

MAY 2023

DAUGHTERS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR, 1861- 1865

VOLUME #12 ISSUE #5

MARY CHESEBRO LEE DETACHED TENT #23

<https://www.marychesebroleewi23.org>

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



Ryan Schroeder
Mayor of Delavan



DELAVAN'S CIVIL WAR MUSTER TREE

Tent 23 welcomes Ryan Schroeder, Mayor of Delavan to our May meeting as our guest speaker. Schroeder will provide a presentation regarding the Delavan Muster Tree.

The slowly dying tree, connected with the Civil War is a burr oak in the city of Delavan. Located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Seventh and Washington Streets, the tree is estimated to be about 250 years old and is locally referred to as the "Civil War Tree."

During the years 1861 to 1865, Union volunteers were mustered under it before they left by rail for training camps. Although of significant age, the Delavan Oak is not a large specimen, primarily because, for over 170 years, the surface adjacent to it has been paved. For more than a century, a grapevine that grew up alongside the trunk entwined itself among the branches of the tree, affording sport for young tree climbers who swung on its tendrils.

The tree has succumbed to a combination of diseases to include Burr Oak Blight, leaf scorch and an attack of the Chestnut Borer insect.

There appears to be no viable way for the city to save the historic tree. At the present the city is interested and seeking suggestions of how to preserve its history.

Tent 23 has suggested harvesting acorns to produce sapling descendants of the Muster Tree. Unfortunately, the slowly dying tree no longer produces acorns for this to occur. Other suggestions included retaining the trunk with a carving of the tree and using branches to make mementos.

FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY

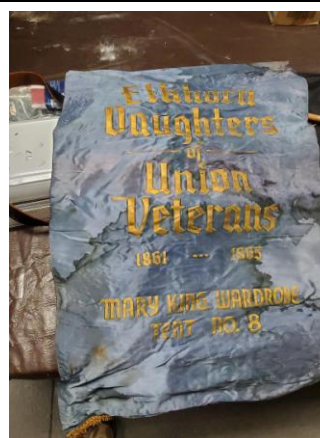
The next meeting of Tent #23 will held at
The Delavan Community Centre
on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 at 6:30pm

67TH ANNUAL LINCOLN DEATH DAY

Below are photos of the annual celebration which took place at his tomb in Springfield, IL on April 15th. Members of the Allied Orders were in attendance. DUVCW President, Lynne Dolan presented our wreath. She is second from the right in the photo below. Sons of the Veterans Reserve, Battery L of the 1st Illinois Volunteer Artillery fired the final salute.



DUVCW National President, Lynne Dolan presents Galluadet University undergraduate student, Lexi Hill with this year's American History Award. Hill will receive the monetary award for being the outstanding history major. In 1864 Galluadet became federally funded when Lincoln signed the charter bill into law. It remains the only accredited liberal arts university for the deaf in the entire world. Tent 23's namesake, Mary Chesebro Lee was instrumental in the establishment of the Wisconsin School for the Deaf where we conducted our institution as a Tent in May of 2012.



An Historic Treasure
The photo to the left is of the Mary King Wardrobe Tent 8 banner which will be donated to Walworth Co. Historical Society. Tent 8 was located in Elkhorn and chartered on November 16, 1925. Sadly, the Tent is no longer in existence.

GRAND OPENING: VETERANS MUSEUM, WALWORTH COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Monday, May 29th, 12:00 p.m, 9 South Broad Street, Elkhorn Wisconsin

Memorial Day, May 29, 2023

Memorial Day honors the brave men and women who have sacrificed their lives in service to our country. These courageous individuals have given everything they had to defend our freedoms and way of life.



**Lt. Colonel Matthew, DDS
and Rachael Stratmeyer**

Through the years we have shared Sandy Stratmeyer's compassion and pride for her nephew who is a dentist who serves in the USAF. Through his bout with cancer and a full recovery to his postings overseas and more recently at Nellis AFB in Las Vegas, NV, he is Tent 23's nephew as well. In 2021, Stratmeyer received the award of "USAF Dental Educator of the Year". We understand that he has left Nellis and has been reassigned to a position overseas. His wife Rachael will remain stateside. The photo above was taken at the Officer's Ball at Nellis.

Meet Caleb Smith, the 4th Great Grandson of Mary Chesebro Lee

Caleb who was traveling home to Oregon from Liberty University in Lynchburg, VA contacted Pat Blackmer asking the location of his Grandmother's grave site at Spring Grove Cemetery. He had been in contact with Pat a few years ago when he digitized family letters between Mary and her son Elon who served in the Civil War. She agreed to provide a tour of Spring Grove for him. After being stuck in traffic coming through Chicago on May 16th, they met at the cemetery.

Caleb will be a senior this fall at the university studying computer technology. On the road trip home, he was accompanied by his friend Dan who also attends Liberty and is studying English and Linguistics.

After a stop at the Civil War Monument in the cemetery, Caleb placed a wreath at his Grandmother's grave site, toured the grave site of his 5th Great Grandparents, Ebenezer and Anna Chesebro, stopped by the Civil War Muster Tree and Old Settlers Cemetery and then continued heading west for Bozeman, MT where he will drop Dan off before "soloing it" to Oregon.



Left Photo: Pat Blackmer and Caleb Smith Above Photo: Pam Johnson, Pat Blackmer, Caleb Smith, Dan at the Mary Chesebro Lee's grave

**JOIN MARY CHESEBRO LEE, TENT 23 FOR THE MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION IN
DELAN ON MAY 29TH.**

**Parade begins at 9:00 a.m. on Walworth Avenue with the annual Memorial Day Program
and wreath laying at 10:00 am at Spring Grove Cemetery.**