

https://www.pinecountynews.com/communities/pinecity/news/last-civil-war-veteran-in-pine-county-to-be-honored-sept-13/article_56573a10-3450-44ed-9c4c-f3c877a5a369.html

FEATURED

Last Civil War veteran in Pine County to be honored Sept. 13

Sep 3, 2025

1 of 2



Henry and Mary Stephan pictured in their 90s on May 23, 1935.

Private Henry Stephan, considered the “Last Union Veteran” in Pine County will be honored in a ceremony at 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 13 at Birchwood Cemetery in Pine City.

According to his obituary published in the Pine Poker on Aug. 1, 1935, Stephan was born in Slovatin, Czechoslovakia region of central Europe on December 14, 1840. He received his early education in Vienna and came to Chicago at 18 years of age. Two years later his parents Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Stephan came to America and settled in Kawaunee, Wisconsin.

A tale of two armies

Stephan moved to New Orleans and was working in a furniture store when hostilities erupted between the North and the South. He joined the city militia there but was drafted into the Confederate Army after the Battle of Bull Run.

When his regiment got close to the Union forces, he convinced a river boat captain to take him up the Mississippi to Cairo, Illinois. He arrived there and then traveled to Kewaunee to his parents. There he joined the northern cause, enlisting in the Union Army, Co. A. 27th Volunteer Infantry on Aug. 15, 1862 and served until the end of the war, being honorably discharged Aug. 29, 1865.

He served under General Grant in the Battle of Vicksburg and in Arkansas under General Steele in the 16th Army Corps. He was wounded in the Battle of Vicksburg and took part in the Battle of Fort Spanish in Alabama in front of Mobile. He was with the Union forces when Jazoo City was taken and took part in many skirmishes on the march from Jazoo City and Vicksburg where 3,500 rebels were taken prisoners.

When the war ended, he returned to Kewaunee where he was united in marriage to Mary Dorothea Chloupek on May 18, 1867. Together they had six children, three sons and three daughters. They moved to Oshkosh, Wis., to Winsted, Minn. and to Nebraska where they operated a hotel for 14 years, eventually moving to Beroun in March of 1898 where they lived until Stephan's death.

Stephan served as postmaster at Beroun for 12-13 years, and it was due to his efforts that the first mail route was started out of Hinckley through the Beroun section. He worked up until ten days prior to his death.

He died in Beroun on July 24, 1935 at the age of 96, leaving his wife, son Vincent of Brook Park, Henry Jr. of Beroun, and Emma Holetz of Pine City. Three children, Rudolph, Pauline and Blanche, preceded him in death. He was given a military burial service at Birchwood Cemetery in Pine City

where he is buried.

Stephan was described as a kindly, friendly old gentleman, a good neighbor and a loving husband and father.

About the ceremony

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Camp #56 is conducting the Sept. 13 ceremony at 1 p.m. at Birchwood Cemetery with the assistance of the Pine County Historical Society, the Pine City History Association, VFW Post 4258, and the American Legion Post 51 Veterans Honor Guard.

The ceremony will feature the Last Soldier dedication ritual of the SUVCW and include the placing of a Last Soldier Marker on Stephan's grave.

The ceremony is open to both veterans and non-veterans. Wearing Civil War era attire is encouraged. It is the hope that Private Stephan's descendants will be attending as special guests.