

MARY CHESEBRO LEE

DETACHED TENT #23

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CIVIL WAR ANCESTORS: ONE MAN'S SEARCH & RESEARCH TIPS

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2015 7-9pm
Burlington Gateway Building
496 McCanna Pkwy, Burlington, WI

The public is invited to attend this educational workshop on Civil War genealogy. Members and visitors are invited to bring a short story, photos and/or documents about one or two of their own Civil War ancestors. Patrick Kulas will tell the story of genealogy hunting for his ancestor who fought in the Civil War and how, after almost 120 years, his great-grandfather finally got a headstone this year.

MILWAUKEE SOLDIERS HOME

In conjunction with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Milwaukee Preservation Alliance, an effort is being made to restore the Milwaukee Soldiers Home. Genell Schurell (*photo below*) who works for the National Trust was the guest speaker at our September meeting and related the history of the iconic campus as well as preservation efforts that have taken place and are planned for the future.

The Milwaukee Soldiers Home was established as a place for Civil War veterans in 1867. The complex was one of 11 National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers which was meant to be a

“recuperative haven for wounded veterans, especially for those whose condition might have proven too heavy a burden for their families”.

Today the Milwaukee Soldiers Home is one of three original soldiers homes left in the country. Its 90 acre historic campus also contains some of Milwaukee’s most stunning architecture and history dating back to the Civil War. Among the buildings that still exist from that era are the power plant, post office, library, theater, recreation hall, dining hall, chapel and lake as well as “Old Main”. Many of these impressive buildings are no longer in use and in some cases deemed unsafe to enter. (*continued on page 2*)



FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY

The next meeting of Tent #23 will held at the
Delavan Community Centre at
6:30pm on Tuesday, October 22, 2015

Refreshments will be provided by Nancy Braatz and Susan Fishbach

MILWAUKEE SOLDIERS HOME (*CONTINUED*)

Efforts are now in place to restore some of the main buildings. In the case of others, efforts are being made at least to save them. The campus was placed on the National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTPH) listing in 2012. It is considered as one of the “NTPH’s” eleven most endangered Public Places. The National Park Service has also designated the Milwaukee VA Soldiers Home as a National Landmark. This honor is the nation’s highest historical status.

If you are interested in viewing the Soldier’s Home historic campus you may take a walking tour of the area which is free. The tour is a wonderful way for interested individuals to learn more about the history of this wonderful place. You may download the walking tour to your Smartphone (download app on iTunes for iPhone users and Google Play for Android users) or by downloading the files from Amazon.com at <http://goo.gl/ARfEm> for your MP3 Player. (*Article by Pat Blackmer.*)



Clockwise from top left) Old Main, chapel, and theater today (images from: [http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~4074~470031:National-Soldiers-Home,-Milwaukee-C\).jsonline.com/blogs/entertainment/123858949.html](http://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~4074~470031:National-Soldiers-Home,-Milwaukee-C).jsonline.com/blogs/entertainment/123858949.html)). Old Main in 1878 (image from: <http://www>).

LINCOLN'S SUCCESSOR: ANDREW JOHNSON

“With the Assassination of Lincoln, the Presidency fell upon an old-fashioned southern Jacksonian Democrat of pronounced states' rights views. Although an honest and honorable man, Andrew Johnson was one of the most unfortunate of Presidents. Arrayed against him were the Radical Republicans in Congress, brilliantly led and ruthless in their tactics. Johnson was no match for them.

“Born in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1808, Johnson grew up in poverty. He was apprenticed to a tailor as a boy, but ran away. He opened a tailor shop in Greeneville, Tennessee, married Eliza McCordle, and participated in debates at the local academy. Entering politics, he became an adept stump speaker, championing the common man and vilifying the plantation aristocracy. As a Member of the House of Representatives and the Senate in the 1840's and '50's, he advocated a homestead bill to provide a free farm for the poor man.

“During the secession crisis, Johnson remained in the Senate even when Tennessee seceded, which made him a hero in the North and a traitor in the eyes of most Southerners. In 1862 President Lincoln appointed him Military Governor of Tennessee, and Johnson used the state as a laboratory for reconstruction. In 1864 the Republicans, contending that their National Union Party was for all loyal men, nominated Johnson, a Southerner and a Democrat, for Vice President.

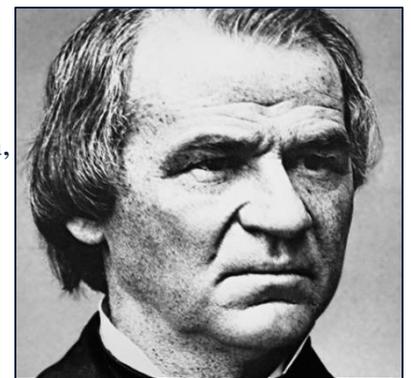
“After Lincoln's death, President Johnson proceeded to reconstruct the former Confederate States while Congress was not in session in 1865. He pardoned all who would take an oath of allegiance, but required leaders and men of wealth to obtain special Presidential pardons.

“By the time Congress met in December 1865, most southern states were reconstructed, slavery was being abolished, but "black codes" to regulate the freedmen were beginning to appear. Radical Republicans in Congress moved vigorously to change Johnson's program. They gained the support of northerners who were dismayed to see Southerners keeping many prewar leaders and imposing many prewar restrictions upon Negroes. The Radicals' first step was to refuse to seat any Senator or Representative from the old Confederacy. Next they passed measures dealing with the former slaves. Johnson vetoed the legislation. The Radicals mustered enough votes in Congress to pass legislation over his veto--the first time that Congress had overridden a President on an important bill. They passed the Civil Rights Act of 1866, which established Negroes as American citizens and forbade discrimination against them.

“A few months later Congress submitted to the states the Fourteenth Amendment, which specified that no state should "deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law." All the former Confederate States except Tennessee refused to ratify the amendment; further, there were two bloody race riots in the South. Speaking in the Middle West, Johnson faced hostile audiences. The Radical Republicans won an overwhelming victory in Congressional elections that fall.

“In March 1867, the Radicals effected their own plan of Reconstruction, again placing southern states under military rule. They passed laws placing restrictions upon the President. When Johnson allegedly violated one of these, the Tenure of Office Act, by dismissing Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, the House voted eleven articles of impeachment against him. He was tried by the Senate in the spring of 1868 and acquitted by one vote.

“In 1875, Tennessee returned Johnson to the Senate. He died a few months later.”



(Information from <https://www.whitehouse.gov/1600/presidents/andrewjohnson>. The Presidential biographies on WhiteHouse.gov are from "The Presidents of the United States of America," by Frank Freidel and Hugh Sidey. Copyright 2006 by the White House Historical Association.)