

SOUTH

CENTRAL NEWS

Bricelyn Easton Freeborn Kiester Walters Wells

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Last Union Veteran in Blue Earth and Faribault County Ceremonies to be held October 19 at Glenwood Cemetery and Rosehill Cemetery

Pvt. James M. Karmany, the last Civil War veteran buried in Blue Earth County, and Pvt. Washington W. Kelley, the last Civil War veteran buried in Faribault County, will each be honored in a Last Union Veteran ceremony Saturday, October 19. The ceremony for Pvt. Karmany will be held at 11:00 AM in Glenwood Cemetery in Mankato. The ceremony for Pvt. Kelley will be held at 2:00 PM on Saturday, October 19, in the Rosehill Cemetery in Wells.

Private Karmany and Private Kelley's descendants are most cordially invited to attend as special guests. The ceremony will feature the Last Union Veteran dedication ritual of the SUVCW including the placing of a Last Union Veteran marker on the veteran's grave.

SUVCW William Colwill Camp #56, Department of Wisconsin, will be presiding over both ceremonies, in partnership with the Friends of the Boy in Blue Memorial, and with the assistance of the Blue Earth County Historical Society, the American Legion Post 11 and VFW Post 950 Veterans Honor Guard, Faribault County Historical Society, Wells Historical Society, the American Legion Post 210 and VFW Post 1778 Veterans Honor Guard. These ceremonies are open to the public. Anyone wishing to dress in Civil War era attire is invited to do so. James M. Karmany was born in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania on May 19, 1847. He enlisted on 6/19/1863 as a Private and mustered into "E" Company, Pennsylvania 26th Infantry. He was Mustered Out on 7/30/1863. He came to Mankato in 1866 and married Susan Purrier on September 5, 1870. They had six children. He passed away at the age of 88 on September 6, 1935.

Washington W. Kelley was born on February 17, 1846, in Clarion County, Pennsylvania. He enlisted (allegedly when 16) on 7/16/1864 as a Private and mustered into "F" Co. PA Stewart's Infantry. He was Mustered Out on 11/14/1864. About the year 1865 he came to Minnesota and on November 1, 1868, he was married to Mary Catherine Schermerhorn at Minnesota Lake. They had 12 children. He passed away on September 27, 1940, at the age of 92. Camp #56 of the Department of Wisconsin, whose territory is the entire states of Wisconsin and Minnesota supports the national goal of identifying and plac-

ing a marker on the grave of the Last Union Veteran buried in each of Minnesota's 87 counties. The members of Camp #56 consider the Last Soldier ceremony an honor and a fitting tribute for a Union soldier whose service helped preserve the liberties Americans enjoy as a nation today.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a national veterans organization made up of the descendants of Union soldiers who fought in the Civil War. The SUVCW has more than 6,000 members across the country and is the successor to the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), the veterans organization formed after the Civil War by soldiers who served in the Union Army. The last member of the G.A.R., Albert Woolson from Duluth, Minnesota died in 1956.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) is conducting the ceremony for Pvt. Karmany in partnership with the Friends of the Boy in Blue Memorial and with the assistance of Glenwood Cemetery, Blue Earth County Historical Society, American Legion Post 11 and the VFW Post 950 Veterans Honor Guard.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) is conducting the ceremony for Pvt. Kelley in partnership with the Friends of the Boy in Blue Memorial and with the assistance of Rosehill Cemetery, Faribault County Historical Society, the Wells Historical Society, the American Legion Post 210 and the VFW Post 1778 Veterans Honor Guard.

For more information: Gary Carlberg, Commander of Camp #56, Department of Wisconsin Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, gary.carlberg@hotmail.com.



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What's The Buzz?

There will be no school on Thursday and Friday October 17 and 18 for MEA.



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Interstate 90 rest areas near Blue Earth reopens October 16

The eastbound and westbound Interstate 90 rest areas near Blue Earth were expected to reopen to the public on Wednesday, October 16, according to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

The rest areas, located just west of Blue Earth, have been closed since mid-April for replacement of pavement in the parking areas.

More than 20 million travelers stop at Minnesota rest areas annually. To find a rest area in Minnesota, use MnDOT's website search tool to learn about services and access at each site: www.mndot.gov/restareas.

For traffic and travel information in Minnesota, visit 511mn.org or get the free smartphone app at Google Play or the App Store.

Two weeks left to apply for FEMA Disaster Assistance

Homeowners and renters affected by the June 16 – July 4 severe storms and flooding have only two weeks left to apply for federal disaster assistance. The deadline to apply with FEMA is October 27, 2024.

FEMA assistance may include funds for temporary housing while you are unable to live in your home, such as rental assistance or reimbursement for hotel costs; funds to support the repair or replacement of your primary home, including privately-owned access routes, such as driveways, roads, or bridges; and funds for disaster-caused expenses and serious needs, such as repair or replacement of personal property and vehicles, funds for moving and storage, medical, dental, child care and other miscellaneous items.

Individuals in a Minnesota county designated for FEMA individual assistance may apply in one of three ways:

- Go online to DisasterAssistance.gov.
- Use the FEMA mobile app.
- Call the FEMA helpline at 800-621-3362 between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. Multilingual operators are available. If you use video relay service, captioned telephone service or others, give FEMA your number for that service.

Collecting the following information will help you complete your FEMA application: your Social Security number (or the social security number of a minor child in your household, if you're applying on their behalf); address of the damaged primary residence; insurance coverage information; current telephone

Wells Depot Museum joins in honoring Civil War Veteran Washington W. Kelley

Like many men who survived the horrors of the American Civil War, Washington Wayne Kelley traveled west to find a new place to live following his military service. He came to Minnesota in 1866 and three years later married Mary Catharine Schermerhorn, and settled for miles west of Wells. They moved to Wells a few years later and lived here together for almost 72 years.

The Wells Depot Museum has information on Kelley, and on the Civil War organization that supported veterans, the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), and its women's auxiliary, the Women's Relief Corps. This group continued meeting until the 1980s. Longtime Wells citizen, the late Otillia Evan, was one of the last members of this auxiliary in the state of Minnesota.

Kelley died in 1940, and was the last Civil War veteran to be buried in Rosehill Cemetery, and in Faribault County. There are over 40 Civil War veterans who are buried at Rosehill Cemetery. Kelley was a Charter Member of GAR Ransom Post #163 in Wells. He was the last surviving member of the local GAR post.

This Saturday the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) is honoring Kelley with a Last Union Veteran dedication ritual and the placing of a Last Union Veteran Marker on his grave. The ceremony will take place at Rosehill Cemetery at 2 p.m. on Saturday, October 19. It is co-sponsored by Friends of the Boy in Blue Memorial (Mankato), and assisted by Rosehill Cemetery, American Legion Post #210 and VFW Post #1778 Veterans Honor Guard, and the Wells Historical Society.

The Wells Depot Museum will be open on Saturday from noon until 4 (or later) for guests to see more of the history of Washington Kelley, the artifacts from Civil War societies, and also the entire permanent veterans' display.



Photo courtesy of Pam Wollum

Last Union Veteran dedication ritual at Rosehill Cemetery



Washington Kelley was 16 when he enlisted with the Union during the Civil War. After the war, in 1866, he headed west from Pennsylvania to Faribault County. He began farming about 4 miles west of what would become Wells. He married Mary Schermerhorn, and after a few years of disasters, including locust plagues, they moved into the new town of Wells. Kelley lived a long life, and died in 1940. His gravesite was honored Saturday with a new stone and a marker designating him as a Civil War veteran. Shone above the stone is Kelley's photo.



Commander Carlberg explained different parts of the ceremony honoring Washington Kelley as the Last Union Veteran, at Rosehill Cemetery on Saturday. He also introduced different reenactors as they took part in the event. Above is the Chaplain who offered prayers in the ceremony, and President Abraham Lincoln, who delivered the Gettysburg Address. Wells residents may know this reenactor as Bryce Stenzel, who has reenacted Lincoln at the Wells Depot Museum in the past.





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Col. William Colvill Camp 56 Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) were in Wells at Rosehill Cemetery Saturday, October 19, to perform a Last Union Veteran ceremony for Pvt. Washington Kelley, the last Civil War veteran in Farbaunt County to die. Shown above are the SUVCW Honor Guard who fired three volleys with their muskets. Gary Kauffmann of Wells led the Wells Area Honor Guard comprised of veterans from several Farbaunt County Communities. They also fired three volleys. The rifles were a lot faster than the muskets.



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The Commander who led the ceremony at the Rosehill Cemetery honoring Washington Kelley on Saturday afternoon was Gary Carlberg, of the SUVCW. He explained that some of the men in this Civil War-style funeral are also reenactors of the First Minnesota Volunteers. Shown with Carlberg is Pam Wollum, the great-granddaughter of Washington and Mary Kelley. Wollum brought the photo of Washington Kelley that was used in the ceremony.

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