

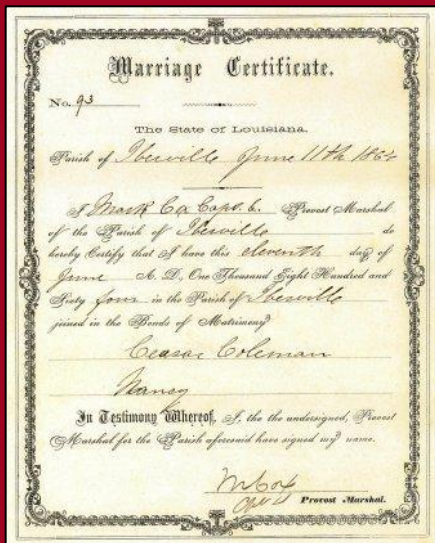
MARY CHESEBRO LEE DETACHED TENT #23

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wimclduv/

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

FEBRUARY: THE MONTH OF LOVE

Being one of our Tent's quiet non-meeting winter months, there isn't much news or events to report. In honor of Valentine's Day, this month the newsletter will be about Civil War weddings & marriages.



Civil War marriage certificate
(<http://news.blogs.lib.lsu.edu/2014/02/13/love-is-a-battlefield-courtship-and-marriage-in-the-civil-war/>)



MARCH SPEAKER AND VIP GUEST

Our Tent will be welcoming back Mike Wozny, the Commander of GAR Post #8 as our featured speaker in March. This year marks the 150th anniversary of the founding of the GAR by our Civil War ancestors, and Mike will be relating its history and the impact of the organization on Wisconsin. Our Tent was honored to have Mike as our guest speaker for our October 2013 meeting as well, during which he described the contributions of Wisconsin in the Civil War (see November 2013 newsletter on our website for an article about his speech).

Our National President, Sally Redinger, will be attending our Tent meeting in March as well. Sally is from Michigan and will be presiding at the National Convention this summer in Springfield. Her interest in the Civil War began as a child when visiting Civil War battlefields with her father, a history teacher. She has two Civil War ancestors.



Mike Wozny
Commander GAR Post #8



Sally Redinger
DUVCW National President

FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY

The next meeting of Tent #23 will held at
The Delavan Community Centre at 6:30pm
on Tuesday, March 22, 2016

CIVIL WAR ERA WEDDING ATTIRE

“Formal weddings during this period were all white, including the bridesmaid’s dresses and veils. Veils were attached to a coronet of flowers, usually orange blossoms for the bride and roses or other in-season flowers for the attendants. The bride’s accessories included: short white kid gloves, hanky embroidered with her maiden name initials, silk stockings embroidered up the front, and flat shoes decorated with bows or ribbons at the instep...The American Frontier bride of the 1850s and 60s usually chose cambric, wool, or linen dresses in a variety of colors. Few wore white, as the dress was used later for special events and church. Many had a worm, colorful shawl in paisley or plaid which draped her shoulders at the wedding. The shawl was then used for christenings, social events and an extra blanket in winter. A warm shawl was more cherished than a wedding dress...

“By 1865, men’s coats were tailored with a special “flower-hole” for this purpose. His waistcoat was white, and his trousers of lavender doeskin. Black was out of the question. The best man and groomsmen wore frock coats also, but in a more subdued tone. The American frontier groom wore a flower on the lapel of his best suit, using whatever was in the bride’s bouquet.” (*Information from “The Victorian Wedding: Part One – Preparation”* <http://www.literary-liaisons.com/article003.html>)



“Fashions of the 1860s include square paisley shawls folded on the diagonal and full skirts held out by crinolines. Auguste Toulmouche's Reluctant Bride of 1866 (*above*) wears white satin, and her friend tries on her bridal wreath of orange blossoms.”(*information and photo from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1860s_in_Western_fashion*)

1861 wedding dress.
Photo (*right*) from
<http://elainepcantrell.blogspot.com/2009/07/antebellum-and-civil-war-weddings.html>



Brides were superstitious about what day of the week they were married on, and they never married on Sundays. This poem about the day chosen for a wedding was popular:

Marry on Monday for health,
Tuesday for wealth,

Wednesday the best day of all,
Thursday for crosses,

Friday for losses, and
Saturday for no luck at all.

The color of the bride’s gown was thought to predict the rest of her life, as reflected in this poem:

White--chosen right
Blue--love will be true
Yellow--ashamed of her fellow
Red--wish herself dead

Black--wish herself back
Grey--travel far away
Pink--of you he'll always think
Green--ashamed to be seen

CIVIL WAR POUND CAKE

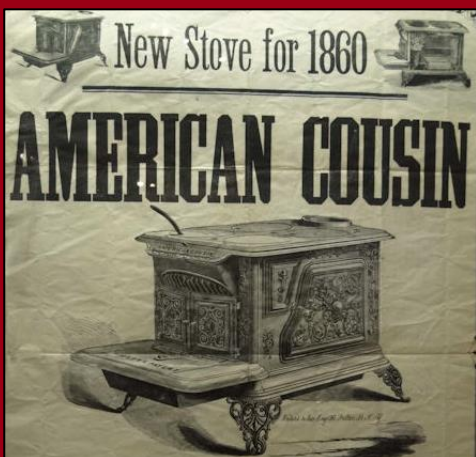
(Modernized recipe for a cake for a homecoming or wedding party)

- 2 cups butter, softened
- 2 cups sugar
- 9 whole eggs
- 4 cups flour
- 1 pinch salt
- Lemon peel, grated
- Nutmeg, grated
- ½ cup brandy

Mix the butter and sugar together well and beat in the eggs. Sift the flour and salt together and mix in to the butter mixture until thoroughly blended. Add the lemon peel, nutmeg, and brandy; mix well and pour into two small buttered loaf pans or one large one. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. (from *Cooks.com*)

ALMOND ICING FOR A BRIDE CAKE (1860)

Beat the whites of three eggs to a strong froth, beat a pound of almonds very fine with rose-water, mix them, with the eggs, lightly together; put in by degrees a pound of common loaf-sugar in powder. When the cake is baked enough, take it out, and lay on the icing, then put it in to brown. (from *Civil War Recipes: Receipts from the Pages of Godey's Lady's Book*)



CIVIL WAR MAY-DECEMBER MARRIAGES

There are still a handful of Real Daughters alive today, but have you ever wondered about the Civil War widows? Believe it or not, because of May-December marriages, there were Civil War widows living in the 21st century!

“The last-known Union widow, Gertrude Janeway, died in Jan. 2003 in Tennessee. John Janeway joined the Union army in 1864 and was briefly a POW at Andersonville. The couple married in 1927, after waiting three years until Gertrude turned 18. John was 81. [81-18=63]

“The person thought to be the last-known Confederate widow, Alberta Martin, was born Dec. 4, 1906, and died at age 97 in Alabama on May 31, 2004. In 1927, at age 21, she married William Jasper Martin, then 81. Martin joined the Confederate army in May 1864. Upon her husband’s death, she married his grandson from his first marriage. [81-21=60]

“The publicity surrounding Alberta Martin’s death prompted relatives of Maudie Celia Hopkins of Arkansas to reveal that the 89-year-old was in fact the last Civil War widow. Hopkins married 86-year-old William Cantrell on Feb. 2, 1934, when she was 19. She did so to escape poverty, but kept quiet about the unusual marriage, ‘I thought people would gossip about it.’ Cantrell, who served in the Virginia Infantry, supported her with his Confederate pension of ‘\$25 every two or three months’ until his death in 1937. Hopkins has outlived three other husbands. [86-19=67]” (information from <http://boards.straightdope.com/sdmb/showthread.php?t=290293>)

Gertrude Janeway, holding a picture of herself and her husband John; she married her husband at age 18 when he was 81.



Photo from: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2296995/Child-Civil-War-veteran-STILL-receiving-soldiers-pension-nearly-150-YEARS-conflict-ended.html#ixzz3zAQU6TWm>

It wasn't until the 1870s that central heating became commonplace and radiators replaced heating stoves such as the one to the left. Heating stoves were used just for heating rooms, not cooking. Many were ornate, in accordance to the Victorian belief that functional items should also be decorative. (from <http://passionforthepast.blogspot.com/2013/04/heating-stoves-and-wall-pockets-items.html>)