

MARY CHESEBRO LEE  
DETACHED TENT #23[www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wimclduv/](http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wimclduv/)**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**May 27** – Delavan Memorial Day celebration. Tent #23 will be marching in the parade at 9am and laying a wreath at the service at 10am.

**June 28-29** – Tent #23 fundraising rummage sale to be held at Merrybell Seeber's house in Delavan. Donated items can be brought to the meeting or to Merrybells's.

**July 27** – Cemetery Walk at Spring Grove Cemetery during Heritage Fair weekend. If you would be interested in being a reenactor, hostess, guide, or help out in some other way please let Pat know.

**September 7 or 8** – Watrous Civil War Monument Dedication in Muskego.

**October 12** –Walworth County Genealogical Society Family History Fair at Faith Christian School in Williams Bay. Tent #23 will have a recruitment table there.

**TENT #23 DAUGHTERS ATTEND  
PRESENTATION ON ALFRED MATSON**

Carol Matson Calvin, the great granddaughter of "runaway" slave and Civil War officer's boy, Alfred Matson was the featured program at the Delavan Historical Society in April. A large turn-out of Tent #23 daughters attended the presentation. Matson settled in Delavan and became a barber of renown. He is buried in the Spring Grove Cemetery where we are trying to secure a Civil War government issued headstone for his grave, which is unmarked at this time. Since Matson crossed Union lines to become associated with the war effort, there is no record of his enlistment which disqualifies him from receiving the headstone appropriated to Civil War veterans. The tent has several active researchers attempting to establish his credibility as having served the Union troops. Carol Calvin is a retired educator from MATC where she instructed nursing students. In addition, she is a genealogist and author who has written two books.

*(Carol with Tent #23 Sisters; she is in the top row on the far left.)*

**FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY**

The next meeting of Detached Tent #23 will be held at 6:30pm on May 28, 2013 at the Delavan Community Centre.

Refreshments will be provided by Pam W., Judy, and Zoe



### TENT #23 HOSTS GENEALOGY WORKSHOP

At our April 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting, Deb Ketchum from the Walworth County Genealogical Society gave a presentation on genealogy. She went over basic tools to have when researching including a memory stick for copying electronic records, a mechanical pencil (pens are frowned upon), a 1”-2” binder, and a recording device such as a tape recorder or cell phone with recording capability. She also gave a brief overview of some genealogy websites and software. She encouraged anyone researching genealogy to make sure the sources used are always cited. Make a copy of title pages of books and if researching on the internet, be sure that the website url is noted. She referred to the “3 Source Rule”: if information can be found in three credible documents that can be sourced, then it is probably valid. Deb encouraged everyone to visit the Mary Bray room in the Matheson Memorial Library in Elkhorn where WCGS has its library. It is open every Thursday from 10am-3pm and the second Saturday of each month from 10am-2pm.

Afterwards, our Sisters were able to visit different stations, each with a variety of information about researching family history. Kay Sargent, also from WCGS, had a variety of brochures and books on genealogy for review. Three of our Sisters, Pat Blackmer, Martha Hay, and Marilyn Traver, showcased different websites helpful to genealogical research. Pat demonstrated the FindAGrave website and the National Park Service Soldiers and Sailors database. Martha brought up ancestry.com to view. Marilyn brought a binder filled with 200 pages of information she had received from the National Archives and Records about her Civil War ancestor and she showed how to access Civil War records online.



Items needed for the Homeless Veterans Transitional Housing Program in Janesville include pillows, pillowcases, sheets, dishes, pots & pans, silverware, coffee mugs, water bottles, dish soap, hand soap, towels, denture cups/cleaner, dental flossers, Q-tips, mouthwash, and contact solution. If you have any items you would like to donate, please bring them to our meeting. **Please no more books or clothing at this time!**

### 150 YEARS AGO IN MAY:

**May 19, 1863 - Assault on Vicksburg begins.** For three days, Union forces attempted to capture Vicksburg to gain control of shipping on the Mississippi River. The Union lost nearly 1,000 soldiers without achieving its goal.

**May 22, 1863 - Second assault on Vicksburg.** Union troops attacked Vicksburg again after bombarding it with artillery for two nights. Although outnumbered 2-to-1, Confederate troops commanded higher ground and repulsed repeated advances. After this defeat, Union forces dug in for a six-week siege. (from <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/thisday/>)





At 3:00pm on Saturday, April 13 a memorial service for Dr. Benjamin Franklin Stephenson was conducted by the SUVCW and MOLLUS at his monument in the Rose Hill Cemetery in Petersburg, Illinois. Guest speakers included the Mayor of Petersburg and the SUVCW Commander of the Department of Illinois. Wreaths were presented, including one presented by DUVCW National President Carole Morton (above right). An artillery salute (below), rifle salute and a bugler playing Taps honored Dr. Stephenson. *(See biography below.)*



## LINCOLN DEATH DAY CEREMONY

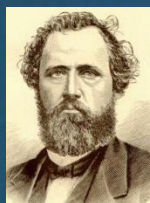


The 57<sup>th</sup> Lincoln Tomb Ceremony took place at 10:00am on Saturday, April 13, commemorating the 148<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of President Abraham Lincoln. The ceremony was conducted by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS). The 33<sup>rd</sup> Illinois Volunteer Regiment Band provided music and Jerome Kowalski, the SUVCW National Chaplain, gave the invocation and benediction. Speakers from both the SUVCW and MOLLUS gave addresses and wreaths were presented by numerous organizations from all over the country, including the Allied Orders, DUVCW Past National President Barbara Stone and current DUVCW National President Carole Morton.



A luncheon at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel in Springfield followed the ceremony. The program included a discussion between Admiral Porter, Generals Grant & Sherman, and President Lincoln on strategy for ending the Civil War.

Rubbing Abe's nose on the bust in front of his tomb is supposed to bring good luck. The bust was designed by Gutzon Borglum, the same sculptor who designed Mount Rushmore. He used the 1860 Volk life mask of Lincoln and photographs to create Lincoln's bust, which is a bronze replica of the marble original in the U.S. Capitol. (<http://www.abrahamlincolnonline.org/lincoln/art/borgbust.htm>)



Dr. Benjamin F. Stephenson was founder of the Grand Army of the Republic and its provisional commander-in-chief from April 6, 1866 to November 21, 1866. After medical school, he returned to his family's farm near Petersburg, Ill, where he later began a medical practice. He served as a surgeon with the 14th Illinois Infantry during the Civil War. After the war, on April 6, 1866, in Decatur, Ill, he formed post No. 1 of the Grand Army of the Republic with 12 charter members. He died in 1871 and 11 years after his death his body was removed to Rose Hill Cemetery, Petersburg, Ill. (<http://suvchw.org/garcinc/bfsteven.htm>)

