

MARY CHESEBRO LEE

DETACHED TENT #23

<https://www.marychesebrolee23.org>

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



Photo: Unidentified Black Soldier
Courtesy of the Wisconsin State
Historical Society

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY MONTH: AFRICAN AMERICANS IN THE CIVIL WAR

By the end of the Civil War approximately 179,000 or 10% of the Union Forces who were soldiers were black men. Another 19,000 served in the Navy during the Civil War. Nearly 40,000 of these soldiers and sailors would die over the course of the war with the majority (30,000) succumbing to disease and infection.

Black Union soldiers did not receive equal pay or equal treatment. They were paid \$10.00 per month with a deduction of \$3.00 per month for their uniforms while white soldiers received \$13.00 per month with no clothing deduction. This was eventually rectified in June of 1864 when Congress granted retroactive pay to the black soldiers.

It is interesting to note that Wisconsin supplied one unit of black soldiers to the Union Army, Company F of the 29th Infantry, U.S. Colored Troops. Although credited to Wisconsin for recruiting purposes, most of Company F was actually raised in Illinois and Missouri. These soldiers took the places of white Wisconsin residents who would otherwise have been drafted.

Company F of the 29th arrived in Petersburg, Virginia, on July 22, 1864, in the heat of battle; 11 of its 85 men died the first week.

The late Maude Totten, Civil War Historian, chronicled the service of nine black soldiers from Walworth County in her writing. Three of these men are buried in the Spring Grove Cemetery in Delavan.

*More information available on History Net and the Wisconsin State Historical Society websites.



FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY

The next meeting of Tent #23 will held at
The Delavan Community Centre
on Tuesday, March 26 at 6:30pm

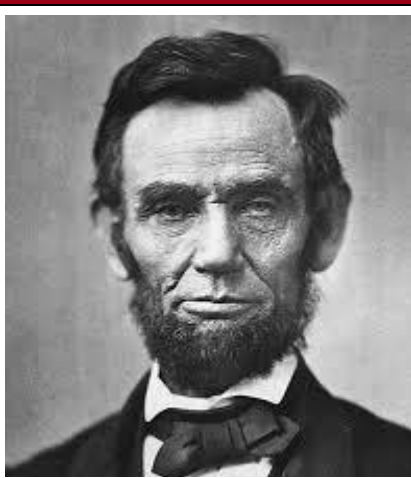
THINKING SMALL!

A wonderful program to assist our homeless veterans with transitional housing was instigated by the non-profit organization, Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin in Racine. The James A. Peterson Veterans Village is located on a one acre lot between a residential neighborhood and an industrial district. It is a collection of 15 tiny houses each 128 square feet in area and rectangular in shape. The tiny houses are described as having sloped roofs, rustic siding, windows and front porches. The interior of the tiny houses include a bed, storage space, micro-wave., refrigerator and television. Veterans are able to live rent free in the village and avail themselves of additional services provided by the SC Johnson Community Center where a full sized kitchen, recreation area, showers, bathrooms and laundry facilities are available for the veterans' use. Jeff Gustin, Veterans Outreach Executive Director, says the aim of the program is "to help its clients build enough momentum to escape homelessness and, at some point, find permanent housing".



THE JAMES A. PETERSON VETERANS VILLAGE IN RACINE, WISCONSIN

Above Photos:
Courtesy of Veterans Outreach of Wisconsin Facebook Page and
Christina Lieffing, photographer for the Journal Times



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Today, as I prepare this article for our newsletter, I came to the realization that it was 210 years ago that Abraham Lincoln, the 16th President of the United States was born in Hodgenville, Kentucky on February 12, 1809.

According to Wikipedia, “The earliest known observance of Lincoln's birthday occurred in Buffalo, New York, in either 1873 or 1874. Julius Francis (d. 1881), a Buffalo druggist, made it his life's mission to honor the slain president. He repeatedly petitioned Congress to establish Lincoln's birthday as a legal holiday.

The day is marked by traditional wreath-laying ceremonies at the Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site in Hodgenville, Kentucky and at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.. The latter has been the site of a ceremony ever since the Memorial was dedicated in 1922.

Since that event in 1922, observances continue to be organized by the Lincoln Birthday National Commemorative Committee and by the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS). A wreath is laid on behalf of the President of the United States, a custom also carried out at the grave sites of all deceased U.S. presidents on their birthdays. Lincoln's tomb is located in Springfield, Illinois.”

Known as the “Great Emancipator”, Lincoln began his political career at age 23, with no real qualifications and a very limited formal education when he ran for his first Illinois political office. He failed in his first political campaign for the state legislature, but two years later gained a seat as a member of the Whig Party.

In 1856 he joined the newly formed Republican Party; two years later he ran for the U.S. Senate, making a name for himself. By 1860 he became the first Republican to win a presidential election.

“Tact is the ability to describe others as they see themselves.”
Abraham Lincoln

Photos of Abraham Lincoln: top photo is the Kaplan Daguerrotype considered to be the earliest known photo of Lincoln, middle photo is of Lincoln as an Illinois state legislator, bottom photo is of Lincoln in later life as the 16th President of the United States.