CHAPTER VII

The Civil War

The War Between the States

In the 1850's events moved tragically toward the crisis called the Civil War. Weekly newspapers printed in Manitowoc and Milwaukee informed the citizens of our village of every turn of events in that decade. The moderate northern Democrats were now challenged by the more militant Republican Party on the matter of the extension of slavery into the territories. All of the events of the period; bleeding Kansas, Uncle Tom's Cabin, the Dred Scott Case, John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry, and the election of Lincoln had left their imprint on the villager's minds. The election of Lincoln indicated the possibility of trouble in the southern states. The nation watched as South Carolina became the first state to secede from the Union and a vacillating president, Buchanan, failed to lift a finger in defense of our Union.

Soon the Confederate firing on Fort Sumter brought a call for volunteers from President Lincoln. Two Rivers men began to respond to Lincoln's call to save the Union. When the shocking news of a Confederate victory at Bull Run indicated to the administration that the war would be a long one, President Lincoln issued a call for 300,000 additional men.

A. J. Lohman comments on the start of the war when he says, "After the commencement of the war and the call for 300,000 more men, the younger element became interested and began talking about enlisting. Some of the Democrats were opposed to the war, but not all of them, a few enlisting, but a majority of those enlisting were believers in the principles of the Republican Party. Public opinion was such that no active opposition was made by the Democrats in Two Rivers, and several who were prominent in the Democratic ranks..."
took active and prominent parts in securing enlistments.

The beginning of enlisting in Two Rivers as I remember it was started by the chair and pail factory employees, one afternoon, by organizing a company with fife and drum to march up to the tannery, going up on the eastside, and returning on the west side of the Mishicot River. A raid was made, before starting, on a pile of broom handles in the pail factory for "guns". Mr. Lohman reports that he was one of those who carried a "gun" in the march to the tannery.

When the march was completed that night a group of local men agreed to enlist. Soon companies of men were formed in Manitowoc County and sent to Camp Randall, located at Madison, Wisconsin, for basic training.

Active opposition to the war was continued by older members of the Democratic party known as "Copperheads". Copperheadism was strongest in the city of Manitowoc. It has been reported by writers of the period that secret Copperhead meetings were held in darkened barns and sheds as well as the stockrooms of Manitowoc stores. On occasion Confederate spies attended these meetings. The Copperhead activity consisted primarily of discouraging young men from enlistment in the army, aiding deserters, reporting on union army activities, and cooperating with rebel agents. One of the disrupting accomplishments alleged to have been caused by the Copperheads was the Indian Scare of 1862.

It is true that the Sioux Indians of Minnesota had conducted raids in the southwestern part of that state in the late summer of 1862 and had killed a number of white settlers. The guilty tribesmen had been rounded up and summarily hanged in a group execution.

Distorted and alarming versions of the Indian uprising struck the lakeshore communities on September 2nd and 3rd of 1862. By the year 1862 the Indians rarely showed up in the village and, while considerable discussion and speculation occurred among the villagers, no record of panic or unusual defensive measures has been recorded. That some communities were shaken by the news was evident in this report by Mrs. H.H. Smith of the Plymouth, Wis. Reporter of December 10th, 1872.

"The calm peace of the early September day was suddenly broken by a solitary horseman riding headlong into town with the "blood-freezing" news that Manitowoc, Two Rivers, Chilton, and Franklin had been sacked and their citizens
slain by a band of red men at whose hands Plymouth would shortly meet a similar fate.⁠¹

In 1863 the Union followed the Confederacy in the matter of conscripting or drafting men for the armed forces. The Northern draft was more of an inducement to have men enlist rather than a straight grab for manpower. Each community was assigned an enlistment quota which took into consideration the number of enlistees already gained from the

⁠¹ Wis. Magazine of History, Vol. 4, p. 192
community and also the number of able-bodies men left in the community. It was the first draft ever employed by this nation and it aroused some opposition. One feature of the draft that drew scattered criticism was the hiring of substitutes to go in place of an intended draftee. Another was the appearance of a group of professional bounty jumpers. These men were paid sums of money called bounties by the various levels of government as well as businessmen if they would enlist and save the community the embarrassment of not reaching its government enlistment quota. If the quota was not met by the community the Union government would draft the remaining portion of the quota.

As the news of the horrible casualties of 1862 & 1863 came back to Two Rivers some began to question the worthwhileness of the conflict. General McClellan, whom Lincoln had fired for alleged overcausiousness, decided to accept the Democratic nomination for president in 1864. Mr. Lincoln, a minority president, defeated the general in a very close contest over the nation's destiny. Manitowoc county showed the deep division of the North politically when it cast 2,248 votes for McClellan to 1,179 votes for President Lincoln.

Some of the minority of soldiers who were classified as deserters or bounty-jumpers sought rural Manitowoc County as a refuge. They would build "nests" deep in the woods or swamps of our area. One such nest was uncovered by the Green Bay Provost Marshall near Cooperstown. Three men were captured and the Provost Marshall reported that the men had been manufacturing singles which a cooperative farmer had been selling in Two Rivers and Manitowoc in exchange for groceries. The farmer had been extracting a sizeable share of the profit from the operation.

In contrast to those few who failed to serve their country, our community produced its share of fighting men who swelled the Union ranks. A list of those who served follows:

*Veterans of the Civil War from Two Rivers*

Salzman, Fred J.  
Berger, Wilhelm  
Buhse, John  
Hartung, Louis  
Lintelmann, August  
Mueller, Guston  
Weilep, Julius  
Polzen, August  
Rowley, Peter  
Steele, George G.  
Fisher, William A.  
Fisher, Joseph G.
THE CIVIL WAR

House, Lemuel S.
House, Murray R.
Burns, George T.
Conine, Erastus
Hamblett, Atwell J.
Sand, John
Sims, James
Whitcomb, Charles
Boettcher, Gottfried
Burkhardt, Felix
Buerstaedter, Charles
Dieterich, Carl
Hacker, Henry
Henede, Heinrich
Hurst, William
Kingsland, Isaac
Leibinger, John N.
Lord, Jefferson
Mandel, Friedrich
Martin, Samuel
Masters, James
Miller, Jacob
Mills, William
Molle, Frederick
O'Neil, Michael
Heim, Jacob
Hess, William
Hoefling, William
Kaufmann, Conrad
Kuhn, Martin
Kuhnel, Anton
Kunkel, John
Niemann, Friedrich
Roatz, Herman
Reisenbegler, Mathias
Schmidt, Christian
Stiede, Charles
Zuhrmuehlen, Friedrich
McMillan, Thomas
Henry, William
Allen, Ansou A.
Allie, James
Cayo, Ezra
Clark, Frank
Cooper, Louis
Cooper, Allen A.
Ewald, Carl
Flint, Raymond
Barner, Norman L.
DeLong, Sidney
Drumm, Frederick

Egner, Andrew
Ferdon, John W.
Ferdone, Zachariah
Finnegan, Patrick
Hutchings, Albert
Jenkins, Thomas G.
Lover, George
Leach, John
Norwood, Cornelius
Olsen, Evan
Olsen, Lars
Osborn, Harry
Robinson, George
Becker, John
Benkelman, Leonard
Burmeister, Charles
Dietz, Anton
Goldenstedt, Ferdinand
Harries, Matthew
Hoepner, Frederick
Leonhard, Frederick
Mohr, Jacob
Moser, Frederick
Mueller, Christopher
Patzer, Edward
Pies, Simon
Roatz, Frederick
Roatz, Hemonn
Redeker, William
Redeker, Charles
Richter, Berhard
Reisland, Frederick
Ruether, Henry
Sauber, Frederick
Schaefer, Andrew
Schnuelle, August
Osborne, Harry
Rentier, Enos
Ritter, Aaron
Romery, Ferdinand
Roaries, Clement
Samille, Delecter
Sotan, Peter
Southerland, John
Thomas, Madison
Sonntog, Frederick
Wegner, William
Wilger, Henry
Wilkins, Bernard
Wilsing, William
Zander, Carl
Rosenberg, Friedrich               Althen, Anton
Schwantes, Ferdinand             Baerwald, Fred
Schwantes, August               Baum, Oscar
Wieman, Henry                   Beck, Henry
Wilbert, Heinrich               Tische, Mitchell
Robinson, William               Wagner, Michael
Sisson, Hiram                   Allen, John S.
Sisson, James                   Ahrens, August
Sniffin, Royal                  Hampke, Henry
Stirn, Antone                   Henry, William
Vader, Peter                    Gauthier, Antoine
Woodcock, John                  Short, John
Woodin, William                 Voight, William

TOTAL: 140

The above list is a compilation of several sources and is as complete as is reasonably possible.

Those who died serving the Union cause were
* Isaac Kingsland
* H.C. Hamilton
* William Sutherland
* A.J. Hamlet

In addition, some of those who were wounded were “Charles Whitcomb at the battle of Perryville, October 8, 1862 and Charles Knapp at the battle of Peach Tree Creek on August 7th, 1863”.

The following account by A.J. Lohman explains in greater measure one of the features of the Civil War Draft.

“So many of the pail factory employees signifying their intention of going that Mr. Joseph Mann was desirous that Mr. Albee remain so as to break in new hands and keep the factory running, and as an inducement to the boys for his release, promised to donate to the families of those going the sum of two hundred dollars. This was accepted by them and Mr. Albee was allowed to remain, he reluctantly agreeing to do so, but with less reluctance on account of the ill health of his wife, and the age of the oldest of his two children being less than two years.

As the war progressed and the stories of suffering and the death of the soldiers were received by the people of Two Rivers, their enthusiasm about enlisting grew less, so that drafts had to be resorted to in order to keep up the necessary army,

2 A. H. Lohman, Early Days in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, p. 40
each town being assigned her quota, according to the number of able bodied men living there.

In the Winter of 1865 a draft was ordered for the town, the quota being as Mr. Lohman remembered it, 41. “At any rate, it would take every able bodied man, and as Mr. Albee was then in that class, according to Dr. H.O. Crane of the examining corps, he was sure of being one of the “elect.” The pail factory owners being still anxious that he remain as its superintendent, he was supplied with the necessary funds and told to go to Green Bay and procure a substitute, that being the Provost Marshal’s headquarters for the northern part of the state, and persons desiring to go as substitutes going there to find purchasers. He stayed there about a week before one could be found, when Mr. August Hyat, of Sheboygan County who had a few days previously paid all of his money, $400.00, for a team of horses and engaged in drawing supplies from Green Bay to Escanaba on the ice and lost his whole outfit by the horses breaking through the ice, offered himself.

Mr. Hyat having been examined and pronounced “sound,” a bargain was soon arranged, Mr. Albee paying him $737.50 for his substitute for one year. This was March 9th, 1865, but a little over a month before the war closed. Mr. Albee learned that he was sent to Madison, Wis., and kept there about six months and then discharged. The pail factory company paid one-half of the cost of the substitute, and he the remainder. Within sixty days after procuring a substitute Mr. Albee, in working under the pail factory boilers, on his knees, the cords of one of his limbs was so stretched as to cause one knee joint to occasionally slip out of place, and therefore disqualifying him as a soldier. But the war was ended and he had no regrets on account of the expense incurred by his share of military duty.”

In late 1865 the Blue clad troupes of the Union armies came home to Two Rivers. The war was over and the loss of 617,000 American dead caused scars that only time could heal.

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