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DETACHED TENT #23www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~wimclduv/<https://www.facebook.com/duvcwmaryclee>

This collection of Iron Brigade Medals and Civil War items was sold at auction in the 1950s or 60s to a general in the Iron Brigade who is generously donating it to the Delavan Historical Society. Pat Blackmer is doing research on the origins of the items, and believes they most likely came from Delavan resident Maretta Brabazon's four brothers, who had each served in the Civil War.



MIKE WOZNY, CIVIL WAR BUFF

Our Tent was honored to have Mike Wozny as our guest speaker for our October meeting. Mike is a Civil War buff who was instrumental in forming the 3rd Wisconsin Veteran Volunteer Infantry unit in 1974, the first authentic living history unit in the state. He also founded GAR Post #8, comprised of "senior" Civil War re-enactors.



Mike described the contributions of Wisconsin in the Civil War. 52 regiments from our state fought over the course of the war. (A regiment consists of 1000 men.)

In 1861, Wisconsin was not prepared for war. When Gov. Randall received the call for 1000 men there was only 1 sewing machine in the entire state, at the prison in Waupun for making prisoners uniforms. So the new recruits were sent in gray state militia uniforms. During the 2nd Battle of Bull Run they were attacked from both sides because of this.

In 1862, 24,000 soldiers were lost in 2 days during the Battle of Shiloh. Mrs. Harvey, wife of the governor, was instrumental in organizing medical supplies and doctors within a week of the battle and having them sent by riverboat to Shiloh. On the way home, the Governor slipped off the boat and drowned. A doctor from Sharon had tried to save him by extending his cane to him, but the current was too strong. Mrs. Harvey continued to do work for the WI troops.

The Indian scare in 1862 caused much panic and confusion in Wisconsin. When Chief Rd Cloud attacked families in New Ulm, MN, the 25th WI was just about to go south to join the war. They were sent to Minnesota instead, and some of the men were ready to desert; (*cont. p. 3*)

FRATERNITY, CHARITY, LOYALTY

The next meeting of Detached Tent #23 will be held at 6:30pm on November 26, 2013 at the Delavan Community Centre.

Refreshments will be provided by Ila McErlean & Carol Bakko

MADDI TRIPLETT'S CIVIL WAR ANCESTOR

Maddi Triplett, a seventh grader from Burlington, was awarded honorable mention in a recent essay contest sponsored by the Walworth County Family History Fair. She has graciously allowed our Tent to publish this essay about her favorite ancestor.

My Favorite Ancestor: Jennie Wade

My sixth great aunt and favorite ancestor is Jennie Wade. Jennie Wade was the only Civilian killed during the battle of Gettysburg. She was also the only civilian killed in all of Gettysburg. There were other people killed after the battle in other towns besides Gettysburg. Most deaths after the battle were from people picking up unexploded objects from the war. Jennie was born on May 21, 1843 on Baltimore Street, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. Her birth name was Mary Virginia Wage, but she was later called Jennie, Gin, and Ginnie, most likely because of the ending of her middle name, Virginia. It may also have come from a misprint in the newspaper.

Jennie was the second child of five children in her family. Three were younger, and one older. The three younger siblings were her brothers. The youngest brother, Henry Marion, was born on February 4, 1855. Samuel Swan, the middle brother, was born on August 6, 1851 and John "Jack" James, born on March 13, 1846, was the oldest brother. Her older sister Georgiana had one baby boy with John Lewis McClellan named Louis Kenneth McClellan, who lived from 1863-1941. He was born the day that Confederate Jubal Early's soldiers moved into Gettysburg. Mary Ann Filby-Wade and James Wade were Jennie's parents. Jennie and her mother often made bread together for the soldiers fighting in the war. They also filled their canteens with fresh water. Before Jennie died, she became engaged to Corp. Jonathan Skelly. He was a Confederate soldier that was fighting in the Battle of Gettysburg who was later injured, and taken hostage at Winchester on May 13, 1863. John later died on July 12, 1863 in a Virginia hospital. Isaac Brinkerhoff was a boy who was also very close to Jennie's family. Isaac was a 6 year old boy that Jennie and her family cared for while his mother worked. During the battle of Gettysburg was going on Jennie didn't feel safe at her parent's house on Breckinridge Street while watching Isaac and her younger brother Harry. She took them to Georgia's house to stay for a few days. Jennie also took the boys there to help Georgia because she had just given birth to her baby boy.

Nobody knew that July 3, 1863 was going to be a tragic day. Nobody knew a bullet was going to hit someone at Georgia McClellan's house at 548 Baltimore Street Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. On that day Jennie was standing in Georgia's kitchen making biscuit batter to make biscuits for the soldiers fighting in the battle, when a bullet came through the kitchen door. At 8:00a.m., a bullet from a Confederate sharpshooter rifle then pierced her in the back, killing Jennie instantly. Jennie was 20 years old when she died. In her apron pockets a picture of Jack Skelly and a small purse were found. When Georgia saw Jennie's dead body on the floor she screamed very loud and soldiers came running to help. The family then went down to the cellar where it was safer. The soldiers carried Jennie's body to the cellar because her mother had refused to leave her lying on the kitchen floor. The family later held a ceremony for Jennie in the cellar. After it was safe to come up, Jennie's body was buried in the yard of Georgia's house. Jennie's body stayed buried there for about six months. Later her body was moved to the cemetery adjoined to the German Reformed Church. In November 1865 Jennie's body was then moved to her final resting place, Evergreen Cemetery. Jack Skelly, her fiancé, is buried near her in Evergreen Cemetery. *(continued on page 3)*



Words of wisdom from General William Tecumseh Sherman

"The scenes on this field would have cured anybody of war."

"War is cruelty. There is no use trying to reform it. The crueller it is, the sooner it will be over."

"I am tired and sick of war. Its glory is all moonshine. It is only those who have neither fired a shot nor heard the shrieks and groans of the wounded who cry aloud for blood, for vengeance, for desolation. War is hell."

"If forced to choose between the penitentiary and the White House for four years, I would say the penitentiary, thank you."

(My Favorite Ancestor continued)

After Jennie died, the Jennie Wade Monument was made in 1900 in remembrance of her. At the site the American Flag is flown all day. It is now one of the most visited sites in Gettysburg. Betsy Ross is the only other American woman that was given their own monument. The Jennie Wade house is also very popular to visitors because you can tour the house where she was shot and killed. The house is dedicated in memory of Jennie Wade and started functioning in 1906. The house is a museum with a gift shop next door. The house has changed very little from what it looked like 140 years ago. You can even still see the fatal bullet holes in the doors of the house. Some visitors believe that the Jennie Wade house is haunted with spirits. With the help of history, the Jennie Wade House Museum, and the monument of her, the name Jennie Wade will live on for years to come.

(photo of Jennie Wade from the museum website:

<http://www.jennie-wade-house.com>)



Jennie Wade House & Monument

(Mike Wozny continued) they wanted to fight Rebels, not Indians. Rumors started in Superior that the Indians were going to rise up in Wisconsin and spread throughout the state as families got in their wagons and fled south. When the governor sent the militia up north to check out the situation, they rode around for two weeks before coming upon an Indian chief waving a white hanky. He told them the Indians headed north to Canada, worried that the white men were going crazy.

Also in 1862 the Western Brigade, which consisted of the 2nd, 6th, and 7th Wisconsin infantry and the 19th Indiana infantry, got the nickname "The Iron Brigade" from General Hooker after it fought valiantly in the Battle of South Mountain.

1863 saw the fall of Vicksburg and Gettysburg. The 2nd and 6th lost many men, and the Brigade was never the same after that. During the Battle of Chickamauga, Col. Haig from Whitewater was shot by a sniper shortly after he received a letter about the birth of his daughter, and requested that his body be buried beside her. As a group of Walworth County soldiers were about to be overrun, they chose to stay and try to save their cannons. They were able to save one of the six guns at a heavy cost: 26 of the 52 men lost their lives in the effort.

General Sherman would pick over shattered artillery shells on battlefields to see where they came from, which is what prompted him to start thinking about Atlanta and his March to the Sea. He admired Wisconsin soldiers and tried to get as many to join him as he could, saying "One Wisconsin regiment is equal to one regular brigade." The first Thanksgiving since Lincoln declared it a national holiday came during his March. His men were enjoying a day of feasting in Milledgeville when two raggedy, skeletal men staggered down Main Street. They had just escaped from Andersonville, and their condition enraged the men. They swore they would "make Georgia howl" and burned many farms and plantations.

After the Confederates surrendered in 1865, there was a \$100,000 reward for the capture of Jefferson Davis, who had gone on the run. Wisconsin cavalry spotted him first and reported it to their brigade commander, who was from Michigan. Michigan troops got to Davis first and fired on the Wisconsin troops as they approached. Three Wisconsin men were wounded and three Michigan men were killed. Later in court, the MI troops would claim they thought the WI troops were rebels, while the WI troops claimed the MI troops were trying to prevent them from claiming the reward. They both received the reward.

After the war, the GAR became the most powerful voting bloc in America, and were responsible for getting at least 4 presidents elected, getting money for monuments, establishing May 31 as Decoration Day, building the Wisconsin Veterans Home at King, and getting pensions for widows. Many times an 80-year-old veteran would marry a young woman in her teens with the agreement that if she took care of him in his old age, she would receive his war pension. In 1960 there were still 40 Civil War widows collecting pensions.

