



WISCONSIN Department “DISPATCH”



Summer 2012 Issue

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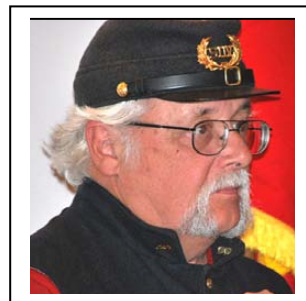
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Comments from Your Wisconsin Department Commander

Brothers,

Summer is almost gone and Fall is approaching. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone at Alonzo Cushing Camp #5 for hosting the Department Encampment back in June. Job well done

I would like to thank you for re-electing me as your Department Commander for a third term. Congratulations to SVC Kim Heltemes and JVC Alan Petit for being elected to their positions again. Also congratulations to our Department Secretary PDC Brian Peters and Department Secretary PCC Alan Hembel, on being elected to their respective positions. Also congratulations are in order for Brother Brian McManus being elected to the council for the first time and brothers PDC Kent Peterson and PDC Andrew Bollen being elected to the Department Council. I would like to thank Tom Mueller for accepting the appointment of Graves Registration Officer. Brother Craig Wheeler, for accepting the appointment of Memorials and Monuments Officer. Also thanks to David Howard for accepting the appointment of Patriotic Instructor for the coming year. I would like to thank all of my appointed officers for accepting their appointments again. I look forward to working with you in the coming year. I attended The National Encampment in LA California on August 10-11, 2012. Brothers Eric Graf, CC Brian McManus and PC-in-C Steve Michaels also attended the National Encampment. I served on the Credentials Committee for the encampment. The two days of meetings covered various issues along with some spirited discussion, also national officer reports. We also handed out information bags for the 2013 encampment which our department is hosting. They had a Civil War Musicians at the camp fire they talked about the various bugle calls that the troops heard during the battle and at their camps. After that there was the roast and gift giving to the outgoing C-in-C and National President of Auxiliary. During our Department Encampment department rosters were handed out to all camps. If you have any questions feel free to contact us. Again I would like to attend some your camp events and your officer installations this coming year. Please contact me as early as possible so I can set up my calendar and schedule. I will try to make as many as I can or I will send a department officer if I can't. Looking forward to seeing you at your camp meetings and events. We will be holding as 2013 Encampment planning will be October 20, 2012. We will be discussing various items such as fund raising, encampment metal and ribbon, collector metal, entertainment for the banquet and campfire, and the banquet itself. This is a big endeavor; help from all camps will be needed to make the 2013 encampment a success for the Department of WI. & MN. Its success is a reflection on the whole department not just one camp. If you can attend great If not then we will forward info to the camps as to what went on at this meeting One final thought we discussed our membership numbers being down at the department encampment, we have to work hard on recruiting and retaining our membership in the coming three years of the Civil War Sesquicentennial the time is hot now..



Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Thomas J. Brown, Commander

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

SUVCW

“PRESERVED BY THE GRACE OF GOD”

2013 NATIONAL BADGE / 1935 GAR

2013 National Encampment Commemorative Badge

Artist's rendition, appearance of actual medal may vary slightly.

A special commemorative medal has been produced, celebrating the last National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic in Wisconsin. The badge also honors Wisconsin's Civil War eagle, Old Abe, mascot of the 8th Wisconsin Infantry, who became a living symbol of the Union at war. This is a limited edition—so place your order early!

_____ [quantity] Commemorative Badges @ \$20 each = \$ _____

Check one: Ship badge(s) Pick up badge(s) at Encampment
Shipping & Handling Fee @ \$3 each = \$ _____

(Shipping and handling fee waived if picked up at the National Encampment)

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____



Name: _____
 Street: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

Send this form with check (payable to "National Encampment 2013 SUVCW") to:

2013 Commemorative Badge
 c/o PCinC Steve Michaels
 6623 S. North Cape. Rd.
 Franklin, WI 53132

It's time to think about ordering your 2013 National Encampment badge – it will be here before you know it. The form is to the left.

It symbolizes the mascot of the 8th Wisconsin Infantry with Old Abe the War eagle, the years from the last National Encampment in Wisconsin (1943), and the G.A.R.

To the right is a photo of the 1935 Wisconsin GAR Encampment in Beloit.





WISCONSIN AT THE 2012 NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

Left, shown from the highlights of the 2012 National Encampment by PCinC James B. Pahl, (Dept. of Michigan) are some of some of the Wisconsin delegates with newly elected C-in-C Perley Mellor (Dept. of MA). CC Brian McManus is missing from the photo. Left to right is PC-in-C Steve Michals, DC Tom Brown, C-in-C Mellor and Br. Eric Graff.

THE SUVCW AT THE ARCH

Alan Hembel came up with the idea to re-dedicate the Arch at Camp Randall in Madison. On June 30th the First Brigade Band helped to celebrate the arch along with the Secretary of the Wisconsin VA, John Scocos. Speeches were made, photographs taken, the band played, and all enjoyed the occasion. Thanks to Alan for the great idea.

Some of the Department members that attended the re-dedication of the Camp Randall Arch in Madison. From l to r: Alan Hembel, Vince Barker, Iron Brigade historian Lance Herdegen, Alan Petit, Kim J. Heltemes, Dale Brasser, and Kirby Scott.



Dept Treasurer Alan Hembel, C-in-C Don Palmer, Dept Commander Tom Brown, and Dept Secretary Brian Peters, are shown during the Encampment. Right, Dean Collins is at his ancestor's gravesite for the closing ceremony and prayers.



Richard Morris Smith “Marinette’s Most Distinguished Citizen”

By Steve Michaels, PC-in-C



The 1896 Dept Encampment was held in Marinette. Nearly 100 delegates attended. Many visitors stayed in tents in Higgins Park, where the meeting was held. Sessions were held in the Summer Theater.

While Rev. Walter J. Patton was elected Dept. Commander, a local man, Richard “Dick” Smith was elected Sr. Vice Commander. Smith was re-elected to that high post in 1897 and, when the Dept. Commander was absent at the 1898 Encampment, he ran the meeting. Br. Smith won the election and inherited a state organization of 683 members in 31 Camps.

Br. Richard was born in April 25, 1860, near Hannibal, Missouri, the eldest of four children (three sons and a daughter) born to Andrew Jackson and Agnes (Dickie) Smith. Andrew and Agnes had moved to Missouri from Washington, Penn., and then back to Illinois, where they had been married. At the outbreak of the Civil War, Andrew enlisted in the 99th Illinois Inf., participating in several battles and the siege of Vicksburg. Upon his honorable discharge, he worked as a successful timber cruiser. On September 24 1871, the Smiths moved to Marinette, where they were one of the area’s pioneer families.

After his education in Marinette public schools, Br. Smith worked in the meat business. For 25 years, he was self-employed and worked for others before becoming a salesman for Swift & Co., traveling throughout Wisconsin and Michigan for five years.

He married Alice M. White of Brown County on November 9, 1887, and they had five children: Dr. George H. (1889), who married Elsie Lockey and became a well-known physician in Ashford, Wash.; Agnes (1891), who married Leslie Love and passed away at age 28; Morris (1893), who married Agnes Stibbe of Peshtigo; Ruth (1898) and Ralph (1901).

Br. Smith was one of the 15 charter members of Marinette’s Harrison Camp #43, organized in 1889. He was the Camp’s first Sr. Vice Commander. At the Camp’s first annual election, Smith was elected Camp Commander. His popularity and faithful work was shown by his continuous election for seven consecutive years. The Camp flourished and was never without a quorum on meeting nights during this time. In 1895, Smith was appointed to the Department’s Committee on Constitution, Rules and Regulations. Marinette secured the Dept. Encampment in 1896.

After his term as Dept. Commander, Br. Smith accepted the position of superintendent of the Marinette County Asylum, which opened in 1906. He was a dominant factor in the institution’s growth. He established the Marinette County Agricultural Service Station at the asylum’s farm. The station provided materials and instruction to area farmers. He converted the asylum into a self-sustaining institution and lived to see the last of the asylum’s bonds paid off. At the time of his death, the buildings and equipment were valued at \$273,000 with 400 acres under cultivation. His wife, Alice, served as matron. Br. Smith’s son, Morris, managed the colony five miles from the asylum, composed of 290 acres, was under cultivation where purebred Holstein cattle and hogs were raised. The institution accommodated 194 inmates.

Br. Smith was also supervisor of the county home for indigent people, which had a capacity of 48. He was director of the Peshtigo State Bank and vice president of its board of directors. He was Marinette’s 5th ward supervisor for 15 years and sat on the County Board of Supervisors. He was chairman of the County road committee for ten years.

In late 1924, he was one of five men honored by the State University for distinguished service to the people. In addition to the Sons of Veterans, Br. Smith was also a mason in the Blue Lodge Chapter Council and Commandery, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, the Woodmen and the Rotary Club. He served as president of the Peshtigo Commercial Club.

Br. Smith suffered a cerebral hemorrhage after a gall stone operation. He died on September 4, 1925, at the Marinette & Menomonee Hospital. Friends said his whole life was one of accomplishments and generosity to his fellow men. He was regarded as a Peshtigo citizen, assuming leadership where civic welfare was concerned. His advice was constantly sought. During his funeral, a procession of cars three miles long followed the remains to Marinette’s Forest Home Cemetery.

Sources: Marinette Eagle Star, September 4, 1925, pp. 1 & 8; Peshtigo Times, Vol. 16 #34; September 19, 1925, p. 1; Press Forward the Good Work, The History of the Wisconsin Dept. SUVCW (Vol. 1), by DC Stephen Michaels c.1997; Stephenson Public Library, Marinette, Wisconsin

CAMP #1 NEWS



Camp 1 Brother Tom Myers being presented his Dept. Meritorious Service Commendation, for his work on helping to register over 1,000 Union Veterans buried at Forest Home Cemetery in Milwaukee, They are all in the National Graves Registration Database now.

Camp 1's 2 new Junior Members after their initiation into the SUVCW at LaFayette Church. On the left is Max Frederick, right is Lukas Anderson, Grandson of Auxiliary 4 President, Kathy Anderson.



DC Tom Brown is shown giving Musket instructions to new Junior Member Max Frederick, and his Mother, Marie Frederick, at Camp 1's picnic.



Camp 5 and our SVR unit Cushing's Battery participated in Cambridge's Heritage Days parade. The parade route had almost no spectators. A bank we passed had temperature of 96F which was the likely cause. The park at the end had quite a few spectators in anticipation of the concert. The First Brigade Band had marched, and was performing the concert after the parade.

Brothers shown: Jim Benware 5th from left; Tom Trimble 7th from left of Henry Harnden Camp #2; Rich Young on the far right.
Not pictured: Ron Aronis and Ron Miswald



LANSING A. WILCOX The Last Wisconsin Civil War Veteran

Lansing Wilcox was the last Civil War veteran from Wisconsin. He spent his last days in the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King.

Home Commandant, Col Gil Stordock, picked Wilcox up from his home at Cadott, WI and brought him to the Home. He was driven to the Ove Medical Center and wheel chaired inside. It was the fifth time Wilcox had been brought to the Home. It was also his final time.

Lansing celebrated his 105th birthday at the Home on March 3, 1951 with many of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) at his side. His wife is the woman left of Wilcox in the photograph with the flowers on her lapel. She was 74 at the time of birthday. Mrs. Stordock is shown at the right of the photograph with two employees of the Home dressed as Civil War veterans.

Wilcox was the last commander of the Wisconsin Department of the G.A.R. since 1946 to his death. He self installed himself as commander since there was no one else left to do it.

On September 29, 1951, Lansing Wilcox died at the Home. He was taken back to Cadott where he was buried at the Cadott Cemetery. Col Gil Stordock was the master of ceremonies. He had served Wisconsin in the 4th Cavalry.



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Camp #8 has had a busy dedication season this summer. Upper left was at the Woodlawn Cemetery at Matton, WI .with Kirby Scott, Dan Wilson, Jim Waid, Brian Peters, Alan Petit, Paul Johnson, and Dan McGraw in the back with Vince Barker kneeling in the front.

Upper right, was at the Robin Road Cemetery, Shawano, WI. with Vince Barker, Jim Waid, Brian Peters, Alan Petit, Kirby Scott, and Dan McGraw, in uniform. The photograph was taken with family members.

Lower, Don Blaney, Vince Barker, Terry Stults, Dan Wilson, Kirby Scott, and Alan Petit, were at Wausaukee, WI on August 18.





Above are Dan Chroninger, PCC, Senior Vice Com. Camp 49, Greg Promering, Camp Commander Camp 49, and Congressman Ron Kind, Camp 49



Art Hofer, Dan Chroninger, and Congressman Ron Kind, (Note: Ely Parker was a Seneca Indian and aide to General Grant. The Hofer brothers are descendents of his).



To the left is Art Hofer, young man is one of the Hofer's son, unknown, Dan Chroninger, Congressman Ron Kind, Gary Young Camp 49, and Al Hofer

Camp #49 is always busy during the Boscobel Re-enactment during the first weekend of August. Congressman Ron Kind (D) is a member of the camp and attended the encampment.

Below, is Vernon Ward, Jr. Vice Commander Camp 49, Dan Chroninger, Tom Brown, WI Dept. Commander, Congressman Ron Kind, Greg Promering, Jim Pabian Camp 49, Gary Young, Bob Welch Camp 49. Congressman Kind is receiving the Meritorious Service Award from the WI Department at Boscobel on August 4, 2012.





Left, Camp #1 at the Encampment

C-in-C Don Palmer, presents the Marshall Hope award to Dept. Commander Tom Brown at the National Encampment. The award went to Old Abe Camp #8's newsletter as being the best newsletter in the nation. The plaque will be given to Camp #8 on September 24 at the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King during their meeting.



Left, Brian McManus (Camp1) is showing artifacts to visitors at the 7th Annual West Allis Settlers Weekend, held in West Allis on Saturday and Sunday, August 25 and 26.

RETURN ADDRESS



SEND TO:

NOTICE!

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:

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at:

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EVENTS CALENDAR

11 Sept Patriot's Day

29-30 Sept. 22nd Annual Wade House Civil War Weekend, Greenbush, WI

8 Oct Columbus Day

4 Nov: Department Leadership Conference, Milwaukee VA Soldier's Home Bldg. 1, Milwaukee

11 Nov Veteran's Day

17 Nov: Remembrance Day parade and ceremonies, 1 p.m. step-off, Gettysburg, PA

25 Nov: Thanksgiving

7 Dec Pearl Harbor Day