

MARY CHESEBRO LEE  
DETACHED TENT #23

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wimclduv/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wimclduv/)

MEET YOUR SISTER



Our sister Sandy Behn, who can best be described as a doting Great Grandmother also holds the distinction of being the only person who was in Delavan's historic, Mary Lee Tent #12 and a charter member of the Mary Chesebro Lee Detached Tent #23. Sandy is an active member of the Delavan Historical Society where she has been a volunteer for many years. In fact, she assisted with the creation of a permanent display regarding the DUVCW and the GAR at the historical society's resource center and museum. Sandy is also involved with the Senior Telecare program in Delavan. Sandy's daughters, Susan Schroeder and Sherry Soukup are also members of our tent.



MEMORIAL  
DAY  
CELEBRATION

This year marked the 143<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Delavan Civil War monument. Sisters in Mary Chesebro Lee Detached Tent #23 participated in readying Spring Grove Cemetery for Memorial Day activities this year, including the cemetery clean-up on May 17 and gravesite flag placement on May 23 (*bottom right – Sisters place a wreath at the headstone of Mary Chesebro Lee*). Several Sisters rode in the Memorial Day parade and attended the cemetery service on Memorial Day. This was the second year that our Tent placed a wreath at the Civil War monument (*top right*). Please see page 3 for more photos of the Memorial Day preparations and celebration.



FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY

**PLEASE NOTE:** We will be meeting at the Civil War monument in Spring Grove Cemetery at 6:30pm on June 25, 2013 for a brief field trip before returning to the Delavan Community Centre for our regular meeting. Refreshments will be provided by Sandy B., Susan S. and Sherry

## LINCOLN VS. DAVIS: A COMPARISON OF COMMANDERS

Our Tent was honored to have Dan Nettlesheim as our guest speaker for our May meeting. Dan holds degrees in a number of subjects, is a retired Lieutenant Colonel from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and has been a Professor of History at West Point. Dan gave an informative lecture addressing the topic of Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief, comparing and contrasting his evolution to Jefferson Davis.

Lincoln and Davis' military experience differed drastically. Davis was a West Point graduate who had served seven years as an officer. During the Mexican War, he recruited almost 1000 men to become the Mississippi Rifles. He had served as Congressman, Senator and Secretary of War. Lincoln, on the other hand, served one term as an Illinois congressman. The only military experience he had was in 1832 during the Black Hawk war. He commanded the 30 men in his post (an elected position), was disciplined as an officer twice and never saw actual combat.



In terms of organizational effectiveness, Davis was at a disadvantage because of the South's belief in states' rights, a decentralized approach in which each state had input. He also did not want to consider contemporary methods of war powers, instead taking a tough approach. He would not modify his organization even in emergencies and therefore lacked unity of command. He preferred rules over flexibility and placed trust and loyalty to dysfunctional individuals in command above the good of the organization. Lincoln excelled at organizing his cabinet, choosing the best man for each position regardless of friendships, leading to his "Team of Rivals". He realized the potential of the manpower and resources in the North and looked for the right military men to lead. He chose McClellan to build the army, and after a series of field commanders found his man in Grant. By the end of the war Lincoln had built a very effective command and created the Chief of Staff position.

There were differences in Lincoln and Davis's abilities to motivate those around them as well. Davis was often unwilling to compromise and did a lot of lecturing of subordinates. There was a great deal of strain between Davis and those under his command. This also extended to the governors of the Confederate States, to the point that they withheld supplies and men from the war effort. Lincoln, however, excelled at inspiring the people of the nation, the Union governors and the military. He gave motivational, patriotic speeches, honoring the dead in them and used positive reinforcement. He was willing to be humiliated and admit he was wrong.

The strategic abilities of the two leaders differed significantly. While Davis's objective was to be right and play by the rules, Lincoln was more concerned at winning the war, no matter what the cost. Because of the South's belief in states' rights, Davis tried defending entire state lines, instead of encouraging deep strikes by the enemy, then attacking. As a result the South lost Nashville and New Orleans, their most productive ports. Lincoln suspends habeus corpus in order to ultimately preserve it and throws newspaper editors in jail. Because he changes his stance on slavery, by the end of the war the North has gone from oppressor to liberator.

Ultimately, Lincoln proved to be the superior Commander in Chief and probably the best in our country.

"Memorial Day was officially proclaimed on 5 May 1868 by General John Logan, national commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, in his General Order No. 11, and was first observed on 30 May 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery."

(from <http://www.usmemorialday.org/backgrnd.html>)

### **BOOKS ON LINCOLN AND DAVIS RECOMMENDED BY DAN NETTESHEIM**

[Team of Rivals](#) by Doris Goodwin

[Simply Lincoln](#) by David Donalds

[Jefferson Davis: The Man and His Hour](#) by William Davis

[Lincoln's War](#) by Geoffrey Perret

[Tried by War](#) by James McPherson

### OLD ABE'S WWI SUCCESSOR



The tradition of Old Abe the Civil War eagle lived on during WWI. In 1917 this young eagle became the mascot and companion of Wisconsin's 127<sup>th</sup> Regiment. "Old Abe Junior" had been standing in shallow water while feasting on a muskrat caught in a trap when its wing feathers became frozen together. Trapper Albert Guetzlaff, who had become disoriented in the fog near Red Cedar Lake, gave the eagle to J.H. Sharp in gratitude when he and his bloodhound rescued Guetzlaff. Sergeant L.W. Howe of Madison became custodian of the eagle and named it Young Woody in honor of President Woodrow Wilson. The 127<sup>th</sup> planned on taking the eagle to Germany with them. *(from the Madison Democrat, November 18, 1917, at www.wisconsinhistory.org)*



Ken Wargo leading the cemetery clean-up on May 17 with the help of 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders from St. Andrew's School.



(left) The DUVCW wreath at the foot of the Civil War monument. (right) Our parade vehicle and the Phoenix School band.



Items needed for the Homeless Veterans Transitional Housing Program in Janesville include pillows, pillowcases, sheets, dishes, pots & pans, silverware, coffee mugs, water bottles, dish soap, hand soap, towels, denture cups/cleaner, dental flossers, Q-tips, mouthwash, and contact solution. If you have any items you would like to donate, please bring them to our meeting. **Please no more books or clothing at this time!**

### \*\*\*\*\*REMINDERS\*\*\*\*\*

**FUNDRAISING GARAGE SALE** FRIDAY & SATURDAY, JUNE 28-29 - To be held at Merrybell's house in Delavan. Please bring items for sale to the next meeting or give them to Pat or Merrybell.  
**CEMETERY WALK** SATURDAY, JULY 27 - Held at Spring Grove Cemetery in Delavan. Please let Pat know if you would be interested in helping out as a hostess, guide, reenactor, or in any other way.

