WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT DISPATCH

Winter 2001-2002

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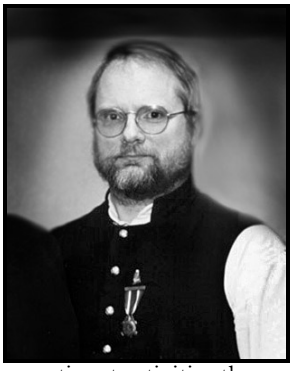
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

SUVCW

DEPT. GENERAL ORDERS 2001-01

These orders have been sent to the Commanders of all Camps within this Department. The Orders were also sent to all Dept. Officers, and have been posted on the Department Web site which can be accessed via the National Web site at *SUVCW.ORG*.

Mid-Winter Dept. Meeting



As in past recent years there will be a Dept. meeting preceding the Patriotic Luncheon that is hosted by Camp 1 and Auxiliary #4. The meeting/luncheon date has been set as February 2, 2002. The room will be available starting at 9:00AM., the meeting will begin at 10:00AM, the luncheon at 12:30PM. The location is also the same as last year – at the Best Western/Midway Motor Lodge, 251 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa.

NOTE - Department Officers are requested to provide a written report of the status of the projects assigned to them at the beginning of this term (replacement copies available upon request to the Commander) **one week prior** to the meeting, and to give a brief verbal summary of their report at the meeting. Officers are also requested to report on any other pertinent activities they may be involved in, for the good of the Order. **Camp Officers and members** are encouraged and requested to attend this meeting. Though Camp reports are not required, this would be a good opportunity to discuss any concerns a Camp may have. The Commander does request that any SUVCW member wishing to discuss a particular topic contact him at least one week in advance so that appropriate preparations can be made. However, any member wishing to speak on that day will be encouraged to do so regardless of advance notice.

2001 Central Region Conference – Comprehensive coverage of the Conference will be included in the next *Dept. Dispatch*.

2002 Wisconsin Department Encampment - is tentatively planned for June 1st. Please mark your calendar. Camp 5 is the host Camp.

C. K. Pier Badger Camp 1 – celebrated it's 100th anniversary on November 10th. They held a special meeting using the Sons of Veterans 1886 Ritual book. The meeting was held at the Milwaukee Public Library's Centennial Hall. Delegates from the other Camps and Auxiliary #4 were in attendance. More about this event is found on page 6.

Condolences –Our deepest regrets to the family of PNP Ellinore Johnson, Madison, WI. Ellinore was the wife of PDC Thomas L.W. Johnson and had served as the National President of the Auxiliary to the SUVCW in 1954-55. Br. Tom may be contacted at 765 W. Washington Ave., #110, Madison, WI 53715.

September 11, 2001 – The significance of this day need not be repeated here. A few days after the event, word was received in this Department from National that all Camp Charters, and Membership badges were to be draped in black until October 11th. Considering the timing, the word was spread to the Camps as well as could be. I did note that at the Old Wade House Civil War weekend in Greenbush, that all SUVCW badges I saw did have a black ribbon pinned behind. I thank you for complying with this request.

Commander Randy Novak

Welcome new members!

The following men have joined Camps in Wisconsin since the Department Encampment in June:

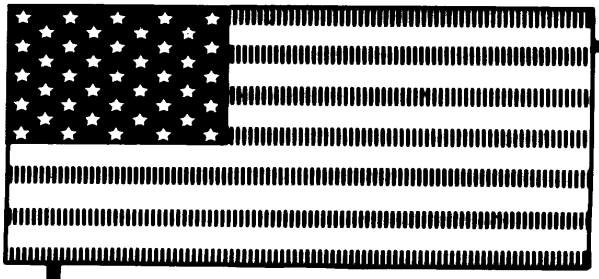
Camp 1
- Craig P. Johnson
- Patrick G. Kulas

Camp 2
- David A. Dean
- David McDonald

Camp 5
- Scott P. Riha
  (Junior became Lineal)

Camp 8
- Steven C. Brist
- Kerry J. Calba
- John Mark
- Ian Peters

Camp 56
- Thomas J. Delany
- Joseph J. Kelley
- Robert J. O'Brien
- Thomas E. Richardson



Annual Mid-Winter Meeting February 2

The Department Mid-Winter meeting is set for 10:00 a.m. on February 2nd at the Midway Hotel, 251 North Mayfair Rd. (Hwy 100), Milwaukee (same as last year's location). Officers are reminded that reports covering their progress on assignments are due one week prior, and a short verbal report will be requested at the meeting. We are expecting a visit by Commander-in-Chief George Powell, so this meeting will be a good chance to catch up on National and Departmental affairs.

2001 Mid-Winter Meeting

Immediately following the meeting, members are invited to attend the 32nd annual Patriotic Luncheon, honoring Presidents Washington, Lincoln and McKinley (see yellow insert). Registration information is available on the Wisconsin SUVCW Web site at: http://www.suvcw-wi.org

Department Officers

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COUNCIL
Council 1—Richard J. Rohan
Council 2—PDC Stephen A. Michaels
Council 3—PCC Alan G. Hembel

Appointed Officers:

Patriotic Instructor - Don Strube

Chaplain - Carl Liebert

Historian - James Benware

Graves Registration - Brian Peters, chairman, James Benware, Don Strube

Color Bearer - Jim Johnson

Signals Officer - Kent Peterson

Memorials Registration - Richard Beggs, chairman, Mike Wertel

Iron Brigade Highway - Alan Hembel

U.S. Grant Award Coordinator - Tom Johnson

Alvin A. Lang, Wisconsin True Son, Dies at 93

by Cmdr. Randy Novak

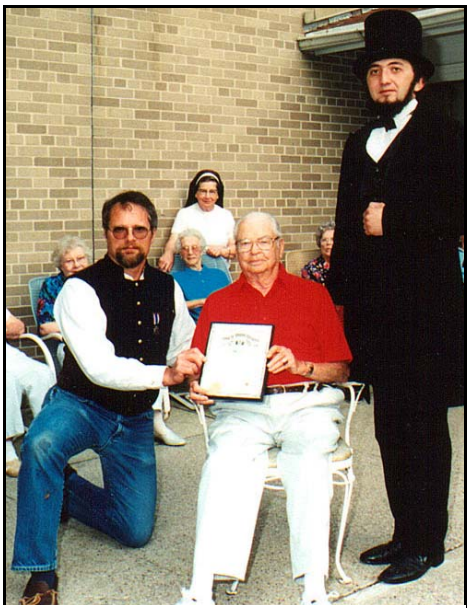
One of Wisconsin's last true sons died Sunday, September30, 2001 at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Appleton, WI. He was born in 1908 in Fond du Lac, WI to John Augustus and Emma Lang. His father, was born in 1846, and had served in the Union Army as a Private in the 48th Wisconsin Infantry. Several years ago Alvin received a True Son certificate and was added to the membership roles of Old Abe Camp 8. Recently he had suffered from the affects of diabetes. Though his health did not allow him to attend regular meetings, he is said to have looked forward to receiving the Camp's newsletter, and pointing out his membership certificate and his fathers' military history record to anyone who visited his room. A couple of years ago Alvin did come to Oshkosh, and with Commander Randy Novak, spoke at a city council meeting on behalf of adding an additional veterans monument to the downtown Oshkosh area.

He graduated from Goodrich High School (Fond du Lac) in 1926. He went on to receive a bachelors degree from Lawrence College in Appleton in 1930. After graduation from college, he went to work for the George Banta Company where he stayed until his retirement in 1973. He married his wife Emma (Newby) of Appleton in 1936. They were residents of Menasha until 1992, when they moved to the assisted care facility of St. Paul Manor in Kaukauna.

Throughout his life he was active in his church, First Presbyterian in Neenah, where he served as Deacon and Elder. He was also active in his college fraternity (Beta Theta Pi), the Elks Club, the Neenah Club, the Rotary, and the Boy Scouts. He and his wife volunteered for the local Meals on Wheels program. He served as officer in several capacities of the Banta Credit Union. He volunteered as the editor of the newsletter for the Mosquito Hill Nature Center in New London. He was very active with the Lawrence Alumni Association, having served as it's President.

He is survived by two sons; Richard and his wife Enid from Bloomington, Minnesota, and Robert of Madison, and four grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

He is remembered as a man who was kind, gentle, and generous. He lived a long and productive life. His keen mind, quick wit, sense of humor, and remarkable spirit remained with him his entire life.



True Son Al Lang (center) with Cmdr. Randy Novak (left) and Br. Paul Stache.

New Department Staff Position

James Benware of Camp 5 has been appointed Department Historian, a new staff position. He is requested to establish a list of the type of documents and records to be retained in each Camp's own permanent records; publish recommended options for proper storage of documents, particularly older items with regard to preservation, and also recommend options for proper storage, preservation, and restoration of various types of common Civil War era and GAR artifacts. He is also requested to compile an inventory of all existing Wis. Dept. property, including records and artifacts and the location of all such property, and maintain this inventory. This is for our records only, with no intention to acquire such items. Thanks to Br. Jim for accepting this new position.

The Forty-eighth Wisconsin Infantry Regiment was organized at Camp Washburn, Milwaukee, WI, during February and March, 1865. Eight companies left the state on March22, proceeding to Sedalia, MO, then terminus of the railway. From thence the regiment marched to Paola, KS, where the several companies were assigned to duty at different points thereabouts, Companies I and K were left at Milwaukee and reached the regiment about the about the last of April. The several companies were continued on duty in various districts until the latter part of August, when the regiment was assembled at Lawrence, KS, and was sent into the western part of that state, involving a march of 250 miles on the frontier. From this point the several companies were assigned to different points in the western part of Kansas, and two companies to Ft. Lyon, Colorado Territory, where the several companies continued in the performance of their respective duties until the latter part of December, when the Forty-eighth was ordered to assemble at Ft. Leavenworth, KS, and it was mustered out of the service of the United States on the 30th of December, 1865, marched thence to St. Louis, MO, where the regiment took the train for Madison, WI, reaching there on the 3rd day of January, 1866, and was shortly thereafter disbanded.

Waupaca Event to Feature Ed Bearss

On 18 May 2002 Old Abe Camp # 8 and the King Civil War Round Table will participate with several other units in the Waupaca Book Festival. Each year Waupaca, Wis. holds this festival with the goal of getting children more involved in reading and history. For 2002 the topic will be the Civil War and soldiers from Waupaca who participated in it.

Many events are planned and several units have committed to this event. McAllister's will have a gun there, the 1st regiment Band will be with us. Several presentations are planned. An opening Ceremony, march to the Town Square, Recruitment Rally, and many other activities.

A grave marker dedication will be held for Sgt. Charles Le Gro, Co. G 21st Wisconsin V. I. in the afternoon.

As a lead off, on 13 May 2002 Mr. Ed Bearss, retired Chief Historian for the National Park Service will give a presentation. He will speak on "Old Abe and the 8th Wisconsin Volunteers," and "The Iron Brigade at Gettysburg." This will be on May 13th, 2002, but the times and exact place are yet to be determined. Other speakers will be on hand during the week leading up to the 18th.

Old Abe Camp invites all other Wisconsin Camps to attend and participate in this event. As planned now opening ceremonies will be at 9:00 AM on 18 May 2002.

Questions or comments? Contact Jim Waid at 715-467-4800 (email jdwaid@execpc.com) or Kim Heltemes at heltemesk@vbe.com

Camp 1 Celebrates Centennial

On Saturday, November 10, members of C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 held a centennial celebration at the Milwaukee Public Library's historic Centennial Hall. Planning for this once in a lifetime experience had been ongoing for the past 18 months.

All present at the event were invited to step back in time as the Camp officers performed the 1886 Sons of Veterans opening and closing rituals. Most Camp members appeared in period uniform and dress which added to the sense of returning to the past.

Special guests included Past Commander-in-Chief Ed Kreiser, Dept. of Michigan PDC Jim Lyons and Dept. of Wisconsin Commander Randy Novak. PDC Lyons is a descendant of Camp #1's Commander in 1908. Additionally, Camp 1 member and descendant of Col. Colwert K. Pier, the Camp's namesake, Br. Carl Liebert was also in attendance.

(left to right) Dept. of Michigan PDC Jim Lyons, PDC Steve Michaels, and Past C-in-C Ed Kreiser.

A proclamation from Milwaukee's Mayor Norquist and commendation from Governor McCallum were presented, with November 10th, 2001 earmarked as "Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Day" in Milwaukee by Norquist.

A patriotic presentation on the restoration of Milwaukee's Civil War monument, the "Victorious Charge", was presented by PDC Steve Michaels. Camp 1 members have been active in raising funds for restoration of the "Victorious Charge" Civil War monument on Wisconsin Avenue, located less than a block from the Library. The monument is considered to be Wisconsin's most significant Civil War memorial and is in danger of collapse.

Hors 'ouvres, beverages and an American Flag birthday cake were served, courtesy of Auxiliary #4 sisters. Several tables of GAR and Sons artifacts were on display. The National Anthem was played as a trumpet duet by two students from South Milwaukee High School, with all present enthusiastically singing along.

Everyone received commemorative centennial badges and programs which listed the original Camp charter members and a roster of current members. The centennial badges were designed and manufactured by Bob Erffmeyer, a descendant of one of the Camp's early members.

The Camp's Senior Vice Commander, Kent Peterson, who also served as centennial event coordinator, thought it remarkable "that a volunteer, non-profit group should last for 100 years, but through the dedication, loyalty and hard work put in by members, it should last one hundred more."

Camp 1 Color Guard Andrew Michaels (left) and Camp Guide PCC Ron Aronis during the 1886 Opening Ritual.

121st National SUVCW Encampment
8-11 August 2002 Springfield, Illinois

Graves Registration Update

Preserving Their Memory

By Br. Brian Peters, Wis. Dept. GRO

In the wake of the attack on our country on September 11, we have witnessed a surge of patriotism. This is the way it should be, and it is very good to see. We, the Sons of Union Veterans hold the values of freedom and patriotism in highest regard. It did not take the attack on our country to awaken our patriotism. It has always been there within us, and we demonstrate that patriotism in many ways. One way we demonstrate our values is by working to perpetuate the memory of those who fought for freedom in the past, they who deserve our unending gratitude. Our graves registration project is a good example of this work.

All SUVCW members can and should become involved in the graves registration project. The form we fill out to register a Civil War soldier's grave is available on the National SUVCW website or by mail from the Wis. Department Graves Registration Officer (G.R.O.). Your designated Camp G.R.O. may also have the form. A question that is often asked is: "What if I can't find all the information that is asked for on the grave registration form?" The answer is that the more information you can find the better, but in many cases, some information will not be readily available. The member who is registering a veteran's grave should make a reasonable effort to search for readily available information.

The minimum information needed to process a registration is:

- Veteran's last and first name
- The unit the veteran served in during the Civil War
- The name of the cemetery where the veteran is buried
- The cemetery location by state, county, township or city, and road or street
- The type of headstone the veteran has and its condition
- Whether or not a GAR flagholder is on the grave
- And lastly the name, address, survey date, and Camp membership of the person filling out the form

Other information to be obtained if reasonably possible includes:

- Birth and death dates
- Enlistment and discharge dates
- Cemetery lot, section and grave number
- GAR Post the veteran belonged to (if any)
- Any other misc. information worth noting for historical or genealogical value

Sources of information on Civil War veterans are many and varied. For veterans who served in Wisconsin units we have the published rosters and muster roll data available at many libraries or on the State Historical Society website. Some local researchers have compiled lists of Civil War veterans by cemetery or by county. These lists may not be published, but local libraries, historical societies, or county veteran's services officers may have access to this regional data. I have a copy of one such list from Jackson County in case anyone is considering working on cemeteries there. Other possible data sources include: cemetery records; archived newspapers; internet websites or Civil War database subscription services.

Researching veterans who served in units from other states may require going to data sources from those states' historical societies or websites. Some of our members subscribe to Civil War database services. If those members are willing to assist with research, it would be a help to those working on grave registrations.

We currently have four members serving on the Department Grave Registration Committee who are able to process the completed registration forms into the National database. They are: Bruce Laine, Camp #4; Jim Benware, Camp #5; Don Strube, Camp #8; and Brian Peters, Dept. G.R.O. Please coordinate your grave registration activity and submission of completed forms through your Camp's designated G.R.O.