



# THE DISPATCH

APRIL 2015

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Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

SUVCW

## Comments from Your Wisconsin Department Commander

Brothers,

Spring is here and with it comes the thoughts of the different ways we can honor our ancestors. We are getting to the time of the year where walking the cemeteries is a pleasure. For some of you, it will be back to work while others don't know how to go through the process of finding the graves of our ancestors. For those in the later, hook up with the more experienced and learn from them.

The Mid-Winter meeting was held on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup> with C-in-C Tad Campbell attending from California. He was fun to be with and he installed the new Camp, Camp 15. He also gave Virgil Matz a Certificate of Merit with my blessing. Virgil work in the past many years has been outstanding and a perfect example of total dedication. We are now over 25,000 registered Wisconsin soldiers in the database with Tom Mueller at the helm. Great job! If you can help them, please donate your time to the cause.

There will be a weekend celebration in Delafield over the Memorial Weekend. The Cushing Medal of Honor will be honored on Memorial Sunday. Please honor your ancestor on Memorial Day. Do parades, visit their grave, or be a part of the ceremonies in your community.

The Annual Encampment is June 6 at the Kenosha Civil War Museum. If you haven't been there yet, this is your chance. You won't regret it. On July 18, the Camp Randall Park will have a new Civil War monument with a dedication that day. It will honor the 150<sup>th</sup> year of Wisconsin involvement in the war. Please attend this event – it might be a big one.

Yours in F, C, & L,  
Kim J. Heltemes, DC



## Mid Winter Meeting



*Virgil Matz received a certificate of Merit from C-inC Tad Campbell for his work with the grave registration of Wisconsin soldiers buried in Wisconsin.*

The number of Wisconsin burials in the SUVCW national database has surged past 25,000.

During the period that this figure was reached in March, Department legend Virgil Matz was entering more than 300 additional graves in Vernon County, and Department GRO Tom Mueller was submitting dozens found in Ozaukee and Portage Counties. So those Counties currently have 615, 138 and 580, respectively.

Matz and Mueller also utilize various government databases.

Only a year and a half earlier, the Wisconsin number in the database had reached 20,000.

GROs of every Camp are encouraged to check for cemeteries in your area that may not be in the database or are under-represented. Anyone who has a Camp roster showing the relative of record ought to see whether that soldier is in the database, too.

Of great help in this effort is the independent work of dozens of local historians, cemetery researchers who take pictures and enter data on Find a Grave, and the Wisconsin Historical Society, which has put alphabetical and unit rosters online along with three censuses of Civil War vets. Such records are among the best and most accessible in the nation.



*Without his tall hat and beard but definitely with great expertise, Lincoln presenter Nic Bur discusses the legacy of Lincoln at Camp 1's 45th annual Patriotic Luncheon. Bur, a middle school teacher in West Allis, began portraying Lincoln in order to get his points across to students. Bur also portrays Lincoln at Camp 1's Memorial Day ceremony.*

## Lincoln Tomb Ceremonies

**April 11, 2015**



Steve Michaels and Kim Heltemes presenting wreaths at the Lincoln Tomb on April 11, 2015.



# Camp News

## C.K. Pier Badger Camp 1

Camp 1 has embarked on a project to erect a historical marker at Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee, honoring the fact that about 1,000 Civil War veterans are buried there.

Although the Milwaukee cemetery always knew there were a few hundred burials, the higher number emerged in a giant project by Camp GRO Tom Ludka and Marge Berres of the Woman's Relief Corps. Since 2011, they have conducted research via multiple avenues and worked closely with the cemetery records and GAR post documents.

Jan Van Rens, executive director of the cemetery, suggested putting the historical marker right at the main entrance on West Forest Home Avenue, and C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 heartily agrees. Planning has begun, and fund-raising efforts soon will be launched.

Forest Home has been in operation since 1850, and has more confirmed Civil War burials than any other cemetery in Milwaukee other than Wood National Cemetery.

All the Forest Home burials have been entered into the SUVCW national database. Using multiple search functions in the database, along with the Wisconsin roster, Department GRO Tom Mueller has determined that the cemetery has 11 men from the four Wisconsin regiments that were in the surrender ceremonies at Appomattox.

The burial with the longest Civil War service record is Pvt. John Iversen, who enlisted in the 5th Wisconsin Infantry on April 21, 1861, says Mueller, who also is Camp 1 commander. He was mustered out on Dec. 9, 1865. He was from Milwaukee, and his name is Iverson in the Wisconsin roster. He died in 1917 at the age of 74, and is buried with an ordinary tombstone that has no indication of his service, much less his unique status.

Here are Ludka's latest stats:

934 confirmed burials

15 not buried (ashes scattered) or removed

10 memorialized not buried

That makes a total of 959 total verified, (65 of the verified died in service or during the war, of which 21 were either KIA or died of wounds and 44 died of disease.)

70 unverified burials that are possible veterans and still being checked out.

Thus a possible total of 1,029 Civil War veterans.

Ludka says they served from 26 states / territories and include many regiments from Wisconsin and other states, Regular Army, U.S. Colored Troops, Militia, Navy and Marine Corps.



*PDC Fed Murphy visits at Camp 1's Patriotic Luncheon following the Department mid-winter meeting in Wauwatosa.  
Photo by CC Tom Mueller*

## Old Abe, Camp 8



Denny Egan recently visited Mike Boldon in the hospital in La Crosse. It shows the true spirit of what being a SUVCW brother is all about. Thanks,

## L.G. Armstrong 49 – Boscobel



This past fall and winter the hall was raised and basement placed under it. The furnace is moved and the handicap ramp is installed. The bathrooms are framed in and waiting for plumbing fixtures. We are now trying to raise more

funds to complete the work, plumbing, new porch, fixing plaster, and etc. The raising of the hall and no heat in it cracked allot of plaster that will be needed to be fixed, also the state inspector has issues with the work? Contact Gary Young for information.



*Three of the founders of Camp 15 in Wind Lake proudly display their charter, signed by CinC Tad Campbell and DC Kim J. Heltemes at the mid-winter Department meeting in February in Wauwatosa. They are Brian D. McManus, Pat Kulas and Jeff Graf, who is the Camp commander. The Camp is the Col. Hans Heg Camp. Photo by PDC Kent Peterson.*



*Installation of camp 15 with l to r C INC Tad Campbell, Dean Collins, Jeff Graf, Pat Kulas, Bruce Laine, and Brian McManus.*



*3 generations of Camp 15's Graf family. L-R Jeff, Rollie, and Matt Graf.*



# SUVCW and Allied Orders Picnic



- Food, fun, and frolic
- Museum tour of original settler's buildings
- Tour of Col. Hans C. Heg statue and gravesite

Hosted by Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Col. Hans C. Heg Camp # 15, C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1, and Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Col Heg Park, 6300 Heg Park Rd, Waterford, WI 53185 Follow Hwy 36 South from Milwaukee or North from Racine. Historical Marker is on both sides of Hwy 36\*

RSVP: Camp # 15 Secretary Brian D. McManus 414-852-9015

Time: Noon-4 PM

Date: July 26th, 2015

\* Historical Marker will direct you onto Heg Park Rd. We are in the lower pavilion on the North end.

The City of Delafield is having a Cushing Memorial Rededication Event May 22-15 for event details go to

<http://www.visitdelafield.org/event-calendar/cushing-memorial-celebration/>

## Colonel Hans Christian Heg, 15<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Volunteers



Hans Christian Heg was born at Lier, near Drammen, Norway, on December 21, 1829. Hans was the oldest of the four children of an inn keeper. Even Hansen Heg and his wife, Siri Olsdatter Heg. Drammen is a small city in the southern part of Norway, a few miles from the capitol.

Hans Heg was eleven years old when his family arrived in Muskego, and he soon earned for himself the reputation of being a wide-awake and gifted boy. He

took great pains to learn the English language thoroughly and often accompanied parties of immigrants on their way to the settlements at Koshkonong, Rock and Jefferson Prairie. Keenly observant, he developed a deep insight into American conditions. At twenty years of age, lured by the discovery of gold in the Sacramento Valley, he, with three companions, joined the army of "Forty-niners" and spent the next two years prospecting for gold in California. According to *NORDLYSET*, issue of March 26, 1849, the party consisted of Engebret and Halvor Rosvald, Magnus Hansen and H.C. Heg. T. C. Blegen, noted historian, says: "He was reasonably successful, but news came of his father's death in the fall of 1850—his mother had died in 1842—and it was clearly his duty to assume charge of the farm and the care of his younger brother and sisters. Accordingly, in 1851, he returned to Muskego.

Upon his return, he took over the 320-acre farm which had belonged to his father. Shortly after, he married Gunhild Einong, daughter of a Norwegian immigrant of 1843. He was now twenty-two years of age, and had already won the respect and confidence, not only of the Norwegian settlers of the community, but of the Native Americans of the vicinity as well. He was rapidly becoming looked upon as a rising young politician. Since "freedom, equality and brotherhood" were the very life of the simple pioneer society of Muskego, slavery was abhorrent to Hans Heg. He naturally became an ardent member of the Free Soil (later Republican) party."

In 1852 he became a member of the Norway Town Board, and also a Justice of the Peace. In 1855 he was chosen chairman of the Town Board of Norway. As chairman of the Town Board he automatically became a member of the Racine County Board of Supervisors.

In the old record books preserved at the Racine County Courthouse, Hans C. Heg's name occurs frequently and minutes of the meetings held during that time show that he took an active and intelligent part in the proceedings of the County Board, and served on many important committees. He was re-elected in 1856, and named as one of the Racine

County Poor Farm Commissioners. "With the faithful and successful execution of the duties of these local offices he gained the confidence of an ever increasing number of citizens."

In 1859 he gave up farming and made his home in the Village of Waterford for about a year. In 1860 he was elected to the office of Commissioner of the state prison at Waupun. He appears to have been the second Norwegian elected to a state office in the United States. At Waupun he made a very creditable record and many improvements in the prison system came about under his direction. He believed that prisons should be not only for the purpose of punishing offenders, but should also "reclaim the wandering and save the lost."

In 1861 when President Lincoln called for volunteers for the great task of preserving the Union, Hans Heg began recruiting a Scandinavian regiment. Governor Randall of Wisconsin appointed him as Colonel of the Fifteenth Wisconsin Volunteers. Appealing to all young Norsemen he said "The government of our adopted country is in danger. It is our duty as brave and intelligent citizens to extend our hands in defense of the cause of our Country and of our homes." "The government of our adopted country is in danger. It is our duty as brave and intelligent citizens to extend our hands in defense of the cause of our Country and of our homes." The success of his appeal may be judged by the fact that 115 of the 890 men enrolled in his regiment answered to the first name of "Ole"! His own brother, Ole Heg, was a quartermaster, success of his appeal may be judged by the fact that 115 of the 890 men enrolled in his regiment answered to the first name of "Ole"! His own brother, Ole Heg, was a quartermaster.

Col. Heg's brother-in-law, Dr. Stephen A. Himoe, of Lawrence, Kansas, was surgeon of the Fifteenth Wisconsin. Two of his assistants were Dr. George F. Newell, of Waterford, and Dr. Daniel Wooster, of Racine.

Rev. Claus L. Clausen, first pastor of the first Norwegian Lutheran church in America, came back to Wisconsin to enroll under Col. Heg as chaplain in the famous Fifteenth Wisconsin, which played so valorous a part in the operations of the Union Forces for the next three years in Kentucky, Tennessee and northern Georgia.

The 15th trained at Camp Randall in the winter of 1861, then departed for St. Louis on March 8, 1862. The 15th fought at Island No. 10 and Perryville, then Stone's River, where the regiment lost 15 killed, 70 wounded, and 53 missing. Heg, whose men saved part of the army by holding their ground during the battle, was commended by his commanding officer as the "bravest of the brave."

One third of this entire regiment perished during the war of wounds and disease. The "Fighting Fifteenth" as they were often called, remained at Camp Randall only sixteen days before starting for the southern battlefields. During the next two years Colonel Heg was constantly with his regiment and brigade. "In camp, on the march and in battle he shared their hardships, led them, and won their love and devotion; reveal the courage, ambition, kindness and depth of character of this truly great man.

In one of these letters to his wife he says, "You may be a widow, but you will never be the widow of a coward."

By 1863 Colonel Heg was in charge the Third Brigade in the army of William S. Rosecrans, commanding the 15th

Wisconsin, 25th and 35th Illinois, and 8th Kansas regiments. (Rosecrans' chief of staff, who relayed orders to Heg, was future president James A. Garfield). In the summer of 1863 Heg participated in the Middle Tennessee campaign, and settled in with the Union army at Chattanooga.

In mid-September Rosecrans moved south against the army of Braxton Bragg, encountering the Confederates a few miles south of Chattanooga drawn up along the banks of Chickamauga Creek. Heg and his men arrived on the right of the Union line around noon on September 19, 1863. After advancing a short way they were met with a volley from Rebels concealed in heavy woods. They held their ground, "cheered on by the gallant Colonel Heg, who was everywhere present, careless of danger." Several times they were forced to fall back, then reformed and advanced. Then between 4 and 5 p.m. Hood's Texans attacked, and his six Confederate brigades overwhelmed the Union three. Heg was mortally wounded in the attack; 696 of the 1,218 of his men who had gone into battle were killed, wounded or missing, a casualty rate of more than 50%. The following day the Confederates completed the rout of the Union army, driving Rosecrans all the way back to Chattanooga. Almost 35,000 men were lost between the two armies in one of the fiercest battles of the war.

General Win. S. Rosecrans had announced his intentions of promoting Col. Heg. to the rank of Brigadier General, and it was acting in this capacity that he led the third brigade, Davis' division, into battle. From noon until sundown of September 19, 1863, Colonel Heg was constantly exposed to the fearful fire of the enemy. At this hour, with his day's work almost done, he fell, pierced by a rifle ball. He passed the night in the hospital in great suffering, and his death occurred the following morning, Sept. 20, 1863. At Col. Heg's own request, Albert Skofstad accompanied his body when it was sent home for burial.

The whole state of Wisconsin mourned the loss of Colonel Hans Heg, but the keenest sorrow was felt in his home town of Waterford, where his body was brought. He was buried by the Masonic fraternity, of which he was a member.



Masonic ceremonies were conducted at the family residence, after which his body was removed to the old Congregational church on the west side of the village. This church is no longer standing, but the large iron key which opened its doors is now in the Heg Memorial Museum. Rev. Bartean delivered the funeral discourse, the text of which was chosen from 2nd Samuel, 1-27. Following the services at the church, the long funeral

procession wound slowly to the cemetery on Norway Hill, where the mortal remains of the brave soldier were laid to rest beside his little daughter. Anneetta, just twenty-three years after he had come to this community with its pioneer settlers.

Colonel Heg's wife and three children survived him. Gunhild Einong Heg carefully carried out her husband's wishes concerning the education of their children, and moved from Waterford to Beloit in order that their children might attend college there. She passed away in 1922, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Charles Newell Fowler, at Elizabeth, New Jersey.



On October 17, 1926, before a crowd of more than one thousand, a statue of Hans Christian Heg was unveiled at the King Street corner of the Capitol Square. Commemorating the most noted Norwegian-American to serve in the Civil War, the statue bears the following inscription:

Hans Christian Heg  
Colonel 15th Wisconsin Volunteers  
Born in Norway  
December 21, 1829  
Fell at Chickamauga  
September 19, 1863  
Norwegian-Americans gave this memorial  
To the state of Wisconsin



National Encampment, Richmond, VA  
Aug. 19 to Aug. 23, 2015

**2015 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT  
PRE-REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT \_\_\_\_\_ CAMP # \_\_\_\_\_

Current/Highest Past Office (Check One Only!)

- ☐ CinC      ☐ PCinC      ☐ Dept Cmdr  
☐ Past Dept Cmdr      ☐ Delegate      ☐ Alternate  
☐ National Elected Officer

☐ If under 18 years old, check – Must be accompanied by parent/guardian

Complete with check or money order (no cash) for \$10.00 made out to National Organization, SUVCW and mail to:

**Joseph Hall  
98 Mendon St  
Blackstone, MA 01504**

This form does NOT replace a completed Credentials card, which is required to complete your registration at the Encampment. You will not be able to register at the Encampment without a completed Credentials card from your Department Secretary.

Pre-registration will be acknowledged by e-mail only and not individually. Questions? [jhall46646@aol.com](mailto:jhall46646@aol.com)

**Pre-Registration deadline is 31 July 2015**





**Department of Wisconsin  
132th Annual Encampment  
Hosted by MG John Gibbon Camp #4  
Saturday, June 6, 2015  
Kenosha Civil War Museum**

Registration should be received by Friday, May 29, 2015. The Registration Fee is \$7 per person.

Tours of the museum will be available. This information plus a map and a list of restaurants is available on the [www.suvcw.org](http://www.suvcw.org) web site or from your Camp Commander.

**SUVCW Department of Wisconsin – 132th Encampment Registration**

Make checks payable to MG John Gibbon Camp 4, SUVCW and return no later than Friday, May 29, 2015.

Remove lower portion and mail to address shown — This form may be filled out online and then printed.

Mail registration form and payment to:

Richard Gross  
884 Joshua Court  
Pewaukee, WI 53072  
Deadline: May 29, 2015

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Number of registrations \_\_\_\_\_ x \$7.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

## Directions to Kenosha Civil War Museum



From the North :

Take I-94 to STH 142/Cty Hwy S. Travel east on Cty Hwy S/Washington Road to STH 31/Green Bay Road. Turn right on Green Bay Road and travel south to STH 158/52<sup>nd</sup> Street. Turn left on 52<sup>nd</sup> Street and travel east to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Turn right on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and travel to 54<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn left on 54<sup>th</sup> Street and travel to First Avenue.

From the South:

Take I-94 to STH 142/Cty Hwy S. Travel east on Cty Hwy S/Washington Road to STH 31/Green Bay Road. Turn right on Green Bay Road and travel south to STH 158/52<sup>nd</sup> Street. Turn left on 52<sup>nd</sup> Street and travel east to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Turn right on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and travel to 54<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn left on 54<sup>th</sup> Street and travel to First Avenue.

From the West:

Travel east on STH 158 to 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Turn right on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue and travel to 54<sup>th</sup> Street. Turn Left on 54<sup>th</sup> Street and travel to First Avenue.

Parking:

Free parking for 230 vehicles is available on First Avenue, directly east of the Museum. Free On-street parking is also available in the immediate area.

Major General John Gibbon Camp #4 meets  
at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the  
Waukesha State Bank on St Paul Ave. in the Community Room.

# ***Tenting on the Old Camp Ground***

## **A Sesquicentennial Civil War Encampment**

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Where: Camp Randall Memorial Park, Madison, WI

Date: Saturday July 18, 2015

### Draft Schedule of Events

#### Friday

1700 Registration and Camp opens to Reenactors

#### Saturday

0900 Camp Opens to the Public

1100 - 1130 Commemorative Ceremony

- Unveiling of the Monument
- Grand Review of the troops by VIPs

1130 - 1230 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Band Concert

1400 Camp Activities

- The troops assemble to receive their final pay before receiving official notice of being mustered out

1600 Camp Activities

- Public is directed to gather around the campfires in small groups and listen as reenactors tell campfire stories (either stories of Wisconsin's role in the Civil War or stories of reenacting and why they do what they do)

1730 Camp Activities

- Soldiers bid farewell to each other after having served a long and hard 4 years of war together

1800 Camp Closes to the Public

#### Sunday

1100 Camp closes to Reenactors





To reach either the Camp's page or its Face book Page, hold curser over the name, hold "Ctrl" and left click

[C.K. Pier Badger Camp 1](#) - Milwaukee  
Meetings @ 7 P.M. 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of month except Aug.  
Kent Peterson [kapeterson@wi.rr.com](mailto:kapeterson@wi.rr.com)  
C.K. Pier Badger Auxiliary 4

[Henry Harnden Camp 2](#) - Madison  
Henry Harnden Auxiliary 2  
Meetings @ 7 P.M. 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, monthly  
Alan Hemple [agh@tds.net](mailto:agh@tds.net)

[Major General John Gibbon Camp 4](#) - Waukesha  
Meetings @ 7 P.M. 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday, monthly  
Patrick Lynch [Patrick\\_lynch13@hotmail.com](mailto:Patrick_lynch13@hotmail.com)  
Ammo Hawks Auxiliary 5

[Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing Camp 5](#) – Saukville  
Meeting @ 7 P.M. last Tuesday of month  
Andrew Bollen [andbit@att.net](mailto:andbit@att.net)

[Old Abe Camp 8](#) - Fox Cities [Face Book Page](#)  
Meeting @ 7 P.M. 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of odd months  
Kirby Scott [cowkissing@gmail.com](mailto:cowkissing@gmail.com)  
Edward S. Bragg Auxiliary 6

[Hans Heg Camp 15](#)  
Meeting @ 7 P.M. 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, monthly  
Brian McManus [bmcmamus1@wi.rr.com](mailto:bmcmamus1@wi.rr.com)

[L.G. Armstrong 49](#) – Boscobel  
Meetings @ 7 P.M. 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, monthly  
Gary Young [gnuoy@centurytel.net](mailto:gnuoy@centurytel.net)

[William Colville Camp 56](#) - Minneapolis/St. Paul  
Meeting held Quarterly, time, date place TBA  
Randy Nelson [LN4243@msn.com](mailto:LN4243@msn.com)

	
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Guide	Ronald Knaus, CC <a href="mailto:guide@sucw-wi.org">guide@sucw-wi.org</a>
Color Guard	Bob Mann, PCC <a href="mailto:guard@sucw-wi.org">guard@sucw-wi.org</a>
Signals Officer	Kent Peterson, PDC <a href="mailto:webmaster@sucw-wi.org">webmaster@sucw-wi.org</a>



SUVCW

## NOTICE

**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:

Paul Johnson 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>

## EVENTS CALENDAR

May 22 - 25, 2015	Cushing Memorial Rededication events, Delafield, WI
May 29, 2015	Department of Wisconsin 132th Annual Encampment, Kenosha, WI
July 18, 2015	Camping on the Old Camp Ground, Camp Randall Memorial Park, Madison, WI
Aug. 19 to Aug. 23, 2015	National Encampment, Richmond, VA