

MARY CHESEBRO LEE
DETACHED TENT #23<https://www.marychesebroleewi23.org><https://www.facebook.com/duvcwmmarylee>

Tent 23 participated in the annual Walworth County Historical Society Christmas Tree Walk by decorating a tree with hand-made ornaments of 20 Union Civil War Generals.



Christmas in the American Civil War

By the mid-19th century, most of today's familiar Christmas traditions — Christmas carols, gift giving and tree decoration — were already in place. What was Christmas like during the Civil War?

Christmas in the American Civil War (1861–1865) was celebrated by both the United States and the Confederate States of America although the day did not become an official holiday until five years after the war ended. In 1870, Christmas became an official Federal holiday when President Ulysses S. Grant made it so in an attempt to unite north and south.

Carols, hymns, and seasonal songs were sung during the period, with some, such as "Deck the Halls", "Oh Come All Ye Faithful", and Mendelssohn's "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" (1840), still sung today. Although popular in Europe at the time, Christmas cards were scarce in the United States, and would not enjoy widespread use until the 1870s.

For children, Christmas was altered during the war. Presents were fewer, especially in the devastated South. In *We Were Marching on Christmas Day*, author Kevin Rawlings notes that some southern children worried about the Union blockade, and one little girl, Sallie Brock Putnam, plotted the course Santa Claus would have to take to avoid it. Sometimes fathers on both sides were allowed furlough, and children were said to react to their fathers as if seeing "near strangers". Excuses for a lack of Santa included Yankees having shot him.

Union soldiers, trying to make it look as much like Christmas as possible, would place a small tree up in front of their tent, decked with hard tack and salt pork, in lieu of cakes and oranges.

Many women, both north and south, spent their Christmases making clothes for soldiers, tending to the sick and wounded in hospitals, or preparing holiday food boxes for soldiers.

FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY

The next meeting of Tent #23 will held at
The Delavan Community Centre
on Tuesday, March 26, 2019 at 6:30pm

SANTA'S WORKSHOP MOVES TO DELAVAN, EMPLOYS TENT 23 ELVES TO ASSIST WITH HOLIDAY PREPARATIONS

The industrious "Sisters" of Tent 23 were busy at the November meeting wrapping multiple gifts for their Adopted Homeless Veteran (fondly referred to as Joe 14) while others packed 48 bags of Christmas candy for the "Housing 4 Our Vets" homeless shelter in Janesville. The Elves also prepared 193 Christmas cards for the Holiday for Heroes program sponsored by the American Red Cross. The Tent made a large monetary donation to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation's Veterans Shelter. Charlene Staples (Tent Co-President) and Ellen Holly who traveled to the reservation purchased needed hygiene supplies and food for the vets. (Photos below can only rival Santa's real workshop!)



Plan to attend the 49th Annual Patriotic Luncheon on Saturday, February 2, 2019
At 12:30 pm at Aliotos Restaurant
Guest Speaker: Mary Todd Lincoln (Donna Daniels) "My Side of the Story"
For information call: 414-614-3690



Tent #23's duv!
Jordan Gilles

Jordan is 16 and a very active sophomore at Cadott High School.

Last year she traveled to Louisville with her archery team for the National Competition. During the summer she attended the State FFA Convention-Aberdeen Cattle Junior National and was elected to the National Junior Board. She also was a Junior Councilor for STEPS (for 6th grade girls) at UW-Stout. She also participated in a Mission trip.

Jordan recently returned from the FFA National Convention. She was in a recent school musical, participated in FBLA and Student Council and stays on the high honor roll.

Jordan loves her art. A proud grandma, Judy Gilles sent a photo of her with one of her pieces.

Tent #23 is proud to have this young lady as our youngest member!

DUVCW ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

The DUVCW Annual Holiday Luncheon will take place in the Frontier Dining Room at the Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan on Saturday, December 8th at 12:00 pm. Guests will order from the menu. Friends, husbands and significant others are welcome to attend the event. In years past, we have celebrated with the Delavan Historical Society. However, this year, they are planning an evening fundraising event.

If you have not already done so, please contact Pat Blackmer if you wish to attend at (262) 458-2178 or email blackmerpa@aol.com with your reservation. We look forward to your attendance!

Lake Lawn Resort is located at 2400 Geneva Street (Hwy. 50) in Delavan.



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

I am a Christmas flamingo named Flavia and I am looking for a home for the holidays. I currently reside in Whitewater in the basement of an historic home built in 1856 (before the Civil War). I was up for adoption at the DUVCW Christmas luncheon last year, but alas, no one wanted me. I don't require feeding, grooming or a cage. For a small adoption fee I can be yours and you would be helping our treasury to assist with projects for 2019!

ADOPT ME, PLEASE!

**On behalf of Tent 23, we wish all of you a very Merry Christmas
and a most healthy, happy and prosperous New Year**