



# THE DISPATCH

SPRING 2020

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Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

# SUVCW

## Commander's Column



Brother's:

There's little point in expounding on what's going on in the world now, as we are all aware of the covid19 outbreak and it's affects on us all. NCnC Norris has posted a General Order cancelling the Lincoln Tomb ceremony and possibly other events in the future. I haven't issued a general order on meetings, but common sense would dictate that we put Camp meetings on hold for the foreseeable future. Any further updates or G.O.s will be forwarded to you immediately.

What we can do while we're shut in is to plan for the future. We all have E-mail, phone, etc., and we can get together through these mediums and plan events (Last Soldier, grave emplacements and dedications). Lay out a projects plan for the time when we can get out and get things done.

Remember one of our by-words, fraternity. Brothers keep in touch with each other. Check on those Brothers who may need your help and drop them a line to see how they are. If they need help (groceries, etc.), give them a hand.

Things may change by the time of this printing, but just remember; we will see this through and get back to the work of our Order.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,  
Department Commander  
Jeffrey M. Graf

# CAMP NEWS

## C.K. Pier Badger Camp 1



GRO Tom Ludka reports that this eroded stone at Forest Home Cemetery is being replaced so that its heartfelt story will not be lost. The drawing of the new stone, under the cemetery's Adopt a Soldier program, is shown here. Capt. Timothy Maynard of the 63rd Pennsylvania Infantry, Co. B., was wounded on Nov. 7, 1863, "while in the act of giving a drink of water to a wounded rebel," the inscription says. Maynard died the next day



*Brother Jeff Lesar (left) receives his 10-year pin from CC Brian Craig.*

*PCC David Howard again represented us at ROTC presentations at Marquette University.*



*CC Brian Craig, upper left, presides over Camp 1's April 8 monthly meeting, held via the Zoom platform because of the nationwide coronavirus.  
Photo by PDC Kent Peterson.*



## Old Abe, Camp 8

Camp 8 at Echoes of the Past  
Oshkosh: Feb. 22,23,24, 2020



Camp 8 displays at Echoes of the Past



### Summer events scheduled

- 2 Last Soldier Marker dedications
- Dedication for 7 new headstones for previous unmarked graves in Riverside Cemetery
- Dedication for 1 new headstone installed on previous unmarked grave in Weyauwega Oakwood Cemetery
- Dedication for 2 new replacement headstones installed on graves in Bell Cemetery, Winneconne,



## Hans Heg Camp 15

Camp #15 has donated more than \$2,500 to help finish the placing of tombstones on the graves of Civil War veterans in Milwaukee's Forest Home Cemetery – soldiers that until now lay in unmarked graves.

The donation of \$2,625 by Camp #15 and two of its officers means the last fifteen unmarked graves of Civil War soldiers at the cemetery will now bear tombstones inscribed with the names of the veteran.

The donation completes the purchase of tombstones for the "Adopt A Soldier" project begun a decade ago by Milwaukee-area historians Tom Ludka and Margaret Berres. The two found in researching Forest Home Cemetery that 178 veterans lay in unmarked graves.

That launched the project to place a tombstone on the graves of those 178 veterans, using donations from local historical and veterans groups and dedications tombstone dedications assisted by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War's Camp #1, based in Milwaukee. "We in Camp #15 are proud to help Tom Ludka and Marge Berres and Camp #1 complete a project started ten years ago to ensure that none of these Civil War soldiers lie in an unmarked grave," said Brian McManus, Camp #15's secretary-treasurer and a past commander of the Wisconsin Department of the SUVCW. McManus, who has ancestors who fought in New York State regiments, donated \$350 to pay for the setting of two tombstones of New York State Union soldiers buried at Forest Home. Camp #15 donated another \$350 to pay for two more tombstones there, and Jerry Coveney, chaplain of Camp #15 who has ancestors who fought in a Massachusetts Irish regiment, donated \$1,925 to pay the setting costs of 11

more headstones. The Veterans Administration provides the headstone free of charge but Forest Home Cemetery charges a reduced fee of \$175 for the cost of setting the tombstones in place. Ludka, a former Veterans Service Officer in Waukesha County, said that with the unmarked graves project finished, the next phase is to replace broken or illegible tombstones of Civil War soldiers in Forest Home Cemetery. At last count, there were close to two-dozen tombstones like that.



*Members of Camp #15 and Co. F of the 29th Colored Troops at Forest Home Cemetery dedication, September 2019. Photo courtesy of Tom Mueller.*

## GoFundMe Campaign



Camp #15 is setting up a GoFundMe page to raise money to help restore the historic Lafayette Church, built on the prairies of Lafayette Township in Walworth County in 1855 by the township's early settlers.

Camp #15 acquired the defunct church

last spring when the non-profit scholarship foundation that owned the building transferred the title to Camp #15, another non-profit group. Based in Wind Lake, Wis., the camp has already spent \$1,193.00 to install ten new windows in the church basement, spent another \$775.00 to add rain gutters to the eaves and purchased a newer propane furnace to replace the outdated fuel oil furnace. Major restoration work is still needed, however. Water stains on the inside walls of the church near the ceiling need to be removed and the interior walls repainted. Paint is peeling on the exterior of the church and Camp #15 hopes to either repaint the church or install white vinyl siding that matches the church's exterior. There is no

plumbing and the only bathroom facility is an outhouse behind the church.

A dozen Civil War soldiers are buried in White Oak Cemetery, the cemetery next to the church. One soldier buried there is Jonathan Dwight Stevens, a sergeant in Co. D, 20th Wisconsin Infantry, the son of the church's first pastor, the Rev. Jedediah D. Stevens. Stevens was wounded in the shoulder at the battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas in December 1862, and participated in the siege of Vicksburg before falling ill with dysentery. Given a disability discharge, Stevens returned home to Lafayette Township, Wisconsin where he died in March 1864.

Bob Koenecke, former commander of Camp #15, helped start the restoration of Lafayette Church a decade ago. "We realize what a landmark the Lafayette Church has been in the Lafayette Township community for more than a hundred and fifty years and we pledge to preserve the church as that landmark," Koenecke said.

The camp hopes to use the church for social events like weddings and the church's basement as a meeting place for local groups and businesses. Any donations to help restore the church are gratefully accepted. The link is here:

[https://www.gofundme.com/f/lafayette-church-preservation-fund?utm\\_source=customer&utm\\_medium=copy\\_link-tip&utm\\_campaign=p\\_cp+share-sheet](https://www.gofundme.com/f/lafayette-church-preservation-fund?utm_source=customer&utm_medium=copy_link-tip&utm_campaign=p_cp+share-sheet)



## Camp 15 (cont)

### GEN. JOHN BUFORD AT GETTYSBURG

These days, Union Gen. John Buford is remembered as the savvy cavalry commander who saved the high ground at Gettysburg, using his outnumbered troopers to fight a delaying action that kept Cemetery Hill and Cemetery Ridge in Union hands.

That high ground proved critical to the Union Army victory at Gettysburg. On the afternoon of the third day of that battle, Union soldiers, partly protected by a stone wall on Cemetery Ridge on that high ground, shot the Rebel army to pieces as they attacked over open fields a mile long. Confederate Gen. George Pickett led the attack, known as "Pickett's Charge," and many historians point to that failed charge as the turning point in the Civil War.

William Faulkner, the famous Mississippi novelist whose great-grandfather fought for the Confederacy wrote long after the war how important Gettysburg's third day was. "For every Southern boy fourteen years old," Faulkner wrote, "not once but whenever he wants it, there is the instant when it's still not yet two o'clock on that July afternoon in 1863...we have come too far with too much at stake and that moment doesn't need even a fourteen-year-old boy to think This time. Maybe this time with all this much to lose than all this much to gain..."

No one knew at the time, though, how important the battle of Gettysburg was, and how important it



was that Buford saved the high ground so the Union could win that battle on day three. Six months after Gettysburg, Buford died of typhoid fever, never getting the recognition he deserved in his lifetime for his pivotal role in helping win that battle. Laurence Schiller, a retired history professor at Northwestern University, is helping make up for that omission. In a talk in February at the Kenosha Civil War Museum, Schiller lauded Buford's actions at Gettysburg and laid out in broad terms the general's theory on how to best use cavalry in war.

Buford and his cavalry division rode into the little village of Gettysburg, Penn. on June 30th, 1863, the day before the battle began. Buford was scouting the terrain for the massive Army of the Potomac already on the march north toward Gettysburg, Schiller said. Buford quickly recognized the strategic importance of Culp's Hill and Cemetery Hill just south of Gettysburg, Schiller said.

The small hills were high ground, good defensive positions for any army. But Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was marching toward Gettysburg from the west and north, and Buford realized if the Confederates got to the village first, Lee would have the high ground, Schiller said.

Buford acted quickly, placing two of his cavalry brigades to the west of Gettysburg, blocking the Chambersburg Pike down which Lee's Army, further west, was marching. Heavily outnumbered, Buford hoped to delay the Confederates long enough so the lead regiments in the Army of the Potomac marching up from the south, could reach Gettysburg and secure the high ground for the Union, Schiller said.

## William Colvill Camp 56

The camp met on January 11, 2020 at the Minneapolis Scottish Rite. Officers present were Andrew Willenbring, SVC, presiding in the absence of Camp Commander Doug Urbanski, Mark Campbell, Secretary/Treasurer, Mark Dittman, Signals/Communication officer, and Bob Selden, Guide/Guard/Councilor. Also present were Brothers Ronald Peterson and John McCollum, and PDC Brian McManus, who joined our meeting to install officers.

A petition for membership from Mark Kelly Anderson of Aurora, Minnesota was reviewed and approved. A gravestone dedication in Arkansas, Wisconsin for Moses Basil Bashaw, Co. G, 53rd New York Infantry is being planned for either late summer or fall. The Lakewood Cemetery Civil War veteran grave documentation project will continue in 2020, on the third Saturdays from April through October. Planning continues for the Last Soldier program in Minnesota PCC

Since the January 11 meeting, after considerable discussion, and in consideration of the direction received from CinC Norris (General Order no. 15), Commander Urbanski has cancelled the camp's planned April 4 meeting.

Our next meeting will take place in Litchfield, Minnesota on Memorial Day, May 25, following the parade. Prior to that meeting we are planning two workdays at Lakewood Cemetery, April 18 and May 16, subject to conditions at that time

PDC McManus installed the elected and appointed officers for 2020, the officers being either present or by proxy. Officers installed were:

Commander	Douglas Urbanski, PCC
Senior Vice Commander	Andrew Willenbring, PCC
Junior Vice Commander	Glenn Kiecker
Secretary/Treasurer	Mark Campbell
Camp Councilor 1	Paul Hodnefield
Camp Councilor 2	Randall Nelson, PCC
Camp Councilor 3	Robert J. Selden

Officers appointed for 2020:

Chaplain	Mark Dittman
Graves Registration Officer	Andrew Willenbring, PCC
Signals Officer	Mark Dittman
Guide	Robert J. Selden
Eagle Scout Coordinator	Geoffrey Forbes

## **National Medal of Honor Day**

### **Br. Ben Frail, PDC**

### **National Patriotic Instructor**

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Brothers,

I wanted to take some time to write to you all today regarding National Medal of Honor day, which is the 25<sup>th</sup> of March. As many of you know this is the highest award for valor our country can bestow upon a member of the Armed Forces. The reason that 25 Mar was chosen as the day to commemorate these courageous acts of valor is because the first Medal of Honor was awarded on this day 157 years ago. On 25 Mar 1863 the first member of the United States Armed Forces was honored and it was Private Jacob Parrott of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Infantry. Pvt. Parrott was a member of Andrews Raiders, the group of men that went behind enemy lines in April of 1862 to disrupt enemy supply and rail lines in Northern Georgia, which led to the Great Locomotive Chase. He was one of six members of Andrews Raisers that were honored that day.

During the American Civil War 1522 members of the United States Armed Forces received the Medal of Honor that is a staggering 43% of the 3508 members who have received the medal. Over the years, the tales of these brave 1521 men and 1 woman have struggled to be kept alive. It is our job to make sure that these actions are never forgotten. I challenge each one of you over the next week or so to have some type of conversation with a friend or loved one about these acts of valor. Thankfully with today's technology, we can do this over the internet and social media in order to ensure we are not exposing ourselves to the health crisis currently ravaging the country. I appreciate all of your continued efforts to help preserve the memories of the Boys in Blue and promote patriotism not only in our order, but outside of it.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,  
Br. Ben Frail, PDC  
National Patriotic Instructor



## Patriotic Instruction Gutta Percha

by Paul Johnson from a suggestion of Jim Schumann

The word *gutta-percha* comes from the plant's name in Malay: *getah* translates as 'latex'. *Percha* or *perca* is an older name for Sumatra." This was a reasonable nomination since the sap of the tree yields naturally occurring latex that had been put to use by native residents for hundreds of years before being "discovered" by the British in the mid-1800s.

Even long before Gutta-percha was introduced into the Western world, it was used in a less processed form by the natives of the Malaysian archipelago for making knife handles, walking sticks and other purposes. The first European to discover this material was John Tradescant, who collected it in the far east in 1656. He named this material "Mazer wood".

Initially, gutta-percha was an attractive alternative to the latex obtained from the rubber tree of the same region, otherwise known as unvulcanized rubber. This was due to the fact that the latter was prone to becoming brittle since it was susceptible to ozone cracking because of its double bonded molecular structure. In contrast, gutta-percha exhibited thermoplastic properties, which meant that it was much more stable and could be reshaped when heated. This property led to the development and improvement of numerous 19th century products, and even a few famous firsts.

For example, gutta-percha resin replaced the rubber used to insulate telegraph cables, including those that draped the floor of the Atlantic Ocean to enable the infamous transatlantic telegraph communication between Queen Victoria and U.S. President James Buchanan.



The same material was used to produce daguerreotype and tintype cases and to make jewelry, such as decorative hairpieces and combs. Of particular note was the use of gutta-percha to embed the hair of a lost loved one into pearl, enamel, and other materials to create "mourning" jewelry to honor their memory. Some of these pieces have survived and are of considerable value today. Even the furniture industry of the 19th century took notice of the exceptional properties of this material. In fact, the Gutta-Percha Company quickly seized the opportunity to make chess sets, figurines, and tea trays from the substance of the same name.

However, they also began producing molded mirror frames, sideboards, chairs, and sofas that rivaled the elaborate detail found in pieces hand carved from wood. This was a far leap from the traditional furniture-making standards of the time.

Gutta-percha remained an industrial staple well into the 20th century, when it was gradually replaced with superior synthetic materials such as Bakelite and other polymers.

However, the same bio-inertness property that made it suitable for marine cables also means it does not readily react within the human body, and consequently it is still used for a variety of surgical devices and for dental applications during root canal therapy. It is the predominant material used to obturate, or fill the empty space inside the root of, a tooth after it has undergone endodontic therapy. Its physical and chemical properties, including but not limited to its inertness and biocompatibility, melting point, ductility and malleability, afford it an important role in the field of endodontic.





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  
C. K. Pier Badger Camp #1 and Auxiliary #4 meet on the first Wednesday of the month (except August), at 7 p.m.,  
Commander: Brian Craige  
C.K. Pier Badger Auxiliary 4

Henry Harnden Camp 2 - Madison  
Commander: Fred J. Campbell  
Henry Harnden Auxiliary 2

Major General John Gibbon Camp 4 - Waukesha  
Meetings @ at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month (except August)  
Commander: Timothy Kracht

Lt. Alonzo H. Cushing Camp 5 – Saukville  
Meeting @ 7 P.M. last Tuesday of month  
Commander: PDC Tom Brown

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

Hans Heg Camp 15  
Meeting @ 7 P.M. 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday, monthly  
Commander: David Daley

L.G. Armstrong 49 – Boscobel  
Meetings @ 7 P.M. 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, monthly  
Commander: Charles Giesel

William Colville Camp 56 - Minneapolis/St. Paul  
Meeting held Quarterly, 10am, April 4, place TBA  
Commander: Douglas Urbanski

	
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Color Bearer	Robert J. Mann, PCC <a href="mailto:guard@sucvw-wi.org">guard@sucvw-wi.org</a>
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Officers were elected at the 8 June 2019 Department Encampment at Boscobel, Wis. and will serve until the 2020 Department Encampment.	

[Department Facebook Page](#)





SUVCW

## NOTICE

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