



Wisconsin Department Dispatch



Spring 2007 Issue

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Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

SUVCW

Department Commander's Comments

18 April 2007

Greetings Brothers,

April 14th 1865 – Ford's Theatre, Washington, DC, an evening of rest and enjoyment for President and Mrs. Lincoln, suddenly shattered and turned to horror. April 14th 2007 – Lincoln's tomb, Springfield, IL, many of your Brothers standing shoulder to shoulder in a cold rain, to honor President Lincoln and his sacrifice. I was honored to represent you there, holding your Department flag and presenting a wreath at the tomb. It was a moving experience.



This is our purpose, we keep alive the memory of those who have gone before us and sacrificed so much for others. You can keep their memory alive. Be active in your local Camp, remember our past veterans on Memorial Day, thank our current veterans today, and help others when you have the opportunity.

Take note of our upcoming events and please plan to attend our 2007 Department Encampment in Boscobel on June 9th. The pre-registration form is in this newsletter. The Brothers of Camp 49 are eager to serve as the Host Camp and have lots of history to share with us in the form of the GAR Hall. If you haven't been there before, now's your chance to see a great historical collection and experience. There will be something new this year — a souvenir ribbon/button will be given to each attendee. Those who pre-register will have their name tag incorporated into the souvenir, so please pre-register early so there will be time to make up your name tag souvenir. Please send it in soon!

I Remain,
In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Brian Peters
Wisconsin Department Commander



Wisconsin Department Pioneers



WILLIAM R. GRAVES

William Roswell Graves, a 44-year old Prairie du Chien attorney, was elected Wisconsin Department Commander at the 1917 Dept. Encampment, held in Kenosha and was installed by Commander-in-Chief William T. Church of Chicago. In the year prior to the U.S. entry into World War I, the Department was at its highest point, boasting 64 Camps and about 1,850 members.

Graves was born in the town of Hanley, Crawford County on January 29, 1873, the second of four children born to Alanson and Hannah Graves. His great great grandfathers had fought in the American Revolution. His father, a private in Co. D, and Co. K, 31st Wisconsin Infantry, had participated in Sherman's Campaign through Tennessee and the siege of Atlanta. He was with Sherman on his march to the sea, in the North Carolina campaign and in the battle of Bentonville before taking part in the Grand Review and being mustered out a sergeant in June 1865.

The younger Graves graduated from Boscobel's High School in 1889 and taught in both Grant and Crawford County. The next year, he entered UW, obtaining a degree in public instruction in 1895. After graduating from UW, he worked as a principal at several schools in Wauzeka and Hazel Green. In 1898, while working as a high school principal in Soldiers Grove, he was elected clerk of court. He obtained his law degree from the Chicago Law School in 1902. Terms as County DA and Judge followed. He served as president of the Crawford County Bank and vice president of the Bank of Prairie du Chien. He also owned and managed two lumber companies. Graves served on the school board, as city

superintendent of schools and on the library board. He was a member of the University Board of Regents and served on the state board of education from 1918-20 and was a member of the state assembly in 1930.

Graves married Martha Horsfall on June 24, 1903 and they had four children: Florence, Roswell H., Lisetta and David A. Martha served as both Fort Crawford Aux. 9 President and Wis. Dept. Aux. President.

He organized Fort Crawford Camp #3 in Prairie du Chien on February 4, 1914, and served as its first commander. The Camp associated itself with the city's Phil W. Plummer GAR Post #37. Prior to being elected DC, he served on the Dept. Council and as Dept. JVC. Afterwards, Graves served as the Department's Camp Organizer, reorganizing a Camp at Ellsworth and establishing another at LaCrosse. He was one of three brothers on the Dept. GAR Memorial Fund committee and served as Dept. Counselor up until 1930. Throughout, he served as his Camp's Secretary.

It was the custom then that the Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief was selected from the Department hosting the National Encampment. When Wisconsin hosted the 1937 National Encampment in Madison, Graves was elected to the high post. Afterwards, he resumed service as Dept. Counselor.

When the organizational meeting of the future Central Region Association was held in Prairie du Chien in 1940, PDC Graves served as acting secretary. His minutes survive as an historical record of that event.

In addition to the Sons, Graves was also a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Knights of Pythias, Modern Woodmen of America, Order of the Eastern Star, DeMolai Commandery, Wisconsin Consistory of the Scottish Rite, Tripoli Temple, AAONMS, RAM, F&AM, KT and a life member of the State Historical Society and of both the American and Wisconsin Bar Associations.

William R. Graves passed away on June 18th, 1949, at the age of 76 and was buried at Prairie du Chien's Evergreen Cemetery. Fort Crawford Camp #3 disbanded in September that year. He was survived by his wife, three children, a brother, A.J. Graves of Madison a sister, Mrs. L.A. Martin of Boscobel, and seven grandchildren.

from *Southwestern Wisconsin: A History of Old Crawford County (Vol. 3)* by John G. Gregory; S.J. Clarke Publishing Co.,

(Continued on page 3)

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Chicago 1932

The Courier Press, June 21, 1949

US GenWeb Archives info by Br. Burdette Coberly, L.G. Armstrong
Camp 49

Assistance from the **Prairie du Chien Library** is gratefully acknowledged.

Written by Stephen Michaels, PCinC



Camp Patriotic Instructor's Reports

Camp Patriotic Instructor Reports are needed for the upcoming Department Encampment, June 9, 2007. I will need these reports two weeks prior to the Encampment, May 26, 2007. The forms for the report are in "A Handbook of Instruction, Thoughts, and Ideas for Camp, Department & National Patriotic Instructors." I will send a form to all Camp Patriotic Instructors to be sure they have one.

Please send these reports to:

SUVCW Dept. of Wisc. Patriotic Instructor

Alan Petit

E7602 Cutoff Road

New London, WI 54961-9007

With F. C. L.,

Alan Petit

Patriotic Instructor

Department of Wisconsin

SUVCW

The Sons of Union Veterans Creed

Submitted by Alan Petit, Patriotic Instructor, Department of Wisconsin

This creed was adopted and promulgated by the 38th National Encampment of the Sons of Veterans, USA, at Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 11, 1919. Although no longer a formal part of the Rituals & Ceremonies, it is offered here for its historic interest and continuing sentiment.

SONS OF VETERANS CREED

To be a true American and a good citizen. To discountenance disloyalty in any form.

To revere the name of my ancestor who gave his service and made his sacrifices for the maintenance of the Republic.

To assist the Grand Army of the Republic and to perpetuate the patriotic teachings of that organization.

To be loyal to my Camp and the Order and faithful to my fellow members that we may work in brotherhood for these ends.

"I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands. One nation, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all."

From "A Handbook to Instruction, Thoughts, and Ideas for Camp, Department & National Patriotic Instructors", SUVCW, Page 46. All Camp Patriotic Instructors should have a copy of this handbook on CD disc. If not please contact Department Patriotic Instructor Alan Petit.

Department Orders # 3

Series 2006-07

Brian G. Peters, Wisconsin Department Commander
646 Rays Lane, Stevens Point, WI 54481-9260
715 344-7924

commander@suvcw-wi.org

1. Brothers – please plan to attend or participate in your local Memorial Day ceremonies, or if that is not possible, visit a memorial or a cemetery and take some time to reflect on the memory and sacrifices of our country's veterans who have given "that last full measure of devotion" that we might be united and free.
2. Our annual Department Encampment will be held Saturday June 9th at Boscobel. Please plan to attend, and send in your pre-registration form to me at the address listed on the announcement (elsewhere in this newsletter). You'll be glad you did!
3. Camp Commanders – please forward your recognition award nomination forms to Department Council member Andrew P. Bollen, PCC by May 7th. This is for Department awards to be presented at the Department Encampment.
4. Camp Grave Registration Officers – please communicate your Camp's grave registration accomplishments to Department G.R.O. Virgil Matz for reporting and recognition purposes.
5. Camp Commanders and Department Officers – for the Department Encampment – please provide me with a short summary report of the past year's activities and accomplishments (since the last Department Encampment). This can be a continuation of your mid-winter meeting report. Please have this report to me by May 30th for inclusion in the encampment handouts.
6. Brothers – if you have an email address and have NOT received an email from me in the last month, please send me your current email address so that I can include you in future electronic communications regarding our Order. My email is listed above or you can use: peters@powercom.net
7. After consultation with the Department Council members I have established a Department Encampment Souvenir policy, and a standard Department Encampment registration fee of \$5 per person attending the encampment. These will remain in effect until modified or cancelled by the Department Commander.
8. I would like to strongly encourage all Camps to hold their officer elections for upcoming years in November or December and have your installation ceremonies completed by January each year. This will greatly facilitate meeting reporting deadlines established by National.
9. Please keep our Brother, Department Chaplain Rev. Maurie Felton in your thoughts and prayers as he recovers from a stroke and heart attack.
10. Please keep our Brother, Camp 49 Commander Charles White in your thoughts and prayers as he battles cancer.
11. To any other Brothers or Sisters who are suffering, I wish you a speedy and successful recovery.

Ordered this 18th day of April, 2007
In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty
Brian G. Peters
Department Commander



Attest: Randy K. Novak, PDC
Department Secretary



FINANCIAL STATEMENT

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

OPERATING FUND

2005-2006 FISCAL YEAR

BALANCE FORWARDED - June 30, 2005\$2,495.45

RECEIPTS:

Department Report Payments:

C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1.....\$1,043.00
Col. Henry Harnden Camp #2.....966.00
Gen. John Gibbon Camp #4.....465.50
Lt. Alonzo Cushing Camp #5.....231.00
Old Abe Camp #8.....1,009.75
L.G. Armstrong Camp #49.....441.00
Col. Wm. Colvill III Camp #56.....429.50
\$4,585.75

Receipts From Wis. Dept. Encampment:

Received From Camp #4.....102.00

TOTAL OPERATING FUND RECEIPTS4,687.75

TOTAL BALANCE FORWARDED PLUS RECEIPTS\$7,183.20

DISBURSEMENTS:

National SUVCW Dues.....\$3,944.50
National Encampment Gift for PCinC Michaels.....40.00
Central Region Dues—(Two Years).....10.00
Department Encampment Expense.....170.45
Department Newsletter Expense.....280.30
Department Website Expense.....68.68
Postage.....\$57.53
Supplies.....87.24
Misc: Award, etc.....58.00

202.77

TOTAL OPERATING FUND DISBURSEMENTS.....4716.70

TOTAL OPERATING FUND BALANCE ON HAND—JUNE 30, 2006\$2466.50

Respectfully submitted In F.C.&L.

Dale J. Brasser, Treasurer
Wisconsin Department, SUVCW

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

PATRIOTIC FUND

2005-2006 FISCAL YEAR

BALANCE FORWARDED - June 30, 2005\$2,242.19

RECEIPTS:

Contributions to Patriotic Fund:

C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1.....\$35.00
Lt. Alonzo Cushing Camp #5.....25.00
Donations at Saukville Encampment.....62.00
Alan G. Hembel.....100.00
Kenneth Stelzel.....25.00
Wm. H. Upham.....100.00

\$347.00

Sales of Road Signs205.00

Bank Interest Income11.86

TOTAL PATRIOTIC FUND RECEIPTS563.86

TOTAL BALANCE FORWARDED PLUS RECEIPTS\$2806.05

DISBURSEMENTS:

Contributions:

Indigent V.A. Hospital Patient Fund.....\$400.00
R.O.T.C. Awards.....184.00
Boscobel G.A.R. Hall Payment.....50.00
Eagle Scout Program Expense.....50.35
Shipping of Road Signs.....18.91

TOTAL PATRIOTIC FUND DISBURSEMENTS703.26

TOTAL PATRIOTIC FUND BALANCE ON HAND—JUNE 30, 2006\$2,102.79

Respectfully submitted In F.C.&L.

Dale J. Brasser, Treasurer
Wisconsin Department, SUVCW

Camp News and Activities

Camp #1 - Milwaukee



After the February Member Orientation program at the Soldier's Home, the show went on the road to Boscobel, Wis. for a March 10 presentation. Between the two events, about 20 members from Camps 1, 2, 8, 49 and Auxiliary 4 had attended the information sessions. Attendees who completed the course will be recognized at the Department Encampment this June 9 in Boscobel.



On the right, the large group of attendees at the Soldier's Home included newer members, such as Junior Member Peter Keen and Aux. Sister Mary Ann Schallock.

On the right, Commander in Chief James Pahl, Wisconsin's True Son Bill Upham and Past Commander in Chief Stephen Michaels at the Mid-Winter Meeting & 37th Annual Patriotic Luncheon. Both events were held on February 3, 2007 at Bluemound Gardens in Wauwatosa.



Camp #2 - Madison

On the left, PCC Alan G. Hembel received a Certificate of Appreciation from Charles Nelson, President of the Nathaniel Ames Chapter of The Sons of the American Revolution, after he spoke at one of their meetings about the organizations for descendants of Civil War soldiers and how in some instances the basic requirements for becoming a member were similar to the requirements to become a member of S.A.R. The focus of both groups is to preserve the



history and the traditions of those major events. In the beginning the Civil War group was called "Sons of Veterans." Membership required being able to prove a direct blood line from a male Civil War veteran. That has since been changed to allow a descendent to trace a line from a female ancestor. By an Act of Congress in 1954, the group is now named "Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War." To find out more about Wisconsin's history in the Civil War, the Veterans Museum in Madison is an excellent source of information. Alan G. Hembel's credentials are numerous and distinguished. He was in the U.S. Army Reserve for 16 years and retired from his military service with the rank of Major. His professional career was in real estate development and investment banking. He is a member of the Counselors of Real Estate

(CRE) an invitation only organization of industry-leading real estate professionals. His wife Carol told us a very interesting story about her great-grandfather's tombstone and how it was returned to its rightful place in a Fitchburg cemetery.

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Camp #4 - Waukesha County

At left, with MG John Gibbon looking on, the Camp #4 Minstral Trio of PCC Jim Johnson, CC Bob Mann and Sec./Treas. Patrick Lynch lead the attendees at the Gibbon Dinner in singing "Benny Havens". Including a verse written by John Gibbon for a Iron Brigade Reunion. This year's event was held at Heaven City Restaurant in Mukwonago. Author, Marc Storch (right) was the keynote speaker. Ellen Kelling-Vukovic (below to the left), 1st Vice President of the Milwaukee Civil War Roundtable speaks to the guests, she was introduced by PCC Jim Johnson



Camp #5 - Saukville

On the right, On December 26, in Saukville, Dept. Senior Vice Commander installed Camp #5's 2007 Officers. Left to right - Camp Council #2 Mike Drzewiecki, Bruce Laine, JVC Rich Young, GRO Andy Bollen, Camp Commander Jim Benware, Secretary Al Wamboldt, Camp Council #1 Dick Rohan, Treasurer Ron Miswald & Chaplain Ken Stetzel



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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 Bruce Laine at svc@suvcw-wi.org. Editorial deadlines are April, July and October 15.

Visit us on the Web at

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

Department Events Calendar

5-6 May	Civil War Days, Dousman Stagecoach Inn, Brookfield
28 May	Memorial Day
2-3 June	Reclaiming Our Heritage, Milwaukee Soldier's Home (Zablocki VA Center)
9 June	124th Wisconsin Department Encampment, Boscobel
9-12 August	SUVCW National Encampment, St. Louis, MO

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Camp #8 - Fox Cities

On the left, 2007 Camp officers are sworn in with Department Commander, Brian Peters, installing the men. The Officers for 2007 are: Commander: Alan Petit, Sr. Vice Commander: Kim Heltemes, Jr. Vice Commander: James Scherbert, Secretary: Vince Barker, Treasurer: Gordon Moran, Council #1: PDC Randy Novak, Council #2: Robert Hatch, Council #3: DC Brian Peters, Patriotic Instructor: David Dresang, Chaplain: Dan Wilson, Memorials: Kim Heltemes, Historian: PDC Randy Novak, Eagle Scout Officer: Vince Barker, Graves Registration: Don Jager.

On the right, Jim Scherbert is shown as he attended the Echoes of the Past trade show in Oshkosh, Wisconsin on the last weekend of Feb. A snow storm endangered the attendance on Sunday. Saturday proved to be the better day for getting our information out to the public. Jim is the new Junior Vice Commander.



