

MARY CHESEBRO LEE  
DETACHED TENT #23[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wimclduv/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wimclduv/)IN MEMORY OF  
SISTER GWEN DWYER

We are saddened at the loss of our new sister, Gwendlyn Dwyer who passed away Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2013. She was the cousin of Pam Wanasak, Judy Manning, Zoe Woelky, Tonya Crowell, Amber Lazzaroni, Kaitland and Kelsey Woelky and Ginny Williams. Our Tent extends its deepest sympathies to her family. Gwen graduated from Lake Geneva High School in the Class of 1953, and was employed at the Wisconsin Telephone Co. and Ameritech for 40 years, retiring in 1994. She was a member of the Springfield Union Cemetery Board and served as their secretary. She was also the secretary for the Walworth Co. Cemetery Board, a Girl Scout Leader, 4H Leader, Neighborhood watch chairman, CWA Union Steward, Tela Care, Telephone Pioneers, Avid Packer Fan and Bird Watcher. (from her obituary which was prepared by the Steinke Funeral Home of Lake Geneva)

FATHER ABRAM RYAN  
“POET LAUREATE OF THE CONFEDERACY”

Contributed by Pat Blackmer

Travels in the south are always interesting and educational and this year took me to Mobile, AL where I toured the historic Portier House which was the residence of the Catholic Bishop of Mobile from 1854-1906. It was at this site that I learned of Abram Ryan, the “Poet Laureate of the Confederacy”. Father Abram Ryan, born in Hagerstown, MD in 1838 was the son of Irish immigrants. Educated in private schools in St. Louis, MO he was ordained a priest by the Arch Bishop of St. Louis in 1860. During the Civil War, Ryan assumed the role of a freelance chaplain ministering to Confederate troops throughout the country. In 1865, touched by the spirit of the Confederacy and its ultimate martyrdom, he penned and published his most famous poem, “The Conquered Banner”.

Furl the banner, softly, slowly!  
Treat it gently – it is holy-  
For it droops above the dead  
Touch it not – unfold it never,  
Let it droop there furled forever,  
For its people’s hopes are dead!

by Abram Ryan



**Don’t miss our March meeting, where Patriotic Instructor Barbara Shreves will be presenting a program on Civil War Poets.**

FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY

The next meeting of Detached Tent #23  
will be held at 6:30pm on March 26, 2013  
at the Delavan Community Centre

## OLD ABE: CIVIL WAR MASCOT

In 1861 a young bald eagle was captured by a Flambeau Indian named Chief Sky. It was traded to a farmer, Dan McCann, for a bushel of corn. After it bit Dan's sister he gave the eagle to Captain Perkins, who was organizing Company C for the 8<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin Regiment. When the boys went to Madison to be mustered in, they tied a red, white, and blue ribbon around the eagle's neck and it was sworn in, too! They christened him "Old Abe", and he became their mascot. The 8<sup>th</sup> Regiment then became known as the Eagle Regiment. His nickname was "Yankee Buzzard", and he accompanied them through 21 battles. He was never wounded; however his tail feathers were shot off twice. They kept him tied to a perch with a five foot cord while in battle, except during the battle of Corinth, Mississippi when a rebel bullet severed the cord. He took flight over the enemy and the Wisconsin soldiers thought they had lost him. However, as when they allowed him to fly free at camp, he came back and was retied to his perch.

Even though many of the men re-enlisted after the regiment's three year period of enlistment was up, Old Abe was taken to Madison where he remained for the rest of the war. When the soldiers returned to be mustered out, they found that Old Abe was well-known and valuable; P.T. Barnum had offered \$20,000 for him. Instead of selling him, they gave him to the State of Wisconsin. He lived at the state capitol for 17 years, attended all the soldiers' reunions, and was always at the head of the parade with the flag and General Grant. Old Abe travelled all over the country to many events and fairs, and helped raise funds for the Soldiers' Home in Milwaukee. He was a "cheerleader" at the Republican Convention in Chicago when General Grant was nominated for president. His keeper jerked his cord just as Grant's name was mentioned, which caused Old Abe to screech and flap his wings, which in turn started the crowd cheering.

In 1881, when Old Abe was 20 years old, a fire broke out in the basement of the capitol where he was kept. His screeches saved the building, but the effect of the smoke led to his death shortly thereafter. Flags flew at half-mast. His body was mounted for display at the capitol until a second fire broke out several years later, destroying the building.

*(condensed from "The Story of Old Abe", a booklet written by Madeline Favell King, at the Walworth County Historical Society)*



Right: Old Abe on cannon at the Capitol Building, circa 1875. Left: Old Abe and color guard at Vicksburg, July 1863

*(pictures from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old\\_Abe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Abe))*



"The 8th Wisconsin initially mustered 870 men and later recruited an additional 333 men, for a total of 1,203 men. The regiment lost 2 officers and 53 enlisted men killed in action or who later died of their wounds, plus another 2 officers and 219 enlisted men who died of disease, for a total of 280 fatalities."

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/8th\\_Wisconsin\\_Volunteer\\_Infantry\\_Regiment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/8th_Wisconsin_Volunteer_Infantry_Regiment)



The insignia of the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division, known as the "Screaming Eagles", is a depiction of Old Abe. Wisconsin was the territory of the original 101st Division after World War I. The 101<sup>st</sup> is a U.S. Army modular light infantry division trained for air assault operations.

*([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/101st\\_Airborne\\_Division](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/101st_Airborne_Division) and [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old\\_Abe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Abe))*

## DETACHED TENT #23

## ATTEND A RE-ENACTMENT THIS SUMMER

### *Civil War Wisconsin, Old World Wisconsin, Eagle – Aug. 1-30*

Experience the profound impact the Civil War had on Wisconsin's soldiers and civilians as you explore life on the home front, in the camps and on the battlefield.

### *21<sup>st</sup> Annual Muskets & Memories Civil War Era Reenactment and GAR Heritage Encampment, Boscobel – Aug. 2-4*

Activities include a ladies garden party, fashion show, ball, pie social, children's activities, band concerts, church service, first person impressions, medical history demonstrations, workshops, sutlers vending period goods and garments. Guided tours of the Union, Confederate and civilian camps, military drills, and, of course, the popular battle reenactments involving over 1,000 participants.

### *23<sup>rd</sup> Civil War Weekend, Wade House, Greenbush – Sept. 29-30*

Two action-filled days of battle reenactments involving more than 500 re-enactors, military drills, medical care situations, period music and food, demonstrations, and more. Each year features a different historic scenario crucial to the outcome of the war.

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE: CIVIL WAR TRIVIA

- Mrs. Lincoln: \_\_\_\_\_  
 The number of Allied Orders \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location of the 2013 DUVCW Nat'l Convention \_\_\_\_\_  
 Battle with the most casualties in the Civil War \_\_\_\_\_  
 Observance in April at Lincoln's Tomb: Lincoln's \_\_\_\_\_  
 West Point graduate and Confederate general: Braxton \_\_\_\_\_  
 Month of Lincoln's death \_\_\_\_\_  
 Month of Lincoln's birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name used by Confederates for Bull Run \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bugle call played at lights out and military funerals \_\_\_\_\_  
 Southern name for peanuts: \_\_\_\_\_ peas  
 Confederate President \_\_\_\_\_  
 The states that seceded were called the \_\_\_\_\_ States of America  
 Another name for the North \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location of Camp Sumter, a Confederate prison in Georgia \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name for an armored warship used in the Civil War \_\_\_\_\_  
 Union armored warship designed by Swedish engineer John Ericsson \_\_\_\_\_  
 State where Lincoln was born \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lincoln served as captain during this war in 1832 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Political party Lincoln originally belonged to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Number of children that Lincoln had \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lincoln challenged this Senator in 7 famous debates \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lincoln's Sec. of State & organized the purchase of Alaska, William \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lincoln's assassin: John Wilkes \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location where Lincoln was assassinated \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location of the DUVCW museum \_\_\_\_\_  
 The only one of Lincoln's children to survive to adulthood \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nickname of Lincoln's son who died in the White House in 1862 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lincoln's VP during his 1<sup>st</sup> term: Hannibal \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lincoln's VP during his 2<sup>nd</sup> term, who became our 17<sup>th</sup> President when Lincoln was  
 assassinated: Andrew \_\_\_\_\_  
 1<sup>st</sup> Civil War battle (also known as Manassas); where Thomas Jackson earned his  
 nickname "Stonewall" \_\_\_\_\_  
 Two day battle in early April 1862 in Tennessee with over 23,000 casualties \_\_\_\_\_  
 Union general who became our 18<sup>th</sup> President: Ulysses S. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Union general who organized the Army of the Potomac, and later relieved of his  
 command by Lincoln: George B. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Union general known for his March to the Sea: William Tecumseh \_\_\_\_\_  
 Confederate general who surrendered at the Appomattox Court House: Robert E. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Confederate general defeated at the Battle of Nashville: John Bell \_\_\_\_\_

(answers in next month's newsletter)

On March 3, 1863, Congress passed the Enrollment Act (also called the Conscription Act) calling for all able-bodied male citizens between 20 and 45 years old to enlist for a period of 3 years, but also exempted those who paid \$300 or provided a substitute.

## Mark Your Calendars! Genealogy Workshop

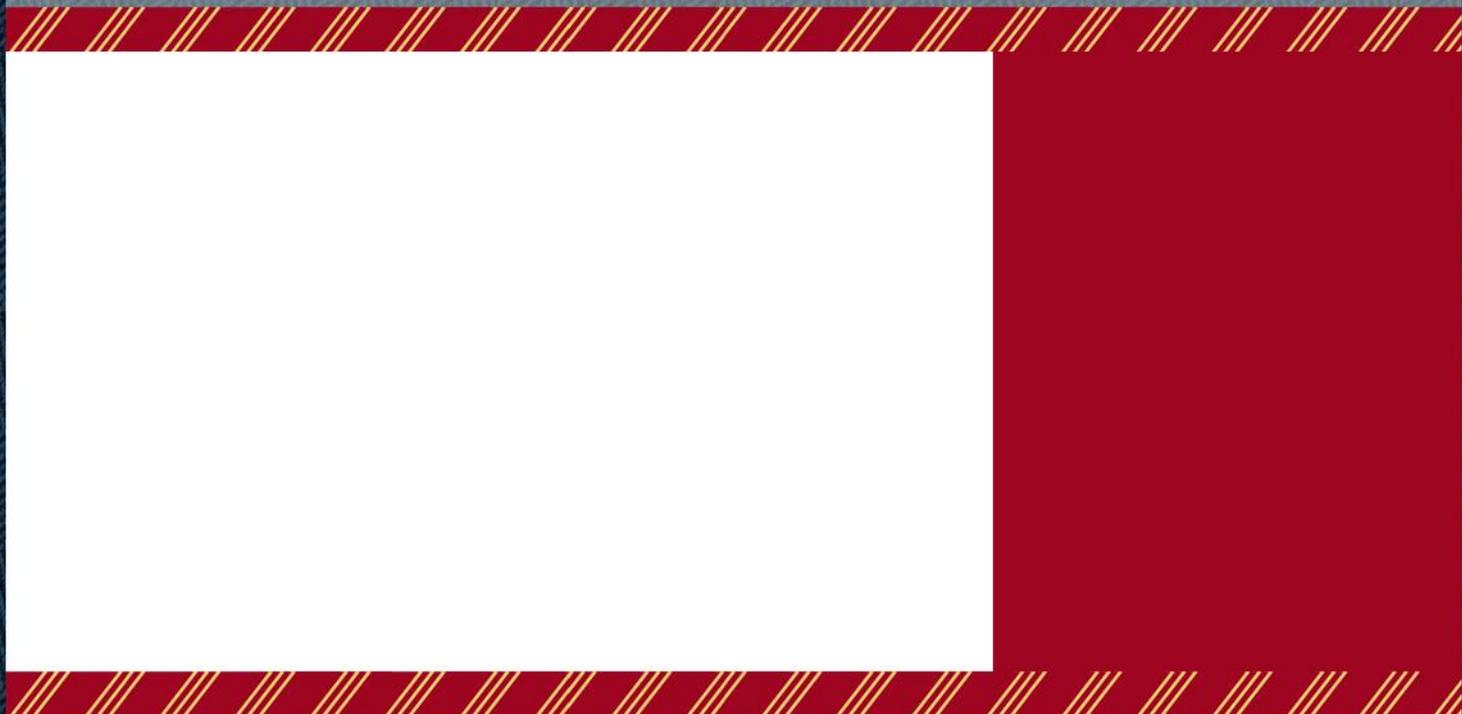
The Walworth County Genealogy Society is offering a Genealogy Workshop at 1:00 pm on Tuesday, March 5th at the Delavan Community Centre free of charge. Offered at the workshop will be basic to advanced genealogy research "how to's", accessing Civil War service records, etc.

MARCH 2013

# MARY CHESEBRO LEE

VOLUME #2 ISSUE #3

## DETACHED TENT #23



**MARY CHESEBRO LEE, DETACHED TENT #23**  
**Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War 1861-1865**

**FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY**