

Johann J. Bunzow
16th US Infantry, Company A

Born: January 14, 1841

Enlisted: October 1861 as a Private

Transferred: From E to A

Mustered Out: 1865

Wife: Mary

1880 Census: WI, Manitowoc Co., Two Rivers:

John Bunzow, 39, Married, Farmer, b Prussia

Mary Bunzow, 39, Wife, Keeping house, b Hessen

Chd: Carolina-11, Barbara-11, Henry-5, Helena-2, John-3/12 March, all
b Wisconsin

1890 Veterans Schedule of Manitowoc County: John Banzow, Pvt 16 A, post office
Two Rivers; Shot through hand and arm

Wisconsin Census Enumeration, 1905 June 1, Ex-Soldiers & Sailors Residing in WI:

Bunzow, John Sr., Pvt, Cos E & H, 16th US Inf., Post office Two Rivers

Two Rivers Reporter, Saturday, Jan. 24, 1914: OLD TIMERS - The most interesting
period in the life of John J. Buenzow is his four years service in the Civil war.

He came to America with his parents in August 1856. Besides John, two other children, sisters came along. They landed at Two Rivers and were quartered at the Boldus house several days. Then they moved up to Neshoto. Here John found employment in the saw mill for a time. When the war came he went to Manitowoc in October 1861 and enlisted in company A., first battalion U.S. infantry. His war experiences include many battles, narrow escapes from death and long imprisonment



in southern dungeons and filthy stockades. At the battle of Chickamauga Mr. Buenzow was wounded in the arm just as he was about to discharge the rifle at the enemy. Then he lay on the ground and feigned death as the enemy swept past and one said, "there lies one dead Yankee." But he started to crawl around to the other side of a log to escape the bullets which were flying thick and while doing so was discovered by a rebel who marched him to the rear a prisoner. Mr. Buenzow's imprisonment lasted nineteen months at different places including Libbey, Andersonville, Blackshere, Savannah, Thomasville and Millen. The longest period of his imprisonment was at Andersonville. He says that at one time a well perfected plan of escape was almost carried out by about 2500 of the prisoners at Andersonville. They had dug a tunnel underneath the stockade which was not discovered by the sentries. Every able bodied man was provided with a club and ready to make a break for liberty through the tunnel and attack the guard to get possession of arms outside. But a few hours before the time set a traitor reported the facts to the rebels. This man was a cripple who could therefore not take advantage of the opportunity to escape. He came to a bad end for his meanness. His comrades rushed at him intending to hang him. To escape them he crossed the "dead line" and was shot dead by the sentry. After long months of insufficient food and shelter and scant clothing and terrible hardships the prisoners were exchanged and in June 1865 Mr. Buenzow was again among friends at Jacksonville, Fla. From there he went to army headquarters at Oswego, N.Y., and soon after, the war being over, he was honorably discharged. He had saved up considerable of his army pay and this money he invested in land. He acquired 120 acres up near Neshoto where he resides. This is in the district commonly known as the "school section." While Mr. and Mrs. Buenzow still work when so inclined, their sons now run the farm and the old folks don't have to work unless they wish to. They are both in excellent health at the age of 73. Mrs. Buenzow is just one month and one day older than her husband. She came to America with her parents when six years of age, about three years sooner than Mr. Buenzow. They were married forty-six years ago. Mr. Buenzow was born in New Fore Pomern, Stalbrote, Germany in 1841. He is among the well preserved and robust veterans and is now commander of the Jos. Rankin Post G.A.R. of Two Rivers."

1920 Federal Census: WI, Manitowoc County, Two Rivers/son Henry Bunzow and family:
John Bunzow, Father, 78k Widow, Immigration 1857 Naturalized 1880, b Germany, Retired.

Died: June 10, 1928

Buried: Pioneers Rest Cemetery, Two Rivers, WI

Gravesite: P-6-89: "John Bunzow/Co. A/16 U.S. Inf"

Manitowoc Herald News, Manitowoc, Wis. Monday, June 11, 1928 P. 9

"ONE OF LAST OF CIVIL WAR VETS DIES SUNDAY John J. Buenzow, aged 87 years, one of the three remaining civil war veterans in Two Rivers passed away at the hospital at Manitowoc Sunday evening following a long illness. He served for four years in the Union army in the civil war and was a prisoner at Andersonville prison for eighteen months. The deceased resided in this county for 71 years, having been born in Germany in 1841 and coming to this county when a young man, with his parents in 1856. They landed at Two Rivers, then moved to Neshoto where he found employment in a saw-mill. When the war broke out he went to Manitowoc and enlisted in Company A, Sixteenth U.S. infantry. At the battle of Chickamauga Mr. Buenzow was wounded in the arm and taken a prisoner. He was at Andersonville, Blackshere, Savannah, Thomasville and Millen prisons. Mr. Buenzow was a party in a plan to escape from Andersonville, by tunneling under the walls of the rebel prison, but a traitor betrayed the move. He was exchanged in 1865 and returned to this county purchasing a farm at Neshoto. Two sons, Henry and John of the town of Two Rivers, two daughters, Barbara in the town of Two Rivers and Ella in the town of Manitowoc, and one sister, Mrs. Henry Willert survive. His wife preceded him in death twelve years ago. Funeral arrangements have not been completed."