

# MARY CHESEBRO LEE DETACHED TENT #23

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

## MEET DUVCW NATIONAL PRESIDENT CAROLE MORTON



Our Tent was honored to have Carole as our guest at our September meeting. She discussed the Lincoln Funeral Re-Enactment which will be held May 1 – 3, 2015 in Springfield, Illinois for its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration. The 2015 Lincoln Funeral Coalition will be recreating history with Civil War Camps, the hearse procession, re-enactments of eulogy, speeches and salutes, and Civil War music. The DUVCW buildings will be draped with black bunting. She brought brochures on the event. More information about the funeral train re-enactment is available at [www.lincolnfuneraltrain.org](http://www.lincolnfuneraltrain.org).



## EAST TROY CIVIL WAR COMMEMORATION

Eleven of our Sisters (*top right*) attended the Oak Ridge Cemetery Civil War commemoration in East Troy on September 22. Nancy Braatz, Sandy Stratmeyer, Kathy Willemsen, and Susan Fischbach along with many other members of the Mitchell family, were present as one of their Civil War ancestors, **Edward Mitchell**, is buried there. (*bottom right*)



## OUR "NEPHEW" IN THE NAVY

Our Tent collected toiletries, snacks, and other items for Barbara Hale's nephew, James Stone (*left*), who is serving in the Persian Gulf. "Pennies for postage" were also collected to offset the mailing costs.

## FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY

The next meeting of Detached Tent #23 will be held at 6:30pm on October 22, 2013 at the Delavan Community Centre.

Refreshments will be provided by Nancy Braatz & Susan Fischbach

## DEHAVAN CIVIL WAR & CIRCUS HISTORY

For our September meeting, in honor of Carole Morton's visit and to acquaint our Sisters with some of Delavan's unique history, Judy Manning portrayed Henrietta, wife of circus personality William.C. Coup, and Pat Blackmer portrayed . Sarah Jane Palmer, sister to aerialist Rodley Palmer.

Between 1847-1894, Delavan was home to 28 circuses, which wintered and/or were established here. The homes on Main Street housed circus people, and circus animals such as monkeys and bears also lived in their homes and backyards. It was not uncommon to see elephants downtown.

W.C. Coup was a circus innovator known for inventing the center pole "big top" tent, which allowed greater ease in set-up and room for more audience members. He also came up with the idea of the two ring and then three ring circus. He was the first person to put the circus on rails by back loading circus wagons onto flatbed train cars. He worked many years for the Mabie Circus, which originated in Delavan, before striking out on his own. He convinced P.T. Barnum to finance his endeavor, and the P.T. Barnum circus was born (although Coup was the person who came up with the concept for this circus, it was named after the financier). Later he went on to start his own aquarium in New York, inventing the concrete blocks that seals perform on and the glass viewing window on the side of tanks.

Rodley Allen Palmer was a 5'-3" athletic young man who, while still underage, enlisted in the Civil War hoping to join the Union Army Balloon Corps. Instead, he was stationed on garrison duty for 18 months (the Balloon Corps had ceased to exist in August 1863, before he enlisted). After the war he purchased a huge balloon and by the age of 20 had made 160 balloon ascensions in the Midwest. He brought Rocky Mountain bears with him to his performances, often tethering one to a balloon as it ascended. Rodley joined the Buckley Circus in Delavan which ran the Roman Hippodrome, the largest of its kind in the country. He was their main act as a balloon aerialist, hanging 1200 feet from one ring and waving with his other hand. On July 29, 1874, the rigging broke in the wind and Rodley was slammed into the Park Hotel in downtown Delavan. He died from his injuries on Sept. 2, 1874 at the age of 25.

Both Coup and Palmer have gravestones at Spring Grove Cemetery.



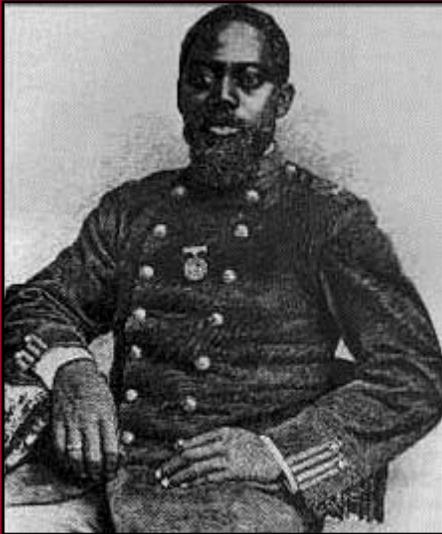
Judy Manning as Mrs. C.W. Coup



Pat Blackmer as Ms. Sarah Palmer

"The largest balloons (*Union* and *Intrepid*) had a capacity of 32,000 cubic feet of lifting gas & could carry 5 people aloft. *Constitution* & *United States* had 25,000 cubic foot envelopes & could carry up to 3 people. *Washington* had a 20,000 cubic foot bag & could carry 2 people aloft. With a capacity of 15,000 cubic feet each, *Eagle* and *Excelsior* were one man craft."  
 (<http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/civil-war-ballooning/civil-war-ballooning.html>)

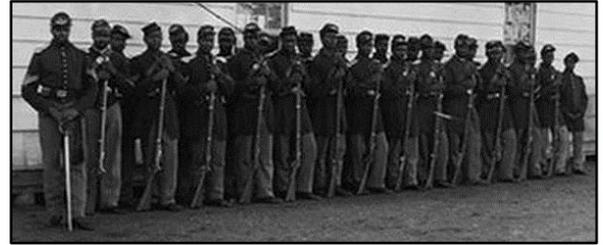
Professor Thaddeus S. C. Lowe was appointed Chief Aeronaut for the Union Army. The Balloon Corps consisted of a team of expert aeronauts. The balloons were not only used for aerial observations and map making, but also served at Yorktown, Antietam, Fredericksburg, and other major battles. There were over 3,000 balloon flights between October 1861 and August 1863, when it was disbanded following the resignation of Lowe. The misunderstanding that the Balloon Corps would remain a civilian contract lasted its duration, and neither Lowe nor any of his men ever received commissions. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union\\_Army\\_Balloon\\_Corps](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Union_Army_Balloon_Corps))



An Infantry Sergeant, William Harvey Carney (*above*) was the first African American to perform a Medal of Honor action, but ironically was the last African-American to be awarded the Medal for Civil War service, presented to him in 1900. Robert Blake, a Union Navy sailor during the Civil War, was the second African-American to perform a Medal of Honor action. However, Blake was the first African American to actually *receive* a Medal of Honor, which was presented to him in 1864. But, because Carney's Medal of Honor action occurred first, Carney, not Blake, is usually credited with being the first African American Medal of Honor recipient.

([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Harvey\\_Carney](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Harvey_Carney) and [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Blake\\_\(Medal\\_of\\_Honor\\_recipient\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Blake_(Medal_of_Honor_recipient)))

## BLACK SOLDIERS IN THE CIVIL WAR



“On July 17, 1862, Congress passed the Second Confiscation and Militia Act, freeing slaves who had masters in the Confederate Army. Two days later, slavery was abolished in the territories of the United States. After the Union Army turned back Lee's first invasion of the North at Antietam, MD, and the Emancipation Proclamation was subsequently announced, black recruitment was pursued in earnest.

“By the end of the Civil War, roughly 179,000 black men (10% of the Union Army) served as soldiers in the U.S. Army and another 19,000 served in the Navy. Nearly 40,000 black soldiers died over the course of the war - 30,000 of infection or disease. Black soldiers served in artillery and infantry and performed all noncombat support functions that sustain an army, as well. Black carpenters, chaplains, cooks, guards, laborers, nurses, scouts, spies, steamboat pilots, surgeons, and teamsters also contributed to the war cause. There were nearly 80 black commissioned officers. Black women, who could not formally join the Army, nonetheless served as nurses, spies, and scouts, the most famous being Harriet Tubman, who scouted for the 2<sup>nd</sup> South Carolina Volunteers.

“In addition to the perils of war faced by all Civil War soldiers, black soldiers faced additional problems stemming from racial prejudice...Black soldiers were initially paid \$10 per month from which \$3 was automatically deducted for clothing, resulting in a net pay of \$7. In contrast, white soldiers received \$13 per month from which no clothing allowance was drawn. In June 1864 Congress granted equal pay to the U.S. Colored Troops and made the action retroactive.

“The black troops, however, faced greater peril than white troops when captured by the Confederate Army. In 1863 the Confederate Congress threatened to punish severely officers of black troops and to enslave black soldiers. As a result, President Lincoln issued General Order 233, threatening reprisal on Confederate prisoners of war (POWs) for any mistreatment of black troops... Although the threat generally restrained the Confederates, black captives were typically treated more harshly than white captives.”

(from <http://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/blacks-civil-war/>)

*“Once let the black man get upon his person the brass letter, U.S., let him get an eagle on his button, and a musket on his shoulder and bullets in his pocket, there is no power on earth that can deny that he has earned the right to citizenship.” ~ Frederick Douglass*

“Between 1619 and 1865 an estimated 500,000 kidnapped Africans were sold into slavery in the United States... At the time of the Civil War an estimated 25% of Southern whites had at least one black ancestor... Of the approximately 1,000,000 white families in the South, over a third, some 385,000, owned at least one of the 3,953,760 slaves in the region in 1860, for an average of 10.26 slaves per family... Since a free black was at risk of being kidnapped by slave catchers, relatively prominent and prosperous freedmen in the South often preferred to own their wives and offspring and even parents, rather than liberate them.” (*The Civil War Notebook, compiled by Albert A. Nofi*)

