



THE DISPATCH

SPRING 2017

PUBLISHED BY THE SUVCW DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

Contents

Camp News	Pages 2-3
Camp Namesakes	Page 4
Last Soldiers	Page 5-6
Patriotic Instruction	Page 7-10
Camps & Officers	Page 11
Notices	Pages 12

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

SUVCW

Comments from Your Wisconsin Department Commander



Brothers,

First. We have filled all the department staff positions. Dave Daley of Camp 15 is our new ROTC Coordination Officer and Dave Howard of Camp 1 is our new Patriotic Instructor. Brother Howard will have a bunch of reports that he needs the camps to fill out by national mandate.

Every January, Camp 8 sponsors one of the Saturday weekly bingo events at the Grand Army Home in King. The old veteran's and their wives sit around. They have all the time in the world and nothing to do but watch TV (believe me, I'm 10 years retired) and no where to go. They are being literally bored to death. So, this little Saturday festival makes their week. About 100 of them show up, approximately one half in wheelchairs, to break the routine. We hire a caller and provide coffee and cookies and the loot, which is usually 25 cents per win. The amount of money won means really nothing. It's the idea that you won. This cost the camp about \$100.00. I personally derive a great pleasure just from being able to help. I strongly encourage the other camps to follow suit, if you are not already doing so. There are a number of VA retirement homes in the state. Or, just pick any retirement home to support. There are sure to be some veterans there. What you get out will be way more than what you put in.

The mid-winter department encampment went off quite well, in February. Don Martin CinC was gracious enough to attend. His presence was appreciated by all. I will be at the Lincoln Tomb ceremonies on April 15, in Springfield, Illinois. I would encourage all that can to attend. I have been there for about ten years. It moves me. The annual department encampment is in June, 2017. It will be in Saukville this year. I urge all of the brothers to attend. The camaraderie outweighs the business parts.

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,
Alan Petit DC
Dept. of Wisc.

Camp News Camp 8

Pictures from the Jan 28th event at the Veterans Home in King WI.



Old Abe Camp 8 provided Bingo, coffee, and cookies to the Veterans who played Bingo at Marden Hall.



Kim Heltemes pours coffee



Alan Petit Kurt Kirk & Jim Waid



Camp News

Camp 15

CAMP #15 Campaigns On to Clean Up Muskego Cemetery



These two pictures explain perfectly why Camp #15 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Wind Lake, Wis., is campaigning to get the city of Muskego in southeastern Wisconsin to start mowing the city-owned Luther Parker Cemetery.



There are close to seventy graves in the cemetery, including the graves of two Civil War soldiers who died during the war fighting for our country. Under Wisconsin law, Muskego is required to provide "proper and decent care" for the graves of veterans. But with a straight face, city officials say the condition of the cemetery, with tall grass and weeds sometimes higher than the tombstones, does not violate that proper and decent care standard.

The Sons of Union Veterans vehemently disagrees. "There is nothing proper and decent about the weeds growing over the graves in Luther Parker Cemetery," says Bob Koenecke, commander of Camp #15. "This is a cemetery – it shouldn't look like an abandoned inner city lot."

Muskego says there are wild flowers and native prairie grasses growing in the cemetery that would be harmed by mowing. Instead, the city conducts a spring burn every year that burns off the matted grass and weeds that accumulates because the cemetery is not mowed. The burn-off eliminates the dead vegetation but the fire and heat from the burn is also damaging fragile, hundred-year-old tombstones, many made of limestone.

For the last four months, Camp #15 negotiated with the city, proposing a compromise in which Muskego mowed the graves but could use the borders and rear

of the cemetery to grow the native plants it wants to protect. "That way, both sides get what they want," explained Camp Commander Koenecke.

But Muskego rejected that offer. Camp #15 is now preparing to file a lawsuit against the city to get the courts to order what Muskego refuses to do – maintain its cemetery properly and decently.

The Last Soldier Star

The original design was based on the GAR Star which Camp 15 Commander Bob Koenecke came up with. It was first rendered on a flat piece of stock. It was found to be non UV resistant and would have faded in a few years.

We decided to go with a traditional style marker after that.

This is similar to the GAR flag holders prevalent where Union Veterans are buried.

This version has been approved by both Commander in Chief Don Martin, and the Council of Administration for sale by Camp 15 inside and outside the Dept. of Wisconsin.

We are waiting for the first six to arrive to make sure that they are exactly what we requested.

Other camps in Wisconsin interested in obtaining a medallion for the last soldier in their counties, can contact Cmndr Koenecke at: suvlastvet@gmail.com

They will be available as shown, and also as a flag holder style for an additional cost.

Once we have them in hand, we will be making a pricing schedule, and sending this out.

We will have them for sale at both the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony and the National Encampment.



Camp Namesake ~ Camp 49

Dr. Leroy G Armstrong,



Dr. Leroy G
Armstrong,
b. March 7,
1834
d. February 1,
1919
Surgeon 8th WIS
& 48th WIS
Infantry

Dr,
Armstrong,
practiced
medicine for
forty-two years,

and is the oldest practitioner in the northern part of Grant county.

Dr. Armstrong began the practice of his profession in 1859, in partnership with Dr. Riddell, at Palmyra, Wis., and continued with him for a year and a half. He practiced at Fennimore, Wis., for two years. In 1862 he was appointed assistant surgeon of the 8th Wis. V.I., which regiment he accompanied to Corinth, Miss., where he was transferred to the Army of the Potomac, and assigned to the 6th Wis. V.I. He was promoted and commissioned surgeon of the 48th Wis. V.I. in 1865, accompanied this regiment to Kansas, and was there made post surgeon in charge of the hospital at Fort Scott and at a later time was transferred to Fort Larned, Kans., where he remained until the expiration of his term of service, in February, 1866.

Returning to Wisconsin, he opened an office in Boscobel, where he has since remained in continuous practice. Dr. Armstrong belongs to the State Medical Society, of which he was vice-president in 1875, and president in 1888; is a member of the American Medical Association, of the Grant County Medical Society, and of the Southwestern Medical Society. He was United States examining surgeon in the pension service at Boscobel from 1867 to 1883. He is health officer of Boscobel, and was alderman in 1867, and again in 1899, and was a member of the school board from 1868 to 1901, as such helping to organize and establish the high school upon a basis that should secure its admission to the accredited list of high schools

at the State University. Dr. Armstrong is a general practitioner, and has performed such capital operations as resection and laparotomy as fall within a general practice. Among his most valued essays and papers at the various society meetings are several upon puerperal convulsions and their treatment

Dr. Armstrong and Miss Sarah D. Bond, daughter of Jonathan and Mary (French) Bond, were married Jan. 22, 1861. She was born in Pennsylvania Oct. 29, 1834, and died at Boscobel Aug. 23, 1894, the mother of four children, two of whom, twins, died in infancy. Charles A. is a physician in Boscobel, and is the partner of his father in medical practice; his sketch appears elsewhere. George C. is an attorney, and at the present time represents Bradstreet's Commercial Agency at Salt Lake City.

Dr. Armstrong contracted a second marriage Jan. 1, 1895, Miss Rosa Baumeister, a daughter of David Baumeister, becoming his wife; she was born in Garnavillo, Clayton Co., Iowa. They have one son, Archie Ames, born May 25, 1897. Mrs. Armstrong is a member of the Lutheran Church. The Doctor owns a residence and other property in Boscobel. He is a charter member and past master of Grand Lodge, No. 169, A.F.& A.M.; past high priest of Boscobel Chapter, No. 52, R.A.M.; and past eminent commander of De Molai Commandery, No. 15, K.T. He is a member of John McDermott Post, No. 101, G.A.R., of which he served as first commander.





Cpl. Lansing Wilcox of the 4th Wisconsin Cavalry, Co. F, was the last Civil War veteran to die in Wisconsin. He served from Feb. 17, 1864, to May 28, 1866.



Plaque designed by Camp 15
See Story above



This updated list of Last Soldiers was compiled by Virgil Matz, Department GRO Tom Mueller and the many other Department figures who launched the project years ago.

Last Soldiers often were identified in local newspaper accounts, and this project utilizes many of those. However, such accounts usually focused only on the village or city involved, and sometimes another publication in another part of the county had a later date for someone else. Some of these accounts still are being found as local historians put them on the Internet and as cemeteries are catalogued on Find a Grave. In other cases, a veteran lived in one county for years but as he became older, he went to live with a relative in another county or at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, but then was buried in his original home county. This project considers such a person to be a Last Soldier in his native county even if he actually died elsewhere.

Any Department Brother who wishes to update any of these should write to Mueller at thewisconsin3800@gmail.com, or Matz at vmatz@tds.net

The last of the Last Soldiers was Lansing Wilcox of the 4th Wisconsin Cavalry, who died in 1951 at the age of 105. He is buried in Caddott in Chippewa County. The last before that was Ancel Goolsbey in Barron County, who died in 1947 at age 100.

County	Name	Death Date	Age	Cemetery & City	Unit
Adams	George Woodruff Sr	4 Apr. 1940	95	Hillcrest, Montfort	Co. B 42 nd
Ashland	Anton Austin Miller	26 Aug. 1939	94	Union Cem, Butternut	Co. K 34 th WIS VI
Barron	Ancel Goolsbey	18 Nov. 1947	100	Lake View , Chetek	Co. C 7 th MinnVI
Bayfield	David A. Monroe	8 Mar. 1945	98	Woodland Cem, Washburn	Co. M 20 th NY Cav.
Brown	Henry A. Straubel	23 Mar. 1943	101	Woodlawn Cem., Allouez	Co. H 9 th WIS VI
Buffalo	Michael Welsch Sr.	12 Mar. 1943	98	St. Mary's, Fountain City	Co. L 2 nd WI Cav.
Burnett	William Wesley Palmer	8 Sept. 1927	92	Riverside, Grantsburg	Co. A 3 rd WI Cav.
Calumet	Herman Kalk	5 Dec. 1938	98	Free German, Potter	Co. C 27 th WIS VI
Chippewa	Lansing A. Wilcox	29 Sept. 1951	105	Brooklawn, Caddot	Co. F 4 th Wi Cav.
Clark	Albert Ellsworth Darton	30 Dec. 1942	98	Greenwood Cem, Greenwood	Co. D 45 th WIS VI
Columbia	DeRoy Eaton	4 Feb. 1945	102	Pardeeville	Co. H 11 th WIS VI
Crawford	William Rutter	19 Jan. 1943	101	Rush Creek, Ferryville	Co. B 75 th OhioVI
Dane	Hervie A. Dobson	27 Nov. 1942	100	Arlington National Cemetery ,Virginia	Co. K 11 th VRC
Dodge	Charles Hambricht	4 Oct. 1938	93	Oakwood, Beaver Dam	Co. B 53 rd WIS VI
Door	Nicholas Kill	17 July 1936	91	Juddville, Fish Creek	Co. K 1 st WIS VI
Douglas	Charles L. Hooker	26 Oct. 1947	108	Lake Nebagamom Cem, Lake Nebagamom	Co. H 5 th WIS VI
Dunn	Ebert S. Sorkness	2 Feb., 1940	100	Faith Luth. Running Valley, Colfax	Co. A 12 th WIS VI
Eau Claire	Josiah E. Cass	1 Dec. 1947	99	Forest Hill, Eau Claire	Co. B 7 th WIS VI
Florence	George W. Baird	13 Nov. 1927	79	Woodlawn, Florence	Co. G 41 st WIS VI
Fond du Lac	Albert Pride	25 Jan. 1941	93	Rienzi, Fond du Lac	Co. D 12 th WIS VI
Forest	Patrick "Patsy" Shay	1 Mar. 1932	83	Stanhope Union, Morris County, N.J.	Co. E 48 th WIS VI
Grant	Charles P. Schneider	26 May 1942	99	Hillside Cem, Lancaster	Co. K 51 st WIS VI

Green	James Monroe Divan	10 Apr. 1936	93	Michael Cem, Browntown	Co. 5 th Wi Light Art
Green Lake	Frank Murdock	30 July 1936	90	Oakwood, Berlin	25 th NY Lt Art Batt
Iowa	Jeremiah Humbert	9 Mar. 1938	95	Waldwick, Town of Waldwick	Co. G&I 35 th WIS VI
Iron	Chester M. Huntsinger	22 Jan. 1914	67	Lakeview, Saxon	Co. E 37 th WIS VI
Jackson	Marcus D. Merchant	26 Dec. 1943	97	Oak Lawn, Alma Center	Co. K 1st NY Dragoons
Jefferson	Christian Holzhueter	23 Sep. 1941	94	Kroghville, in Kroghville	Co. M 1 st WI Heavy Art
Juneau	Lawrence Snyder	13 Feb. 1944	99	Pine Eden, Wonewoc	US Navy
Kenosha	Morris E. Rockwell	7 Oct. 1940	91	South Bristol, in Bristol	13 th Ind Batt WI Art
Kewaunee	Irving W. Elliott	23 Dec. 1941	95	Evergreen, Algoma	Co. A 32 nd WIS VI
La Crosse	John Henry Miller	1 Sept. 1941	95	Fairview, Bangor	Co. F 164 th NYVI
Lafayette	James Perrigo	18 Oct. 1935	87	Blaisdell, South Wayne	Co M 4 th WI Cav
Langlade	Frederick Hillman	9 May 1940	93	Bent, at Bryant	Co. K 17 th WIS VI
Lincoln	George Langley	9 Jan. 1944	94	Merrill Memorial Park, Merrill	Co. A 6 th Mich VI
Manitowoc	Carl Rieck	30 Apr. 1936	89	Saxon, at Cleveland	Co. E&A 9 th WIS VI
Marathon	Albert Becherer	19 June 1939	92	Colby Cem, Colby	U.S Navy
Marinette	Charles H. Showard	9 Mar. 1938	96	Forest Home, Marinette	U.S Navy
Marquette	Leonard Dibble	11 Feb. 1940	94	Oak Hill, Packwaukeee	Co. B 36 th WIS VI
Menominee*	Alexander Besaw	22 Oct. 1929	97	Keshena	Co. F 14 th WIS VI
Milwaukee	Charles L. Blanchard	5 Sept. 1942	96	Forest Home, Milwaukee	Co. D 40 th WIS VI
Monroe	Watts W. Hubbard	21 Dec. 1943	95	Woodlawn, Sparta	Co. A 3 rd WI Cav.
Oconto	George Lince	15 Mar. 1940	91	Brookside, Pensaukee	10 NY Heavy Art
Oneida	Bryon T. Plugh	29 Mar. 1932	88	Forest Home, Rhinelander	Co A 1 st WI Heavy Art
Outagamie	Charles Gosha	17 Jan. 1941	100	Riverside, Appleton	Co. E 4 th NH Inf
Ozaukee	William Lehmann	31 Mar. 1933	93	Hilgen, in Cedarburg	Co. C 34 th WIS VI
Pepin	Ezra N. Sabin	25 Feb. 1935	86	Forest Hill, Durand	17 th WIS VI
Pierce	John C. Wheeler	8 Jan. 1936	91	Poplar Hill, Elmwood	A 17 th & G 28 th WIS VI
Polk	Worthy A. Prentice	21 Mar. 1939	91	Clear Lake	Co. D 2 nd WI Cav.
Portage	Peter Felio	6 July 1936	88	Meehan, Plover	Co. C 12 th WIS VI
Price	John E. Felch	5 Jan. 1940	94	Forest Home, Fifield	Co. A 4 th WI Cav
Racine	Lewis Rolfsen	7 Jan 1936	94	Norway, at Norway	Co. C 15 th WIS VI
Richland	Joseph Miller	25 Mar. 1941	95	Richland Center	Co. A 36 th WIS VI
Rock	John Dorn	30 Mar. 1944	96	Oakwood, Beloit	Co.C 3 rd WIS VI
Rusk	Truman D. Goodrich	19 July 1940	92	Riverside, Ladysmith	Co. F 91 st NYVI
St. Croix	Alonzo Rouse Kibbe	22 Oct. 1943	99	New Richmond	12 th WI Light Art
Sauk	Henry Alexander	1 Feb. 1946	99	Westfield German Meth., Rock Springs	Co. K 49 th Penn Inf.
Sawyer	Egbert P. Fullington	3 Apr. 1939	97	Greenwood, Hayward	12 th WI Light Art
Shawano	Nathan Henry Lake	29 Apr. 1941	94	Woodlawn, Shawano	F 41 st & A 51 st WIS VI
Sheboygan	William P. Bryant	30 Sept. 1941	94	Sheboygan Falls	Co. F 48 th WIS VI
Taylor	Albert Bundick	11 Jun 1935	88	Mount Olive, Westboro	I 188 PA & K 3 PA HA
Trempealeau	John W. Miller	18 Sep. 1944	99	Osseo	Co. B 16 th WIS VI
Vernon	Milton E. Crary	5 May 1939	91	Mount Vernon, Hillsdale	Co. F 46 th WIS VI
Vilas	Al Croker	20 Aug. 1936	91	St. Peter's, Eagle River	L 15 th III Cav & 10 th III Cav
Walworth	Isaiah Ryan	11 Apr. 1941	93	Oak Hill, Lake Geneva	Co. F 193th NYVI
Washburn	Hiram Santas	10 Jan. 1931	85	Woodlawn, Birchwood	Co. G 19 th WIS VI
Washington	John Kauper	21 Feb. 1939	91	St. Lawrence Cem, St Lawrence	Co. K 11 th WIS VI
Waukesha	James F. Jones	7 Aug. 1942	96	LaBelle, Oconomowoc	Co. B 39 th WIS VI
Waupaca	Jesse Fox	26 Dec. 1943	97	North New Hope Lutheran, New Hope	Co. C 44 th WIS VI
Waushara	Corydon J. Farwell	14 June 1937	95	Wautoma Union, Wautoma	Co. A & G 3 rd WI Cav.
Winnebago	William A. Hyer	27 Aug. 1944	96	Riverside, Oshkosh	Co E 47 th WIS VI
Wood	James Honan	15 June 1943	100	Green Wood, Reedsburg	Co. C 5 th MinnVI

*Menominee County was formed out of Shawano County in 1959 and so the vast majority of deaths would have been recorded for Shawano County. Native American tradition apparently is to re-use graves; Find a Grave has very few listings for Menominee.



Patriotic Instructor

by Paul Johnson

Civil War Blue Water Navy

Many of the stories of the Civil War come from actions and engagements on land between armies. Navies contributed a great deal in the ultimate victory of the north over the south.

The US Navy expanded from about 90 ships, 40 of which were combat capable, to over 600 ships by wars end.

Essentially there were two navies, the *blue water* and the *brown water*. Blue water refers to the deep ocean, the brown water refers to operations in inland rivers which I will deal with in a later article

Many of this ships that sailed in blue water portion of the service were “capital ships” such as frigates. While large wind powered frigates still sailed in the navy, the majority of the frigates and smaller sloops were steam powered, using the marine screw, invented by John Ericsson.



but this proved largely ineffective on large the civil war steel hulled vessels were built not only the wood hulls, but sails as well

President Abraham Lincoln set the Union’s goal when he declared a blockade of the coasts. His plan was to cut off Southern trade with the outside world and prevent sale of the Confederacy’s major crop, cotton. The task was daunting; the Southern coast measured over 2,500 miles and the Union navy numbered less than 40 usable ships

The first task for Lincoln’s naval secretary, Gideon Welles, was a straightforward, but huge, fill-in-the-blank: acquire enough vessels to make every Southern inlet, port, and bay dangerous for trade. The Northern navy immediately began building dozens of new warships and purchased hundreds of merchant ships to convert into blockaders by adding a few guns. The result was a motley assortment that ranged from old sailing ships to New York harbor ferryboats. Critics called it Welles’ “soapbox navy.”

The Union’s blockading squadrons needed not only ships, but also bases on the Southern coast from which to operate. In 1861 the Union began a series of attacks on port cities like Hatteras, North Carolina and Port Royal, South Carolina along the southeastern seaboard. Poorly defended, they fell to Union gunnery and were seized to use as bases. Though never air-tight, by late 1862 the blockade had become a major impediment to Rebel trade.



Example of such a ship is the *USS Minnesota*, wood hull and steam powered, its’ 44 guns arranged in traditional manner. It was run aground trying to escape the fate of two sail-powered only sister ships in the attack of the *CSS Virginia (Merrimac)*

Later vessels replaced “broadside” placement of smoothbore cannon with movable rifled cannons that could be more

accurately aimed.

There were some attempts to “iron clad”, some ships, vessels. After eliminating



first naval Southern

The Southern states had few resources compared to the North: a handful of shipyards, a small merchant marine, and no navy at all. Yet the Confederates needed a navy to break the Union blockade and to defend the port cities. Confederate Secretary of the Navy, Stephen Mallory, scrambled to find ships and even took on an offensive task: attacking Union merchant shipping on the high seas.

While the war rumbled along on the home front, the Confederates outfitted a series of commerce raiders, vessels such as *Sumter*, *Alabama*, and *Shenandoah* to attack Union merchant shipping worldwide. These ships were acquired by Confederate agents in Europe and most never entered a Southern port. *Alabama*, under Raphael Semmes, was the most

famous. Destroying over 60 ships in a 21-month cruise and sending the Union shipping interests into frenzy, *Alabama* was finally confronted by the Union cruiser *Kearsarge* off Cherbourg, France in 1864. In one of history's last classic one-on-one sea duels, the famed Confederate raider was sunk by accurate Union gunfire.

When the term “ironclad” is used the first ships that come to mind are the *USS Monitor* and the *CSS Virginia*.



With a smaller fleet and fewer shipyards than the North, the Confederates counted on making the ships they had as formidable as possible. They decided to challenge the Union navy with the latest technology: ironclads. Though iron-armored ships had appeared in Europe in the 1850s, Union warships were still built of wood. The first Confederate ironclad began its career as a Union cruiser, the *Merrimack*, captured by the Southerners when they seized Norfolk navy yard in Virginia. The Confederates ripped off nearly everything above the waterline of the ship—which they renamed *Virginia*—and replaced it with a casemate of heavy timbers covered by four inches of iron plating. Though underpowered and crude, as yet there was no match for her in Lincoln’s wooden navy.

The *Monitor*, on the other hand was a technologically revolutionary ship that was designed by the Swedish born naval architect John Ericsson (inventor of the screw propeller). It was built in only 101 days in the Brooklyn Navy Yard. To call it as an ironclad is really a misnomer, since the ship was entirely built of iron. It was not designed as a deep water vessel, but a “coastal” vessel intended to stay close to shore to not have to weather storms like the one that sank her in 1862, just 14 months after her construction.

The battle between them was fought over two days, March 8–9, 1862, in Hampton Roads, a roadstead in Virginia where the Elizabeth and Nansemond Rivers meet the James River just before it enters Chesapeake Bay adjacent to the city of Norfolk.

While considered a draw, the battle sent both navies into building iron ships, most of these were used on river in the “brown water Navy”

Finally, the last official act of the Confederate States of America was a naval one. The Confederate raider *Shenandoah*, far at sea in Pacific waters, only learned of the Civil War’s end four months after the Confederate armies surrendered. *Shenandoah* finally lowered her flag in England on November 6, 1865.

Taken from past “Patriotic Instructor” articles of Camp 8

Challenge to Camp Patriotic Instructors
Share your instructions with the Department
Send to Dispatch Editor- johnson@newnorth.net

Civil War Brown Water Navy

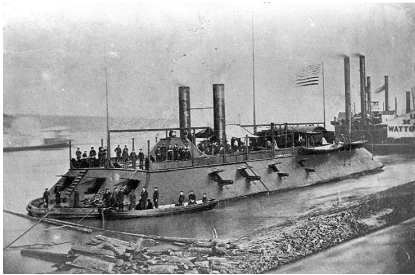
The term *brown-water navy* originated in the American Civil War As a blueprint for the "strangulation" of the Confederate States of America, Winfield Scott's Anaconda plan called for a two-pronged approach by first blocking the South's harbors and then pushing along the Mississippi River, effectively cutting the Confederate territory in two while also robbing the South of its main artery of transport. The U.S. Navy was assigned the blockade of the seaports, while a new force of gunboats and river ironclads, together with regular army units, would take, or at least lay siege on, the Confederate forts and cities along the Mississippi.

The brown water navy started as an Army project, the boats were built and crewed by the U.S. Army, with the naval officers commanding them being the only direct connection to the U.S. Navy. By the autumn of 1862, the boats and their mission were transferred to the Department of the Navy.

The influence of the Monitor and the Virginia was not lost on Commander John D. Rodgers, who commenced riverine operations.

At first he purchase three river steamers and converted them to gun boats, but without armor they lacked the ability to attack forts.

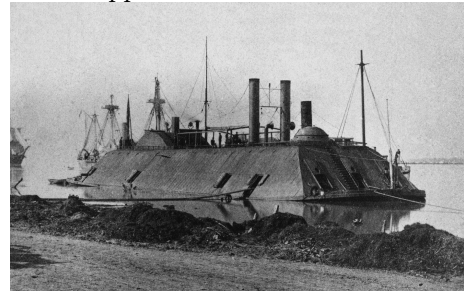
Rodgers contracted for seven new gunboats to be named after cities along the rivers they were defending. These "city class" ships, the "backbone of the river fleet," were 175 feet long and had a 50-foot beam.



USS Cairo

For several decades steamships had developed on the western rivers where the calm waters and ready accessibility of fuel favored the early crude engines (wood). Hence the gunboats went to war relatively independent of wind and current. They were part of a broad revolution in naval design and warfare that would play a key role in keeping the Union intact. They became the spearhead which dismembered the Confederacy along the Mississippi.

The three wooden gunboats accomplished much. They could not, however, take the offensive against forts the Confederates erected at Columbus on the Mississippi below Cairo, at Fort Henry on the Tennessee River just below the Kentucky border, or nearby at Fort Donelson on the Cumberland. The semi-ironclads built for this purpose were commissioned by Flag Officer Andrew H. Foote in mid-January. Foote had relieved Rodgers. Now he had the spearhead to split the Confederacy from the north. At once he and General Grant pressed for permission to attack, and on 2 February the combined forces sailed up the Ohio en route to assault strategic Fort Henry.



USS Essex

Grant's troops embarked in transports at Cairo and Paducah and following Foote's gunboats advanced on Fort Henry. The soldiers were landed 5 miles above the fort according to prearranged plans for a combined assault on 6 February. However, the troops made slow headway in the mud and the gunboats attacked alone. They opened fire at 1,700 yards which was briskly returned by the shore batteries. Foote pressed on knocking out all but four of the Confederate guns. *Essex* was disabled and other ironclads were struck, but Foote closed to point-blank range pouring a hail of fire into the fort until it surrendered.

While the Brown Water Navy aided the Union cause in many ways, there is one very notable exception — The Red River Campaign — recognized by historians as one of the least successful plans of the war.

The Union had four goals at the start of the campaign:

- To destroy the Confederate Army commanded by Taylor
- To capture Shreveport, Louisiana, Confederate headquarters for the Trans-Mississippi Department, control the Red River to the north, and occupy east Texas



Retreat of the Red River Flotilla over the dam

- To confiscate as much as a hundred thousand bales of cotton from the plantations along the Red River.
- To organize pro-Union state governments in the region.

The plan called for Gen Nathaniel Banks to take 20,000 troops up from New Orleans to Alexandria, on a route up the Bayou Teche, where they would be met by 15,000 troops sent down from Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman's forces in Vicksburg, Mississippi, and under the command of Brigadier General A.J. Smith. Smith's forces were available to Banks only until the end of April, when they would be sent back east where they were needed for other Union military actions. Banks would command this combined force of 35,000, which would be supported in its march up the Red River towards Shreveport by Union Navy Rear Admiral David Dixon Porter's fleet of gunboats. At the same time, 7,000 Union troops from the Department of Arkansas under the command of Maj. Gen. Frederick Steele would be sent south from Arkansas to rendezvous with Banks in his attack on Shreveport, and to serve as the garrison for that city after its capture.

Porter designed a formidable battle fleet. It consisted of ironclads, tinclads (lightly armored gunboats), a timberclad (which used wood as armor plating), high-speed rams, three river monitors (with revolving turrets), and support vessels. Porter's fleet carried 210 heavy guns. Sherman's men brought their own troop transports and supply vessels. Banks also used some steamboats. The entire fleet numbered 90 boats.

Porter's choice of vessels was centered on overwhelming firepower and did not take into account the vagaries of the tortuously winding, often shallow Red River. His heaviest ships carried too deep a draft for the sandy-bottomed, snag-filled river.

The Campaign started March 10 and lasted until May 22, 1864. There were two major battles; the Battle of Mansfield and Battle of Pleasant Hill. There were several other skirmishes.

The failure to capture and hold Shreveport and the fact that the river had been in spring flood at the beginning and was falling to summer levels meant that Porter's fleet and troops accompanying were at risk.



Step forward, Lt. Col Joseph Bailey, Acting Chief Engineer of the 19th Army. He suggested building a dam so as to release Admiral Porter's fleet imprisoned by low water above the Falls at Alexandria at the close of the futile Red River expedition in 1864.

Bailey had been a lumberman in Wisconsin and had there gained the practical experience which taught him that the plan was feasible. He was Corps at this time, and obtained permission to go ahead and build his dam. In the under-taking he had the approval and earnest support of Admiral Porter, who refused to consider for a moment the abandonment of any of his vessels even though the Red River expedition had been ordered to re-turn and General Banks was chafing at de-lay and sending messages to Porter that his troops must be got in motion at once.

Bailey pushed on with his work and in eleven days he succeeded in so raising the water in the channel that all the Federal vessels were able to pass down below the Falls. "Words are inadequate," said Admiral Porter, in his report, "to express the admiration I feel for the ability of Lieut. Colonel Bailey. This is without doubt the best engineering feat ever performed. . . . The highest honors the

Government can bestow on Colonel Bailey can never repay him for

For this achievement Bailey was promoted to colonel, brevetted brigadier general, voted the thanks of Congress, and presented with a sword and a purse of \$3,000 by the officers of Porter's fleet. He settled in Missouri after the war and was a formidable enemy of the "Bushwhackers" till he was shot by them on March 21, 1867. He was born at Salem, Ohio, April 28, 1827

The Red River Campaign was a Union failure, the outcome of which did not have a major impact on the war. Conversely, it may have extended the length of the war by several months as it diverted Union efforts from the far more important objective of capturing Mobile, Alabama. That event did not occur until 1865, and could probably have been accomplished by June 1864 if not for the Red River Campaign.



Camp 1 PCC Tom Mueller came across the record of the 22nd Wisconsin Infantry during GRO work, and shares this:

Q: How did the 22nd Wisconsin experience the very lows and highs of the war?

A: Nearly 200 of its members were captured by Gen. Braxton Bragg's cavalry under Gen. Earl Van Dorn at Thompson's Station, Tenn., on March 4 and 5, 1863. Then at Brentwood, Tenn., on March 25, the entire regiment was surrounded and surrendered to forces of Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest, being exchanged a few weeks later. But it also had big roles in battles in Georgia, the March to the Sea and the Carolinas campaign, was at the surrender of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's army and marched in the Grand Review in Washington, D.C.

See

<http://www.civilwararchive.com/Unreght/unwiinf2.htm#22ndinf>



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. 1st Wednesday of month except Aug.
Alan Hembel agh@tds.net
C.K. Pier Badger Auxiliary 4 Ammi Hawks

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

[Major General John Gibbon Camp 4](#) - Waukesha
Meetings @ 7 P.M. 2nd Wednesday, monthly
Patrick Lynch 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

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

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

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

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

	
Dept. Commander	Alan Petit, PCC commander@sucvw-wi.org
Sr. Vice Commander	Brian McManus, PCC svc@sucvw-wi.org
Jr. Vice Commander	Andrew Bollen III, PCC jvc@sucvw-wi.org
Council 1	Kim Heltemes, PDC council1@sucvw-wi.org
Council 2	Tom Brown, PDC council2@sucvw-wi.org
Council 3	Kent Peterson, PDC council3@sucvw-wi.org
Secretary	Brian Peters, PDC secretary@sucvw-wi.org
Treasurer	Alan Hembel, PCC treasurer@sucvw-wi.org
Patriotic Instructor	Ronald Miswald pi@sucvw-wi.org
Graves Registration Officer	Tom Mueller gro@sucvw-wi.org
Eagle Scout Coordinator	Ron Knaus, CC scouts@sucvw-wi.org
ROTC Award Coordinator	Open
GAR Highway Officer	Open
Civil War Memorials	Craig Wheeler, PCC memorials@sucvw-wi.org
Chaplain	Dean Collins chaplain@sucvw-wi.org
Counselor	Kent Peterson, PDC counselor@sucvw-wi.org
Historian	Bruce Laine, PDC historian@sucvw-wi.org
Camp Organizer	Kim Heltemes organizer@sucvw-wi.org
Guide	Ronald Knaus, CC guide@sucvw-wi.org
Color Guard	Bob Mann, PCC guard@sucvw-wi.org
Signals Officer	Kent Peterson, PDC webmaster@sucvw-wi.org

Officers were elected at the 11 June 2016 Department Encampment at Wind Lake, Wis. and will serve until the 2017 Department Encampment.





SUVCW

NOTICE

Wisconsin Department Dispatch is published four times per year for members of the Wisconsin Department, SUVCW. articles, photos and news items may be submitted to:

Paul Johnson at:

johnson@newnorth.net

Editorial deadlines are March, July, October & December

Visit us on the Web at

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

Summer Published July 7, 2017

Deadline July 1, 2017

Fall Published October 2, 2017

Deadline September 5, 2017

Winter Published January 5, 2018

Deadline December 26, 2017

Spring Published April 6, 2018

Deadline March 30, 2018

Dept. of Wisconsin Annual Encampment

9:30 A.M. sharp- we will open.

10:45 A.M.-break.

11:00 A.M.-Patriotic presentation

12:00 A.M.-Close.

June 3rd, 2017 – Saukville Town Hall, Saukville WI