



# WISCONSIN

## *Department*

# “DISPATCH”



Spring 2014 Issue

Published by the SUVCW Department of Wisconsin

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### Comments from Your Wisconsin Department Commander



Brothers,

The time is coming for you to think about the 2014 Department Encampment. It will be at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madison on the Capitol Square. Please make an effort to have all of the Camps have a representative at the Encampment. It is important to have everyone know what is going on in the Department.

There has been a year delay in the construction of the Memorial at Camp Randall. In order to not rush the project, the VA has pushed the 2013 dedication to coincide with the anniversary of the end of the Civil War in 2015. Donations for the memorial can be made and submitted to the Department which in turn will be given towards the cost of the memorial.

Memorial Day is approaching so please make plans to celebrate the day. This is the iconic day for our ancestors to be honored so find a way to honor them. It can be with a visitation to a cemetery, cleaning headstones, cleaning up grave sites, attending a local function, or either going to a parade or being in a parade.

Remember, the day we stop honoring our Civil War ancestors, we cease to exist. When we keep them alive, we will live as an organization.

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,  
Kim Heltemes, D.C.

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

# SUVCW

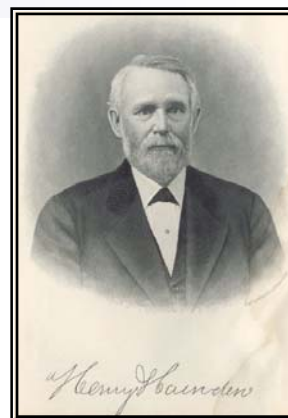
“PRESERVED BY THE GRACE OF GOD”



# Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War *Grand Army of the Republic* Department of Wisconsin 131st Annual Encampment



Restored Civil War Cannon and GAR Arch located at  
Camp Randall Memorial Park, Madison WI



## Tentative Schedule June 7, 2014

8:00 AM Doors Open  
8:30 AM Final Registration  
8:45 AM Opening Ceremony  
12:00 AM Lunch & Museum Archives Tour  
1:30 PM Encampment Resumes  
5:00 PM Conclusion of Encampment  
5:15 PM To be Determined

A tour of the Wisconsin Veteran's Museum Archives will  
be held during the Lunch Hour.

Remove lower portion and mail to address shown

## SUVCW Department of Wisconsin 131st Encampment Registration

Registration must be received by Monday, June 2nd. The Registration Fee is \$15.00 per person (including lunch). A box lunch will be provided. If no lunch is needed, subtract \$8.00 from the Registration Fee.

Fill out the information on the right,  
and send it with the registration fee

to: **Bill Raftery**  
**6724 Shamrock Glen Cr.**  
**Middleton, WI 53562**

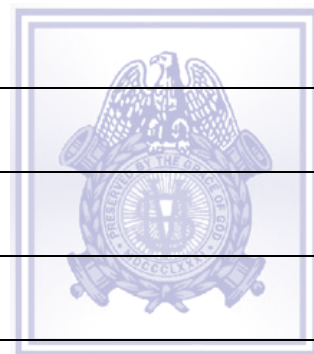
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:  
**Col. Henry Harnden Camp #2**  
**SUVCW**





## MAP & DIRECTIONS TO THE WISCONSIN VETERAN'S MUSEUM, 30 WEST MIFFLIN ST.



**From North:** Take Interstate 90/East to exit 135. Go South on Highway 151/East Washington Ave. Take a right on Webster, left on Dayton, and a right on Carroll. The State Street—Capitol parking ramp is on your left. **NOTE: FROM DAYTON TURN LEFT ON CARROLL ST. TO USE A CUL DE SAC TO LOAD OR UNLOAD AT THE FRONT DOOR OF THE WISCONSIN VETERAN'S MUSEUM.**

**From East:** Take Interstate 94/West to Wisconsin Highway 30W. Go South on Highway 151/East Washington Ave. to State Capitol exit. Take right on Webster, left on Dayton, right on Carroll. The State Street—Capitol parking ramp is on your left.

**From South:** Take Interstate 90/West to Highway 12/18W, exit 142A to Madison then exit on John Nolen Drive exit 263. Take left on Broom Street, right on Johnson Street, right on Carroll. The State Street—Capitol parking ramp is on your right.

**From West:** Take US Highway 18/East to Highway 151 North. Take Highway 12/East. Take Rimrock Road exit. Turn left onto Rimrock Road, turn left onto John Nolen, left onto Broom Street, right on Johnson Street, right onto Carroll. The State Street—Capitol parking ramp is on right.

Tom Mueller  
Department GRO  
and Commander of C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1, Milwaukee

A milestone for the SUVCW graves registration database in Wisconsin was achieved last fall when No. 20,000 was reached, and now it has jumped another 10 percent – No. 22,000 will come any day now, if it hasn't already.

Especially to be saluted is Br. Virgil Matz of Camp 2 and of Black Earth, who has been working on the project since its inception nationally in the 1990s. Virgil was the Department GRO when it reached No. 15,000 in 2008.

Beyond Matz, several members of the Sons and Allied Orders, and other lovers of township, cemetery or county history, have been diligent in entering veterans via their own projects. Particularly helpful to all of us are the records put on the Internet by the genealogist members of Find a Grave; for example a list of more than 400 for Calumet County.

Before entering veterans in the Sons database, we verify the information via the Wisconsin Civil War roster or those of other states (sometimes very difficult), and in the 1885, 1895 and 1905 Wisconsin censuses of veterans. Matz also has several more tools beyond those.

All Brothers ought to help. Signing up to enter the names is pretty easy to do. The website page is <http://www.suvcwdb.org/home/>

All entries are monitored by Matz before being officially posted, and new submitters will find that coaching is available. You can work with lists like in the following paragraphs, or walk through a cemetery and wade into its records, as Br. Tom Ludka has done for Calvary and Forest Home cemeteries in Milwaukee along with Marge Berres of the Woman's Relief Corps.

Not long ago in Brown County, there were 80 in the database but recently there were 440, thanks largely to Kathy Balza, a longtime researcher who became a founding member of the Edward S. Bragg Auxiliary #8. And Matz found extensive lists for Clark County, pumping that total from a few dozen to 450. He also forwarded to me a long list for Kenosha County, which had only 65 at the time, and I have been able to raise the total to more than 300.

Any camp GRO or Brother who can make entries about his relative or a few other men here and there will be doing a fine honor the Boys in Blue – they do not need to be done hundreds at a time. But you may well find this is so rewarding that you keep going and going. I sure did.

It's a coincidence, but sometimes I have entered a vet on his something like 177th birthday, which is a fitting salute.





2014 Mid-Winter Meeting and Patriotic Luncheon.  
Members of Camp 1 escorting C-in-C Freshley and wife Sue.

## CAMP #4 NEWS





Photos are of Camp #4 doing a headstone dedication in Waukesha last fall.  
(Courtesy of Bruce Laine)

Brothers,

This newsletter is a bit short this time. Reason? Nothing in, nothing out. I only received input from Camps #1 & #8. If you don't send me notices, including pictures, of your camp activities, I can't print them. Submissions are open to all brothers, in all the camps. If you send me something, send it in Word format, on an email, as an attachment, as I can download and use that. Pictures as attachments also work great. DO NOT send anything Pdf as I cannot reload that to the Word format of the newsletter. The Department Encampment news is in this issue. Please respond to it ASAP, as it is late getting out due to the Pdf matter. This information will also be posted on the department website. Next: The National Encampment is in Marietta, Geo. this year, on Aug. 14-17.. I will be there. There are six (6) registration and other forms for this. They should all be posted on the national website. Dept. and Camp officers are requested to provide this information to the camps.

The new Camp Randall Monument is postponed one year to 2015. Camps should forward their contributions to department, which will in turn bundle them and send them on to the proper authorities.

Regarding the Stephenson Memorial Plaza project, in Petersburg, Ill. Camps should send their donations to them directly. They are raising money in the form of selling named bricks. This is in honor of Dr. Benjamin Stephenson, founder of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1866. See the back page of the Autumn 2013 issue of "The Banner" for details.

Until next time,  
PCC Alan O. Petit  
SVC Department of Wisconsin



## Bingo at the Veterans Home at King

On Saturday, February 8, 2014, Old Abe Camp #8 provided Bingo for the Veterans at the Veterans Home located in King, WI.



*Above, Kim Heltemes, Kathy Heltemes, & Brian Peters check the winning bingo cards.*



*Jim Waid hands out cookies to one of the players*



*Kathy Heltemes hands out cookies during bingo.*

## Echoes of the Past Trade Fair

Echoes of the Past was held at the Sunnyview Expo Center in Oshkosh the weekend of Feb 22-23

The crowds were steady and we did make some good new contacts for possible membership.



*Our Camp display was set up again next to Company E, 2<sup>nd</sup> Wisconsin.*



(photos and captions this page courtesy of Kirby Scott)

## RETURN ADDRESS



**SEND TO:**

### NOTICE!

Wisconsin Department, SUVCW. articles, photos  
and news items may be submitted to:

Alan Petit at:

[svc@suvcw-wi.org](mailto:svc@suvcw-wi.org)

Editorial deadlines are April, August, and Dec.

Visit us on the Web at

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

**Newsletter EDITOR: Alan O. Petit**

### EVENTS CALENDAR

<b>May 26</b>	<b>Memorial Day</b>
<b>June 7</b>	<b>Department Encampment, Madison</b>
<b>July 4</b>	<b>Independence Day, Fall of Vicksburg</b>
<b>Aug. 14-17</b>	<b>National Encampment, Marietta, Geo.</b>
<b>Sept. 27-28</b>	<b>Wade House CW Event, Greenbush</b>
<b>Nov. 11</b>	<b>Veteran's Day</b>