

JULY 2014

# DAUGHTERS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR, 1861- 1865

VOLUME #3 ISSUE #7

## MARY CHESEBRO LEE DETACHED TENT #23

[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wimclduv/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wimclduv/)

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

### WCHS ENCAMPMENT

Mike Wozny has indicated that there will be between 30-40 people camping the weekend of the 12th at the Walworth County Historical Society. On Saturday we are serving at 6:00 pm and will begin cooking at 5:00pm. On Sunday we are serving breakfast at 9:00 am and would want to get underway with set-up at 8:00 am.

A huge thank you to everyone who has volunteered to provide food for this event!

**Saturday:** Charlene Staples, Marilyn Traver, Pat Blackmer, Barbara Stuerer, Sandy Stratmeyer, Pam Wanazek, Shirley Peterson, Barbara Hale

**Sunday:** Judy Manning, Pam Wanasek, Ann Day, Zoe Woelky, Pat Blackmer



### NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

At our June meeting, we elected new officers. They will serve for two years, until May 2016. Congratulations to our new board!

President Charlene Staples

Sr. Vice President: Ann Day

Jr. Vice President: Susan Fallon

Co-Chaplains: Shirley Peterson and Zoe Woelky

Treasurer: Sandy Stratmeyer

Patriotic Instructor: Barbara Shreves

Counsel: Susan Fischbach and Barbara Steurer

Secretary/Newsletter Editor: Pam Johnson

Historian: Mary Winchowky

Guard/Webmaster: Martha Hay

Guide: Ila McErlean



### FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY

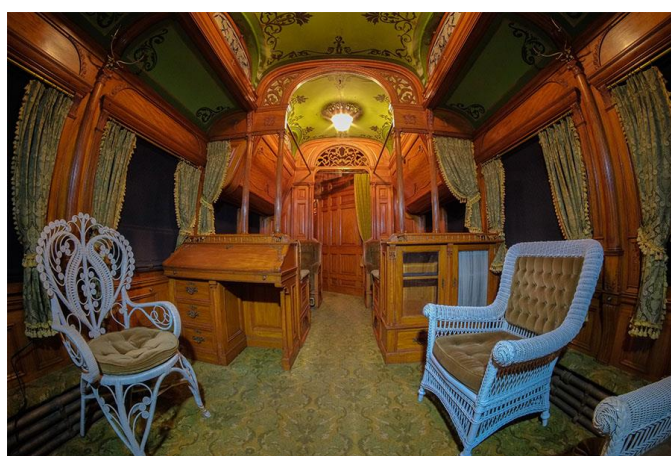
The next meeting of Tent #23 will be held at  
6:30pm on Tuesday, July 22, 2014  
at the Delavan Community Centre

Refreshments will be provided by Barbara Steurer and ?



### THE 2015 LINCOLN FUNERAL TRAIN

In April, Pat traveled to Indianapolis for a train excursion pulled by the Leviathan 63 (below left), the full-size replica engine that will be pulling the 2015 Lincoln Funeral Train from Washington D.C. to Springfield, Illinois. Passengers rode on Henry Flagler's private rail car from the 1880's (below right). Each ticket was also an entry into a raffle for the opportunity to ride in the Leviathan itself; Pat was the lucky winner and got to ring the bell at every railroad crossing! (*Leviathan picture from <http://www.dispatch.com/content/stories/local/2014/04/07/replica-of-lincoln-funeral-train-engine-to-stop-at-statehouse.html#> and Flagler car picture from <http://itm.org/event/steam-in-central-indiana-an-outing-with-leviathan-63-and-private-car-fec-90/>*)



### THE WESTSIDE SOLDIERS AID SOCIETY SANITARY FAIR

Charlene Staples reported on the Kenosha's Civil War Museum's annual Salute to Freedom event in June, which included a soldier's aid fair, also known as a "Sanitary Fair," put on by the Westside Soldiers Aid Society of Milwaukee. Sanitary Fairs were fundraising events to benefit veterans in the Civil War. The name "sanitary fair" came from nurses in the war who were part of the sanitary commission. Because of the number of soldiers that became sick from dysentery and other diseases, the sanitary commission was formed to make sure regulations were followed for latrines and other sanitary measures. At the Milwaukee fair in June, over \$700 was raised to benefit today's veterans. Kids got 10 free tokens to start with to spend on booths and displays including a fortune teller booth that handed out fortunes on small cards.

Sandy Stratmeyer attended "A Soldier's Reasonable Service" at Trinity Free Lutheran Church in Janesville on June 15. Modeled after actual sermons delivered during the Civil War, it was prepared by Chaplain Services of the 42<sup>nd</sup> PA Vol. Inf. Co. B and included a violinist playing old tunes. It was done in the old King James version and included a Confession of Sin covering all 10 Commandments.

The Kenosha Civil War Museum will be hosting many interesting events this summer, including "A Soldier's Life" on Saturdays, 7/19, 8/16, and 9/20 from noon-4pm; a Museum Crawl in conjunction with the Dinosaur Discovery Museum & Kenosha Public Museum on Friday, 7/18 from 6pm-10pm; "Mr. Lincoln's Air Force: Civil War Ballooning on Both Sides of the Line" on Tuesday, 8/26 at 5:30pm, and the 7th Annual Civil War Forum – 1864: Hard and Total War on Saturday, 9/13 from 8:30am-3:30pm. For more information please visit <http://www.kenosha.org/wp-civilwar/events/>



## NEWEST MEMBER VIRGINIA SEICK INDUCTED AT JUNE MEETING

A Williams Bay resident in the summer and Florida resident in the winter, Virginia was back in Wisconsin for the June meeting during which she was formally inducted into Detached Tent #23. Welcome, Virginia!



## COINS LEFT ON TOMBSTONES

Have you ever visited a cemetery and seen coins on a tombstone only to wonder what was the meaning behind that gesture? They are left on the headstones of people who have given their lives while serving in the armed forces as a sign to the family that someone has visited the grave to pay respect. Different coins have different meanings.

A penny just indicates that you visited the grave.

A nickel shows that you were at boot camp together.

A dime is a sign that you served together.

A quarter means you were with the soldier when he was killed.

So what happens to the money left at the gravesites? In national cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries it is collected and applied toward maintaining the cemetery or for burial costs of indigent veterans.

Although the practice of leaving coins on the graves of soldiers goes back to the Roman Empire, the practice of leaving coins at gravesites in the U.S. became common during the Vietnam War. It was a way to communicate to the deceased's family that you had visited the grave without directly contacting the soldier's family, thus avoiding a potential argument about the unpopular war.

*(Thanks to Sandy Stratmeyer for sharing an anonymous article someone had emailed her about the significance of tombstone coins.)*



“You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.”  
~ Abraham Lincoln

“The things I want to know are in books; my best friend is the man who'll get me a book I ain't read.” ~ Abraham Lincoln