

About Our Organization

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a patriotic organization similar to the Grand Army of the Republic and officially recognized as its legal successor. The GAR was the largest Civil War veteran organization, existing until the death of the last Union soldier, in 1956. Founded in 1881, the SUVCW was granted its charter by the U.S. Congress in 1954.

Our purpose is to perpetuate the memory of the GAR and of the men who saved the Union and abolished slavery in 1861 to 1865; to assist in historical Civil War preservation; to honor American veterans of all wars; to foster patriotism, the duties of citizenship, the true history of our country, and the love and honor of our Flag.

C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 is named for Colwert Kendall Pier, colonel of the 38th Wisconsin Infantry, and was chartered in 1901. Col. Pier fought at Petersburg and Cold Harbor, Va. After the war, he was a leader in Wisconsin's GAR and at the national level. He lived in Milwaukee from 1888 until his death in 1895. He is buried in Fond du Lac.

The Camp participates with other organizations in the proper observance of Memorial Day, seeks out and marks the graves of Union veterans, observes the care and upkeep of Civil War memorials and veterans' graves, and encourages the proper teaching of American history. Camp members give presentations on Civil War soldiers, events and genealogy to schools and other interested groups.

Membership is open to males, 14 or older, who can trace their ancestry from any man who served honorably in the Union forces during the Civil War. The ancestor may be direct lineage (grandfather, great-grandfather, etc.) or collateral lineage (uncle, great-uncle, etc.). Associate membership is open to any male, 14 or older, without ancestry. Junior membership is open to boys, ages 6 to 13.

Ladies are welcome to join the Auxiliary to the SUVCW, which has an equally long and distinguished history. Lineal membership is open to ladies whose own ancestor fought for the Union, or through SUVCW husbands. Associate membership is open to those without lineage. Junior membership is open to girls 6 to 13 years of age.

Both C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1 (SUVCW) and C.K. Pier Badger Auxiliary 4 (ASUVCW) meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Machinists Union Hall, 1650 S. 38th St., Milwaukee (38th & Mitchell).

For more information about the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and its Auxiliary, call (414) 425-4648 or visit us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CKPierBadger> and the website at <http://www.suvcw-wi.org>

Righting a 1913 error

Tombstone Dedication for Pvt. Michael Carroll



**C.K. Pier Badger Camp #1
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Auxiliary 4**

**With assistance from
David D. Porter Camp 116, Valparaiso, Ind.
– the hometown of Michael Carroll**



Prelude

One mission of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and its Auxiliary is to perpetuate the memory of the men who sacrificed so much from 1861 to 1865.

It was therefore quite fitting that a project to catalog all Civil War veterans buried at Wood National Cemetery was launched. It took 15 months and involved work in many computer databases, followed by several kinds of walkthroughs in many sections of the cemetery.

The final number of Civil War veterans was determined to be nearly 6,000, stretching from where we stand today in Section 19 to the Civil War monument to the north, across the freeway and even past the power lines. It also extends a bit to the south of where we stand, and of course to the west.

Today we are honoring a man whose tombstone had his last name wrong since his death in 1913 – but now has been replaced and is correct.

Michael Carroll was found in the late stages of the project. His tombstone had the last name of Curran, but he was not in the Veterans Administration database by that name, grave number and year of death.

Substantial digging showed the man in that very Grave 65 was named Carroll in records of the Milwaukee Soldiers Home and in the VA database and interment.net. Thus it was determined that human error gave him the wrong last name on the tombstone. One man named Carroll had died earlier in 1913, along with one man named Curran. Then came Michael Carroll.

The overall project included reviews of men living at the National Home, as listed in the 1885, 1895 and 1905 Wisconsin veterans censuses, and whether they were listed in Find a Grave as buried at Wood. Then the VA database was examined for Wood burials for each year from 1871 to 1943. Finally, gravestones were checked for men who had no unit in the VA database or Find a Grave, and then random checks were made in several walkthroughs to be sure they had been cataloged. The Carroll issue arose during a walkthrough in which Section 19 was monitored, one row vertically and one row horizontally.

The last Civil War burial that was found at Wood is in Section 26 – Pvt. Henry Vaughn, who died in 1941. He was in the 12th Wisconsin Infantry, Co. E. The first burial here is across the freeway in Section 5-II – Pvt. John Afton, who died in 1871. He was in the 1st Michigan Infantry, Co. G. There is one Unknown Soldier, across the freeway in Section 4, grave 150A. His story is a mystery, but the design of his gravestone was used from the 1960s to 2006.

Thank you to

Wood National Cemetery
Jennifer Perunko, National
Cemetery Administration

Greater Milwaukee Fire and
Police Pipes and Drums
Bugler Bill Seaman
Virgil Matz



Michael Carroll tombstone dedication program

Honor Guard Procession and music in ceremony by Greater Milwaukee Fire and Police Pipes and Drums

Call to Order and Welcoming Remarks: PCC Tom Mueller, Wisconsin Department graves registration officer

National Anthem: SVC Billy Cole and Bill Seaman

Invocation: Chaplain Dean Collins

Pledge of Allegiance

Introduction of Honor Guard and participating units. Introduction of National SUVCW Senior Vice Commander Mark Day of Lynchburg, Va.

How Michael Carroll error was found: Tom Mueller

Valparaiso, Ind., in Michael Carroll's day: David D. Porter Camp 116, SUVCW

Soldiers Home record of Pvt. Michael Carroll, and his service in 9th Indiana Infantry and 4th U.S. Cavalry

A reading from what his unit saw at Shiloh, Tenn., April 1862

Sons Ritual for dedication of a tombstone

Flower (the peony is the state flower of Indiana), wreath and flag placements

Honor Guard salute

Irish musical salute

Taps: Bill Seaman

Salute to veterans present at this ceremony

Benediction: Chaplain Dean Collins

Dismissal: PCC Tom Mueller