

MARY CHESEBRO LEE

DETACHED TENT #23

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wimclduv/

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



JEWELRY DESIGNER TO SPEAK AT JULY MEETING

The July program will be on Victorian jewelry given by Mrs. Terry Arliskas, a well-known jewelry designer. According to their profile on Etsy, she and her husband Tom “specialize in original Victorian era jewelry including brooches, earrings, necklaces, bracelets, and also...some lovely Georgian and Edwardian era pieces, too. Also some vintage costume jewelry just because it’s so much fun... We have been studying the material culture of the 19th century for years – we’ve done the research on all of our items for you!”

Shown above are samples of the jewelry shown on their Etsy website, <https://www.etsy.com/shop/victoriansentiments>.

TENT #23 HONORS WOMAN VETERAN

Sister Susan Fallon, our Junior Vice President, was honored at a recent meeting when she was presented with a DUVCW “Woman Veteran Medal” by Tent 23 in honor of her service to our country. Susan served in the Air Force with the military rank of “AB”. She was with the National Guard out of Milwaukee from 1990-91.



FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY

The next meeting of Tent #23 will held at the
Delavan Community Centre at
6:30pm on Tuesday, July 28, 2015

BASEBALL & THE SOLDIERS HOME

Authors and sisters Hilda and Emily Demuth entertained and informed our Tent about the Civil War, baseball, and the West Side Soldiers Aid Society. Although they have co-authored several books, they focused on *Hattie's War*, about a young girl growing up in Milwaukee during the Civil War. Hattie Bigelow was a real girl, as were many of the characters in the story.

Hattie was fascinated by the new sport of baseball, which was considered a gentleman's game at the time since only the wealthy could afford to take an afternoon off to play. A boarder in the Bigelow house, an attorney named Mr. Jenkins, is based on a real attorney who founded the first Milwaukee baseball club, the Milwaukee Cream Citys. Hattie is upset at first when her yard, in which she plays baseball with friends, is torn up to make room for a vegetable garden and she is forced to spend hours tending it. Eventually she comes to realize that the food she is growing playing an important role in helping soldiers and their families.

Hattie's friend Charlie Moores was based on an actual drummer boy in the 39th Wisconsin Regiment, one of the Hundred Days regiments formed to hopefully end the war in 100 days. These regiments encouraged people to serve who did not want to sign up for years, and also allowed students like Charlie to serve as well.

As part of the WSSAS, Hattie's mother was involved in hosting benefits, raising money, and feeding soldiers' families who were destitute. Although they had been renting rooms and a storefront to take care of returning soldiers coming through Milwaukee, the women of WSSAS decided that a permanent home was needed for soldiers in Milwaukee, and got state legislation passed to hold a Soldiers Home Fair to raise money for the home. The fair was a huge success, with Old Abe as a star attraction, a Delphic Oracle where fortunes were told, Jacob's Hall where pretty girls served lemonade, and a dining hall where every soldier was fed. It was a celebration of the end of the war, and extended an extra week because it was so successful. It raised over \$100,000, allowing the Soldiers Home to be built. Wisconsin was at the forefront of soldier care, and eventually Milwaukee was chosen as one of three National Soldiers Homes.

Emily and Hilda had souvenirs, flyers, and photos from the 1865 Soldiers Home Fair as well as a baseball covered with a single piece of leather with a "lemon peel stitch" like what would have been used in Hattie's day. During the war, soldiers at camp would wrap walnuts with rags and cover them in leather to make balls, and carve bats from sticks. Many Wisconsin and Midwestern regiments learned baseball from eastern regiments during the war, as baseball was quite popular out east. It was because of the Civil War that the game became so popular.



(left to right) Hilda Demuth playing Civil War songs on a recorder, Emily Demuth explaining the role of the West Side Soldiers Aid Society, The Soldiers Fair Building (photo from http://blog.preservationnation.org/2013/03/15/women-in-preservation-how-the-west-side-soldiers-aid-society-paved-the-way-for-the-milwaukee-va-soldiers-home/#.VZk_PPIViko)

GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC ENCAMPMENT

The Grand Army of the Republic Post #8 of senior reenactors camped out the weekend of June 27/28 at the Walworth County Historical Society. In addition to Post #8, members of the Cordelia Harvey Tent #21 set up a civilian camp. Tent #23 contributed to the weekend by serving Saturday evening dinner and Sunday morning breakfast to the “veterans”. Commander Mike Wozny built a diorama entitled “The Road to Richmond” which contained over 2000 hand-painted soldiers that he has been working on for a lifetime. The event included a scavenger hunt for children who were able to familiarize themselves with Civil War vocabulary and equipment as they searched the camp-sites for items on their lists. Sunday afternoon, Tents 21 and 23 hosted a well-attended fashion show exhibiting styles from the settlement of Walworth County in 1836 through 1914.



(Clockwise from top right): Charlene Staples in a Civil War era day dress and bonnet; Laurie Shawhan doing Swedish Embroidery on huck towels, a Civil War era past time shared by women who sent these items with their loved ones leaving for service; Civil War era ball gown modeled, designed and sewn by Virginia Temme; Pat Blackmer, Rogene Moore, Virginia Temme, Laurie Shawhan.