Wisconsin welcomes the following new members:

Camp #1

Daniel F. Chroninger, Readstown
Bernard Young, Boscobel

Camp #2

Charles A. O'Neil, Delavan
Eric J. Sprengle, Madison

Camp #4

David Hinkley, Waukesha
Jeremy Johnson, Mequon
Andrew Laine (Junior), Eagle

Camp #5

Bryan M. Giese, Muskego

Camp #8

Michael P. Bouchette, Sherwood
James W. Sherbert, Neenah



From left: Dick Rohan, Jim Benware, Alan Wambold and Andy Bollen assist Mr. Rod Prinsen of Sheboygan in discovering his Civil War ancestor, Sgt. Yohan Duessing of Co. I, 26th Wisconsin Infantry.

Member Orientation Graduates

This past February and April, three SUVCW Member Orientation Courses were held for Camp members to better familiarize them with the missions, programs, structure, customs and courtesies, history, publications and values of the SUVCW. The following brothers successfully completed one of these Orientation Courses:

C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1

Hal C. Hughes
Bruce W. Nason
Joseph Paonessa
Bruce E. Thayer

Henry Hamden Camp #2

Timothy W. Barrett
James H. Oates
Eric J. Sprengle

MG John Gibbon Camp #4

CC Scott Gutzke
David Hinkley
James L. Johnson
Jeremy Johnson
Bruce C. Laine

Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing Camp #5

PCC Ronald M. Aronis
Andrew P. Bollen, III
CC Lyman Elliott, Jr.
Bryan M. Giese
Richard J. Rohan

Camp #5 Sponsors "Ancestor Day" in Sheboygan

Last March 16th, Alonzo H. Cushing Camp #5, held the first of what should be many "Ancestor Days." Expanding on an idea first expressed by PCC Ronald Aronis, Camp #5 decided to try to see if there was any interest in the Sheboygan, Wis. area for the public to find out if they had an ancestor that fought in the Civil War.

Brother Alan Wambold, a research librarian, knew which books and facilities were needed, and reserved a room at the Mead Library in downtown Sheboygan. Two Internet access computers were also reserved as well as microfilms, books, rosters and maps to provide the database required. Other members of Camp #5 brought their own laptop computers with ancestry databases to help fill out the resources.

Advertisements had been placed in the local papers and the event began at 10:00 a.m. A steady flow of people came, some with no information and some with research started but in need of more assistance. Some had folders of clippings and tintypes of ancestors and one even had parts of a GAR medal carefully preserved. At times as many as 4 people were being actively helped while some waited outside the room for a researcher to finish with someone else. Around 20 to 25 persons or couples were assisted, and we believe all but one went away with the information requested.

Some forms need to be designed and a better method of triage needs to develop, but the event was an unqualified success and Camp #5 plans on holding more in the Port Washington, West Bend, Manitowoc and Grafton in the future.

Wisconsin Brothers Who Served as National JVCinC

By PDC Steve Michaels

During the 121 year history of the SUVCW, three brothers from Wisconsin were elevated to the post of National Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief. However, none advanced "through the chairs" to en route to becoming National Commander-in-Chief.



F. Julius Walthers was 20 years old when he joined the fledgling Wisconsin Department of the Sons in 1883. He was congenial and a persuasive speaker who worked as a school teacher before becoming a successful attorney. His enthusiastic ability to lead resulted in the organization of several Camps in Milwaukee and one in Madison. Walthers served as Department Commander in 1886-87 and was elected National JVCinC in 1919. Serving during the Post WWI depression and our Order's decline, he was still convinced of the great possibilities of our Order. He saw the Sons exerting an educative influence on the citizenry, especially the youth, and upholding the guarantee of our Constitution for future generations.

William R. Graves was a graduate of Boscobel's High School and was principal for several Grant and Crawford County Schools before pursuing a law career. He served as Clerk of Court, District Attorney and Judge, president of two banks and owner of two lumber companies. Graves helped organize Fort Crawford Camp #3 at Prairie du Chien in 1914, serving as its first commander. He was elected Wis. Department Commander in 1917. He ran unopposed and was elected National JVCinC in 1937, during the National Encampment held in Madison.



Roy R. Lewis, a railroad switchman, joined C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 just prior to the 1923 National Encampment held in Milwaukee. He served as Camp Commander three years later and was elected Wisconsin Dept. Commander in 1938 and re-elected in 1939. The nation was preoccupied with WWII and most of the Order's men were either serving in the Armed Forces or were aiding the war effort when Lewis was elected National JVCinC at the 1943 National Encampment in Milwaukee. His wife, Ida, had served as National ASUVCW President in 1937 and died unexpectedly in 1944.

(Continued from page 3)

According to **Secretary Ron Aronis**, we currently have 222 members in the Dept. of Wisconsin, a slight drop from last year.

Historian James Benware has been working on a survey form to distribute to Camps, historical societies, the VFW, and others, to help compile an inventory of Sons materials state-wide. More about his project is found on page 7.

The Department Council has worked on simplifying the awards nomination form, and has been exploring the possibility of tax exempt status for the Department.

The **Eagle Scout Program coordinator PDC Steve Michaels** reported that a new initiative calls for advising BSA Councils that our certificate is available. Camp #1 awards a few of these in person each year, but help from other Camps will be needed to continue this in SE Wisconsin, especially as word gets out. We may turn to mailing out the certificates, which will cost about \$1 each.

The 2 ½ hour meeting flew by quickly, and was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. It was followed by the annual Patriotic Luncheon, where the 91 in attendance had a delicious lunch followed by Lynn Surles' presentation on the evolution of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.



Lynn Surles

Your Department Officers

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TREASURER

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COUNCIL

Council 1—Richard J. Rohan
Council 2—PDC Stephen A. Michaels
Council 3—PCC Alan G. Hembel

Appointed Officers:

Patriotic Instructor - Don Strube
Chaplain - Carl Liebert
Historian - James Benware
Graves Registration - Brian Peters,
chairman, James Benware, Don Strube
Color Bearer - Jim Johnson
Signals Officer - Kent Peterson
Memorials Registration - Richard Beggs,
chairman, Mike Wertel
Iron Brigade Highway - Alan Hembel
U.S. Grant Award Coordinator - Tom
Johnson

Should You Attend the Annual Department Encampment?

June 1 at Manitowoc, Wis.

Yes! Any and all members of the Sons are welcome and encouraged to come to Manitowoc for the 2002 Department Encampment. This is your chance to see what's going on at the Department level, and how those plans and decisions will affect us at the Camp level in the months ahead. You can participate in the discussions or just listen to the reports, catch up on old acquaintances or make some new ones.

The 2002 Dept. Encampment will be held on June 1st at the Holiday Inn, 4601 Calumet Ave., just off US 43. Those interested in rooms a block of rooms have been reserved under "Sons of the Civil War".

Registration is \$15.00 per person to cover the lunch buffet. All interested in attending should contact Br. James Benware at (262) 306-1279, or pre-register by sending a check made out to Cushing Camp #5 and sent it to Br. Benware at 623 S. Main Street, West Bend, Wisconsin.

Further information will be posted on the Department web site (<http://www.suvcw-wi.org>) as it becomes available.

You, the SUVCW, and the Internal Revenue Service

National counselor James B. Pahl has recently posted an interesting item on the announcement page of the National SUVCW web site. If you've ever wondered whether your SUVCW dues are tax deductible, or if you can deduct the cost of your uniform, mileage for SUVCW activities, etc., you ought to take a look.

SUVCW dues are not tax-deductible, nor is any cost for your time spent on Sons activities. But there are some deductions you can take that could make a difference on your taxes.

According to a letter from the IRS to the National Organization, you may deduct out-of-pocket expenses incurred because of an SUVCW activity for which the organization does not reimburse you (keep those receipts!) as well as 14 cents per mile to travel to and from Sons activities. If you choose to do this, keep a written travel log showing date, start and end mileage, total miles and description of the activity.

You may deduct any donation to your Camp, Department or any fund of the National Organization. Purchasing and maintaining special clothing which is worn only for special activities and is not suitable for personal, daily use, is deductible. This includes uniforms purchased and worn for SVR or Camp guard use.

The IRS Letter of Determination is available for viewing on the National web site. You can it, read the rest of Br. Pahl's article at:

<http://suvcw.org/inquiry.htm>

*Some
of your
SUVCW
expenses
are tax -
deductible*

Department Historian's Report

Surveying and Cataloging Historical Materials

By Br. James Benware

My name is James Benware and I currently hold the position of Department Historian in addition to being Camp #5's Secretary-Treasurer. After last year's department encampment our Dept. Commander Randy Novak asked if I would take on the duties of Department Historian, a new position in Wisconsin. The mission was to find our roots, our legacy both in paper, pictures, and artifacts. The plan was to begin to develop a better idea of what currently is in our possession, its condition and whether the Department needs to take action in preserving it.

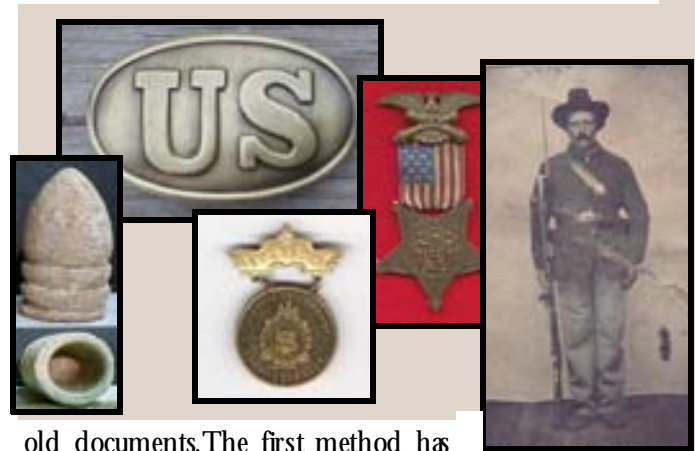
The plan I have begins with attempting to identify the current status of materials related to the Sons. To accomplish this first phase I am working on sending out a survey to the current and past department officers, camp officers, State and county historical societies, State Universities, VFW Halls, American Legion Halls, and G. A.R. Halls. I am hopeful this will accomplish several important steps: first to identify key individuals with knowledge about our past, and second, to give me an overall idea of what we have as a department and where everything is currently located.

After identifying key individuals and a preliminary overview of materials, direct communication will take place to further catalog materials. Items which exist in an individual's personal collection will be photographed or scanned but will continue to remain with their owners. Once a catalog of materials takes shape it will provide members of our Department with a resource for future research archives. We are also reviewing a document retention policy to determine what happens to our current documents and materials generated by the Department and to preserve them for future generations.

The current status of this project, I have spoken with several past and current department officers in their specific knowledge of Son's materials and have also contacted both the Wisconsin Historical Society and have been in contact with the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison as well as some on-line research of archives located in Wisconsin. I am preparing to send out the survey which is still being fine tuned for maximum effectiveness. My contact with the Wisconsin Historical Society indicated that a majority of such materials would probably reside with the Wisconsin Veterans Museum since it was more their area. The Wisconsin Veteran's Museum while having a great deal of material related to the Grand Army of the Republic actually have very little materials related to the Sons and are very interested in our project. The bad news is that appears that a great deal of

the materials were destroyed in several garage fires, which means any material might be in the hands of individuals or local historical organizations. Some of the materials are located at our current department secretary's house and will require cataloging at some point in the future and a determination if we need to find alternative storage for important papers or devote time to preserving the documents via either microfilm or scanning.

Once we have located and organized documents of historical significance to our organization we will need to choose how to preserve them. Too much handling of some of these documents is out of the question due to their fragile state. Currently there are two preferred methods of preserving information contained in very



old documents. The first method has been an industry standard which is to put the documents on microfilm. The advantage is ease of storage of a large amount of materials, but the drawback is that the material will not be searchable and will depend on a detailed catalog for research. The second method is one which has become popular more recently with the development of scanning of documents. The factors involved will be the cost and that changing technology makes it difficult to have a standard format. The best plan calls for a mix of the two methods, older documents which have little or infrequent use for research applications would be put on microfilm while more current documents which might have value for current or future projects should be scanned or at least saved on some electronic medium.

It's not easy to estimate when this project will be completed, but it is my hope that the groundwork will have been laid to recover our past and save our future.

The *Wisconsin Department Dispatch* is published three times per year for members of the Wisconsin Department, SUVCW. Articles, photos and news items may be submitted to SVC Kent Peterson, 6024 South Kirkwood, Cudahy, WI 53110 or e-mailed to kap@execpc.com. Editorial deadlines are April, July and October 15.

Visit us on the Web at

<http://www.suvcw-wi.org>

Calendar

April 14	GAR Founder's Ceremony, Petersburg, Ill.
April 15	Lincoln Tomb Ceremony, Springfield, Ill.
April 20	Civil War Collector's Show, Wheaton, Ill.
April 20	Confederate Memorial Day, Forest Hill Cemetery, Madison
18-19 May	4th MD SVR Artillery School, Boscobel, WI
May	27 Memorial Day Ceremonies
1 June	119th Wis. Dept. SUVCW and ASUVCW Encampment, Manitowoc

Descendants of soldiers work to save prison site

FLORENCE, S.C. - Along a road near a honky tonk and a cluster of trailers sits an overgrown farm field and a little-noticed granite monument.

For a few months late in the Civil War, this ground was a prison for 16,000 Union troops, many hastily sent here after Gen. Sherman captured Atlanta and Confederates moved prisoners from Georgia's infamous Andersonville prison.

In many ways, the camp known as the Florence Stockade was just as bad, with prisoners living in holes and using a tiny stream simultaneously for drinking and sanitary purposes. In the camp's mere six-month existence from late 1864 to early 1865, nearly 2,800 men died from malnutrition and disease.



The story of the prison and those who lost their lives there is little known, but now descendants of Yankees and Confederates are working together to make sure it is never forgotten.

The dead were buried in an adjacent field and later moved to a nearby site that became the Florence National Cemetery. There about 2,300 Union troops were laid to rest beneath the pines and oaks in the cemetery, many in mass graves.

Attorney Mark Buyck III, a Florence native, heard stories of the stockade growing up, but until about five years ago there was never any effort to preserve it. Indeed, the stone monument erected in 1947 by the United Daughters of the Confederacy does not mention the Union deaths but pays tribute to "the Confederate soldiers and the citizens of the community who in the line of duty guarded these prisoners."

Charles "Brand" Livingstone, who is 79 and lives in Calais, Maine, had a grandfather who fought for a New York regiment and was imprisoned in Florence. To write a book about his grandfather, Mr. Livingstone came to Florence to see the prison but found nothing. "I said it isn't right not to have some kind of memorial for the 2,800 who died there, to say nothing of those who survived," he says.

"Everything we have tried to do in a balanced fashion," Mr. Livingstone said. "The slaves built that stockade, and we want to recognize them. The Southern forces were the guards there, and they had a bad time, and of course the prisoners had a bad time."

Mr. Buyck said the preservation group is working to identify all the Union soldiers who died in the camp and, using war records, has identified about 1,800. Confederate records of who was imprisoned at Florence were lost after the war.

There is another mystery as well in the cemetery: the grave of Florena Budwin, who is buried near the Union troops and died Jan. 25, 1865.

Researchers have so far been unable to confirm the legend that Mrs. Budwin was the wife of a Philadelphia soldier and disguised herself as a man to be with her husband. Both were captured and sent to Andersonville where her husband died. The woman was later transferred to Florence where, the story goes, doctors discovered she was a woman and removed her from the camp. Suffering from pneumonia, she was treated by the women of Florence before she died.



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