



THE DISPATCH

SUMMER 2017

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Contents

Camp News

Camp Namesakes

Wisconsin Dept. Pioneers

Patriotic Instruction

Camps & Officers

Pages 2-4

Page 5

Page 6

Page 7-8

Page 9

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

SUVCW

Ronald William Knaus



MIDDLETON/CROSS PLAINS-Ronald William Knaus, 82, of Middleton/Cross Plains passed away on Tuesday, July 18, 2017 at Heartland Country Village in Black Earth, Wis., served lovingly by Home Health United Hospice. He was born on July 5, 1935 in Chicago, Ill., the son of Laura and Joseph Knaus. He married the love of his life, Mary B. Little, on Oct. 26, 1963. Together they raised five wonderful children and had a blessed life of marriage for 53 years. Ron served in the US Army from 1958 to 1960. He was stationed in Germany. He has been a salesman for his entire life. He worked for Sears. Montgomery Ward and Catholic Knights Insurance Company. Ron is survived by his

wife, Mary; son, Ron Knaus; his daughter, Peg (Pat) Keeler; son, Joe (Jessica) Knaus; daughter, Jenny (Kevin) Klepper; daughter, Mary (Peter) Merritt; brother, Tom Knaus; sister, Laurie (Joe) Coffee; grandchildren, Jackson, Jonas, Lydia, Elie, Hannah; and many nieces and nephews who adored him. He is preceded in death by his parents, Laura and Joseph Knaus. For all of you who knew Ron, you understand how much he loved his family and friends. Ron loved being with people and developed deep, meaningful relationships with so many. He had many interests including participating in Civil War reenactments and shooting competitions. Ron sang with the Madison Maennerchor for 37 years. Ron was a known historian with a passion for military history, especially the Civil War and World War I and II. Tradition and ceremony were very important to Ron and he kept them alive within his family and the many clubs in which he actively participated. He loved and fostered the Slovenian traditions for Easter, teaching the family how to respect and honor their culture. Another example of keeping ceremonies alive was Ron's involvement in bringing Wreaths Across America to the area with the Sons of Union Veterans. Throughout the years, it was not unusual to see Ron participating in parades and ceremonies to honor veterans. Ron loved the outdoors and spent time every summer at the family cottage swimming, boating, and fishing. He was an avid hunter and target shooter. He and Mary traveled to many wonderful places over the years.

Camp News Camp 1

SVCinC Mark Day joined Camp 1, Auxiliary 4 and representatives of Camps 15, 4 and 8 in Milwaukee to dedicate the tombstone of Pvt. Michael Carroll of the 9th Indiana Infantry.

He had been buried with the wrong last name of Curran, which Dept. GRO Tom Mueller uncovered while doing a comprehensive cataloging of Civil War graves at Wood National Cemetery.



The new stone was decorated with peonies, the state flower of Indiana, with the help of CC Dennis Jacobs of Camp 8. This was poignant because the peony blooms only for a week or so, so the June event was perfectly timed.



Camp 1's Memorial Day featured the 1st Brigade Band playing at the memorial Mass and commemoration at Calvary Cemetery in Milwaukee.



The color guard of the Camp and Auxiliary 4 marched from the Mass to the commemoration, in which PCinC Steve Michaels gave the greeting.



Photos by Kent Peterson.



Nominated by Camp 1, Marge Berres of the Woman's Relief Corps received the Department's first Dr. Mary Walker Award in recognition of and appreciation for her outstanding service to our Order. Marge received the honor at the Department Encampment in Saukville earlier this month and was congratulated by the 10 Camp 1 Brothers attending.

Camp News

Camp 8



June 4th, 2017 dedication of headstone for Michael Carroll Co. H 9th Indiana. He is buried at Wood National Cemetery in Milwaukee. For about 100 years his headstone had the wrong last name. CC Dennis Jacobs presented a bouquet of peonies, the state flower of Indiana, for the grave.

Photograph by Kent Peterson.



PCC William Parker presented a Civil War program on May 30th, 2017 to 7th grade students at Port Edwards Jr High in Port Edwards, Wisconsin. He always has a student dress up as a soldier as part of his presentation. PCC William Parker presented a Civil War program on May 30th, 2017 to 7th grade students at Port Edwards Jr High in Port Edwards, Wisconsin. He always has a student dress up as a soldier as part of his presentation.

Photograph by PCC William Parker



134thth Department of Wisconsin Encampment June 3rd, 2017. Swearing in of brothers from Camp 8 as Department officers: Br Alan Petit – Department Commander, Br Brian Peters – Department Secretary, Br Kirby Scott – Department Junior Vice Commander, Br William Parker – Department Chaplain.

(Below Left and Right)



PCC William Parker and CC Dennis Jacobs taking part in a memorial ceremony at Union Cemetery in Saukville, Wisconsin on June 3rd.

Photograph by PCC Kirby Scott



Camp 8 Patriotic Instructor Paul Johnson was part of DC Everest's Annual Civil War Days, presenting a brief history of the "Iron Brigade" for the 5th Year. About 300 Junior High Students are seen during the day

Camp News

Camp 15

The last three months were jam-packed for Camp #15, based in Wind Lake, Wis. In April, the camp took the city of Muskego, Wis., to court over the condition of weed-infested Luther Parker Cemetery where two Union soldiers are buried.

The lawsuit was filed in Waukesha County Circuit Court. Attorneys for Camp #15 argued that Muskego's refusal to mow the cemetery violates a state law requiring proper and decent care of the graves of veterans. Camp #15 also argued that burning off the cemetery in the spring to remove the year-long build-up of grass and weeds is damaging the fragile soft stone in hundred-year old grave markers, and violates a law against disturbing burial grounds. There are 65 other graves in the cemetery besides the two Union graves.



A week after the lawsuit was filed, the city of Muskego burned off Luther Parker Cemetery again, with the wind whipping the flames as high as the

tombstones. Past Camp Commander Jeff Graf took the accompanying picture which dramatically shows how grave markers have been blackened from years of burn-offs.

On May 28th on Memorial Day Weekend, close to a hundred people attended an honor ceremony at the cemetery where Camp #15 commemorated the service of the two soldiers buried there, Lieutenant Homer H. Clark and Private Jonathan W. Smiley. Both died during the Civil War, fighting to preserve the Union.

On June 3rd, at the Department Encampment in Saukville, Wis., Camp #15 Commander Bob Koenecke was appointed the new Iron Brigade Memorial Highway officer for the department. Koenecke immediately began laying plans to erect a plaque commemorating the Iron Brigade at an existing veterans memorial along State Highway 12 just north of Sauk City, Wis.

The Iron Brigade was one of the most celebrated units in the Army of the Potomac during the Civil War, and three of its five regiments came from Wisconsin: the Second, Sixth and Seventh Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry.

On June 10th, Camp #15's patriotic instructor, Rich Kallan, helped dedicate a grave marker he had installed for his great-great-grandfather, Anton Pehler at St. Mary's Cemetery in Winona, Minn. Four of Kallan's Camp #15 brothers accompanied Kallan at a prayer service and honor salute at Pehler's grave.

Sixteen members of the American Legion/Veterans of Foreign Wars honor guard from Winona helped Camp #15 Commander Bob Koenecke, Past Camp Commander Jeff Graf, Camp Secretary-Treasurer Brian McManus, and Camp Senior Vice Commander Dave Daley, fire a three-volley honor salute over Pehler's grave.

With the National Encampment coming up in August, Camp #15 is planning a table there to display the camp's just completed Last Soldier Marker that commemorates the last Union soldier to be buried in each county. The marker, based on the Grand Army of the Republic star used in cemetery flag-holders, is approximately eight inches in diameter, about a quarter inch thick and made of brass.

The camp is selling the marker at two prices - \$40.00 for the flat mounting style, which can be affixed to the tombstone or placed on a paver stone in the ground in front of the tombstone, and \$50.00 for a flag-holder style marker that includes a brass rod.

The marker is the creation of Camp #15 Commander Bob Koenecke and Camp #15 Secretary-Treasurer Brian McManus. Camp #15 plans to market the Last Soldier Marker to camps both in Wisconsin and across the country



Camp Namesakes

William Colvill (1830–1905)



New York-born and educated, William Colvill came to Red Wing, Minnesota Territory, in 1854 to practice law. The twenty-four year-old attorney was a husky six-foot-five, quite large by mid 19th century standards. The Territorial Council chose him as secretary in 1856. He also established in the Red Wing Sentinel, a newspaper that backed the Democratic Party.

In April 1861, forces of the newly created Confederate States of America fired on Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. President Lincoln called for volunteers to support the Union. In Red Wing, William Colvill raced Hamline College student Edward Welch to be the first to sign enlistment papers in the Goodhue County unit.

Colvill's fellow soldiers elected him captain of the 100-soldier Company F. The company boarded a steamboat to Fort Snelling on April 27, 1861. There, they joined with other units from around the state to become the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

With Colvill at their head, Company F took part in the bloody campaigns of 1862. The unit's historian reported their captain faced enemy fire bravely. Colvill and his men were severely tested. At Bull Run, the First Minnesota had forty-two killed and 108 wounded, with thirty missing.

On June 30, 1862, Captain Colvill took a bullet in the chest two inches below the collarbone. The Union Army was in retreat, and the seriously wounded Minnesotan was to be left behind, where he likely would have been captured. Colvill refused. Instead, he told the men nearby not to mention his injury. Then he walked to a field hospital, gripping a horse for assistance.

Captain Colvill, now recovered enough from his wound to resume command, returned to Company F at the end of August. By year's end, he held the rank of lieutenant colonel and was the regimental second in command. In early summer 1863, William Colvill, now a full colonel, commanded the First Minnesota as it approached Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

As sundown approached on July 2, day two of the fiercely fought Battle of Gettysburg, the Minnesota regiment waited in reserve. A strong Confederate assault broke [apart](#) the Union Army's Third Corps. General Winfield Scott Hancock, in charge of the army's entire center and left wing, fed several regiments into the fray, but the Southerners kept coming. Hancock discovered he had only one

regiment remaining, the First Minnesota.

The general ordered Colvill and his men to make what most witnesses, Hancock included, believed to be a suicidal attack. Bayonets fixed, the 262-man regiment trotted down a slope toward a brigade of nearly 1600 Alabamians, picking up speed as they neared the enemy.

Colvill roared an order to open fire. The volley from his men halted the Confederates. The Southerners regained their balance and poured fire into the First Regiment. After the battle, the Minnesotans pulled back and reformed. Only forty-seven men were present. Colvill, shot twice, was not among them. The unit's casualty rate was among the highest in a single engagement of any Union regiment in the Civil War.

Colvill survived his dangerous wounds, but the effects of his injuries would last his lifetime. Nevertheless, he accepted command of a Minnesota artillery unit during the final month of the war. He returned to Red Wing following the war's end and resumed work as a lawyer. As a famed hero, he won election to the Minnesota House of Representatives in 1865 and was named state attorney general a year later.

In 1867, the thirty-seven year old Colvill married Elizabeth Morgan, a well-born New Yorker of some wealth. The marriage helped improve his worrisome financial situation. President Cleveland appointed Colvill federal registrar of the United States Land Office in Duluth in 1887. When Elizabeth died in 1894, Colvill moved to a Lake Superior homestead near Grand Marais. The colonel returned to Red Wing in 1900.

William Colvill died on June 13, 1905, just before a scheduled reunion with the First Minnesota. His body lay in state in Minnesota's new capitol building.

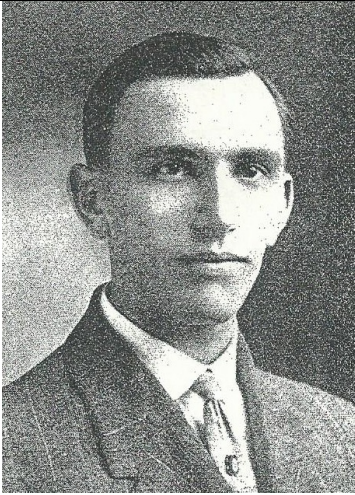


Wisconsin Dept. Pioneers

Otto Frederick Berner

Riding the Wave of Pre-War Patriotism

By PCinC Steve Michaels



Wisconsin Dept. Encampment, held in Neenah-Menasha in June 1913, Otto F. Berner of Antigo was elected Dept. Commander.

Br. Berner, born June 23, 1883, in Gibson, Manitowoc County. He was one of seven children born to Henry Sr. and Caroline (Zander) Berner, German immigrants who had spent a year in

Canada, settled in Gibson and then moved to Antigo in Spring 1884.

Their uncle, Frederick, had enlisted in the 32nd Wis. Infantry in November 1863 and had been taken prisoner at Pond Springs, Alabama, the following July. He died in captivity on August 14, 1864.

Otto graduated from Antigo High School in 1902 and went to work with his brothers Henry Jr. and Fred in The Berner Bros. Publishing Company, where he served as vice president. The company published the Daily Journal, the Antigo Journal and the Farmers Journal, all weeklies. It also conducted a regular printing, bindery and loose-leaf business. The business incorporated in 1905. (ed note: the Antigo Daily Journal is still published as a daily and is still owned by the Berner family)

On September 28, 1904, Otto married Lena Laura Stahl (1885 – July 8, 1968).

Otto and his brother, Henry, Jr., helped form Antigo's W.H. Blinn Camp #7 with 25 charter members in May 1910. The Camp had two previous incarnations: Burton Millard Camp #5 (1884 – 1888) and J.C. Fremont Camp #91 with 21 charter members (1890-1900). Camp #7 was named after a charter member and the first commander of the Antigo's John A. Kellogg GAR Post #78. It was bolstered when the 1912 Dept. Encampment was held in its fair city and Br. Berner was elected Dept. Sr. Vice. Commander.

The Department's growth continued with Commander Berner at the helm. On June 23rd, 1913, Oneida Camp 23 was chartered and that October 16th, Erastus Stannard Camp #47 was organized at Cleveland, Wis.

But this was nothing compared to the organizational activity that winter. Richland Center Camp #5 was chartered on January 16th. Sadly, it lasted only a

year. On February 4, 1914, a camp was organized in Prairie du Chien with future Dept Cmdr. William R. Graves as commander. On February 11th, camps at Kaukauna (Paul H. Beaubieu #43) and Manitowoc (Dan Burton Camp #46) were rechartered. A camp was rechartered at Rome, Wisconsin, on February 16th and a new camp (#48) was organized at Merrill on March 27th. That May, camps were chartered at Edgerton (Alex B. Campbell #39) and Evansville (Capt. J.M Evans #12).

By the time of the 1914 Dept. Encampment, the Wisconsin Sons membership had grown to 1,657 in 49 camps.

Upon stepping down as Dept. Commander, Berner served as the Department's Assist. Organizer. In 1916, he was the Dept. Inspector. In June that year, Otto set in motion a series of steps, with the approval of the state adjutant general. He used his organizational skills to form an infantry company in Antigo. By July, 185 volunteers had formed Company G of the Wisconsin National Guard with Otto as 1st lieutenant. Once war was declared, the company became the 107th Trench Mortar Battery Company. The company saw action in France on the Belgian border. After the war, he served as a captain in the coastal artillery corps.

In both 1922 and 1923, Br. Berner was elected to the Dept. Council. On Memorial Day, 1929, Camp 7 placed a plaque at Antigo's Grand Army monument, which stood in Antigo's Cemetery. It listed the members of the city's GAR Post. The Post lasted until 1936 and the Camp disbanded four years later.

Br. Otto Berner died September 28, 1947, at age 64 and was buried in Antigo's Cemetery.



From Find-a-Grave

History of Langlade County, Wis., from U.S. Gov't Survey to Present Time with Biographical Sketches by Robert Dessureau, Berner Bros. Publishers, Antigo, WI 1922

History of Wisconsin, Its Story & Biography 1848-1913 (Volume 8) by Ellis Baker Usher; Lewis Publishing Co., Univ. of Minn. 1914

Langlade County Historical Society Newsletter, Summer 2014

Patriotic Instruction

Civil War Flags



Flags were very important in the civil war, for many reasons.

First: Civil War tactics were essentially “line of sight” meaning a Colonel on horseback was theoretically able to see his regiment of 1,000 muskets in two rows from end to end. Directions were given by bugle and signals from the officers with their swords. Flags were markers for the center of the line

Second: Flags provided an identity for the individual unit. Flags preceded the regiment on the march and a rally point during battle. Union troops used two flags, a national standard and a regimental flag, while the Confederates usually only used a battle flag.

On June 14, 1777, in order to establish an official flag for the new nation, the Continental Congress passed the first Flag Act: "Resolved, That the flag of the United States be made of thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new Constellation."

Until the Executive Order of June 24, 1912, neither the order of the stars nor the proportions of the flag was prescribed. Consequently, flags dating before this period sometimes show unusual arrangements of the stars and odd proportions, these features being left to the discretion of the flag maker.

Union flags were usually 72x72 inches and made of silk, with the stripes sewn together and the stars were generally painted on the blue field. It was important that the flag were as light and visible as possible. It has been said that a good flag could fly visibly on the march and with only the slightest breeze.

Both flags were usually cased during the march, especially after they became tattered and holed in battle in order to preserve them.

Many of the flags for the early regiments were handmade by seamstresses or ladies of the community.

Designs of the flags varied greatly mainly in the design of the canton (blue area) and arrangement of the stars. While many had the square arrangement as seen in the example to the right, there were also oval and arched arrangements, some with eagles present.

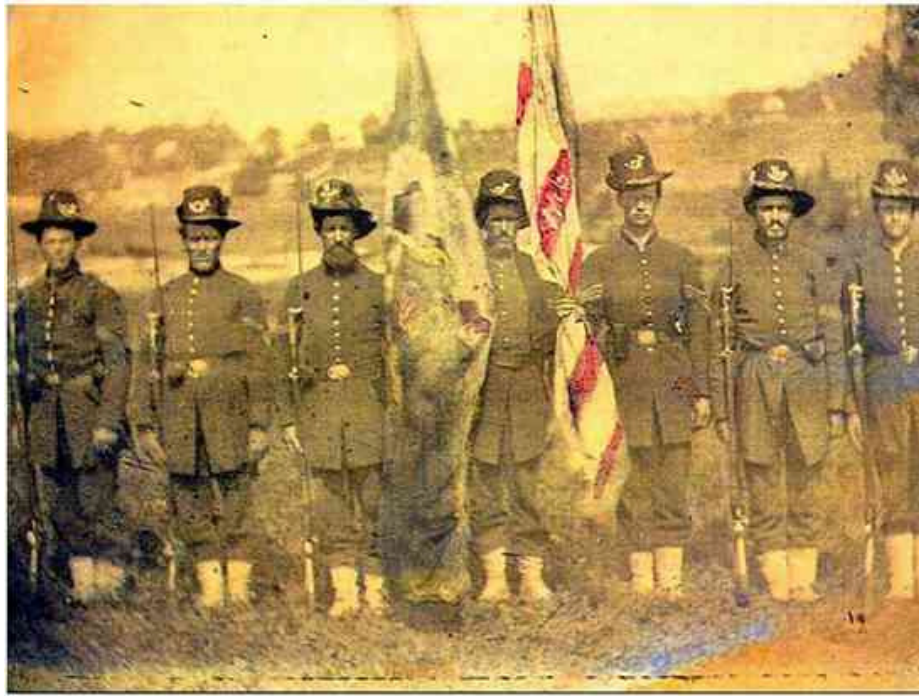
The regimental flags of the Union were generally blue with some sort of emblem and scroll to indicate the name of the unit. Again these were 72x72 inches and made of silk.



Preserved remnant of the handmade 2nd Wis. Vol. Inf. flag, made in Madison and presented to the regiment as they left for Washington D.C



Preserved remnant of the 2nd Wis. Vol. Inf. regimental flag, also hand made in Madison



Color Guard of the 2nd Wis. Vol. Infantry

Each regiment had a color company or a color guard, whose assignment was to bear the colors into battle and protect them. Each member of a color guard or company was selected for this position based on his courage and steadiness under fire, by the Regimental Commanders. The flags were carried by unarmed color sergeants, and accompanied by armed color corporals, who were instructed not to engage in combat unless the flags were in immediate danger of capture.

Being a color guard was a highly dangerous position, since capture of the colors could deal a devastating blow to any unit. It is reported that on the first day of Gettysburg in the fight at Willoughby's Run and Herbst Woods the 24th Michigan and the 26th N. Car., lost about a dozen color bearers between them.

In 1863 Wisconsin had not yet adopted an official State flag and the Civil War regiments in the field were requesting an official banner to fly. The legislature formed a five-member joint select committee to respond to these requests to report "a description for a proper state flag." As a result 1863 Joint Resolution No. 4 was adopted. This resolution essentially adopted a design that was already in use by the Wisconsin regimental troops. On the 25th of March, 1863, the legislature, by joint resolution, adopted a state flag, described in the resolution as follows: "To be of dark blue silk, with the arms of the state of Wisconsin painted or embroidered in silk on the obverse side, and the arms of the United States painted or embroidered in silk on the reverse side; the name of the regiment, when used as a regimental flag, to be in a scroll beneath the state arms."

At the time of the "re-flagging" of the regiments it was permitted to paint the names of the battles the regiment participated in, a precursor to the "Battle Honors" ribbon presently displayed on regimental flags of the Army and its reserve components.

Since the close of the Civil War Wisconsin state militia regiments came to use a state flag somewhat different in both size and design, - smaller, and with the Wisconsin coat of arms on both sides; but there was no law making this the state flag, excepting that of common use as such by the militia regiments. In 1913, this resolution finally made it into the official state statutes of the state of Wisconsin. In 1913, the flag was changed, specifying a dark blue background with the state coat of arms centered at each side. That design remained unchanged until 1979, when legislature was asked to change the flag design so it would appear more distinctive and recognizable. They added the word "Wisconsin" and the statehood date in "1848" in white letters, centered respectively above and below the coat of arms.

A good reference for Wisconsin Civil War Flags is the Wisconsin Veteran's Museum's website flag page <http://www.wisconsinbattleflags.com/>

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



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: [PCinC Steve Michaels](#)
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. 3rd Monday of odd months
Commander: [Dennis Jacobs](#)
Edward S. Bragg Auxiliary 6
[Face Book Page](#)

[Hans Heg Camp 15](#)

Meeting @ 7 P.M. 1st Thursday, monthly
Commander: [Robert Koenecke](#)

[L.G. Armstrong 49](#) – Boscobel

Meetings @ 7 P.M. 3rd Thursday, monthly
Commander: [Gary Young](#)

[William Colville Camp 56](#) - Minneapolis/St. Paul

Meeting held Quarterly, time, date place TBA
Commander: [Randy Nelson](#)



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





SUVCW

NOTICE

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Paul Johnson at:

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

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