

NOVEMBER 2014

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

VOLUME #3 ISSUE #11

MARY CHESEBRO LEE DETACHED TENT #23

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wimclduv/

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

TENT #23 WELCOMES NEW TRANSFERS

Our Tent is pleased to receive three new transfer members from former Detached Tent #22 from Milwaukee. Karen Babler of Monticello, WI, Kay Fazel of Monroe, WI, and Beverly Uhl of El Paso, TX are all great great granddaughters of Mary Hutchins, after whom Detached Tent #22 was named. Welcome, Sisters!



Sisters of Mary Hutchins Detached Tent #22 at their installation ceremony at the LaFayette Church in October 2011.



GUEST SPEAKER MARK BROMLEY

At our October meeting we were honored to have Mark Bromley as our guest speaker (*see picture below*). He continues a tradition started by his father of giving speeches by Lincoln for organizations such as ours and at special events. He delivered the Gettysburg Address and a portion of Lincoln's Second Inaugural Address for our Tent.

He described the setting for the Gettysburg Address before giving it. The battle took place in July 1863, and in October the Union began reburial of the fallen soldiers. By November it the task was complete enough to warrant a dedication, which was held on November 19. Edward Everett was the featured speaker and spoke for over two hours. Lincoln followed him with the two minute Gettysburg Address, which would be immortalized forever. Lincoln returned home quickly as he wasn't feeling well; he was coming down with the small pox.

Then Mark went on to describe the setting for Lincoln's 2nd Inaugural Address. It was March 4, 1865, a cold, wet day. The end of the war was in sight. Lincoln spent the morning signing bills while his wife went on ahead to the Capitol. When he arrived, he gave his speech on a platform in front of the newly completed dome, with John Wilkes Booth in the front row. It was the shortest inaugural speech ever given. Instead of the victory speech people expected, he spoke of solemn resolution to carry through to the end of the war and see the restoration of the nation. Forty-one days later he was mortally wounded.



FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY

The next meeting of Tent #23 will be held at
6:30pm on Tuesday, November 25, 2014
at the Delavan Community Centre

Refreshments provided by Ila MacErlean and Kathy Willemesen

FRIENDS OF ARAM PUBLIC LIBRARY CIVIL WAR PROGRAM

Tent #23 was fortunate to be asked to provide a program for the Friends of Aram Public Library in Delavan, WI on Thursday, October 9th. The program featured a “walk” through Delavan’s unique Civil War and circus history and was originally presented during Heritage Fest in August as part of the annual DUVCW Spring Grove Cemetery Walk. Brian Staples portrayed philanthropist, James Aram who hired men from Madison to fill the Delavan quota during the draft. Zoe Woelky related the unique story of her great grandfather, John B. Gould who repeatedly tried to enlist in the war when he was underage. Judy Manning portrayed Sarah Palmer, a portrait artist from New York whose brother, Rodley Allen Palmer was a Civil War soldier and circus aeronaut of great fame. Delavan was known as the 19th Century Circus Capitol of the World. Pat Blackmer introduced the program and discussed the impact on and the involvement of Wisconsin in the Civil War with an emphasis on the local effect it had in Delavan. The program was very well received.

Article by Pat Blackmer. Photos courtesy of Anita O’Brien, Director of Aram Public Library



L-R back row: Zoe Woelky, Judy Manning,
Pat Blackmer. Seated: Brian Staples.



Audience members mingling after the Civil War program.
The pictures on the wall are of James and Susan Aram.

The Civil War “pitted brother against brother...four of Lincoln’s brothers-in-law served in the Confederate army. One of them, Ben Hardin Helm, turned down Lincoln’s personal offer of a commission in the Union army so he could fight for the Confederates. He eventually rose to the rank of general. Helm was killed in the Battle of Chickamauga.(from *101 Things You Didn’t Know About the Civil War*, by Thomas R. Turner, p. 173)

“At the onset of the war, both sides used what was known as the Sibley tent, named after its inventor, Henry H. Sibley, who eventually rose to the rank of brigadier general in the Confederate army. The Sibley tent was designed to house 12 men comfortably, but a shortage of supplies often increased occupancy to up to 20 men per tent...the conditions within these tents often bordered on intolerable...The Union army primarily used the wedge tent, a 6-foot length of canvas draped over a horizontal pole and staked to the ground at the sides, with flaps that closed over each end.” (from *101 Things You Didn’t Know About the Civil War*, by Thomas R. Turner, p. 173)

MERRYBELL SEEBER'S INTERMENT

Merrybell was interred at Spring Grove Cemetery on Saturday, October 25th. The family service included Tent #23 all of whom she considered her "sisters". The tent had purchased a DUVCW grave marker for her. Her sister Margaret Legois placed the marker at the grave site while the remainder of the daughters held a brief ceremony to honor Merry bell. Merrybell embodied the qualities of fraternity, charity and loyalty in all she did. We miss her but will always remember her!



Merrybell being pinned at DUVCW induction ceremony



Photo (L-R) Pat Blackmer, Barbara Hale, Barbara Steurer, Ila McErlean, Charlene Staples, not pictured, Margaret Legois

CIVIL WAR THANKSGIVING PRACTICES

Although Abraham Lincoln proclaimed on October 3, 1863 that a national day of Thanksgiving would be set aside on the fourth Thursday on November each year, the first Thanksgiving was not officially observed by the U.S. military. Individual units celebrated in unofficial ways including dinners and toasts, but it was beyond the capabilities of the U.S. Commissary to provide anything special for all the troops on such short notice.

The following year the Union League of New York provided over 360,000 pounds of poultry along with many other food items for the Union troops. Most of the turkeys were broiled or stewed since the soldiers and sailors had no way to bake them. The Confederates did not recognize Thanksgiving, and had the same rations as any other day. (*information from "Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinner", by Craig L. Barry, The Citizens' Companion, Nov./Dec. 2011, Vol. XVIII No. 4, pp.37-38.*)

LAUNDRY IN THE VICTORIAN ERA

According to Catharine Beecher, sister of Harriet Beecher Stowe and author of A Treatise on Domestic Economy, doing laundry was the "most trying department of housekeeping". Washing and ironing could take two solid days, and as a result women attempted to minimize the need to launder their clothing. To properly do the laundry, Catharine recommended, among other items, borax, four tubs, a large wooden dipper, several pails, a grooved washboard, a clothes-line, a wash-stick to remove clothes when boiling, bags for boiling and bluing clothes, starch and a starch-strainer, a bottle of ox-gall from the butcher, gum-arabic, two clothes baskets, and a kettle to boil clothes in. Starch was made from grating eight potatoes, soaking them in a gallon of water, then discarding the pulp. Lye was made by pouring water through a hay-lined barrel of ashes with holes drilled in the bottom. Ironing required three irons, an iron spider, an ironing board and bosom-board, a large fire, and beeswax to wipe smoke from the irons. (*Information from "Victorian Era Laundry & Housekeeping", by Victoria Rumble, The Citizens' Companion, Oct. 2007, Vol. XIV No. 4, pp. 33-35.*)

"Of the approximately two million Union soldiers, nearly a quarter were foreign born. Approximately 175,000 were German, 150,000 were Irish, and 50,000 were English or Canadian. Native Americans fought on both sides, as did a number of Hispanics and Scandinavians, as well as other nationalities." (*from 101 Things You Didn't Know About the Civil War, by Thomas R. Turner, p. 173*)

At the beginning of the Civil War, "the value of a prisoner depended on his rank. During prisoner exchanges, a general was worth up to 60 privates, a major general was worth up to 40 privates, and so forth. At the bottom end, a noncommissioned officer was worth two privates, and privates were traded for one another. Approximately 200,000 soldiers from both sides were freed though prisoner exchanges...In 1864, the Union ceased prisoner exchanges altogether in an attempt to bring the Confederacy down by attrition." (*from 101 Things You Didn't Know About the Civil War, by Thomas R. Turner, p. 160*)