

MARY CHESEBRO LEE

DETACHED TENT #23

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wimclduv/

<https://www.facebook.com/duvcmarylee>



The Little Bronze Button

Tune: THE OLD OAKEN BUCKET

How dear to the heart of each gray-headed soldier
Are thoughts of the days when we still wore the blue;
While mem'ry recalls every trial and danger,
And scenes of the past are brought back to his view.
Though long since discarding our arms and equipments,
There's one thing a soldier most surely will note—
The first thing he sees on the form of a Comrade
Is the little bronze button he wears on his coat.

CHORUS
The little brown button;
The sacred bronze button;
The Grand Army button;
He wears on his coat.

"How much did it cost," said a man to the soldier,
"That little, flat button you wear on your coat?"
"Ten cents in good money," he answered the stranger,
"And four years of marching and fighting to boot."
The wealth of the world cannot purchase this emblem,
Except that the buyer once wore the brave blue:
And it shows to mankind the full marks of a hero—
A man who to honor and country was true.

CHORUS:—The little brown button, etc.

Then let us be proud of the little bronze button!
And wear it with spirit, both loyal and bold:
Fraternally welcome each one who supports it
With love in our hearts for the Comrades of old.
Each day musters out whole battalions of wearers;
And soon will be missed the loved token so dear;
But millions to come will remember, with honor,
The men who'd the right that bronze button to wear.

CHORUS:—The little brown button, etc.

By JOHN L. PARKER, Past Department Commander, Mass.



MIKE WOZNY EXPLAINS GAR HISTORY

Tent #23 was honored to have Mike Wozny as its speaker at the March meeting. Mike is a member of GAR Post #8 and SUV Colonel Hans Heg Post #15 in Wind Lake. He described the founding of the Grand Army of the Republic on April 9, 1866, in Decatur, Illinois, exactly one year after Lee's surrender at Appomattox.

The GAR aimed to emphasize patriotism and provide a means for soldiers to remain in touch with each other after the war. At a time when there was no therapy, these men could share war experiences with each other that they would not be able to with their families. 2/3 of the Union Army were members of the GAR, and it became a powerful voting block. They were successful in lobbying Congress for many laws pertaining to veterans and patriotism, including:

- U.S. flags were required in all classrooms to help teach patriotism
- Pensions for all Civil War veterans (at first only Union Soldiers received pensions from the Soldiers Service; later the GAR insisted that Confederate veterans receive them as well.)
- Pensions for Civil War widows
- Decoration Day on May 31 was established. That date was chosen because flowers were in bloom at that time to place on the soldiers' graves.
- Statues were erected at battlefields and in many towns as a reminder of the war. It wasn't until after the last reunion of the GAR on 75th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg that Confederate monuments were allowed at that site.

(continued on page 2)



Pat Blackmer with Mike Wozny

FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY

The next meeting of Tent #23 will held at
The Delavan Community Centre at 6:30pm
on Tuesday, April 26, 2016

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(continued from page 1) The governor of Wisconsin was a Civil War veteran who had lost an arm at Gettysburg, and passed a law to place seven statues there at the 25th anniversary of the battle, one for each Wisconsin regiment that fought there. All Wisconsin monuments were to be made from Wisconsin granite. This became a problem in Vicksburg because it was less expensive to use granite from South Carolina. The soldiers did not want to have a Wisconsin monument made from South Carolina (a Confederate state during the war), but the GAR finally allowed the South Carolina granite to be used. It is the only Wisconsin monument not made from Wisconsin granite.

Since there was no set uniform for the Union Army, most GAR posts did not make a uniform mandatory, but the men were expected to show up in their Sunday best. The most prized possession was the membership badge, which was made from the melted down metal of a Confederate cannon and modeled after the Medal of Honor. The badge was protected by the government, and anyone caught wearing one if they were not in the GAR would spend five days in jail. If seen in an old photo, the little bronze button (shown on page one) is an indication that the wearer was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

After the war, four Soldiers Homes for disabled veterans were run by the government, including the one in Milwaukee which was originally established by the West Side Soldiers Aid Society. Wives were not allowed to live there, which the GAR army veterans did not like. They purchased land in Waupaca and established the King Soldiers Home, building cottages where husbands and wives could live together. The cost of each cottage was about \$10,000, and the DUVCW played a key role in raising many of the funds. The facility is still in use today, although only one of the cottages is still in existence.

In 1938 for the 75th anniversary of Gettysburg, the GAR organized one last reunion. Travel, meals, and lodging would be provided for the men and their families. When a representative of the planning committee went to Texas during a Confederate convention to invite them, at first he was told they would not attend. The next day, they agreed to attend but only if there were separate camps for the Union and Confederate veterans and if they could fly the Confederate flag over their camp. The representative then travelled to Madison to a GAR convention. When he told them that each camp would have its own flag, he was met with dead silence. The Union veterans refused to go to Gettysburg if the Confederate flag was displayed. The Commanders of the GAR and Confederate veterans met in St. Louis and agreed that the Confederate flag would be allowed in the Confederate camp, but that all the soldiers would march under the Union flag in the parade.

As the GAR veterans aged, the DUVCW took care of their records. Without their help, many posts may have dissolved before they did. When the GAR realized that their numbers were dwindling, they turned over their finances to the SUVCW to continue their mission.



Janesville GAR badges



1922 GAR convention in Delavan (photo and badges from Blackmer Collection)

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WELCOME SISTER LINDA!



Linda Tanner Freitag was sworn in as our newest Sister at the March meeting, bringing our membership to a total of 42.

SUSAN FALLON'S GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER TO RECEIVE GRAVE MARKER

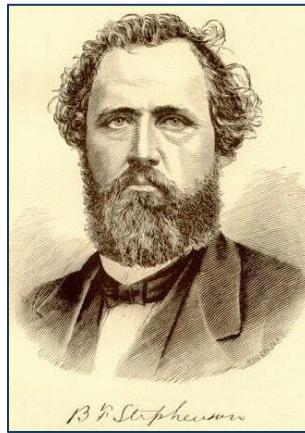


Ludwig Charles Marks of the 18th WI Co. 1 will finally receive a grave marker for his service in the Civil War in a ceremony on May 14th at 11:00 am at St. Peter Lutheran Church, 2501 Collins Rd., Chilton, WI. All the Allied Orders are invited; please wear your DUVCW pin if you are attending.

STEPHENSON TOUR SATURDAY, JULY 23 (OFFICIAL DUVCW CONVENTION TOUR)

"The first stop on the tour will be Rose Hill Cemetery, where Dr. Benjamin Franklin Stephenson, founder of the Grand Army of the Republic, is interred. A special observance honoring Stephenson will be held at his granite shaft monument dedicated in his memory in 1894. Petersburg's Mayor, John Stiltz, Menard County's Historian Randy Robbins, and Menard County Honor Guard will assist. Our excursion continues to the now privately owned Stephenson home, built in 1870s by the Grand Army of the Republic for his widow and children. The dramatic interior architecture of the over 145 year old structure is remarkable. Then, we are off to the Stephenson Dedication ceremony at our National Headquarters. A box lunch is provided; please see Meals for the selections offered. Register yourself and your significant other! Limited seating, so reserve your place now!" (*from General Orders #1, 2015-2016, February 2016*)

The National DUVCW will be erecting a bench at the Stephenson Memorial Plaza at Rose Hill Cemetery. There will be 5 benches, one for each of the Allied Orders, at a cost of approximately \$5000 each. Tent #23 has purchased a brick and is donating \$100 to the cost of the bench.



The Time is Now

Stephenson Memorial Plaza Grand Army of the Republic Rose Hill Cemetery Petersburg Illinois

Brothers and Sisters

The Sesquicentennial of Doctor Benjamin Franklin Stephenson's creation of the Grand Army of the Republic on April 6, 1866, will soon be upon us.

In 1894, a beautiful monument was erected at the doctor's gravesite in Petersburg, Illinois. Rose Hill Cemetery however, has since become overgrown and in need of improvement. We have reached permission to make the necessary place there, consistent with GAR designs from 1890 to the 1920s.

Signature bricks can be purchased in three sizes: 4 x 8 x 8, 8 x 12 x 12, and 12 x 12 x 12. Each Granite Bench can also be purchased. Our goal is to have the Memorial Plaza completed by 2016.

Through your efforts, we can create a memorial fitting to honor the creator of the organization to which we owe our existence.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty
The Doctor Benjamin F. Stephenson Site Committee
Visit www.saww.com for Ordering Information

**IN MEMORY OF
SISTER OF OUR ORDER
NAME OF SISTER
AUXILIARY NAME & NUMBER**

**DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**

Obtain and Information Regarding This

A lachrymatory was a bottle meant for collecting tears. It is said that during the Civil War, some soldiers left tear bottles for their wives, hoping that as a sign of their devotion, the bottles would be full upon their return. Tears were also saved from funerals as a remembrance. One myth holds that when the tears evaporated, the mourning period ended. In reality, people followed Queen Victoria's strict mourning guidelines. (*from <http://www.lachrymatory.com/civilwar.htm> and <http://cleopatrasboudoir.blogspot.com/2009/07/tear-bottles-sentimental-gift-or-genius.html>*)

