

# MARY CHESEBRO LEE DETACHED TENT #23

<https://www.marychesebroleewi23.org>

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Kari Klebba, Director of the Milton House Museum which is featured below. Photos courtesy of the Milton Courier



## MILTON HOUSE DIRECTOR, KARI KLEBBA TO SPEAK ABOUT THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN MAY

Have you ever wanted to know more about the “Underground Railroad”? Do we have your interest piqued? The Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Mary Chesebro Lee, Detached Tent #23 invite the public to attend a program presented by Kari Klebba, Director of the Milton House Museum on Tuesday, May 28 at 7:00 pm at the Town Community Centre located at 826 East Geneva Street (Hwy 50) in Delavan. Join us for this exciting and informative event!

Klebba who is the Executive Director of the Milton Historical Society is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater where she received a degree in public history. She began working as the Director of the Milton House Museum in 2015 where she has initiated multiple preservation projects and increased community programming.

The Milton House Museum is the last certified Underground Railroad Station in Wisconsin and the only National Historic Landmark in Rock County. The 1844 Stagecoach Inn operated by John Goodrich was a successful part of the Underground Railroad helping people escape slavery from 1845-the mid 1860's.

Wisconsin has always been known as a firm abolitionist state and supportive of fugitives escaping slavery. Klebba will share their perilous journeys to freedom which used secret routes and safe houses to escape to the northern states and Canada.

The Underground Railroad began its closure when President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 banning slavery in all Confederate states. The official end of the Underground Railroad occurred with the passage of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution abolishing slavery in the entire United States of America.



## FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY

The next meeting of Tent #23 will held at  
The Delavan Community Centre  
on Tuesday, May 28, 2019 at 6:30pm

### The History and Origin of Memorial Day in Waterloo, New York

The story of Memorial Day begins in the summer of 1865, when a prominent local druggist, Henry C. Welles, mentioned to some of his friends at a social gathering that while praising the living veterans of the Civil War it would be well to remember the patriotic dead by placing flowers on their graves. Nothing resulted from this suggestion until he advanced the idea again the following spring to General John B. Murray. Murray, a Civil War hero and intensely patriotic, supported the idea wholeheartedly and marshaled veterans' support. Plans were developed for a more complete celebration by a local citizens' committee headed by Welles and Murray.

On May 5, 1866, the Village was decorated with flags at half mast, draped with evergreens and mourning black. Veterans, civic societies and residents, led by General Murray, marched to the strains of martial music to the three village cemeteries. There impressive ceremonies were held and soldiers' graves decorated. One year later, on May 5, 1867, the ceremonies were repeated. In 1868, Waterloo joined with other communities in holding their observance on May 30th, in accordance with General Logan's orders. It has been held annually ever since.

Waterloo held the first formal, village wide, annual observance of a day dedicated to honoring the war dead. On March 7, 1966, the State of New York recognized Waterloo by a proclamation signed by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller. This was followed by recognition from Congress of the United States when the House of Representatives and the Senate unanimously passed House Concurrent Resolution 587 on May 17th and May 19th, 1966 respectively. This reads in part as follows: "Resolved that the Congress of the United States, in recognition of the patriotic tradition set in motion one hundred years ago in the Village of Waterloo, NY, does hereby officially recognize Waterloo, New York as the birthplace of Memorial Day..." (excerpt from the Waterloo, NY website) **Our DUVCW Past President, Caren Cleveland was instrumental in the development of the Waterloo Monument Memorial site commemorating Memorial Day.**



Above photos: Left photo depicts Waterloo, New York in 1866 Middle photo: A collage display of activities for the 2019 Memorial Day Celebration Right Photo: PNP Caren Cleveland at the Civil War Memorial in Waterloo, New York

**KEEP OUR ANCESTORS' MEMORIES GREEN BY CELEBRATING  
MEMORIAL DAY, May 27, 2019**

Delavan Parade: 9:00 am Spring Grove Cemetery Service and Wreath Laying: 10:00 am



### REMEMBERING OUR HEROES

**John Lincoln Clem (August 13, 1851 – May 13, 1937) was a United States Army general who served as a drummer boy in the Union Army in the American Civil War. He gained fame for his bravery on the battlefield, becoming the youngest noncommissioned officer in Army history. He retired from the U.S. Army in 1915, having attained the rank of brigadier general in the Quartermaster Corps. He was the last veteran of the American Civil War still on duty in the U.S. Armed Forces. By special act of Congress on August 29, 1916, he was promoted to major general one year after his retirement.**

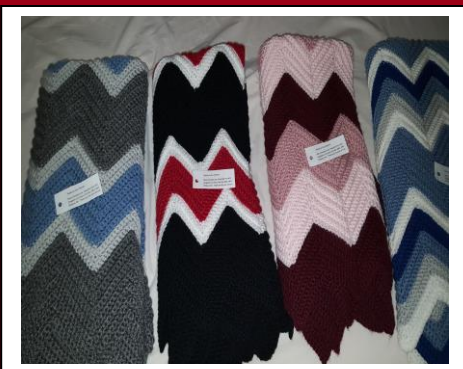
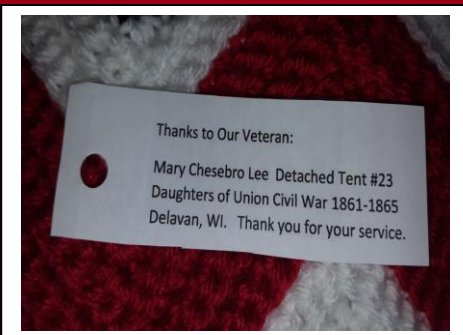
**Born in Newark, Ohio in 1851, Clem ran away from home after the death of his mother. He tried to enlist in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ohio Infantry but was rejected due to his age and small size. He was later adopted by the 22<sup>nd</sup> Michigan as a mascot and drummer boy. It was said that the soldiers of the 22<sup>nd</sup> chipped in money to pay him a salary of \$13.00 a month.**

**Clem served as a drummer boy for the 22<sup>nd</sup> Michigan at the Battle of Chickamauga. In 1863 he was captured in Georgia by Confederate cavalry men who confiscated his Union uniform and cap which had three bullet holes in it. After a prisoner exchange, the Confederates used his age and notoriety for propaganda purposes touting that the Yankees were in such dire straits that they had to send their children into war.**

**Clem died in San Antonio, Texas at the age of 85 on May 13, 1937. As the last veteran of the Civil War who was still on duty in the U.S. Armed Forces until his retirement in 1915, he was accorded the right to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.**

**(Thanks to Sister Barbara Hale for making us aware of Clem and to multiple resources that provided information on his life and career.)**

**Top Left: photo of Clem in uniform at the age of 12 years.**



**Tent #23 extends a very special thank you to Sister Linda Tanner-Frietag who knitted the lap blankets featured in the photo on the left and delivered them on our behalf to the King Veterans Home in April.**

**Thanks to Nancy Braatz and Susan Fischbach who are responsible for refreshments for our May Meeting**