

THE FUGELMAN

**THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SECOND
WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY
ASSOCIATION**

THE BLACK HAT BRIGADE---THE IRON BRIGADE

1861-1865

VOLUME XXVII

ISSUE 1

JANUARY, 2017

FU-GEL-MAN: A well-drilled soldier placed in front of a military company as a model or guide for others.

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PASS IN REVIEW

From the quill of Lt. Colonel Pete Seielstad



An opinion and concern

Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad

Early this year it came to light that a story had circulated that Post 52 in La Crosse, Wisconsin had seriously considered selling the La Crosse Light Guard Flag to a private collector. *(For more information about the history of the flag read 'Things That Matter: the La Crosse Light Guard Flag' by Peggy Derrick of the La Crosse County Historical Society - La Crosse Tribune; April 9th, 2016.)* Dissembling conversation seems apparent when it comes to discussing the flag. Preserving the flag for future generations is first and foremost. But what is the underlying discussion: history, money or arrogance? The real question should be: What can be done that will be best for the Light Guard Flag and the memory of the Wisconsin men who rallied to it in 1861?

Wisconsin contribution to the war was enormous:

In all, Wisconsin provided more than 91,000 soldiers to 56 regiments: 77,375 to the infantry, 8,877 to the cavalry, and 5,075 to the artillery. They fought in every major battle of the Civil War. New recruits were trained in Milwaukee, Fond du Lac, Racine, La Crosse and Madison. Camp Randall, Wisconsin's major training facility in Madison, also housed Confederate prisoners of war.

Unfortunately, many of the Wisconsin men who fought against the South did not return. More than 12,000 died: 3,802 were killed in action or died of wounds and 8,499 died from disease, exposure, and other causes. Source: Wisconsin Historical Society

Although the flag never waved over men in battle, the Light Guard Flag is unique to the La Crosse area. It embodies the men of the area who volunteered in 1861 to put down the rebellion. The La Crosse Light Guard became Company B, Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. It was a part of the famed Iron Brigade that was composed of the 2nd, 6th, and 7th Wisconsin Infantry regiments, the 19th Indiana Infantry, 24th Michigan Infantry, and Battery B of the 4th U.S. Light Artillery. Made up chiefly of Wisconsin men, it saw action at 1st & 2nd Bull Run, Antietam, Gettysburg, The Wilderness and other major battles. As a result of those battles many Wisconsin men lie buried in cemeteries across the American landscape.

As a veteran organization, American Legion Post 52 has a mission statement to the people it represents. One of them is: *“To preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars”*. The American Civil War occurred 54 years prior to the Legion’s charter and incorporation in 1919. The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) forerunner of the American Legion, held the same sentiment as the Legion does today. Establishing Memorial Day as a National holiday is one of the many efforts to preserve the memory of those who fought and died to preserve the Union. Preserving the memory of the men who gave their last full measure is another. Our society owes a large debt of gratitude for all who have served this country, past, present and will serve in the future. A definite demonstration of gratitude to the American Civil War soldier is the perpetual care of a great emblem of the men & women of La Crosse: the La Crosse Light Guard Flag.

The La Crosse Light Guard Flag is in jeopardy. Proper care is limited at its present location in the La Crosse Historical Society building. It needs a safe place with state of the art technology to see it survive another 155 years. Textiles like Civil War-era flags are particularly susceptible to damage from poor environmental control. Fluctuations in heat and humidity weaken fibers over time and lead to permanent damage. Light exposure in particular is cumulative and irreversible. Textiles are also more vulnerable to problems like pest infestations and mold. But with proper preventive care, the rate of deterioration slows significantly.

The Wisconsin Veteran’s Museum offers the best future for this unique piece of history. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum [WVM] has numerous digital PEM2 monitoring points to ensure that the storage and exhibit environments stay both stable and within the recommended levels for temperature (between 65 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit) as well as relative humidity (between 35% and 50%) as recommended by the National Park Service and other authorities on historic preservation. Additionally the WVM’s custom-built storage drawers provide flat, fully supported space for flags and protect them from both light and dust. The facility also monitors for insects and have regular preventative pest control maintenance.

What is to become of the flag? Sold to a private collector? This is the worst thing that could happen. No matter what, selling a one-of-a-kind civil war era relic for profit is reprehensible beyond compare. Returning it to the Legion Post is dooming it to destruction. The La Crosse County Historical Society would be the second acceptable option because they understand the value and have a working knowledge of the proper care of the flag although there is no acceptable storage facility to care for the La Crosse Light Guard flag.

The only real option is clear. Place the La Crosse Light Guard Flag in the care of the Wisconsin Veterans' Museum for perpetuity. Just as the battle flags of Wisconsin regiments are cared for, the La Crosse Light Guard Flag will receive the same treatment and respect. When placed on display it will tell the story of the men of La Crosse who answered Lincoln's call for volunteers. The story of the men and the flag will reach a far more people than anywhere else. The story must be told. Their story cannot fade and decay along with the flag.



CAMPAIGN SCHEDULES OF THE COMPANIES AND ASSOCIATION

January

Jan. 28th

Association annual meeting (9:00 a.m.) 206 College Ave.

Fox Lake, WI

EDITORIAL AND MESSAGE TO THE TROOPS

As the New Year approaches all of the officers of the Association and the *Fugelman* wish to take this opportunity to wish all our members a very happy and safe New Year. May 2017 bring everyone prosperity and a fullness of purpose and the strength of family and friends!

Most of us take stock during this holiday celebration. We make resolutions to become better people. Some resolutions are aimed at our health and doing better by our bodies. We determine to lose weight, quit smoking, see our friends more often, attend church more often or help out our neighbors and friends when called upon to do so. We are, for better or worse, social creatures.

The Editor has always admired the Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur. It is a time of prayer, fasting and repentance. Those of the Jewish faith are called upon to seek out those they may have harmed during the past year and seek their forgiveness. As Christians we are called upon to daily seek the forgiveness of those we may have wronged. That is also part of the New Years celebration we embrace. The Jews take the celebration of Yom Kippur to look into the *Book of Life* to see if their names are inscribed therein. The question is have I lived my life in a manner that is pleasing to God and therefore my name is inscribed in the book of names of those who have attained eternal life. It is a call to be a better person in the days and years ahead.

It is this Editor's hope that your name is inscribed in the *Book of Life* when your name is called out up yonder!

As noted above New Years is not just a time to look forward and seek to be a better person. It is also a time to look back and savor old friendships. Almost all of us either sing or hear the song *Auld Lang Syne* during our celebration of the New Year. While this may be a compilation of old verses from other sources, some of it is the work of the Scottish poet Robert Burns. Robert Burns' poem seems to be a call to remember old friendships. It is a call that as reenactors we know well and it can be bitter-sweet. A remembrance of fallen comrades such as the loss of Tom Drendel this past year.

Should *old* acquaintance be forgot,
and never brought to mind?
Should *old* acquaintance be forgot,
and *old* lang syne?

CHORUS:

For auld lang syne, my *dear*,
for auld lang syne,
we'll take a cup of kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.

And surely you'll *buy* your pint *cup*!
and surely I'll *buy* mine!
And we'll take a cup o' kindness yet,
for auld lang syne.

CHORUS

We *two have* run about the *slopes*,
and *picked* the *daisies* fine;
But we've wandered *many* a weary *foot*,
since auld lang syne.

CHORUS

We *two have paddled* in the *stream*,
from morning sun till *dine*†;
But seas between us *broad have roared*
since auld lang syne.

CHORUS

And there's a hand my trusty *friend*!
And *give me* a hand o' thine!
And we'll *take* a right *good-will draught*,
for auld lang syne.

CHORUS

A THANK YOU TO FRIENDS OF THE *FUGELMAN*

The editor of the Association newsletter would like to close out Volume XXVI of the *Fugelman* by expressing his sincerest gratitude to those who have contributed to the publication over the last year. *The Fugelman* is truly YOUR publication.

I am always fraught with trepidation when I try to remember everyone who has contributed to the efforts to entertain and inform our membership! The following are folks who contributed to *The Fugelman* during the past year:

Lyle Laufenberg, Wally Hlaban, Stan Graiewski, Anthony Vranicar, John Dudkiewicz, Charles Bagneski, Stan Graiewski, Dave Seilski, Gary Van Kauwenbergh, John Thielmann, Tom Klas, Kevin Hampton, and Scott Frank. I know I have likely missed someone who has contributed to *The Fugelman* and I apologize if I left you out. I have not listed many who provided photos because I didn't keep track of these folks, but I know how much our readers enjoy this feature of the newsletter!

***The Fugelman* owes a special debt to Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad who writes a monthly column ("Pass In Review") for the newsletters well as provides much information from our own Association and other umbrella groups that we interact with during any given year. His service to the monthly publication of the newsetter is highly appreciated.**

We all owe a debt of gratitude to those listed above! I can't overstate how much they contribute to the publication and elucidation of our members by their contributions. Thank you seems so inadequate to express my gratitude!

Finally, I want to thank all our members. So many of you have expressed their appreciation for the newsletter and offered constructive suggestions via e-mail and at events. It is heartening to know that you read and appreciate the efforts by the editor and contributors to *The Fugelman*. Thank you all for the opportunity to serve the Association in this capacity!

REGIMENTAL DISPATCHES

ERRATA

Two errors were reported to the editor from the December newsletter. The editor apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused! After all

we don't want the troops marching off to wrong destinations or on the wrong dates. Such confusion could cost us the battle!

The first error was the reported date for the Association annual meeting. The date as it appeared as January 29th was incorrect. The proper date is Saturday, January 28th, 2017.

The second error was the address for the Company K annual meeting. The correct address should be 603 East State Street in Lake Mills.

Thank you to the readers who pointed out these errors. It is good to know that someone actually reads the newsletter!

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

There are a number of upcoming programs at the Civil War Museum in Kenosha that may be of interest to our members. The editor has provided the information from the museum's website (<http://www.kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/events/>) and one can check there for further details.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2017; 2PM

Presented by James M. Cornelius, Ph.D curator, Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Springfield, Illinois.

In light of Lincoln's comment in February, 1861 that he was "accidentally" elected president, and his obligation in March 1861 to forward a pro-slavery Thirteenth Amendment to the states for consideration, how can we conclude what forces actually led to his Emancipation policy only 15 months later? Lincoln himself was not above believing that "conspiracy" was sometimes at work in Washington; yet he was also a consummate and subtle leader of opinion, while personally believing in providence. This talk will weigh and balance those historical forces. This program is offered in conjunction with the *Changing America* exhibit.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2017 | DOORS OPEN AT 6PM; PROGRAM BEGINS AT 7PM

Join the Civil War Museum and Milwaukee Public Television as we preview Season 2 of *Mercy Street*. Dr. Gordon Dammann, founder of the National

Museum of Civil War Medicine and historical consultant for *Mercy Street*, will provide historical context for the preview. Also in attendance will be medical reenactors from the 17th Medical Corps who will provide demonstrations of different aspects of Civil War medical care and techniques.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2017; 1:30PM

Mrs. Rita Dow will discuss soldier Ambrose Armitage who was with the 8th Wisconsin Infantry. He was in the color guard of the famous “Abe the War Eagle Regiment.” Her first person interpretation is from the point of view of Ambrose’s sister, Fanny Armitage. She will use original experiences listed in Ambrose’s diary and letters home.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2017; 10AM–4PM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2017; NOON–4PM

Join the Museum for a weekend of living history, programs, and exhibits commemorating the role of physicians, nurses, and caregivers during the Civil War. Surgeons and nurses of the 17th Corps Medical Staff will set up camp inside where they will demonstrate a variety of surgical techniques including bullet removal, brain surgery, and amputation. Participate in a medical inspection for new recruits and role play as a sick soldier during the camp’s sick call demonstration.

ATTENTION TO ORDERS

LUNCH AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

Below is a communication from Gary Klas regarding lunch during the Association annual meeting. This has been a fixture at recent meetings and is an opportunity to strengthen oneself for the remnants of the meeting following the noontime break. Certainly everyone owes a debt of gratitude to these gentlemen. Since the money raised goes to the Fox Valley Historical Society two good things derive from the lunch. First,

men are fed and sustained for the day's activities, and second, the historical society benefits as well!

We have the Revised Fox Lake Historical Society Menu for the Annual Meeting Below. New for 2017 – we have added morning Coffee & Donut's per request from members. We appreciate everyone's patronage.

LUNCH ORDERS FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

In order to best serve everyone please let us know at the contacts below of what you would like to order. We will try to have some additional on hand but an accurate head count would be appreciated.

Thank You!

MENU & COSTS:

Hamburgers \$2.25

Cheeseburgers \$2.50

Assorted Sodas \$1.00

Assorted Chips \$ 1.00

Cookie \$ 1.00

Coffee \$ 1.00

Donut \$1.00 – New Item by Request of Association Members

Please contact myself at fallriversoldier@hotmail.com or call (920) 326-9979, Scott Frank at scottfrankdesigns@hotmail.com or call (920) 296-0254,

or contact Gary Klas at 2ndwisinf@charter.net or call (262)
629-5433.

COME ONE, COME ALL!

SECOND WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING!

On January 28th, 2017, the members of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association will hold its annual meeting in Fox Lake, Wisconsin. The editor realizes that the message that this is an important part of our experiences as reenactors appears every year at this time. But it is true. There is much to do at this annual exercise in democracy. The soldiers who served in both the Union and Confederate armies believed it was their right as citizens to vote for the officers who would lead them and to express their views on these officers and the policies of the army and their countries (as the rebels saw it). They saw themselves as *citizen* soldiers who did not set aside their rights when they enlisted to fight.

We follow in their footsteps. The election of our leaders within the Association is a duty and a right. The direction of the Association hangs in the balance. Not only do we decide who our leaders, military and corporate, will be, but there are other items of equal importance up for decision at these meetings. There is the question of which national event our members will support in 2017. There are questions about which local and regional events the Association will support during the coming year. There are issues of Association governance to be resolved. All-in-all these are important decisions awaiting resolution. And everyone who dons the uniform as a member of the 2nd Wisconsin will be effected by these decisions.

Company K has made its annual meeting a maximum effort event to generate attendance and interest in their annual meeting.



The location of the annual meeting will be the same as last year. The meeting will be held at the Community Congregational Museum, 206 College Avenue, Fox Lake, Wisconsin 53933.



The annual meeting will commence at 9:00 a.m. If anyone has business they want to discuss at the annual meeting they should contact Dave Sielski and have the matter placed on the meeting agenda.

BUSINESS FOR THE ASSOCIATION MEETING AND ORDERS FOR COMPANY SECRETARIES



Association secretary Dave Seilski has issued a call to all Company secretaries to assemble their rosters and campaign schedules as early as possible, but certainly prior to the annual meeting of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association on January 28th, 2017. Once completed these items must be forwarded to headquarters to be compiled and published. It is not just for the convenience of the Association secretary, however. The schedules are important for creating a calendar for members of the Association and determining Association events for 2017.

DUES



All members of the Association are called upon to submit their dues by January 1st, 2017 (or as soon thereafter as practical). This is IMPERATIVE to remain in good standing as a member of the Association. It will also facilitate the completion of the roster of members by our Association secretary.

AGENDA FOR ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

Headquarters must be a flurry of activity as the annual meeting of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association approaches! Not only did the Lt. Col. have his "Pass In Review" article to submit, but he also had the agenda (which you can find below) to complete. Our secretary also had to obtain and forward the minutes from the 2016 annual meeting. Please review the following documents prior to the annual meeting so you will be prepared to address them at the meeting. Thank you to Pete and Dave on behalf of The Fugelman for their efforts to keep us all informed!

2ND WISCONSIN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY ASSOCIATION

28 JANUARY 2017

- I. Call to Order**
 - A. Invocation**
 - B. Pledge of Allegiance**
 - C. Moment of silence for those absent from our ranks**
 - D. New Members' Oath**
- II. Minutes**
- III. Treasurer's Report**
- IV. Board & military Officers Reports**
 - A. Board President-Kevin Hampton**
 - B. Secretary - Dave Sielski**
 - C. Lt. Col. - Pete Seielstad**
 - D. Major - Robert Schwandt**
 - E. Company Officers and/or President Report**
 - 1. Co. A (Citizen's Guard) - Scott Frank**
 - 2. Co. B (La Crosse Light Guard) - Bill Wojahn**
 - 3. Co. C (Grant County Grays) - Inactive**
 - 4. Co. D (Janesville Volunteers) - Unassigned**
 - 5. Co. E (Oshkosh Volunteers) - Dave Sielski**
 - 6. Co. F (Belle City Rifles) - Unassigned**
 - 7. Co. G (Portage City Guards) - Gary Klas**
 - 8. Co. H (Randall Guard) -**
 - 9. Co. I (Miner's Guard) - Unassigned**
 - 10. Co. K (Wisconsin Rifles) - Ryan Holbrook**
 - F. Artillery Officer's Report**
 - 1. Battery B, 4th US Artillery - Inactive - Wally Hlaban**
 - 2. 6th Wisconsin Light Artillery- Wally Hlaban**
 - G. Competitive shooting - Gary Van Kauwenbergh**
 - H. Regimental Field Hospital - Stan Graiewski**
 - I. Keeper of the Colors - Tom Bass/Pete Seielstad**

- J. Fugelman - James Dumke**
- K. Website - James Johnson**
- V. Nomination & Election of Officers**
 - A. President**
 - 1. Kevin Hampton (term expires Jan. 2018)**
 - B. Vice President**
 - 1. Tom Bass (term expires Jan. 2017)**
 - C. Treasurer**
 - 1. Scott Frank (term expires Jan. 2019)**
 - D. Corporate Secretary**
 - 1. David Sielski (term expires Jan. 2018)**
 - E. Lt. Colonel**
 - 1. Pete Scielstad (term expires Jan. 2017)**
 - F. Major of Infantry**
 - 1. Robert Schwandt (term expires Jan. 2019)**
 - G. Major of Artillery**
 - 1. Wally Hlaban (term expires Jan. 2019)**
 - H. Quartermaster**
 - 1. Tom Klas (term expires Jan. 2017)**
- VI. Old Business**
 - A. Scholarship continuance**
 - B. Surplus funds disbursement**
 - C. Insurance assessment**
 - D.**
- VII. New Business**
 - A. Presentation of awards**
 - B. Event calendar**
 - 1. Association**
 - 2. National**
 - 3. Company event: Co. K (Wisconsin Rifles)**
 - C. Spring Muster & Battalion Drill (Date/Location)**
 - D. Handbook Amendment Proposal (1.04 Officer restrictions) *Copy Attached***
 - E. Motion to offer a \$100.00 donation to Community Congregational Museum- Fox Lake (Use of building and amenities)**
- VIII. Announcements**
 - A. Annual meeting 10:00 a.m. January 27, 2018 @ Community Congregational Museum- Fox Lake**
 - B.**
 - C.**
 - D. Close**

2017 Handbook proposed amendment

(Current)

1.04 Officer Restrictions

Officers of the Unit may not have membership in other Civil War re-enactment units. An officer is any member holding the rank of Corporal or higher.

NOTE: In order for members to expand their Civil War experience Article 1.04 needs to be made friendlier. That being said, we must make it clear that each member who does take on a secondary membership cannot and will not be under the auspices of the 2nd Wise. Assoc.

(Proposed Amendment 2017)

1.04 Dual Membership

Enlisted

Enlisted members of the Unit may have dual membership in other Civil War re-enactment units. However, while he participates with a secondary unit of which he is a member, he is responsible for his own actions and will not be protected under the auspices of the 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association.

Officer Restrictions

Officers of the Unit may have dual membership in other Civil War re-enactment units. To diminish a conflict of interest, he may not hold any elected office and may only hold the rank of private in a secondary unit. An officer is any Unit member holding the rank of corporal or higher or a member of the executive board.

Additionally, while he participates with a secondary unit of which he is a member, he is responsible for his own actions and will not be protected under the auspices of the 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL ASSOCIATION MEETING

JANUARY 30TH 2016

Meeting called to order at 10:12 A.M. by President Kevin Hampton. Scott Frank welcomed everyone and gave brief history of the church (built in 1855), which was used as a meeting place for the original members of Co. A before and after the Civil War.

I Call to order

- A. Invocation given by Gary Klas**
- B. Presentation of Colors: Tom Bass**
- C. Pledge of Allegiance: Led by Kevin Hampton**
- D. Oath: administered to new member Josh Studinger (Co. B).**
- E. Moment of Silence for past members of the Association; Led by Pete, names of all members who passed away in recent years were read.**

II-Minutes

Motion was made by Scott Frank to approve minutes as written without any changes, 2nd by Bill Wojhan. (Minutes approved as written by membership).

III Treasure's Report

Scott Frank reported that the Association finished the year with a balance of \$6,545.54, an increase of \$831.90 from previous year. Only one scholarship was given out which reduced expenses. Copies of the report were handed out to those in attendance. Scott's opinion was that we have enough funds to continue the scholarship program. A motion was made by Dave Vargas to accept the treasures report as presented, 2nd by Ryan Schwartz. (Motion carried)

A copy of the Treasures Report is listed below:

The Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association
Treasurer's Report
January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015

Receipts:

Member Dues:	\$2,320.00
Bank Fees Reimbursed:	
National Trip:	
Donations:	
Total Receipts:	<u>\$2,320.00</u>

Disbursements:

Arrears for NSF Check	
Hall Rent:	\$100.00
Bank Fees:	\$60.00
Association Liability Insurance:	\$828.10
National Trip Deposit:	
Scholarship:	\$500.00
Fees (Wis. Dept. of Financial Institutions):	
Total Disbursements:	<u>\$1,488.10</u>

Net Income/(Loss):	\$831.90
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Beginning Balance:	\$5,713.64
Add Receipts:	\$2,320.00
Less Disbursements:	\$1,488.10
Ending Balance - 12/31/2015:	\$6,545.54

IV Board and Military Officers Reports

- A. President Kevin Hampton:** Kevin thanked everyone for attending the meeting and was pleased with the unity, communication and cooperation between the companies as we continued through the cycle of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.
- B. Vice-President:** No report given by Tom Bass
- C. Secretary Dave Sielski:** Association membership in 2015 was 133 paid members for the year, a loss of 5 members from 2014. Dave reminded everyone that dues and rosters need to be submitted ASAP along with any changes to the event schedule. For a member to be covered by our insurance or be eligible for the scholarship they must be on the official roster. Dave also has blank membership cards for anyone needing them.
- D. Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad:** As an association, we need to continue to recruit and communicate, it's the help of our individual members to make who help make us a strong group. Events went well this season and we presented ourselves well in the field. In closing Pete thanked everyone for helping teach the history of the Civil war and that the commitment of our members is greatly appreciated. Please remember to keep our families in mind for their support in allowing us to participate in this hobby. Please also keep the following in mind:
- Give an authentic representation of the CW soldier on the field
 - Communicate with others in the Association
 - Recruit so we can educate others on the American Civil War
- E. Major Doug Rasmussen:** Doug thanked everyone for their attendance during the year as without the men in the ranks the officers would have no men to command. Doug said he enjoyed his time as Major and is looking forward to falling back into the ranks as a private and wishes the new Major luck and is willing to answer any questions anyone may have.
- F. Company Officers and / or Presidents Reports**
- 1. Company A Scott Frank:** 2 trips to Gettysburg are planned to do repairs to the battlefield, when dates are finalized information will be sent out for those interested in participating.
 - 2. Company B John Dudkiewicz:** 5 new members have joined, with 20 members total in Co. B. The Coon Valley will still be held this year in some form depending on how many members will be attending Perryville.
 - 3. Company C.: Reported By Pete as still inactive.**
 - 4. Company E. Charles Bagneski:** Finished the year with 60 military members with 43 having participated in at least 1 events. Co.E gained 2 new members for the 2015 season. The main events being supported will be Heritage Hill, Pine Crest, Menomonee Falls and Heritage Hill along with the National event at Perryville.
 - 5. Company G Gary Klas:** Membership remains at 4 members, looking to assist with school day's and preservation efforts in Gettysburg.

-
- 6. Company H report: No report received, group is still active.**
 - 7. Company K. Ryan Holbrook: The Company has 35 members with more still needing to pay dues. The living history event at Old World Wisconsin will not take place in 2016, Co. K looking for its max effort event to be in Galena, IL in April.**
 - 8. Battery B. Brant Doty: Battery B had met on January 23rd and the decision was made for the unit to become inactive due to reduced membership and lack of transportation to haul the gun. Some remaining members will be moving to the 6th WI. Arraignments are being made to transfer all assets to the Association. The board of the Association will meet to discuss the disposition of the assets and procedures for use of the gun by other companies. Currently the gun is being housed by the Oconomowoc Armory. A motion was made by Brant to deactivate the unit for 2016 with a 2nd from Lyle Laufenberg. (motion carried)**
 - 9. 6th WI LA Wally Hlaban: Wally reported having 9 members, participated in 10 events in 2015. The Battery did some training with the Berlin VFW and hopes to do more this year. Wally stated that he worked with approx. 15-18 members and fired their original gun. Unfortunately the VFW were unable to fire the gun at for a celebration firing due to safety issues.**
 - 10. Field Hospital Stan Graiewski: Stan reported that he and Jim Dumke participated in 6 events in 2015. The field hospital also is part of the Association of Civil War Surgeons.**

Headquarters

**2^d Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry (ACWSA)
5692 Williamsburg Way
Madison, Wisconsin 53719**

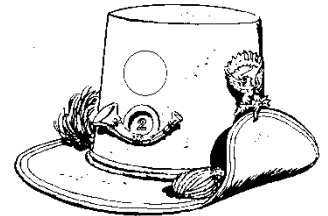
January 30, 2016

Ladies and Gentlemen, I have the honor to report,

The 2016 annual meeting for the 2nd Wisconsin skirmish team will begin at noon on Saturday, February 13, 2016 in the home of Roy and Cathi Nelson, located at W4982 Woodside Lane, Watertown, WI. 2016 ACWSA dues are \$10 and we still have the "first year free" program.

2015 Season Summary:

The skirmish team had 28 members in 2015, up four 2014, and participation was steady.



Old Soldier Fiddlers performed at the Civil War Expo in Kenosha last year and will be there again on March 12. If your unit isn't going to be there, but has brochures that could be distributed, send them with me and I'll hand them out.

The ACWSA hosted a station on Civil War small arms at Company K's School Days in May, and we hope to be invited back again this year. I also noticed there were school day scheduled in the Green Bay/Appleton area. If anyone is interested in ACWSA members from that area supporting you, let me know.

The team attended all six skirmishes offered, and we finished in third place or better in all the small arms competitions. :

Musket Teams:	A	1st
	B	1st & 4th
Carbine Teams:	A	3rd
	B	2nd & 4th
Revolver Team:	A	4th
	B	1st
Smoothbore:	A	2nd
	B	1st & 2nd
Breechloader	A	2nd

ACWSA web site, acwsa.org, was completely rewritten last year using Word Press, which appears to be what some of the companies are using for their web pages. The 2nd Wisconsin skirmisher have their own team page, containing links to all known pictures related to 2nd Wisconsin that have been published.

The following members served as cadre in 2015, and I don't expect any changes are in 2016.

Commander (Sergeant)	Gary Van Kauwenbergh
Corporal	Roy Nelson
Paymaster	Darlene Van Kauwenbergh

2016 Outlook:

The team looks healthy again for 2016, even though the teams around us seem to be shrinking. We're losing one couple who are taking jobs in North Carolina, but we already have some replacements in the works. We may also be absorbing a unit that's shrunk over the years, and with the ACWSA is holding its first 'National' skirmish during June in Indiana, and will probably be attracting at least one recruit from that.

We have seven competitions scheduled. They are:

April 23-24 114th ILL (N-SSA) & 2nd WI @ Springfield, IL
June 4-6 66th NC @ Appleton, WI

June 10-12 1st ACWSA National Skirmish near Bristol, Indiana

July 16-17 56th VA @ Bristol, WI

Aug 6-7 15th & 8th WI @ Boscobel (without the reenactment)

Sept 2-5 8 & 2 WI @ Rhinelander, WI

Sept 17-18 15th WI @ Bristol, WI

If your group would like a chance to live-fire, but doesn't want to come to a skirmish, Bill Osborne now has a firing range on his farm, and has started letting us use it. Last year some of the same folks who helped man the station at Company K's School Days introduced a class from St. John's Military Academy to live-firing Civil War small arms. If you're interested, let me know and we can plan any kind of outing you'd like.

Reminders:

1. If your unit making group purchases, you do not need to pay Wisconsin Sales tax. We have a Sales Tax Exemption certificate you need to show at the time of purchase. E-mail me if you want a copy of it.

2. TechSoup is a non-profit organization that provides low-cost software to other non-profit organizations, and I'm the coordinator with them Association and the ACWSA. A number of ACWSA members used it last year, but so far only one association member. They sell everything.

3. Last year the ACWSA just started with the Amazon.Smiles program, which something our Association hasn't done. Amazon Smiles is a program where .5% of online purchases made through Amazon come back to the organization as a donation. 2015 donations to the ACWSA are \$20-30 so far, but we don't know what the donation from the Christmas season is yet. You'll never get rich from these donations, but once you're set up, the donations are automatically deposited in your bank account, and it's free money.

Reminder – the 2nd Wisconsin skirmish team is open to anyone interested. You reenact in the same uniform we wear, and the ACWSA still has a 'first-year-free' promotion. After that annual dues are just \$10.

Just like reenacting, we have more events available than most people can attend. . Our philosophy has always been to keep a big roster and not depend on a small group to go to everything. Some of our members only come to one event a year. Before each event, I send out an e-mail with the skirmish information, and ask who's going to be there. You only have to say no once – and there's no hassling. On a good weekend we've put as many as five teams on the firing line, on a weekend where members have a lot of conflicts, we may only muster one.

Even if you're only interested in live-firing once, and not interested in competing with the team, I encourage you to shoot with us first. This is not brain surgery, but there are some things like finding the right bullet and

powder charge that aren't intuitively obvious, and it's not uncommon for new shooters to get a round stuck in the barrel, or have ignition problems. We can save you frustration.

**Respectfully submitted by,
Yr. Obt. Srvt.,**

Gary Van Kauwenbergh

G. Keeper of the Colors- Tom Bass: took over as keeper of the colors in 2015 from Robert Schwandt. Colors were used at 3 events (Wilderness, Old World & Wade House), some minor repairs may be needed. Arrangements will be made to get the Assoc. colors from the Dresang home. Pete will be in possession of the colors.

H. Fugelman -James Dumke: Jim submitted the following report listed below.

REPORT FROM THE FUGELMAN EDITOR

It is the honor of the editor of the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Association newsletter, The Fugelman, to submit the following report:

In 2015 the newsletter was published every month, twelve issues. There were two additional "special Issues" also published during the year. During the current editorship the newsletter has not failed to appear monthly. The editor has continued to receive positive comments and positive suggestions from our members. For that the editor is indeed appreciative.

It is important to note that The Fugelman is a collaborative effort. Many men have contributed to the publication during 2015. It is with some trepidation that the editor tries to list those who have contributed to the success of the newsletter for fear of overlooking someone who has taken the time and effort to make the publication a communal effort. The editor can't express deeply enough the appreciation to those who have participated in the creation of our newsletter. The following have provided material to the newsletter:

- Anthony Vranicar
- John Dudkiewicz
- Gary Van Kawenbergh
- Charles Bagneski
- Steve Peterson
- Dave Seilski
- Stan Grianewski
- Lyle Laufenberg

A special thank you goes to Lt. Col. Pete Seielstad for his monthly efforts on behalf of The Fugelman. Not only has our commander submitted his monthly "Pass In Review" column, but has submitted many other items for inclusion in the newsletter. It is time consuming work and his dedication to the task is greatly appreciated.

As the editor of the newsletter I am honored by the trust and opportunity to serve the Association in this capacity. I am gratified by your trust and support and look forward to the continued publication of The Fugelman.

Respectfully submitted,

Pvt. Jim Dumke

Editor, The Fugelman

I. Website Jim Johnson: Jim not in attendance, no report given.

J. V. Nomination & Elections

A. Nominations were taken for Treasurer: Scott Frank was nominated by Gary Klas, 2nd by Ryan Holbrook. No other nominations were received, Scott unanimously reelected as Treasurer.

B. Nominations were taken for Major of Artillery: Wally Hlaban was nominated by Uggi with a 2nd by Ryan Holbrook. No other nominations received, Wally elected unanimously as Major of Artillery.

B. Nominations were taken for Major. Due to expiration of term, Doug Rasmussen chose not to run for another term, nominations were opened for position. Ryan Holbrook was nominated by Tom Bass & 2nd by Lyle Laufenberg. Robert Schwandt was nominated by Dave Vargas with a 2nd by Drew Young. No other nominations were received. Both candidates were given the opportunity to say a few words but both declined. A written vote was taken and results tabulated by Dave Sielski & Scott Frank. The results of the election was that Robert Schwandt was elected as new Major of the Second Wisconsin.

VI. Old Business

A. Scholarship continuance: In 2015 1-\$500 scholarships were given out. A total of 3 applications were received (4 in 2014). A number of conversations were had on what to do to increase participation, which included increasing the amount scholarship and increase the pool of people that could apply. After a long conversation a motion was made by Dave Sielski to offer only one scholarship for 2016 for \$1,000, 2nd by Ryan Holbrook, (Motion carried) the scholarship committee has to meet to decide on a new essay questions for the 2016 scholarship, and any other recommendations on changes to the process.

B. Surplus funds disbursement: Scott Frank reported that per by-laws of the association, our current balance is below our ceiling that requires us to use excess funds, subject will be revisited at next year's meeting. Motion Made by Gary Klas, 2nd Ryan Schwartz not no funds be distributed (motion carried).

A. Insurance Update: Report given by Scott Frank, no claims in 2015. Only Dues paying military members are covered by insurance, event must also be on the Association schedule to be covered by insurance. Insurance premium remains the same for this year at \$828.10.

B. Handbook Committee: Tom Klas reported that he will continue to work on the handbook committee.

Motion was made by Doug Rasmussen, 2nd by Drew Young to take lunch break at 12:10. Meeting resumed at 12:35 P.M.

VII. New Business

A. Awards: Pete presented Doug Rasmussen with a certificate of appreciation for his support in the ideas and principles of the 2nd Wisconsin Association.

B. Event Calendar

- 1. Association Max effort event: Wade House September 24th & 25th.**
- 2. National Event: Perryville KY. October 7th, 8th & 9th**
- 3. BHB Event: None**
- 4. Company Max effort event (Co.K): Galena, IL. April 23rd & 24st.**
- 5. Spring Muster: Looking at possibility of muster being held at the Pine Crest event, decision will be made after speaking with the 10th Tenn. to see if they are planning on doing anything at the Wade House grounds.**
- 6. Tentative Assoc schedule was passed out to all in attendance, members were reminded to review and send any updates or charges to the corporate secretary.**
- 7. Battery B: Motion was made by Ryan Holbrook, 2nd by Drew Young to table discussion on the disposition on Batty B. assets until board can review and make recommendations (motion carried).**
- 8. Motion was made to suspend rule 1.04 of the by-laws that association officers can't be members of other groups. Motion was made by Tom Bass, 2nd Gary Klas (motion carried).**

c. Motion Made by Bill Wojhan, 2nd from Lyle Laufenberg to donate \$100 to the Fox Lake Historical society for allowing us to use the building for the meeting. Motion approved by the association.

VIII Closing

- A. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by John Dudkiewicz, 2nd by Dave Vargas, (motion carried). Meeting adjourned at 1:20 P.M.**

Meeting Attendance

Dave Sielski Co.E
Casey Hulbott Co.K
Gary Van Kauwenbergh Co.G
Pete Seielstad Co.B
Scott Frank Co.A
Josh Staudinger Co.K
Gary Klas Co.G
Tom Klas Co.A
Kevin Hampton Co.K
Tom Bass Co.K
Ugljesha Pirocanic 6th WI LA
Todd St.John Co.E
Robert Schwandt Co.E
Ryan Schwartz Co. K
John Dudkiewicz Co.B
Ryan Holbrook Co.K
Kevin Klandrud Co.E
Lyle Laufenberg 6th WI LA.
Wally Hlaban 6th WI LA
Charles Bagneski Co.E
Tanner Spahn Co. K
Doug Rasmussen Co.E
Kevin Birmingham Co.K
Stan Graiewski Co.K
Gary Moody Co.E
Alex Kvalheim Co.K
Tanner St.John Co.E
Rick Meyer Co.E
Bill Wojahn Co.B
Shelly Hlaban 6th WILA
Steve Peterson Co.E
Weston Weisensel Co.B
Brant Doty Batty B.
Casey Rogers Co.K
Dave Vargas Co.E
Drew Young Co.E
Tom Trimble (Guest)
Laurie Rasmussen (civilian)

(Total attendance 38 people attended the meeting)

FROM THE CAMPS OF THE COMPANIES OF THE SECOND WISCONSIN

INFANTRY



COMPANY E

ELECTION OF COMPANY LEADERS FOR 2017

At the recent annual meeting for Company E the membership elected officers for 2017. Civilian officers for the coming year are

- **Dave Sielski**
- **Marv Kostka and**

- **Charles Bagneski**

The military officers are as follows:

- **Charles Bagneski-Captain**
- **Scott Blood-Corporal**
- **Mark Gotstein-Corporal**
- **Tanner St. John-Corporal**
- **Dave Vargas-Corporal**

We offer our congratulations to these gentlemen on the roles they have been elected to fill. Remember it is an honor to be selected by your peers for a leadership position in your company. But with your role as a leader comes great responsibility! The Second Wisconsin and her companies have a tremendous reputation in the reenacting community. That is the result of great leadership in the past. That is a tremendous burden for you to live up to as Company E moves forward. We are sure you new officers will enhance the reputation of your company and the Association as you move forward in carrying out your duties!

COMPANY K

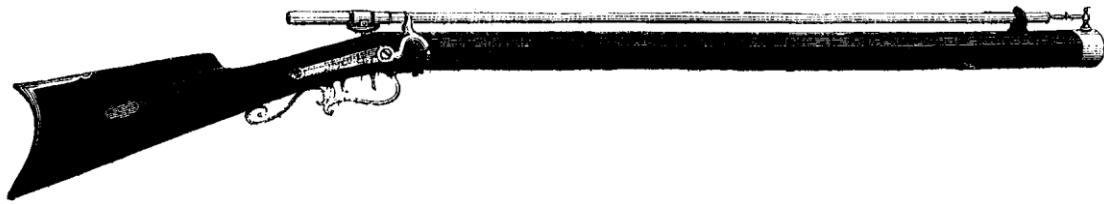
COMPANY K ANNUAL MEETING

A reminder that Company K will hold its annual meeting on January 7th, 2017, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be in Lake Mills, at the EMS center.

ARTILLERY



SKIRMISHERS



A special wish for the Christmas season from Gary Van Kauwenbergh and the ACWSA Board.



Video diversions for Cabin Fever. The following are some videos that will help pass those cold winter nights awaiting the arrival of the spring campaign season.

a. Author and Chief Historian at the Museum of the Confederacy John Coski gives a history of the confederate flag from its origins through its more recent evolutions. Coski takes no position, pro or con, but gives an informed, fair and balanced description of its background : <https://www.c-span.org/video/?189466-1/john-coski-confederate-battle-flag>

b. Candice Shy Hooper talks about her book Lincoln's Generals' Wives: Four Women Who Influenced the Civil War for Better and for

Worse. The women profiled are Jessie Frémont, Nelly McClellan, Ellen Sherman, and Julia Grant. <https://www.c-span.org/video/?415731-1/four-influential-civil-war-military-wives>

c. I've been planning a visit to Vicksburg. Here are the two best videos I've found:

- i. <http://www.civilwar.org/battlefields/vicksburg/maps/vicksburg-animated-map.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/>**
- ii. <https://www.c-span.org/video/?313548-1/vicksburg-national-military-park>**

2nd WISCONSIN REGIMENTAL FIELD HOSPITAL

DR JONATHON LETTERMAN

FATHER OF IMPROVED BATTLEFIELD MEDICAL CARE

By Stan Graiewski

Innovations with the US Medical Corps during chaotic battles of 1862 made Major Jonathon Letterman a hero of Civil War medicine and creator of modern day battlefield medical care.

He distinguished himself during a long career as US Surgeon after graduating from Jefferson Medical College 1849. In June 1849, he was appointed Assistant Surgeon Army Medical Department.

Dr Letterman served in military campaigns against the Seminole until 1853. After a year at Fort Riley, Minnesota, he was ordered to Fort Defiance, New Mexico Territory where he saw action against Apaches. In 1859 he was transferred to Fort Monroe, Virginia and in 1860-1861 he was engaged in the Ute Campaign in California.

Late in 1861 Dr Letterman returned East, assigned duty with the Army of the Potomac and named Medical Director of the Department of West Virginia May 1862. One month later he was appointed Medical Director Army of the Potomac.

As Medical Director, Dr Letterman completely reorganized the Medical Service by devising a system of forward first aid stations at regimental levels with mobile field hospitals behind divisions and base hospitals, all linked by proficient ambulance corps under control of medical staff rather than Quartermaster Department and an efficient system for delivery of medical supplies.

Prior to Letterman's appointment, wounded had to fend for themselves. Unless carried off the field by a comrade or regimental musician doubling as stretcher bearer, wounded could lie for days suffering from exposure and thirst. Ambulance drivers and stretcher bearers were a motley assortment of non-combatants (buglers, drummers, cooks, etc.). They were untrained, caved under pressure and ran from the field.

Prior to his appointment, the Army of Potomac's Medical Corps was a mess and a complete failure. His appointment caused previous Medical Directors to be censured due to failing to provide adequate care for wounded and infirmed.

General George B McClellan, an ardent supporter of methods and training procedures, gave Dr Letterman a free hand to employ whatever means were considered necessary for improving medical service.

Dr Letterman created the first Ambulance Corps, trained men to act as stretcher bearers, to operate wagons and to pick up wounded, transporting them to field dressing stations. He also developed triage treatment. He designed special insignia, providing quick on field recognition. His innovations gave the Medical Corps a sense of camaraderie amongst themselves and troops.

Letterman's primary challenge was transportation of all medical supplies and ambulances from Virginia Peninsula to Maryland battlefields. Supplies and ambulances were moved from Chesapeake Bay from Fortress Monroe to Washington and Baltimore.

The Ambulance Corps, performing poorly in earlier campaigns by hauling military supplies, was reassigned to carry emergency medical care.

Once wounded were transported to secure locations, they were treated with a triage system of care.

Dr Letterman developed an evacuation system consisting of:

- 1) Dressing stations located on or near battlefields where initial dressings and tourniquets were applied.**
- 2) Field hospitals located near battlefields provided emergency surgeries and additional treatment. These were homes, barns, churches, public buildings.**
- 3) Large hospitals located away from battlefields provided facilities for long term treatment and care.**

A reorganized Ambulance Corps still had non-medical personnel. However, they were trained and supervised by army doctors. Newly established chain of command insured order rather than chaos. Each corps had a Captain, each division a first lieutenant, each brigade a second lieutenant and each regiment a sergeant. These individuals oversaw all aspects of recovery from the field, including care and maintenance of ambulance wagons.

New ambulance wagons were properly equipped for immediate care and transport of wounded. Wagons were modified and supplied with stretchers, kettles, lanterns, bed sacks and emergency medical supplies. Staff was recruited from rank and file soldiers.

Staff was trained to lift and carry wounded and to provide immediate treatment such as applying tourniquets. They were also responsible for cleaning, refitting and resupplying ambulances after battles.

With proper training, a sense of its importance and quick removal of wounded from battlefields the Ambulance Corps was now capable of saving more lives.

Reorganization prepared the Medical Corps for Antietam September 17, 1862 where horrific combat, left behind a landscape of death and suffering. The Medical Corps, facing over 12,000 Union wounded scattered across miles of Western Maryland, removed all wounded from the battlefield within 24 hours. The Ambulance Corps also faced over 13,000 Union casualties at Fredericksburg and an additional 23,000 at Gettysburg. While efficient treatment of wounded was desired, Clara Barton observed at

Antietam corn leaves were used as bandages since all bandages had been used.

Further hospital reorganization placed one surgeon in charge with two assistants: one for supply organization and the other for records. The most skilled surgeons, rather than highest ranking, performed operations with other surgeons performing as assistants.

These three major conflicts severely tested the Medical Corps. In each battle, Letterman's system proved successful. In March, 1864 the Letterman System was officially adopted for the US Army by an Act of Congress. Various Union armies adopted Letterman's Plan after Fredericksburg.

When Letterman's work with the Army Medical Corps ended and after serving as Inspector of Hospitals, Letterman resigned from the Army December 1864. He moved to San Francisco where he served as Coroner 1867-1872. His memoirs, Medical Recollections of the Army of the Potomac, was published in 1866. On November 13, 1911 the Army Hospital at the Presidio was renamed Letterman General Hospital to honor the man who revolutionized care of battlefield casualties.

His private memorial in Section 3 Site 1869 of Arlington National Cemetery reads:

"Medical Director of the Army of the Potomac June 23, 1862- November 30, 1863, who brought order and efficiency in to the Medical Service and who was the originator of modern methods of medical organization to armies."

Sources: Saving Civil War Battlefields Civil War Trust, National Museum Civil War Medicine, Arlington National Cemetery website.

CIVIL WAR MILESTONES

JANUARY

Jan. 1, 1863	Lincoln signs Emancipation Proclamation
Jan. 8, 1821	Gen. James Longstreet, CSA, born
Jan. 9, 1861	Mississippi secedes
Jan. 10, 1861	Florida secedes
Jan. 11, 1861	Alabama secedes
Jan. 14, 1836	Gen. Judson Kilpatrick, USA, born
Jan. 13, 1865	Adm. Porter, USA, attacks Fort Fisher
Jan. 16, 1815	Gen. Henry W. Halleck, USA, born
Jan. 18, 1862	Battle at Mill Springs
Jan. 19, 1807	Gen. Robert E. Lee, CSA, born
Jan. 19, 1861	Georgia secedes
Jan. 19, 1862	Battle at Mill Springs
Jan. 21, 1813	Gen. John C. Fremont, USA, born

Jan. 21, 1824	Gen. Thomas J. Jackson, CSA, born
Jan. 26, 1861	Louisiana secedes
Jan. 26, 1863	Gen Joe Hooker takes command of the Army of the Potomac
Jan. 28, 1825	Gen. George Pickett, CSA, born
Jan. 31, 1862	President Lincoln issues General War Order No. 1 calling for all United States naval and land forces to begin a general advance by February 22, George Washington's birthday.

PHOTO ARRAY FROM IMPROMPTU WREATH CEREMONY

The Wreaths Across America event scheduled for December 17th, 2016, in Madison, Wisconsin, had been cancelled due to the poor weather conditions. The message cancelling the event did not reach some intrepid folks who showed up for the event. Lyle Laufenberg and his daughter brought wreaths from Lyle and his fellow church members to put on the graves. Barb Bergsma drove in from Arena, Wisconsin, to be present for the event. Bob Edwards, who had been asked to attend and play taps for the event was also present.

To the enduring credit of these fine folks, they organized an impromptu ceremony and laid their wreaths on graves at both Soldiers' Rest and Union Rest. Bob played taps and the ceremonies were complete.

Well done lady and gentlemen! Thank you for braving the inclement weather and showing your gratitude to those who have served their nation and gone on to their eternal rest! Your efforts are much appreciated!









FIFTEEN MONTHS IN DIXIE,

OR

**MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE
IN REBEL PRISONS.**

BY W. W. DAY.

**CHAPTER XII.
PROGRESS OF THE WAR.**

**“The news has flown frae mouth to mouth,
The North for ance has bang’d the South”;
SCOTT.**

**While we were waiting, and hoping, and starving, and dying at
Andersonville our armies were fast solving the problem of the Rebellion.
Jeff Davis had tired of the policy of General Joseph E. Johnson, who was
in command of the army which confronted Sherman, and about the middle
of
July relieved him of his command and appointed Hood to his place.**

**Johnson’s policy during the Atlanta campaign had been that of defense.
Davis was in favor of aggressive warfare. He believed in driving the
invaders from the sacred soil of the South. A grand idea surely, but
then, the invaders had a word to say in that matter; they had come to
stay, and Jeff Davis’ manifestoes had no terrifying effect upon them.
Hood immediately assumed the aggressive and on the 21st of July came out**

from behind his entrenchments and attacked Sherman.

On the 22d the battle of Atlanta was fought, in which General McPherson was killed. The command of the army of the Tennessee then fell upon General John A. Logan for a few days, when he was superseded by General O. O. Howard. There has been much criticism upon this act of General Sherman. Logan had assumed command of the army of the Tennessee upon the death of McPherson, during a hotly contested battle, and he had fought the battle to a successful termination. He had fought his way from colonel of a regiment, to Major General commanding an Army Corps, and temporarily commanding an army. He had shown the highest type of military ability shown by any volunteer officer, and yet he was compelled to give place to a transplanted officer from the army of the Potomac.

Logan and his friends felt this deeply, but with true patriotic instincts he, and they, continued to fight for the cause of Liberty and Union. No satisfactory reason has ever been given for this act of injustice on the part of General Sherman, but it is hinted that it was because Logan was not a graduate of West Point. The action of General Sherman in this matter is all the more inexplicable when we compare the stupendous failure of Howard at Chancellorsville, but little more than a year before, with the signal success of Logan at Atlanta on the 22d of July. But time brings its revenge. Howard has passed into comparative

obscurity. We hear of him occasionally as a lecturer before a Chautauqua Society in some small town or city, “only this and nothing more,” while John A. Logan went down to his grave, loved and revered, as the highest representative of the American Volunteer soldier. His name is inscribed on the imperishable roll of fame by the side of the names of Sheridan, Thomas, and Hancock.

But the victory of the Federals at the battle of Atlanta did not include the surrender of the city. Sherman sent a cavalry corps under General Stoneman to capture Macon, Ga. In this he failed, but he destroyed considerable property, including railroad, rolling stock, bridges and supplies and seriously threatened Macon, giving Winder, at Andersonville, a terrible scare, which resulted in the General Order which I have copied in a previous chapter. Sherman finding that Atlanta was not to be captured without a fight more serious than he cared to risk, moved by the flank to Jonesboro south of Atlanta, thus cutting off the supplies for Atlanta. On the 1st of September he moved his army up to within twenty miles of Atlanta, and on the 2d General Slocum moved his forces into that city.

Great was the rejoicing all over the North when the news was flashed over the wires that Sherman had captured the “Gate City” of the South, and a corresponding feeling of gloom settled down upon the Southern people when they found that Hood, with the assistance of the counsels of Beauregard, could not cope with “Uncle Billy” and his veterans.

In the meantime the army under General Grant had not been idle. On May 3d and 4th the army of the Potomac moved from its camp on the north of the Rapidan and commenced a campaign which was destined to result in the downfall of the capital of the Confederacy, and ultimately of the Confederacy itself. In the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania, North Anna and Cold Harbor, our forces showed the aggressive spirit inspired by their great leader, ably seconded by Meade, Hancock, the lamented Sedgwick, Warren, Wright and Burnside. While the Confederate forces under their favorite leader Lee, with his Lieutenants, Anderson, Early and Hill, resisted the inroads of the Federal forces with a bravery born of a determination to die in the visionary "last ditch."

But superior numbers, coupled with equal bravery and ability, are bound to win in the end and on the 15th of June 1864 Grant's army was before Petersburg with a determination to pound the Rebels into submission.

If the battle of Atlanta caused fear and trembling among the rebs at Andersonville, the fall of that city caused a perfect panic among them.

On the 3d of September a train load of one thousand men was shipped away from the prison, and each day after that saw the exodus of a like number, until all who were able to walk to the station had been shipped to more secure points. Some were sent to Millen and Savannah, Ga., and some to Charleston, and Columbia, South Carolina.

During the latter part of August long sheds with an upper and lower floor, and open at the sides, had been built in the northern portion of the stockade. The carpenters who performed the labor of building these sheds or barracks, as they were called, were of our own numbers. They received as compensation for their labor an extra ration of food, and they thought themselves lucky to get a chance to work for their board, as indeed, they were.

On the 5th Ole Gilbert, Rouse, and myself left our quarters near the swamp, and moved into the sheds. We gave up our well with regret, as it had proved to be a great blessing to us, but September had come, and soon the storms of the autumnal equinox would be upon us, and our little tent, made of a ragged blanket and pine boughs, would but poorly shelter us from the storm.

We took up our quarters on the upper floor, with no straw for bedding, nothing between our skeleton like bodies and the floor but a piece of ragged blanket. We suffered terribly for the lack of bedding, our protruding hip bones could not possibly reconcile themselves to the hard floor and we were rolling about continually trying to find some part of our anatomy that would fit a pine board, but we never found it. But we did find a little purer air than we found down by the excrement burdened swamp, the foul gases arising from decomposing human excrements fermenting in a hot sun were not quite so strong and nauseous and

besides we had a little more room. Day by day the thinning process went on, there being two strong powers at work to accomplish the task, death and the trains of cars.

I have never been quite satisfied with the tables of mortality published with reference to Andersonville. Dr. Jones in his report, gives the number who died between Feb. 24th and September 21st, 1864, as nine thousand four hundred and seventy-nine. McElroy gives twelve thousand nine hundred and twelve as the whole number that died during the time Andersonville was used as a prison.

I think both statements are far below the truth although I have only parole testimony to prove my position. While on the way from Andersonville to Charleston, I overheard a private conversation between two prisoners upon the subject of the number of deaths at Andersonville. One of them claimed to be the Hospital Steward who kept the records at that place, and he told his companion that he had a copy of the death record and that twelve thousand six hundred and twenty odd had died up to the date of leaving the prison, which was Sept. 11th. and that he intended to carry the copy through the lines with him when he was exchanged. One of the prisoners who was paroled in December following did have a copy of the register and showed it at the office of the War Department in Washington, it was not returned to him and he afterward stole it from the office, was arrested and imprisoned for the theft and was finally liberated through the intercession of Miss Clara Barton,

“the soldiers’ friend.” The man was a member of a Connecticut regiment, whose name I cannot recall, but I think was Ingersoll, though I would not pretend to be positive. I think the official records show a total of nearly fourteen thousand deaths in Andersonville. All the evidence attainable both from Federal and Confederate sources prove that about one third of all the men who entered the gates of Andersonville died there, and when we come to add to that number those who died in other prisons, and on the way home, and whose death is directly traceable to that prison, we will find that fully one-half of the forty-five thousand Andersonville prisoners never reached home.

If the king of Denmark could exclaim, “O, my offense is rank, it smells to heaven,” what shall we say of the men who are guilty of the barbarities of Andersonville? How far will their offense smell? By a fair computation more than twenty thousand men were,—

**“Cut off even in the blossom of their sins,
Unhouseled, disappointed, unanel’d;
No reckoning made, but sent to their account
With all their imperfections on their heads:
O, horrible! O, horrible! most horrible!”**

Rest comrades, rest in your graves on the sandy hillside of Andersonville. The dank and the mould have consumed your bodies and they

have returned to the dust from whence they came; but a day of reckoning will surely come. When the last trump shall sound and the dead shall come forth from their graves, and stand before the Great White Throne, where will your murderers be found? Surely they will call upon the rocks and mountains to fall on them and hide them from the face of Him who sitteth upon the Throne and judgeth the Earth in righteousness.

It is impossible for any person endowed with the common feelings and instincts of humanity to understand, much less to explain, the character of Winder and Wirz. How any person in this enlightened age could be guilty of the cruelties and barbarities practiced by those two ghouls surpass all attempts at explanation. I am of the opinion that the majority of the people of the South were ignorant of the full extent of the horrors of the Southern Military Prisons. I am led to this conclusion by the fact, that, except upon the questions of slavery and war, they were a kind and generous hearted people, generally speaking, as much so, at least, as any community of people of like extent. And for the further reason that not many of them had access to the inside of those prisons, and they would naturally believe the report of interested Confederates, sooner than the reports of interested Federals, particularly, as they had no intercourse with prisoners themselves, except in isolated cases. And still further, all escaped prisoners, who were recaptured and returned to prison spoke highly of the kind treatment of the middle and upper classes, only complaining of the treatment of the lower classes or "Clay Eaters." But somebody knew of

these barbarities and cruelties and somebody was responsible for Winder and Wirz holding their positions, and that after a full investigation and report upon the subject by competent men. That SOMEBODY was Jeff Davis and his cabinet.

The members of the Confederate Congress were aware of the treatment of Federal prisoners and some of the members of that congress cried out against it, in their places. But Jeff Davis ruled the South with a rod of iron. He was the head and front, the great representative of the doctrine of States Rights, which, interpreted by Southern Statesmen, meant the right of a state to separate itself from the General Government, peaceably if possible, by force of arms if need be. And yet when Governor Brown, of Georgia, carried this doctrine to its logical conclusion by withdrawing the Georgia troops from the Confederate armies, to repel the invasion of Sherman and harvest a crop for the use of his army, Davis, in public speeches, intimated that Governor Brown was a traitor.

President Davis and his cabinet knew of the atrocities of Winder and Wirz, and their ilk, and connived at them by keeping the perpetrators in place and power. Winder was a renegade Baltimorean who had received a military education at the expense of the United States government, but being too cowardly to accept a position in the field where his precious carcass would be exposed to danger, he accepted from his intimate friend, Jeff Davis, the office of Provost Marshal General, in which

position he was a scourge and a curse to the rebels themselves. Becoming too obnoxious to the people of Richmond, Davis, at last, appointed him Commissary General of prisoners, in which capacity he had charge of all the Federal prisoners east of the Mississippi river.

The antecedents of Wirz are not known. McElroy, who has investigated the subject of Southern Prisons deeper than any man of my knowledge, has arrived at the conclusion that he was probably a clerk in a store before the war of the Rebellion. He arrives at his conclusion logically, for he asserts that Wirz could count more than one hundred.

That Davis and his cabinet knew of the terrible treatment bestowed upon the Federal prisoners at Andersonville, we have abundant proof. The following extract from the report of Colonel D. T. Chandler, of the Rebel War Department, who was sent to inspect Andersonville, was copied from "Andersonville." The report is of date August 5th, 1864, and is as follows: "My duty requires me respectfully to recommend a change in the officer in command of the post, Brigadier General John H. Winder, and the substitution in his place of some one who unites both energy and good judgment with some feelings of humanity and consideration for the welfare and comfort as far as is consistent with their safe keeping of the vast number of unfortunates placed under his control; some one who, at least, will not advocate DELIBERATELY and in cold blood, the propriety of leaving them in their present condition until their number is sufficiently reduced by death to make the present arrangements

suffice for their accomodation, and who will not consider it a matter of self laudation and boasting that he has never been inside of the stockade—a place the horrors of which it is difficult to describe, and which is a DISGRACE TO CIVILIZATION—the condition of which he might by the exercise of a little energy and judgment, even with the limited means at his command, have considerably improved.”

In his examination touching this report, Colonel Chandler says:

“I noticed that General Winder seemed very indifferent to the welfare of the prisoners, indisposed to do anything, or to do as much as I thought he ought to do, to alleviate their sufferings. I remonstrated with him as well as I could, and he used that language which I reported to the Department with reference to it—the language stated in the report. When I spoke of the mortality existing among the prisoners, and pointed out to him that the sickly season was coming on, and that it must necessarily increase unless something was done for their relief—the swamp, for instance, drained, proper food furnished, and in better quality, and other sanitary suggestions which I made to him—he replied to me that he thought it was better to see half of them die than to take care of the men.”

This report proves two points. First that we had been living in Andersonville during the HEALTHY season, God save the mark, and second

that Jeff Davis knew of the situation through his War Minister. But Davis was in favor of having the prisoners receive the terrible treatment to which they were subjected. He had, through his Commissary General of Prisoners, made demands upon the Federal Government in the matter of the exchange of prisoners, which no government possessing any self respect could entertain. He demanded an exchange of prisoners in bulk, that is, the Federal Government to give all the Confederate prisoners it held in exchange for all the Federal prisoners the Confederate Government held. The unfairness of such a proposition will be readily seen when the reader is informed that at that time the Federals held about twice as many prisoners as did the Confederates.

The Federal proposition was to exchange man for man and rank for rank. To this the Davis Government would not accede. Then followed the terrors of Andersonville and Florence of which hell itself in its palmyest days could not furnish a duplicate.

I am well aware that I have not expressed the same opinion as other authors, ex-prisoners, upon the subject of the complicity of the whole people of the South in these prison horrors, but the most of these authors wrote a short time subsequent to the close of the war, and while their blood was still hot upon the subject; and I confess that it has taken nearly a quarter of a century for my blood to cool sufficiently to arrive at the conclusions I have expressed in this chapter and which I candidly believe are correct.

**To my comrades who were prisoners let me say, our present motto is:
“FIAT JUSTITIA, RUAT COELUM.”**



CHRISTMAS LETTER FROM ROBERT GOULD SHAW

Below are excerpts of Shaw's letter, written from Camp Hicks near the Monocacy River east of Frederick, Maryland.

Guard-Tent Second Massachusetts

Camp Hicks, near Frederick, Md., 3:30 AM

December 25, 1861

Dearest Mother,

It is Christmas morning, and I hope it will be a happy and merry one for you all, though, it looks so stormy for our poor country, one can hardly be in a merry humour...

My Christmas Eve has been very much like many other eves during the last six months. On the whole, I have passed quite a pleasant night, though what our men call the "fore-part" of it was principally occupied in taking care of two drunken men (one of them with a broken pate), and in tying a sober one to a tree.

After this was over, I did a good deal of reading, and towards, I o'clock, A.M., had some toast and hot coffee, - having previously invited my Sergeant to take a nap, so that I might not be troubled by hungry eyes, and made to feel mean, for there wasn't enough to give any away. The drummer (who, with the Sergeant of the Guard, for some reason which I never discovered, sits and sleeps in the officers' tent) kept groaning in his sleep; and I couldn't help imagining that his groan always came in just as I took a bite of toast, or a large gulp of coffee. This diminished my enjoyment; and when he suddenly said, "Martha! There isn't any breakfast," I was certain that my proceedings were influencing his dreams!

It began to snow about midnight, and I suppose no one ever had a better chance of seeing "Santa Claus"; but, as I had my stockings on, he probably thought it not worth his while to come down to the guard-tent. I didn't see any of the guard's stockings pinned up outside their tent, and indeed it is contrary to army regulations for them to divest themselves of any part of their clothing during the twenty-four hours [they are on guard duty.]...

"Merry Christmas" and love to all, dear mother...

***Your loving son,
Robert G. Shaw***