

MARY CHESEBRO LEE  
DETACHED TENT #23[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wimclduv/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wimclduv/)<https://www.facebook.com/duvcwmarylee>**JASON REINHOLTZ: CIVIL WAR "FOODIE"**

Jason Reinholtz, teacher, historian, re-enactor and Civil War foodie shared his knowledge of his favorite subject, "food". What did the Union soldier of the Civil War eat? If the men were involved in combat and on the march, they were issued field rations for a three day period. The soldier was responsible for carrying his own food which consisted of enough green coffee beans to have ½ cup of coffee each day, 30 pieces of hardtack and 3 pounds of bacon. The seasoned soldier knew that his issue of rations needed to last for the entire three days and was careful about his food consumption while the young soldier who most often was ravenously hungry gorged himself on days one and two and was ravenously hungry again on day three. It was a culinary experience for each soldier to prepare his coffee for consumption. Green beans were issued because they were cheap and easy to ship and store. The soldier would need to roast these beans prior to preparing his coffee. This was most often done in his fry pan over an open fire where the beans either burned or remained uncooked. The hardtack issued often was the brunt of jokes among the troop and in cases even saved lives because "it was so hard, it could stop a bullet". Baked from a recipe of flour, water and salt, the hardtack was virtually tasteless, yet provided needed carbohydrates for the troops. The bacon was either salted or smoked so in an emergency it could be consumed raw. Camp or winter rations were an entirely different story and issued from November to April/May when troops were no longer on the march but settled in for the winter months. A gourmand's delight, the soldiers were issued canned goods consisting of beans, peas, oysters, lobster or pork. Farina was a breakfast favorite and rice was a staple. Condiments consisted of molasses, vinegar and honey. While alcohol was for officers, the enlisted troops would sneak off to purchase it or distill it in their cabins. Napoleon once said, "an army marches on its stomach." Being better provisioned than our Confederate counterparts, who often went hungry, this quote rings true and ultimately contributed to the Union victory!

**FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY**

The next meeting of Tent #23 will held at  
The Delavan Community Centre  
on Tuesday, September 27, 2016 at 6:30pm



Antietam's Burnside Bridge, MD



Gettysburg Battlefield, PA



Wisconsin Monument at Vicksburg National Military Park, Mississippi purchased by the Wisconsin Grand Army of the Republic



Fort Sumter, South Carolina where the first shot of the Civil War was fired



Appomattox Court House, Virginia where Lee surrendered the war to Grant

### "LET'S CELEBRATE!"

"Let's celebrate" is always a welcome phrase. On August 25, 2016 the National Park Service celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. On August 25, 1916 President Woodrow Wilson signed an act creating the National Park Service which became a new federal bureau under the Department of the Interior to protect and serve 35 parks and monuments in the United States. Now the National Park Service has jurisdiction over nearly 400 areas in 50 states and US territories. The areas are of such great significance that they indeed justify Congressional protection and recognition.

The venture began on March 1, 1872 when Congress established Yellowstone as the first National Park. Since that time the United States has 58 National Parks in the system. There are 102 National Park units with battlefields. Of interest to the DUVCW are Civil War sites such as Fort Sumter where the first shot was fired, Antietam, Manassas, Vicksburg and Gettysburg, Shiloh, Richmond, Chattanooga and Chickamauga and Appomattox Court House where Lee surrendered.

The effort to preserve these sites by our country for use by our citizens for recreation, conservation and historic preservation is unequalled in the world. We are fortunate that our ancestors had the foresight to do this and we are responsible to insure that the same exists for our descendants to enjoy.

Take the time on your travels this year or next to enjoy one of our National Battlefields! My favorite is Vicksburg National Battlefield in Mississippi.

**President Andrew Johnson formally declared the end of the Civil War on August 20, 1866!**

Webster House, Elkhorn



East Troy Historical Society



Whitewater H



A photograph of the Delavan Historical Society was not available. The DHS is located at 633 Ann Street.

### HISTORICAL RESOURCES FOR CIVIL WAR INFORMATION

Walworth County is rich in resources regarding the Civil War. Our numerous historical societies and libraries offer a myriad of documents, photos and artifacts related to this era. The Walworth County Historical Society (WCHS) has a collection of letters and diaries written by county soldiers. In addition, the Webster House Museum has a room devoted to the Civil War which contains artifacts from the war as well as GAR and DUVCW memorabilia. The Delavan Historical Society (DHS) also contains GAR and DUVCW memorabilia within its collections. Interestingly enough, the Charter for the Mary Lee Tent (our precursor) is located there and on display as well as records from the Tent. The Maude Totten Collection located at DHS contains information on virtually every soldier who enlisted from the county. There is not another collection that can rival the research that this historian did. The East Troy Historical Society (EHS) has photos of their GAR post and original documents from the Women's Relief Corps. The Whitewater Historical Society displays an original battle flag from the war that was made by the women of Whitewater before their husbands marched off. The Fred Krege Room at the Irvin L. Young Library in Whitewater houses extensive research completed by Krege on Whitewater's involvement in the war. The room is accessible to the public. The Darien Public Library also displays a battle flag used by troops from the Darien/Allens Grove area. If you are looking for newspaper accounts on the war or obituaries of soldiers you may access the information from Whitewater and Delavan on line. The newspapers from those cities have been digitized. The Elkhorn Independent (Walworth County Independent) is on microfilm and soon to be digitized or the actual newspapers may be viewed at the WCHS. This also holds true for the East Troy Times whose hardbound copies are at the EHS. Other resources for research include the Area Research Center located in the Andersen Library at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. It is an invaluable resource for the beginner! The Walworth County Register of Deeds Office has the "Soldiers and Sailors" book which can be accessed. It contains relevant information on each soldier that enlisted from the county and is organized by name in alphabetical order. Now you know what you can do on that rainy day!

**FREE**

**Tri County Family History and Genealogy Fair**  
**Saturday, September 17, 2016 from 8:30 am – 3:30 pm**  
**Madrigano Auditorium at Gateway Technical Institute**  
**3320 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue Kenosha , Wisconsin**

**FREE**