

MARY CHESEBRO LEE  
DETACHED TENT #23

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wimclduv/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wimclduv/)  
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**WHAT ARE  
THESE SLIDES?**  
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LEARN MORE ABOUT  
MAGIC LANTERNS*



## SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN CIVIL WAR EVENTS

## OLD WORLD WISCONSIN

<http://oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org/Events/Calendar/All.aspx>  
**Civil War Encounters** – 8/1 - 9/1, 10am–5pm Experience the profound impact the Civil War had on Wisconsin's soldiers and civilians as you explore life on the home front and in a reconstructed army camp.  
**Gone for a Soldier** – 8/23-8/24, 10 am–5 pm You become a Civil War soldier as you experience the process of recruiting, enlisting, drilling and marching as a member of a Wisconsin regiment in the Iron Brigade. This immersive experience also includes cannon firing and camp activities.

## KENOSHA CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

<http://www.kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/events/>

**A Soldier's Life** - Saturdays, 5/17, 7/19, 8/16, 9/20; Noon-4pm

Reenactors in character as Civil War soldiers answer your questions about their gear, Civil War battles, and what it took to be a Civil War soldier.

**Spring Family Fun Day** – Friday 4/25, 1-4pm Play Civil War children's games, go on a scavenger hunt, try on Civil War-era clothes, meet a curator & discuss "Seeing the Elephant" movie (a new, high-tech digital movie following three men from enlistment to their first taste of combat.

**A Salute to Freedom – 1864 Encampment & Soldiers Aid Fair** -

**Saturday, 5/2, 10am-4pm** Inside: Living history interpreters present civilian impressions from Soldiers Aid Fairs held in the Midwest from 1863 to 1865. These events sparkled with fanciful fund raising, games, displays, and an abundance of red, white, and blue. Activities include: 19th century fashion displays, musical entertainment, quilts display, appearances by 'President Lincoln,' 'General Ulysses S. Grant' and more. Outside: Reenactors portray an encampment of Midwestern troops at home on leave in 1864. Activities include: cavalry and artillery demonstrations, infantry firing demonstrations, Union soldiers in camp.

## FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY

The next meeting of Detached Tent #23  
will be held at 6:30pm on April 22, 2014  
at the Delavan Community Centre.

### MAGIC LANTERN SLIDES

Our Tent welcomed guest speakers Dan Richardson, President of the East Troy Historical Society and Mike Wozny, Commander of GAR Post #8 to our March 25 meeting. Dan has been collecting Magic Lantern slides for about 10 years, as well as a variety of Magic Lantern projectors. His slides are 125-140 years old. During the Civil War, this was a popular form of entertainment shown in opera houses or wealthy people's homes. People often referred to the slides as "phantasmagorical". Originally the slides were drawings, often from popular magazines and sometimes hand painted. Later they were made from photographs, including those of Matthew Brady. Dan also brought a Civil War period Magic Lantern, children's Magic Lantern, and variety of different types of slides for us to look at (*bottom right*).

Dan showed our Tent some of his Civil War slides on a projector from a WWII Navy battleship. Mike added historical commentary about them. A number of the slides depicted events incorrectly, such as one of Lee's surrender to Grant while sitting at a table at Appomattox (they never sat at the same table). Another showed a line of soldiers from the Battle of Gettysburg, but the artist drew them wearing National Guard uniforms from the 1880s. The most unusual slide Dan has is a photo of an embalmer with a corpse on a board in front of him. Embalmers would travel with the army and prepare bodies to be shipped home if the fee was paid for by the family of the deceased. Embalming was a new and expensive procedure, so it was mainly officers and wealthy soldiers who could afford it.



Dan Richardson (right) and Mike Wozny (left)



Slides of Old Abe (*left*) and the surrender at Appomattox (*above*)



Perhaps the most well-known image taken by famous Wisconsin Dells photographer H.H. Bennett is this one of his son jumping across Stand Rock in 1886. Bennett had just invented a stop action shutter which allowed him to take clear pictures of moving subjects, something impossible to do before. This photograph was projected as a magic lantern slide to amazed audiences. Bennett was also the first photographer to "write" a story with pictures, *The Story of Raftsmen's Life on the Wisconsin*, thus becoming the first photo journalist.

(Information from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H.\\_H.\\_Bennett](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/H._H._Bennett))

## A SHORT HISTORY OF IDENTIFICATION TAGS

by Captain Richard W. Wooley

Quartermaster Professional Bulletin-December 1988

*US Army Quartermaster Foundation - Fort Lee, Virginia*

“The Civil War provided the first recorded incident of American soldiers making an effort to ensure that their identities would be known should they die on the battlefield. Their methods were varied, and all were taken on a soldier's own initiative. In 1863, prior to the battle of Mine's Run in northern Virginia, General Meade's troops wrote their names and unit designations on paper tags and pinned them to their clothing. Many soldiers took great care to mark all their personal belongings. Some troops fashioned their own "ID" (identification) tags out of pieces of wood, boring a hole in one end so that they could be worn on a string around the neck.

“The commercial sector saw the demand for an identification method and provided products. Harper's Weekly Magazine advertised "Soldier's Pins" which could be mail ordered. Made of silver or gold, these pins were inscribed with an individual's name and unit designation. Private vendors who followed troops also offered ornate identification disks for sale just prior to battles. Still, despite the fact that fear of being listed among the unknowns was a real concern among the rank and file, no reference to an official issue of identification tags by the Federal Government exists. (42% of the Civil War dead remain unidentified.)

“The first official advocacy of issuing identification tags took place in 1899. Chaplain Charles C. Pierce, who was tasked to establish the Quartermaster Office of Identification in the Philippines, recommended inclusion of an "identity disc" in the combat field kit as the answer to the need for standard identification. The Army Regulations of 1913 made identification tags mandatory, and by 1917, all combat soldiers wore aluminum discs on chains around their necks. By World War II, the circular disc was replaced by the oblong shape familiar to us today, generally referred to as "dog tags."”

(Information from [http://www.qmfound.com/short\\_history\\_of\\_identification\\_tags.htm](http://www.qmfound.com/short_history_of_identification_tags.htm))

At the time this article was written CPT Richard W. Wooley was Chief of Individual Training, Graves Registration Department (now the Mortuary Affairs Center), U.S. Army Quartermaster School, Fort Lee, Virginia.

**(On right) Port Hudson Yankee's Dog Tag:** Standard pattern - Eagle - War of 1861 – identification disc in excellent condition retaining much gilt and all the die-struck detail. Filled out for David Bickford of the 15th New Hampshire Volunteers. These dog tags were struck by the Scoville Manufacturing Company who also made buttons. (From <http://realcivilwarantiques.com/1301webcat.html>)



In the 1990s, the U.S. Army stopped using the term *dog tags*, replacing it with the designation *ID tags*. The U.S. Armed Forces typically carry two identical oval dog tags including name, Social Security number, blood type, and religion. (from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dog\\_tag#United\\_States\\_of\\_America](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dog_tag#United_States_of_America))

“A persistent rumor is that debossed (imprinted with stamped in letters) dog tags were issued from World War II till the end of the Vietnam War and that currently the U.S. Armed Forces is issuing embossed (imprinted with raised letters) dog tags. In actuality, the U.S. Armed Forces issues dog tags with both types of imprinting, depending on the machine used at a given facility. The military issued 95% of their identification tags up until recently (within the past 10 years) with debossed text.”

(from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dog\\_tag#United\\_States\\_of\\_America](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dog_tag#United_States_of_America))

