

★★ **THE BUGLE** ★★

Volume VI:1

Newsletter of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation

January 1999

F R O N T L I N E

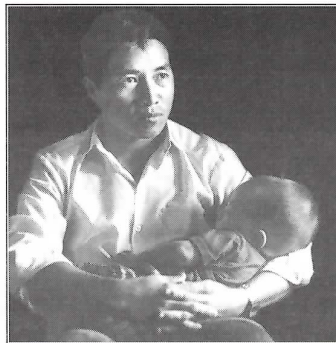
WVM receives Grant from IMLS

by Steve Olson

Photographer - Edward Steichen



Out of 942 applicants nationwide, 148 institutions including the Veterans Museum were selected to receive grants by the IMLS, a federal agency whose mission is to support and strengthen cultural institutions.



Hmong in America Sept 3 - Oct 29

"Museums that receive the grant demonstrate outstanding performance in all areas of operations," according to Diane Frankel, IMLS director.

"The grant provides national recognition for museums that have the highest approval of their peers," Frankel says. "These museums will use the awards to do what they do best: educate, fascinate, inspire, illuminate, inform, enhance, and enrich the lives of their visitors."

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) has awarded a \$112,500 grant to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum to support its educational programs and other operations.

affirm, acknowledge and commemorate the role of Wisconsin veterans in our nation's history."

For instance, with financial assistance from IMLS, the museum will display *Steichen and His Men: A Portrait of World War II* from Jan. 15 to May 31, 1999. This traveling exhibit developed by the Navy Museum in Washington D.C., composed of 60 photographs produced by military photographer

Edward Steichen and his staff. The photographs highlight Navy aviation during World War II.

The museum will also host *Hmong in America: Refugees from a Secret War* from Sept. 3 to Oct. 29, 1999.

The exhibit, which was produced by the Chippewa Valley Museum in Eau Claire, portrays the life of the Hmong villagers in Laos before the war in Southeast Asia and during their alliance with the United States against the communist forces. It shows the Hmong's migration to refugee camps in Thailand after the war as well as their resettlement in Wisconsin and other areas of the United States.

Special programs and presentations will be offered in conjunction with both exhibits.

For more information on these or other programs, please call (608) 267-1799.



Dive Bomber - Steichen Exhibit Photograph Jan 15 - May 31

"The Wisconsin Veterans Museum also received this highly competitive grant in 1995," says Richard Zeitlin, museum director. "The funding will allow us to create new programs and activities for school children while we continue to add exhibits and presentations that

BUGLE
 Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation
 The Bugle is a publication of the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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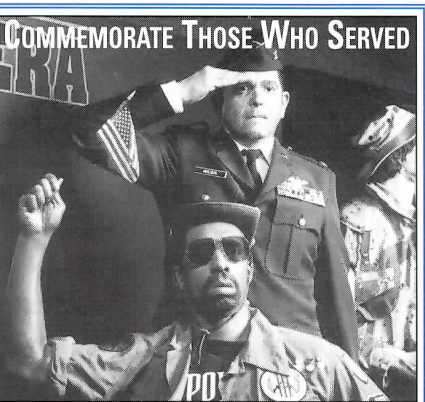
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WISCONSIN VETERANS MUSEUM
 30 W. Mifflin St., Madison, WI 53703
 (On the Capitol Square)

HOURS:
 Mon.- Sat. 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
 Sunday (Apr.-Sept.) Noon - 4 p.m.

FOR INFORMATION
 Call (608) 267-1799



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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

High Hopes Abound for the New Year 1999

by Richard H. Zeitlin

This is the season to reflect on past accomplishments and, at the same time, to anticipate what the future might hold for the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. As 1998 ends, we can see what a great year we had! The museum demonstrated stellar performance in every area where achievement could be measured.

For example, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum played an important part in various public activities associated with the state's sesquicentennial. The museum developed new educational programs, improved its tour program, attracted substantial grants and gifts, created changing exhibits, produced two attractive publications, and hosted two major conferences. Attendance hit an all time record high of more than 112,000 visitors. Gift shop revenues increased by 24%. Two new full-time professionals joined our staff and contributed their energies to delivering public services. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Foundation became a significant partner in all of our efforts and is now at a new stage in its institutional development.

In addition, state legislators approved the parent agency's request to acquire the entire second floor of the 30 West Mifflin St. building for museum purposes, and to transform the space into a multipurpose area for the presentation of public programs. The development is expected to be completed in early 1999. The addition of the second floor will bring total space operated by the Wisconsin Veterans Museum to some 25,000 square feet - with 10,000 square feet devoted to exhibits; 1,000 square feet for public reception, information, and gift store; 8,000

for artifact storage; 1,800 for library/archives; 500 square feet for re-sale merchandise inventory; 2,073 square feet for offices; and the balance allocated to mechanical, air handling, and equipment spaces as well as to bathrooms, lockers, coat racks, etc.

The new space will be welcomed. It will allow the museum staff to plan, develop, and implement more public programs. Veterans and other groups may use it when they visit. School groups will be able to make use of the space for classroom activities. Receptions and other gatherings can be accommodated in the multipurpose area. The multipurpose area will be divisible, so larger or smaller groups can be housed comfortably. As many as 170 people can be accommodated, depending upon the seating pattern. A modern audio/visual system will help integrate presentations.

The museum looks forward to these and other changes; hoping that 1999 brings even greater levels of activity. During the first five years of its existence outside the capitol building, it is clear that the Wisconsin Veterans Museum has lived up to the high expectations of the parent agency, the state government, and the public for the historical program it operates.

Wisconsin Veterans Museum - Viewed from Capitol Building



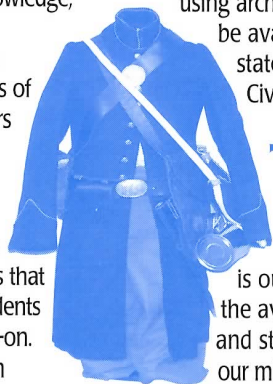
E D U C A T I O N

Civil War Travel Trunk Program

by Lisa M. Black

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is introducing its new Civil War Travel Trunk Program to educators throughout the state in January 1999. The travel trunk is an educational program that has been developed as part of our mission to commemorate, acknowledge, and affirm the role played by Wisconsin veterans in America's military past. Therefore, the focus of this program is the citizen-soldiers and learning about our history through their experiences.

Included in the travel trunk are reproduction Civil War artifacts that fourth through eighth grade students will be able to experience hands-on. For instance, a complete Union uniform has been included along with accoutrement such as a haversack and bayonet scabbard. Additionally, photographs of family members, letters, and unit photographs have been added to illustrate the life of the Civil War soldier.



The suggested activities included in the teacher's manual are based on national curriculum standards for fourth through eighth grades. Some of the activities include baking hardtack crackers and role playing activities using archival documents. The travel trunk will be available to educators throughout the state to use as a supplement to their Civil War unit.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is continually striving to provide quality educational programming. The Civil War Travel Trunk Program is our latest effort to do just that. Thus, the availability of the trunk to educators and students throughout the state extends our mission to teach students more about themselves through the study of others, namely the citizen-soldiers of Wisconsin.

For more information on the program, please contact Lisa Black at (608) 264-6086.

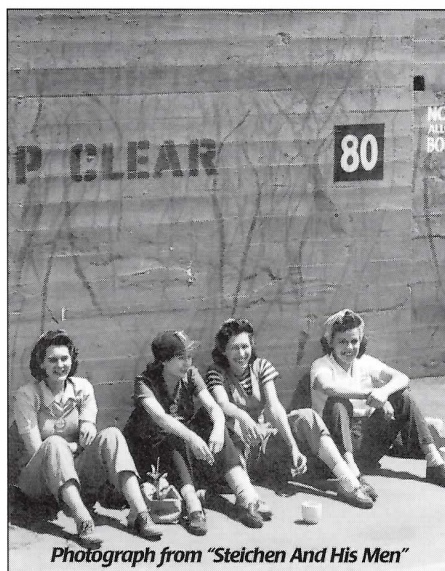
E X H I B I T S

Steichen & His Men: A Portrait of World War II

by Bridgitt A. Zielke

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum will host "Steichen and His Men: A Portrait of World War II," from Jan. 15 through May 31. This traveling exhibit developed by the Navy Museum in Washington D.C., consists of 60 photographs produced by military photographer Edward Steichen and his staff. The photographs highlight Navy aviation during World War II.

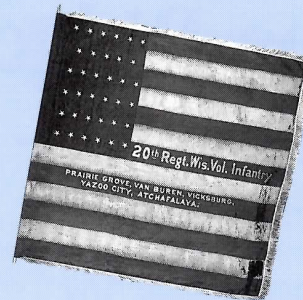
Steichen, a successful commercial and portrait photographer and decorated World War I Army veteran, was commissioned by the Navy at age 62 to tell the story of naval aviation. The Navy desperately needed Steichen's photographs to recruit new pilots. In addition to recording facts, Steichen wanted to prove that photography could be a powerful



Photograph from "Steichen And His Men"

- STEICHEN CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

1999 EXHIBIT SCHEDULE



20th Wisconsin Infantry National Battle Color

BATTLE FLAG EXHIBIT

SPANISH - AMERICAN WAR

JANUARY	2ND	WISCONSIN VOLUNTEERS
FEBRUARY	3RD	WISCONSIN VOLUNTEERS
MARCH	4TH	WISCONSIN VOLUNTEERS

CIVIL WAR: VICKSBURG

APRIL	1ST	WISCONSIN BATTERY
APRIL	6TH	WISCONSIN BATTERY
MAY	2ND	WISCONSIN CAVALRY
MAY	8TH	WISCONSIN INFANTRY
JUNE	11TH	WISCONSIN INFANTRY
JUNE	12TH	WISCONSIN INFANTRY
JULY	14TH	WISCONSIN INFANTRY
JULY	15TH	WISCONSIN INFANTRY
AUGUST	16TH	WISCONSIN INFANTRY
AUGUST	17TH	WISCONSIN INFANTRY
SEPTEMBER	18TH	WISCONSIN INFANTRY
SEPTEMBER	20TH	WISCONSIN INFANTRY
OCTOBER	23RD	WISCONSIN INFANTRY
OCTOBER	25TH	WISCONSIN INFANTRY
NOVEMBER	27TH	WISCONSIN INFANTRY
NOVEMBER	29TH	WISCONSIN INFANTRY
DECEMBER	33RD	WISCONSIN INFANTRY

CHANGING EXHIBITIONS

THEY ALSO SERVED

January 1 - December 31 Changing Exhibit Gallery

An exhibit portraying the role of civilians who performed vital services for the military and the nation during wartime.

STEICHEN AND HIS MEN

January 15 - May 31 Reception Area

This traveling exhibit developed by the Navy Museum in Washington D.C., consists of 60 photographs produced by military photographer Edward Steichen and his staff. The photographs highlight Navy aviation during WW II.

THE PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION

May 25 - August 1 Reception Area

An exhibit commemorating America's first Asian conflict, The Philippine War, which began in 1899.

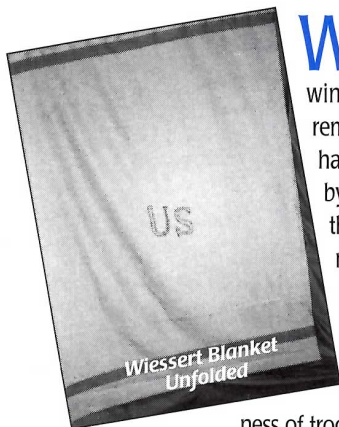
HONG IN AMERICA: REFUGEES FROM A SECRET WAR

September 3 - October 29 Reception Area

An exhibit portraying the life of Hmong villagers in Laos before the war in Southeast Asia and during their alliance with the United States against the communist forces. It shows the Hmong's migration to refugee camps in Thailand after the war as well as their resettlement in Wisconsin and other areas of the United States.

Pea Ridge Confederate Blanket – Reproduced

by William Brewster



With the approach of winter, we are reminded of the hardships faced by soldiers in the field. Rain, mud, snow, and cold all have an effect on the morale and effectiveness of troops. In war, the equipment supplied to combat the elements plays a major role in the success or failure of cold weather campaigns. In the Civil War, one item that was essential to a soldier's survival was a good blanket. Several years ago the Wisconsin Veterans Museum reproduced the Federal issue blanket of Sergeant Auggie Weissert. The original has many unique characteristics that make it stand out. The colored shoddy yarns, weaving errors, and brown cast of Weissert's blanket were incorporated in the reproduction to make it as distinctive as the original. Yet, when placed with 50 other Federal blankets, it would be difficult to identify the Weissert blanket. There are items produced during the Civil War that have qualities so distinctive, it would be impossible to confuse them with similar pieces. The blanket sent home by Private James P. Albee of the 4th Iowa Infantry serves as a good example of such an object.

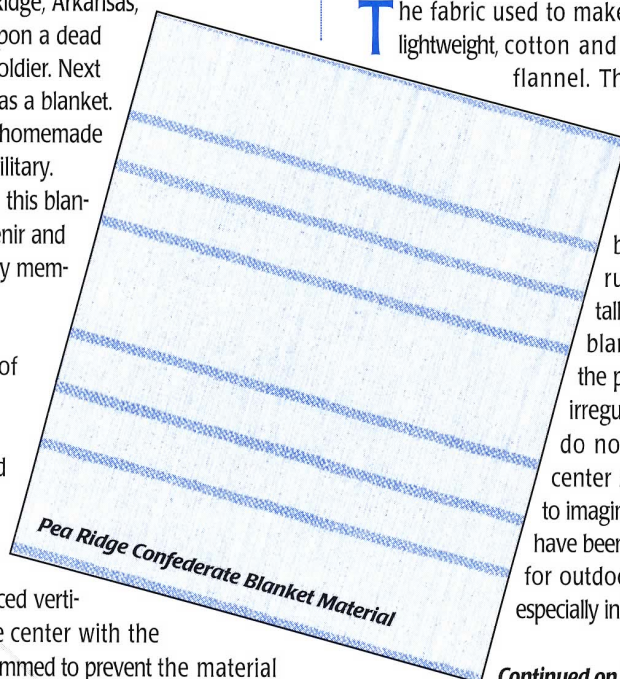
Like many soldiers, Albee found it interesting to collect items that related to his experiences in the War of the Rebellion. Some men sent home southern newspapers or buttons as souvenirs, while others shipped saddles and swords. Private Albee

was attracted to the everyday materials found on the battlefield. In March 1862, following the Battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, Albee came upon a dead Confederate soldier. Next to the body was a blanket. It was simple, homemade and very unmilitary. Albee selected this blanket as a souvenir and sent it to family members.

Although of common design, the blanket picked up by Albee is truly an unusual item. It is pieced vertically down the center with the "raw" ends hemmed to prevent the material from unraveling.

The hand-sewn center seam was a typical feature of early blankets. Until the mid-19th century, looms could only produce narrow cloth. Consequently, most cloth articles required some piecing. The invention of the "double-wide" or broadloom in 1857 made it possible to weave one-piece blankets, but narrow looms were still used to produce yard goods. Housewives purchased yard goods for sewing projects such as blanket making. The great variety of fabrics available meant that no two blankets were alike.

The fabric used to make the blanket is a lightweight, cotton and wool domet flannel. The overall color is white with a repeating pattern of three narrow brown stripes running horizontally across the blanket. Because the pattern spacing is irregular, the stripes do not align at the center seam. It is hard to imagine that this would have been a warm blanket for outdoor sleeping, especially in March.



Continued on Next Page



The Weissert Blanket

As the 4th Iowa participated in the campaigns that would lead to the end of the war, Albee saved other objects: a coffee grinder from Vicksburg, a pair of cotton socks given to him near Atlanta, and his pocket knife used during the March to the Sea. Of these souvenirs, the blanket stands out as the one item that belonged to an individual. For Albee, the blanket may have symbolized the difference between an army of soldiers supplied by a central government and an army whose soldiers brought their own supplies. Possibly, it reminded James Albee that, like him, the dead soldier had a mother or wife who cooked, sewed blankets, and waited for the next letter home.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum has commissioned a limited run of yard goods duplicating the fabric of the blanket sent home by Private Albee. Like the original, the material is 33" wide and woven on a narrow loom. Each blanket will be sold in kit form, to be sewn at home. The finished blanket will measure five and one half feet wide and seven feet long. Because of the unique appearance of the material, we have only produced enough cloth for 70 "Pea Ridge" Confederate blankets.

For more information about the blanket kit, contact *Erin Landa, Museum Store Manager, at (608) 267-1799 or ELANDA@MAIL.STATE.WI.US.*

Items shown are reproductions from the museum collection available in the Gift Shop.



Tinware Collection includes (from upper left corner) cup, water canteen, cup, coffee pot

E A S Y A C C E S S

Collections go Electronic

by *Scott Cross*



the print kept with one set of the cards in large filing cabinets.

Before 1995, artifacts and archival materials at the museum were typed laboriously in duplicate onto catalog cards. Objects were also photographed, and the print kept with one set of the cards in large filing cabinets. Since 1995, the museum has been transferring existing records and cataloging new acquisitions onto a computerized database called SNAP! WVM staff has made more than 11,000 entries into this system. Artifacts coming into the collection are identified, measured, described, and then photographed with a digital camera. The digital image is linked to the related catalog card file located on the computer system. We can now look at the card catalog and see an image of the item without having to get the object from storage.

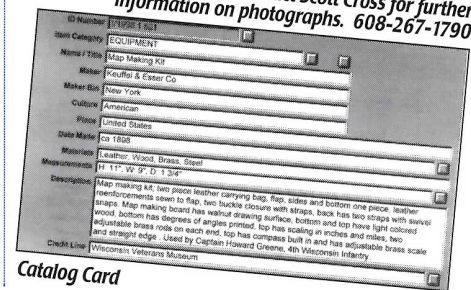
Before 1995, artifacts and archival materials at the museum were typed laboriously in duplicate onto catalog cards.

Objects were also photographed, and

The collection of photographs is also being entered into the system. Originals are scanned and linked to the card file. Almost 3500 original photographs have been entered – 900 Civil War and 500 Wisconsin Soldiers.

The new system allows museum staff to better manage the collections and search for items by using keywords to manage the search. This also assists researchers and the public in requests for information. Processing time for requests is now in minutes instead of weeks.

Contact Scott Cross for further information on photographs. 608-267-1790



Catalog Card

S T I E C H E N - C O N T .

– CONTINUED FROM 3

instrument for showing the human side of complex events. "The camera", Steichen reported in 1947, "serves as an instrument for waging war and as an historian in recording the war."

Organized into five major sections – "Steichen and His Men: A Portrait of World War II" begins with photographs from the home front. Throughout the nation, more than 123 million civilians supported the war effort. Americans strived to meet the demands of the war, whether they were working on assembly lines or growing victory gardens. The color photographs of factory workers are portraits of the nation at war.

The second section features photographs taken throughout 1942 and 1943 when Steichen's special photographic unit operated out of several naval air stations. These photographs, which highlight aviation training, were produced to attract attention to the Navy's air wing and help recruit pilots.

The third section displays photographs of new pilots with combat assignments on aircraft carriers. This section consists of scenes from on board the Santee off North Africa in 1942, the Yorktown in the Pacific in 1943, and the Lexington in the South Pacific in 1943.

The fourth section features photographs of pilots and sailors passing time between the battles. Steichen's men traveled on carriers, submarines and battleships around the world seeking the one image that distilled the story of these lonesome times.

The last section highlights the 1944 advance of the United States across the Pacific to Japan. Many of the photographs portray the Marine Corps at Iwo Jima in February 1945.

For more information, call the museum at (608)267-1799 or meet us online: <http://badger.state.wi.us/agencies/dva/museum/wvmmain.html>.

Research Center Celebrates 1st Anniversary

by Richard W. Harrison

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center opened to the public on January 6, 1998. The Center's current hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., or by appointment. The Research Center is located in Room B200 (basement), 30 West Mifflin Street and can be accessed through the elevator for the 30 West Mifflin Street building.

The queries have continued to pour in at record levels. WVM staff answered 159 in March, and the average per month this year is about 120. Close to 90% are Civil War queries which come to the museum, literally from around the world. Not all queries include a point of origination, but California seems to be one of the states with the most queries.

The WVM archives/research center staff is working on re-inventorying the collection of Civil War photographs and cataloging them on a computerized database (SNAP!). More than 500

Wisconsin Civil War photographs have been cataloged in SNAP. The U.S. Military Institute at Carlisle, Penn., has an on line database of more than 27,000 Civil War image descriptions, of which close to 700 are Wisconsin Civil War veterans. Currently, the archives staff is alphabetizing these to better assist researchers looking for images of Wisconsin relatives who served in the Civil War. The USMHI web site is: <http://carlisle-www.army.mil/usamhi/PhotoDB.html>

In addition, the staff is currently cataloging the library and uploading the collection onto WISCAT, a computerized card catalog highlighting holdings of Wisconsin libraries. Hopefully, this will be in place in the next few months, and the WISCAT URL will be made available on our web site as well as in a future issue of *The Bugle*. Along this same line, the staff is beginning to enter our manuscript / archives collection into the SNAP system.

We have ordered new computer equipment for the Research Center and will soon have CD ROM capability. We will be adding CD ROMs to our research collection to assist staff in responding to research questions. At this time, we have received the Civil War Official Records CD ROM and have ordered The Roll of Honor series CD ROM

which includes an index of names of Union Civil War veterans buried in National Cemeteries. We have also ordered the 1890 Federal Veterans Census for the State of Wisconsin CD ROM to use along with the printed versions of the 1885, 1895 and 1905

Wisconsin veterans census, which are currently in our collection. Other CD ROM's will be ordered as resources allow. We will announce those additions in future issues of *The Bugle*.

Purchase of a microfilm reader / printer for staff and public use in the Research Center is also slated for 1999. Many interesting microfilms are available at nominal costs, which will enhance our ability to assist researchers.

The new donation box in the Research Center is being used to collect researchers' photocopying fees and donations. These donations and fees contribute to the acquisition of new resource material as well as preserving the current materials.

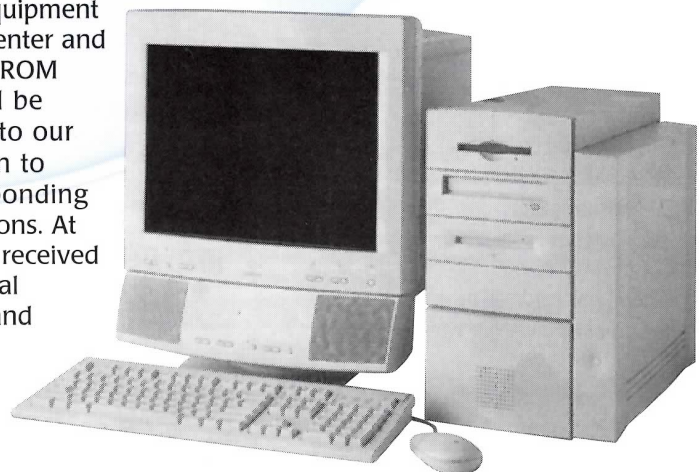
If you have questions about the Research Center or would like to schedule an appointment, please contact Richard Harrison at 608-267-1790; Wisconsin Veterans Museum, Research Center, 30 West Mifflin Street, Madison 53703; or by email: museum@mail.state.wi.us

Men and women from Wisconsin served in the Gulf War.

27 Oct 90

I found your letter in a bundle of letter that were getting prepared to be thrown out because there isn't enough personnel on the ship to write everyone. My name is Herbert Hall I'm a Construction Mechanic third class stationed on the USS Trenton. There isn't much to tell. So far we've learned to stay out of the sun as much as possible and drink plenty of water. Other than that we are just waiting. Morale is low. The crew is bored of doing nothing. We've been underway for the past 80 days with no liberty ports. Communication with our families has much to be desired. Over all we just want something to happen. Most of the marines and sailors alike think we should go in and destroy that little country. If we don't do it now in a few years Iraq will have nuclear capabilities and we'll be right back over here. So I feel we should just get this over with so we could get home and be with our families. It's hard to write this letter because I don't know exactly what you want to know. If you have any questions write me back and I'll try to answer them.

Herbert Hall CM3
BMVB-1



FLYING COLORS

Family Rallies to Save Flag Carried by Great Grandfather

by Lynnette Wolfe

Several months ago, the family of the late Ruth M. Stauff-Kadlec of Stoughton, Wisconsin, established a special fund to honor her Grandfather Jacob Stauff. Between 1864 and 1865, Stauff carried the state battle color for the 26th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment also known as the "Sigel Guard."

During a formal ceremony on November 25, 1998, Robert J. Kadlec and other family members presented a donation of \$3,900 to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Civil War Battle Flag Conservation Program. Stauff-Kadlec descendants, many of whom served in the military, affirm that "This flag is a symbol of remembrance for our family and our heritage which we proudly recognize."

Composed primarily of German immigrants, the 26th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment distinguished itself as one of the best fighting units during the Civil War. The 26th suffered tremendous casualties at the battles of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and Kenesaw Mountain. For the balance of the war, Stauff along with his regiment continued to render hard service during Sherman's March to the Sea and Carolinas Campaign. After Lee surrendered at Appomatox Court House, the 26th Wisconsin received orders to report to Washington, D.C., to participate in the Grand Review on May 24, 1865. Following the Civil War, Jacob Stauff became a founding member of the 26th Wisconsin Regiment Veterans Association and an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic.

In November 1998, the tattered color, which Stauff so gallantly carried into numerous battles and campaigns, was sent to a specialized conservation lab in St. Paul. Like the Star Spangled Banner restoration program, the 26th's color will undergo a long, arduous conservation process to stabilize and preserve it.

On behalf of the citizens of the state of Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the family of Ruth M. Stauff-Kadlec for their generous donation to save this flag in honor of Jacob Stauff. Their kind and thoughtful support to preserve Wisconsin's Civil War heritage for future generations is sincerely appreciated.

During the course of my decades of work with the museum, I am truly amazed at how these bloodied bits of cloth continue to embody the spirit of Wisconsin soldiers who tenaciously defended them in the name of freedom and national unity. Even today, some 137 years hence those momentous

events of 1861-1865, the regimental colors continue to evoke an emotional response from those who observe them. It is this generation's responsibility to preserve these priceless, historical icons well into the next millennium. Thus far, approximately 121 of the museum's fragile collection of 194 Civil War battle flags have undergone preservation treatment. Individuals interested in contributing to the "Save the Battle Flag Project" may contact: Richard Zeitlin or Lynnette Wolfe, Wisconsin Veterans Museum, 30 W. Mifflin St., Madison, WI 53703 or call 608-266-1680.



Jacob Stauff



The Stauff-Kadlec family presenting a donation to WVM-Director, Richard H. Zeitlin

Civil War – Wisconsin's Role

by Richard H. Zeitlin

Three new books are available at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum gift shop for readers interested in Wisconsin Civil War topics. The Wisconsin Veterans Museum produced two of the new books—*The Flags of the Iron Brigade*, by H. Michael Madaus and Richard H. Zeitlin and *All for the Union: Wisconsin and the Civil War* by Richard H. Zeitlin. The third book, *Giants in Their Tall Black Hats: Essays on the Iron Brigade*, edited by Alan T. Nolan and Sharon E. Vipond, was published by Indiana University Press.

Flags of the Iron Brigade, which is being marketed nationally by the University of Wisconsin Press, highlights the social history of Civil War veterans and cultural symbols. The Wisconsin Sesquicentennial Commission helped sponsor *All For the Union*, which is a well illustrated popularly oriented history of Wisconsin's role in the Civil War aimed at teachers and students in the fourth through eighth grade, as well as general readers. One thousand copies of *All for the Union*

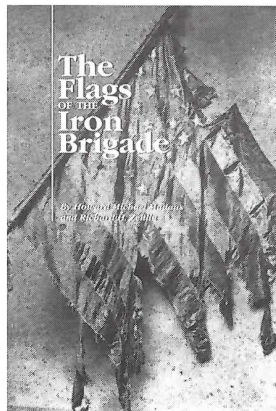
were distributed to Wisconsin public schools during September. Karen E. Gulbrandsen, the museum's former Curator of Programs, edited and helped design both of these publications.

Giants in Their Tall Black Hats contains 10 articles by different authors who focus attention on specific topics relating to the Iron Brigade. There are essays by Alan T. Nolan, Lance Herdegen, Alan and Maureen Gaff, Marc and Beth Storch, Silas Felton, Sharon Eggleston Vipond, Kent Gramm, Steven J. Wright, D. Scott Hartwig and Richard H. Zeitlin.

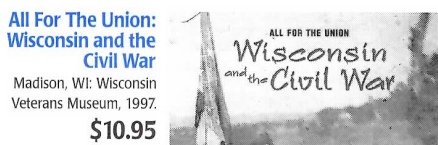
The appearance of these publications is a further indication of the strong and persistent interest in Wisconsin Civil War history.

Wisconsin Veterans Museum

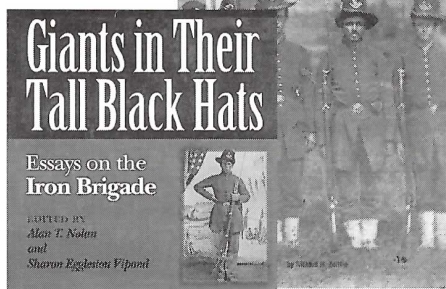
has these and other titles available in the Gift Shop Call (608) 267-1799



The Flags of the Iron Brigade
Madison, WI: Wisconsin Veterans Museum, 1997.
\$12.95



All For The Union: Wisconsin and the Civil War
Madison, WI: Wisconsin Veterans Museum, 1997.
\$10.95

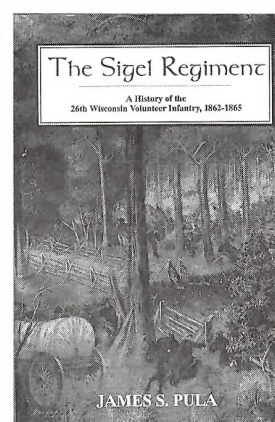


Giants in Their Tall Black Hats
Essays on the Iron Brigade
EDITED BY
Alan T. Nolan
and
Sharon Eggleston Vipond
\$27.95



The Sichel Regiment
A History of the 26th Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, 1862-1865
Campbell, CA: Savas Publishing Co., 1998.
\$29.95

The Sichel Regiment
Campbell, CA: Savas Publishing Co., 1998.
\$29.95



The Museum Gift Shop has a wide variety of items available, please inquire for a more complete listing.



Wisconsin Veterans Museum
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Madison, WI 53703
CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED