

# THE INDIANA LEGION

ORLANDO A SOMERS CAMP #1 KOKOMO  
JOHN AUTEN CAMP #8 SOUTH BEND  
WILLIAM P BENTON CAMP #28 CENTERVILLE  
JOHN B ANDERSON CAMP #223 COLUMBUS

JOHN W. FOSTER CAMP #2 EVANSVILLE  
CHAMPION HILL CAMP #17 HUNTINGTON  
DAVID D PORTER CAMP #116 VALPARAISO  
BEN HARRISON CAMP #356 INDIANAPOLIS

Newsletter of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of Indiana  
Dennis C. Hutchinson – Commander  
Issue 1-21

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**EACH MAN HERE IS WORTH A HUNDRED ‘CANCEL CULTURISTS’ “THEY EARNED THE HONOR AND GRATITUDE OF THIS GENERATION”**

## From Commander Hutchinson: (2021 Summer encampment)



Department of Indiana Brothers,

See below (next page) for a flyer for the 135<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment of the Department of Indiana Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The date is Saturday June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The meeting is planned as an “in-person” meeting at the Kokomo-Howard County Public Library South Branch; located at 1755 E Center Rd, Kokomo, IN 46902. We have reserved the 2 adjacent rooms to allow for social distancing. The Library opens at 9:00am EST and the meeting will begin promptly at 9:30am EST. We will follow the Library’s Covid-19 rules.

There is no-cost to attend. Lunch will be handled by individuals or small groups visiting the local restaurants on their own instead of reserving a restaurant for a large group. Maps will be available showing local restaurants locations.

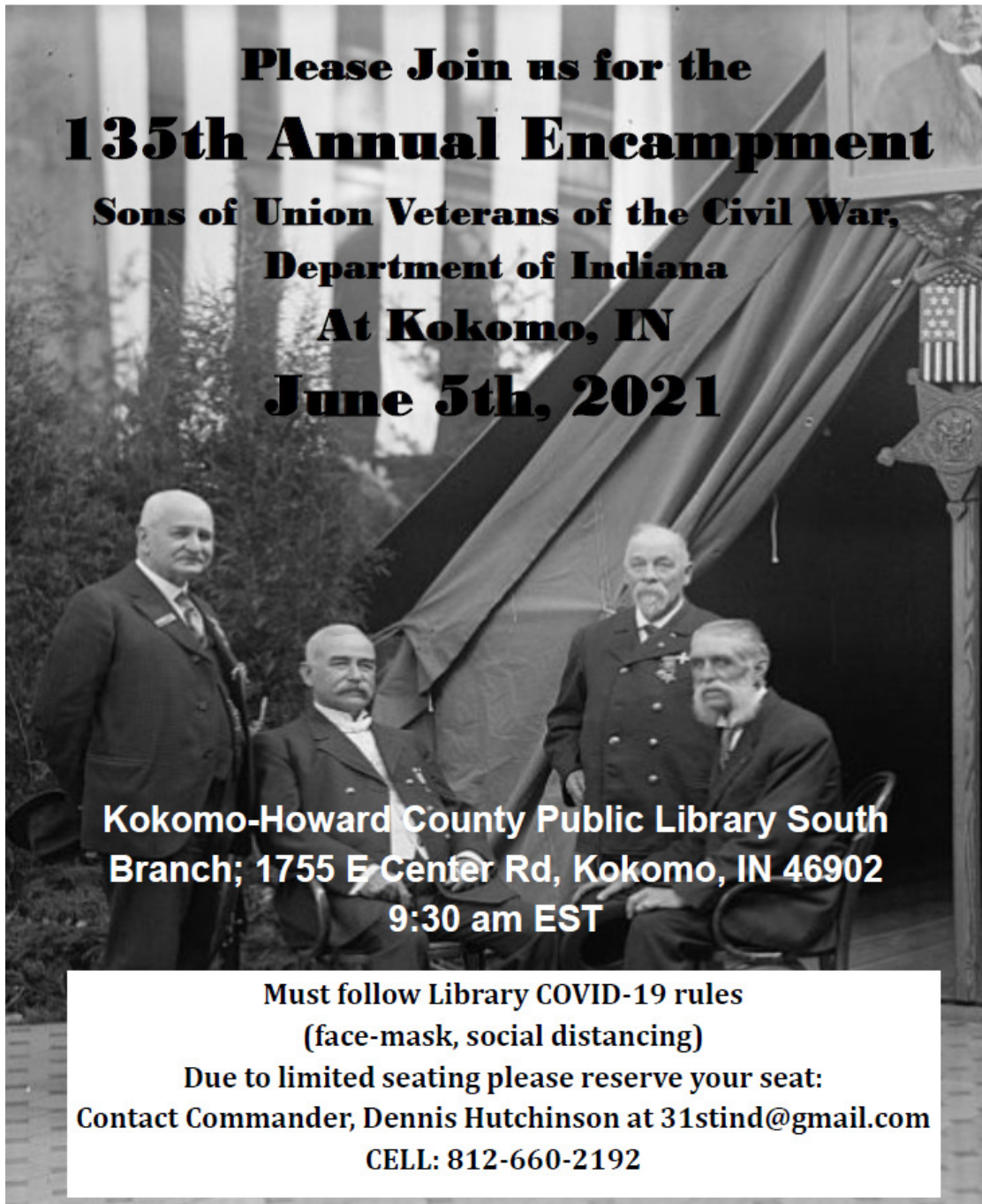
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*Remembering the sacrifices made by the soldiers and sailors of the Civil War who fought to preserve the Union  
we are dedicated to continuing the patriotic work begun by our parent organization,  
The Grand Army of the Republic*

If there are those who would rather participate by Zoom, please let me know, as I am considering making the Encampment a Hybrid meeting with Zoom participation during the in-person meeting. Participating by Zoom will limit your participation. I would prefer that you attend in-person.

Due to limited seating, we need to know who plans to attend. Please email myself at [31stind@gmail.com](mailto:31stind@gmail.com) or call my Cell phone 812-660-2192 and with your reservation.

Yours, in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,  
Dennis Hutchinson  
Commander – Department of Indiana SUVCW



**Please Join us for the  
135th Annual Encampment  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War,  
Department of Indiana  
At Kokomo, IN  
June 5th, 2021**

**Kokomo-Howard County Public Library South  
Branch; 1755 E Center Rd, Kokomo, IN 46902  
9:30 am EST**

**Must follow Library COVID-19 rules  
(face-mask, social distancing)  
Due to limited seating please reserve your seat:  
Contact Commander, Dennis Hutchinson at [31stind@gmail.com](mailto:31stind@gmail.com)  
CELL: 812-660-2192**

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA TREASURER**

When you visit the zoo don't feed the animals.



**(PERSONAL TESTING SHOWS POLAR BEARS CAN'T HOLD THEIR LIQUOR)**

**\*ON A MORE SERIOUS NOTE – THE DEPARTMENT TREASURY STAND AT \$8,953.58 AS OF APRIL 15, 2021.**



**Orlando A. Somers Camp No. 1 News**

**Somers Camp to Host Community Blood Drive**

The Orlando A Somers Camp # 1 will partner with Versiti Blood Center to host a Community Blood Drive on June 26, 2021 at the South Branch of the Howard County Public Library, 1755 E. Center Road, Kokomo. The blood drive will run from 9am-1pm. This blood drive will not only help the community, but allow the camp to put into practice patriotic instruction. The blood drive is being promoted in cooperation with the library as well as through social media.



**2021 Somers Camp Officers Installed in December 2020**

Pictured are (L-R): Alan Teller, Secretary; Matt Elkin, Treasurer; Larry Myer, Council, Travis LeMaster, Commander; George Frantz, Sr. Vice-Commander; Stephon Hagman, Jr. Vice-Commander. Not pictured: Russ Kirchner III, Council & Mark Thornton, Council.



These photos were taken at our February 20, 2021 Camp Meeting in Kokomo. New brother Rob Miller was initiated into the camp (Left) and Junior Vice Commander Stephon Hagman (Right) gave a presentation on re-enacting. JVC Hagman is a member of the SVR and re-enacts as a member of the 35th Indiana Infantry.



**WHEN IN NEED OF THE RIGHT COMEBACK OR INSULT – TRY ONE OF THESE**

*"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go."*  
-Oscar Wilde

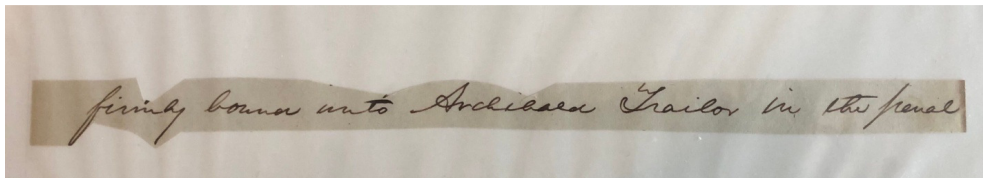
*"He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts...for support rather than illumination."*  
-Andrew Lang (1844-1912)

*"He has Van Gogh's ear for music."*  
-Billy Wilder

*"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But I'm afraid this wasn't it."*  
-Groucho Marx

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**From the Desk of Brother Bruce Kolb, PDC**



A few years back, I purchased a slip of paper in Lincoln's own hand that was part of his legal papers. I immediately recognized the name on the slip of paper.

The note states: firmly bound unto Archibald Trailor in the penal.

There were three Trailor brothers named William, Henry, and Archibald. Archibald actually lived in Springfield, Illinois. The other two brothers lived in different points to the north west of Springfield.

In May of 1841, William (the oldest) who lived in Warren County a good hundred miles from Springfield decided to visit his two brothers. He was accompanied by a man names Fisher who was single, no family, and a handyman who was working and living in William's home. Mr. fisher was reported to have been very frugal with his money and rumor had it that he had amassed a considerable amount of money. They traveled in a carriage with one hose to Henry's home and he rode along on his horse to Springfield to visit Archibald.

Once in Springfield they all took rooms as the boarding house where Archibald lived. They had several meals and decided to explore the town of Springfield. However, Fisher never returned and the brothers tried to locate him several time without success. William and Henry decided to return to their homes. Several people in the boarding house were concerned that Fisher would be left without a way to get back home.

A week later the Postmaster in Springfield received a letter from the Postmaster near William's home that William was boasting that Fisher was deceased and that he was to inherit all his money. The Attorney General who resided in Springfield was made aware of the situation and so was the Mayor. An investigation was made to find the whereabouts of Fisher. Having found no sign of Fisher both William and Henry were arrested. Under interrogation Henry finally stated that William and Archibald had killed Fisher without his knowledge and hid the body in a thicket. He stated that the two later retrieved the body and deposit it in the mill pond while Henry acted as a lookout.

Sure enough the police found wagon tracks, a sign of a struggle, and wagon tracks on the edge of the mill pond just as Henry said. Both William and Archibald were tried for murder with Henry as the chief prosecution witness. Lincoln was called upon to defend the accused. The search still continued for the body of Fisher and even the mill pond was drained with no sign of the body. Meanwhile a Dr. Gilmore hearing of William's arrest proceeded to try and convince the authorities that Fisher was actually alive and living in his home. It seems that on the morning of William's arrest Dr. Gilmore found Fisher who was in very feeble health and could give no rational account as to where he had been during his absence. Dr. Gilmore stated that he had known Fisher for several years and that he had understood that Fisher was subject to "temporary derangement of mind" as a result of a head injury years before. Fisher was escorted to Springfield and after appearing in court the Trailor brothers were released from custody.

Lincoln received no money for his legal representation. In an attempt to recoup his expenses he turned the trial into a short story murder mystery of sorts and submitted it for publication. Believe it or not, Abraham Lincoln could have become a full time mystery writer. He actually gave it a try and was published.

*In 1846, the Quincy Whig published "A Remarkable Case of Arrest for Murder," described as a "murder mystery by Abraham Lincoln."*

**(WORTH ANOTHER LOOK)  
APRIL 2021 PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION**

Brothers,

As the Winter turns to Spring and the weather gets warmer, we hope to be able to head back out into our communities and do the work that we all volunteered to do when joining this order. We head to our local cities, villages and hamlet church-yards to fix or clean up them up and to educate our neighbors on why these locations are important not only to us as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, but to our country as a whole. Most people will walk by these monuments and cemeteries and not think twice about

them or will look at them as memories of a far gone past. However, we see a Brother, a Son, a Husband,

or a Father whose life was forever altered from the conflict, we see stories worth being remembered and told for future generations.

I think we can all agree that telling these brave men’s stories and ensuring that their memories are not forgotten is part of the very fabric of patriotism. Now the question becomes how do we tell their stories in a way that entices and engages our audience. The answer to this question changes as the times change but the basic answer is to captivate the youth. As we have seen in the past some of the answers are in using social media to attract the new generation. However, sometimes we need to invite the youth out to get their hands dirty and to see firsthand the work we do.

There are plenty of youth organizations out there that we give awards to, the Scouts and ROTC Units come to mind, however how many of these groups do we involve in our clean ups, restorations or flagging details? Many of these youth organizations require community service hours for its members, but they do not know we exist as a group, or if they do know we exist, do not realize that we do service projects in which their members can get hours. So how do we let them know we are always looking for volunteers to help? We communicate out by any means necessary. With most of these groups being on social media, we can find their email information or send them a direct message through the application itself, by doing this we show these groups we are taking the initiative and there are other organizations and projects out there that need help. We can also do it the old fashion way, many of these groups reach out to us to provide an award to their groups, well let them know by word of mouth at these awards ceremonies that we also offer volunteer opportunities as well. In some instances, it’s the old “who you know” adage. My own Camp was able to get linked up with a local Naval JROTC group because of a few of the Brothers had graduated from the high school years prior and knew who to talk to.

Getting younger folks to help us at these events does three main things. First, and foremost as this is a Patriotic Instruction, it helps educate the youth of today as to the sacrifices these brave souls made and why it is important to honor these Patriots. Second, it instills in these young minds a sense of community and giving back that they might not have already had. On many occasions have we had young Cadets come to our clean ups thinking “oh great just another thing our command is making us do” and they leave with a deeper appreciation, pride, and excitement for what they had just done. Third is we could get young recruits into the one of the Allied Orders, once they see that we are not just a bunch of “history geeks”, again I am self-identifying as said history geek, but people that do good in our community, they will be hooked, if not to join then to simply lend a hand when they are free. All three of these things are in their nature Patriotic.

In Fraternity Charity and Loyalty,  
Br. Ben Frail, PDC National Patriotic Instructor



**Puns to confuse modern students with:**

1. The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
2. I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
3. She was only a whisky maker, but he loved her still.
4. A rubber-band pistol was confiscated from an algebra class, because it was a weapon of math disruption.
5. No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
6. A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
7. A grenade thrown into a kitchen in France would result in Linoleum Blownapart.
8. Two silkworms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
9. A hole has been found in the naturist camp wall. The police are looking into it.
10. Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.
11. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

12. Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'

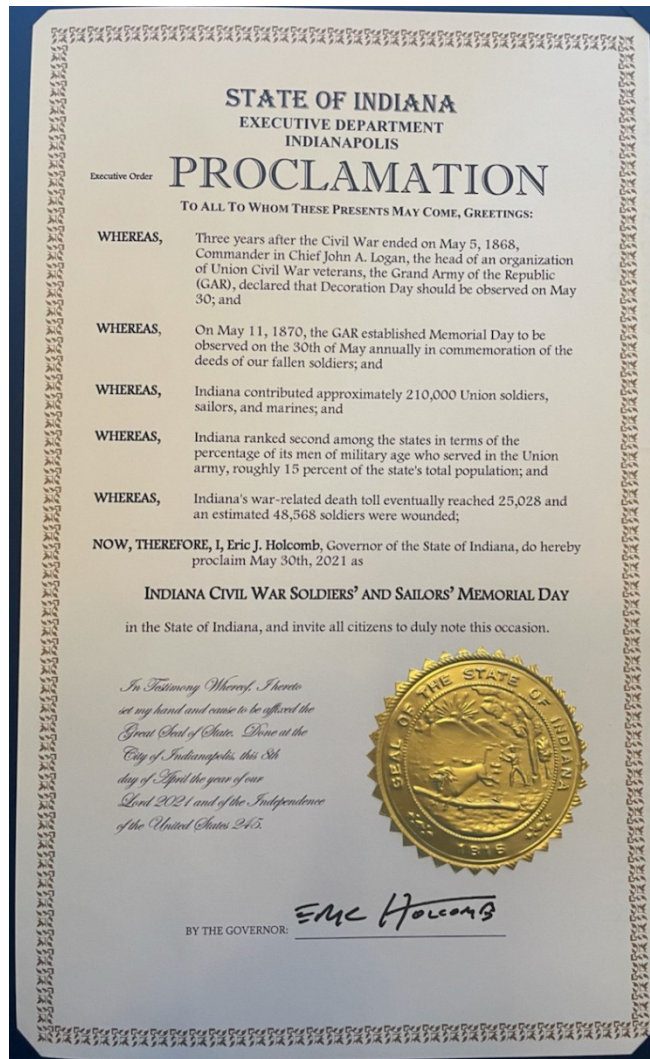
13. I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

### Sons of Veterans – Department of Indiana Badges

These 'sharp looking' badges are of bright red bordered with gold. They are like those adopted and issued by the various departments over 100 years ago. The look sharp on hats (slouch or kepi) and look equally dashing on blazers or suit coats. The cost is a miniscule \$6.00 per badge. Send your check (or cash) to Gib Young, 2004 Hunters Ridge Dr. Huntington, Indiana 46750.



**Warning! The above ad will be repeated until we get these badges sold**



Brother Bruce Kolb picked this up from the Governor's Office recently. A proclamation recognizing Indiana's contribution to the Union and Memorial Day. (I hope you can read it.- editor)



### **Services Performed at the Grave of Private John N. Minnick**

On April 17, 2021, the 27th Indiana, Co. D, Sons of Veterans Reserve, conducted the 1917 G.A.R. ritual at the grave of Private John N. Minnick, located in the Saunders Cemetery, Daleville, Delaware County. The ceremony rededicated the final resting place of Private David N. Minnick, who did not receive a military burial when he died in 1905. Four generations of his descendants ranging in age from one to 93 years old, as well as members of the Delaware County Historical Society and many local residents, attended the service.

David N. Minnick was 17 years old when he enlisted in the Union Army in 1862. He served in both the 30th Indiana and 36th Indiana regiments and served a full three-year term despite being seriously injured at Chickamauga. When he mustered out in 1865, David returned to Salem Township, married, and raised his family. He was a pillar of the community and served as the Commander of the Augustus L. Safford Grand Army of the Republic Post No. 529, located in Daleville, Indiana, as well as a Director of Saunders Cemetery Association.



**The 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana SVR at the Grave Pvt. David Minnick  
(L to R – Dennis Hutchinson, Gib Young, Tom Schmitt, Tim Beckman, Dave Tilden, and Capt. Mike Beck)**



**The 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana SVR with Some of Pvt. Minnick's Descendants**