

MARY CHESEBRO LEE
DETACHED TENT #23

<https://www.marychesebroleewi23.org>

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**SEPTEMBER 21, 2018
POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY**
Many Americans across the United States pause to remember the sacrifices and service of those who were prisoners of war (POW), as well as those who are missing in action (MIA), and their families. All military installations fly the National League of Families' POW/MIA flag, which symbolizes the nation's remembrance of those who were imprisoned while serving in conflicts and those who remain missing.

LET'S TOUR ANDERSONVILLE, HISTORIC CONFEDERATE PRISON

Commonly known as Andersonville, the military prison facility was officially named Camp Sumter, in honor of the county in which it was located. Construction of the camp began in early 1864 after the decision had been made to relocate Union prisoners to a more secure location. This decision was made because of the battles taking place near Richmond, VA where many prisoners were being held, and as a way to procure a greater food supply. Camp Sumter was only in operation for fourteen months, however, during that time 45,000 Union soldiers were imprisoned there, and nearly 13,000 died from disease, poor sanitation, malnutrition, overcrowding, or exposure. The prison site initially covered approximately 16 1/2 acres of land, which was enclosed by a fifteen foot high stockade wall. The prison was enlarged in June 1864 to 26 1/2 acres to compensate for overpopulation. The stockade was constructed in the shape of a parallelogram that was 1,620 feet long and 779 feet wide. Approximately 19 feet inside of the stockade wall was the "deadline," which the prisoners were not allowed to cross. If a prisoner stepped over the "deadline," the guards in the "pigeon roosts," which were roughly thirty yards, apart were allowed to shoot them. (Information obtained from the National Park Service)

Tent 23 will take a tour of the historic Confederate prison at their September meeting. Don't miss this exciting event made possible by the DUVCW Department of Georgia.



FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY

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



L-R, Sandy Stratmeyer, Chaplain, Nancy Braatz, Guard and Susan Fischbach, Senior Vice President are installed as officers.



WISCONSIN COMMANDER BRIAN McMANUS (left) AND DAVE DALEY(right)



With the resignation of Linda Tanner-Frietag as the Tent 23 Secretary, charter member, Barbara Shreves as volunteered to take her place. We thank Barbara for stepping up and Linda for her service to our order.

Tent 23 was fortunate to have our Brothers from the Colonel Hans Heg Camp 15 share the National SUVCW Last Soldier project at our August meeting. McManus detailed the history of the project which was launched in 2003. The goal of the Wisconsin camps is to recognize the “Last Union Civil War Soldier” buried in each of the 72 Wisconsin counties. At this time, they have placed commemorative plaques or markers at the gravesites of 10 soldiers while other camps have placed 8 markers. Tent 23 voted to purchase the commemorative markers for the counties of Rock and Jefferson to assist Camp 15. Research has been completed by Tent 23 regarding the “Last Soldiers” in each of these counties. John Dorn of Rock Co. passed away at the age of 96 and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery in Beloit. Christian Holzhueter of Jefferson Co. passed away at the age of 94 and is buried in the Krogville Cemetery in Lake Mills Township.

FRATERNITY, CHARITY AND LOYALTY

**SPECIAL THANKS GOES TO ANN DAY, JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF TENT 23!
Day donated and placed a plaque for Al Croker who was the Last Soldier of Vilas County.**

YOUR ATTENDANCE IS REQUESTED AT THE DEDICATION OF TWO HEADSTONES HONORING CIVIL WAR VETERANS ON SEPTEMBER 29TH AT 2:00 pm
The dedication will take place at the cemetery located at 3000 E. Norwich Avenue in Saint Francis, WI. The St. Francis Historical Society has requested an Honor Guard and wreath laying for this event.



OUR WISCONSIN CIVIL WAR HISTORY

Often forgotten, are the Native American soldiers who fought in the Civil War. In 1863 the Enlistment Act allowed for all non-whites to enlist in the Union Army. Following the passage of this Act, many Native Americans enlisted while many others waited until 1864 when they were actively recruited by the Union Army and the enlistment bounty increased to \$300.

The Native American population in Wisconsin included the Menominee, Ojibway, Potawatomi and Ho-Chunk tribes as well as the Oneidas, Stockbridge-Munsee and the Brothertown tribes who migrated from New York after being forced out of the east.

It is estimated that 500-600 Native Americans from Wisconsin joined the Union Army, more from Wisconsin than any other state or territory. While little is known about their service which was undocumented by the US Government, the tribes themselves kept accounts and records.

As an example of the meticulous records kept, 141 Menominee volunteered with the Co. K of the 37th Wisconsin. While they frequently participated in their native drum and warrior dances within the Union camps, they also included their fellow white servicemen in the rituals. At Vicksburg, the skilled Menominees were exceptional sharpshooters protecting the Union troops assigned to dig trenches within yards of the opposing troops.

The roles played by Native Americans in the Civil War included those who became elite sharpshooters because of their rifle skills and uncanny visual acuity. Others were guides and interpreters. Because of their fearlessness unknown among white soldiers, others engaged in guerilla warfare against the Confederacy. Still others were recruited for their hunting and horsemanship skills making them good candidates for the cavalry.

It is up to us as "Daughters" to learn the history that has been left out so that the Native American soldiers, their stories and service to our country are not forgotten!

Refreshments for the September meeting will be provided by
Sandy Stratmeyer and Kathy Willemsen