

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 2-21



US Marines and two 'squad' on the USS Constellation

From Department Commander Hutchinson:



On July 17th, 2021, Department Commander, Dennis Hutchinson represented the Department of Indiana SUVCW and the John W. Foster Camp #2 at the new headstone dedication ceremony for soldier, Lewis C. Ragland. Lewis served as Sergeant of Co. F, 60th Indiana Volunteer Infantry and was buried in the very small, Parker Cemetery in Perry Township, Vanderburgh County, Indiana. The restoration and cleaning was a project taken on by the National Society, Daughters of the Union, Brigadier General Eli Huston Murray Chapter. Dennis participated in the initial clearing of brush in 2019. Wreaths from 9 Heritage and Veterans groups were presented at the event (see pictures at top of next page).

*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*



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



Eagle Scout Court of Honor Casey Davidson & Sienna Huther - February-March 2021 - Pendleton, Ind.

Sienna Huther age 17 and Casey Davidson age 16, became the first females to obtain the rank of Eagle Scout in Madison County Indiana. Both scouts are members of Scouts BSA Troop 262 which was chartered in February 2019 through the First United Methodist Church in Pendleton.

Sienna’s project included installing a flagpole behind the Pendleton Heights Middle School and restoration of the interior of a storage barn on that school’s property. Casey’s project was installing a 24-foot pedestrian bridge across a creek at the Green Township Community Park near Fortville and helped Sienna Casey install the new flagpole at the Middle School.

Awarding our Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) Eagle Scout certificate and patch to Siena Huther and Casey Davidson was Past Camp Commander / Benjamin Harrison’s Camp #356 and

Eagle Scout Coordinator, John Bowyer and his wife Amy. (See photograph below) Left to Right – Amy Bowyer, Casey Davidson, Sienna Huther & PCC John Bowyer.



Color Guard Detail, Marriott East, Indianapolis, IN

On May 22, 2021, Company D. 27th Indiana SVR was asked and provided a Color Guard detail for the opening ceremony of the National Society of the Union 1861-1865. Members of the Color Guard (see 1st picture below left to right) are Private Tim Beckman, Private Bill Hendricks, Captain Mike Beck and 2nd/Lt. Bruce Kolb. After the posting of the colors, 2nd/Lt. Bruce Kolb presented a copy of Governor Holcomb’s Proclamation making May 30, 2021, “Indiana Civil War Soldiers Memorial Day” to Cheryl P. Morris, President General of the National Society Union 1861-1865.

The National Society Daughters of the Union 1861-1865 was founded October 9, 1912, in New York City, New York by Mr. Frank Crowell. As of 2021 there are 24 active Chapters in 20 States.



Benjamin Harrison Camp #356 Cemetery Restoration Project

On May 8, 2021, members of SUVCW Camp Benjamin Harrison #356 meet at the William Creek Cemetery to work on a cemetery restoration project of Civil War and other military markers. This was to

be a work-educational day in conjunction with the Williams Creek Cemetery Volunteers. We were also joined by James McBryant II, the National President of the Sons of Spanish American War Veterans. President McBryant also conducted a grave rededication ritual after the work was complete.

Most of the day was spent as a workshop demonstrating how to clean and reset gravestones. The last stone reset that day was Lawrence Welch's military headstone (Company H. 1st Kentucky Infantry – (Span. Am. War). Lawrence Welch was named the Superintendent of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in 1925 and held that title until his death in May 1940.

As a side note, members of the Benjamin Harrison Camp #356 found the lost burial site of Robert Tingle, Private, Company C, 26th Indiana Infantry who died at Macon Mississippi on October 22, 1865.



(L-R): Tim Beckman, President James McBryant



(L-R): Mike Beck, Bruce Kolb, Joe Beckman, Tim Beckman, Raymond Brown



**Headstone for Pvt. Robert R. Tingle
Company C, 26th Indiana Volunteer Infantry**

Honoring the Last Civil War Soldier Buried in Tipton County

Members of the Orlando A Somers Camp # 1, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, gathered on Sunday, May 30th at Fairview Cemetery in Tipton, Indiana to honor Pvt. James Marsee Hoover, Co. G, 139th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Pvt. Hoover was the last soldier buried in Tipton County, Indiana.

Colors were presented by the Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) Co. D 27th Indiana and the American Legion Post 46 of Tipton. Wreaths were presented by Orlando A Somers Camp # 1, Kokomo; John Auten Camp # 7, South Bend, and Champion Hill Camp # 17, Huntington. Scouts from Troop 595 in Tipton assisted in the ceremony.

After opening remarks and invocation, Camp Sr. Vice Commander George Frantz read a biography of James Marsee Hoover. Camp Eagle Scout Coordinator Drew Godby gave a history of the 139th Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

The Master of Ceremonies was Camp Secretary Alan Teller. The ceremony was conducted by Camp Commander Travis LeMaster, assisted by Camp Treasurer Matt Elkin as Memorials Officer and Camp Chaplain Larry Myer.

A rifle salute was given by the Sons of Veterans Reserve commanded by 1st Lt. William Adams with members Stephon Hagman and Thomas Schmitt and taps was sounded.

This was the 8th county that Somers Camp has honored and marked the grave of the Last Soldier.



Brother Tom Schmitt renders honors at the grave of Pvt. Hoover



Members of the Sons of Veterans Reserve fire a salute



Members of the Somers Camp gather for a photo (L-R): Ord LeMaster, Stephon Hagman, Travis LeMaster, Jacob Elkin, Alan Teller, George Frantz, Matt Elkin, James Godby, Drew Godby, Larry Myer, Thomas Schmitt

Treasurer’s Report

For security purposes Department Treasurer has turned all Department monies into Spanish gold doubloons and kept in a locked wooden box in his tool shed out in the back.



*As an extra security measure I have hire Leon Bloat, an eight year old neighbor to keep an eye on the shed when I’m gone. He also has the extra key to the box in case I lose mine.

Balance in the Department Account as of August 1, 2021 -- \$9915.00

(From the war room and desk of Brother Bruce Kolb.)...

Looking through a pile of dug bullets, every so often, I find misshapen Minnie balls like the ones below.



Closer examination reveals that the indentations were clearly made by teeth. The next question is why? The old phrase "bite the bullet" comes to mind, but again why? We are all used to seeing Soldiers and Cowboys in the movies or on TV with a stick, a piece of leather, or a bullet clenched between their teeth while the Doctor or Surgeon digs out a bullet or amputates a limb. However, in the beginning of the Civil War at least 95% of the surgeries were done using anesthesia. Hence no need for a bullet to chew on. What about the other 5% or later in the War when supplies became scarce? Medical

books published during the civil war contained warnings to watch out for foreign bodies in the mouth that could be aspirated while under anesthesia. It is easy to imagine how a Minnie ball could easily be swallowed by someone in extreme pain.

Another argument could be made for chewing on Minnie balls because the lead they are made with is sweet tasting. I was convinced a long time ago that his was the reason. Further research on my part, reveals that in order for something to taste sweet, it must be soluble in water as well as in our saliva, which contains water. Sugar and all artificial sweeteners dissolve in water, so when added to foods (which contain varying amounts of water), they make the foods taste sweet or sweeter. If these chemicals did not dissolve in our saliva, they could not possibly produce the sensation of sweetness in our mouths.

So why do we hear about children eating lead paint? It seems that paints are primarily a mixture of pigment and a liquid that either dries or hardens which allows it to stick to a surface. The purpose of the pigment is either to stain the surface, or hide the color that the surface already has. For centuries, white lead pigment was used in paint, because it had a strong ability to cover colors. The most common white pigment additive was lead carbonate. This compound (no longer added to paint) is completely insoluble in water, and therefore cannot possibly be sweet. Another product, lead chromate that was phased out of use in the 1980s, gave the paint a vivid yellow color. Like lead carbonate, lead chromate is insoluble in water

and thus can't taste sweet. Back when paints were formulated with linseed oil and lead pigments, a very small amount of a chemical called lead acetate was sometimes added to the paint to make it harden faster. The name commonly used for lead acetate was "sugar of lead" and it was very sweet tasting. Lead acetate was made by treating lead oxide with acetic acid.

In Roman times lead acetate was formed when grape extracts are fermented in lead containers to make wine or vinegar. If the wine or vinegar is boiled out of the container, a thick syrupy liquid called "sapa" is left. Sapa contains lead acetate and is sweet; it was used to sweeten foods and no doubt caused many cases of lead poisoning. But lead acetate is no longer added to paints (nor sapa to foods, for that matter).

Is lead acetate found in or on Minnie balls? I didn't think so until I found a museum handbook that stated, "Metallic objects can be readily damaged by improper storage or exhibit conditions...Hardwoods such as oak can evolve vapors that corrode lead and silver. A commonly observed deterioration in older museum cases is the formation of a white lead corrosive compound (e.g. Lead acetate and lead carbonate) on lead artifact such as minie (sic) balls." So there could be an actual taste component to the reason for chewing on lead Minnie balls.

Lastly, chewing on lead bullets could have been done out of sheer boredom. Diaries of the time, record long periods of time between battles with nothing to do to occupy the soldiers time.

We do know that teeth marks do occur on lead bullets of the time. Even though a bullet seems too hard to chew, it is possible to make indentations with your teeth. With the constant chewing and heat from your mouth, over time it is possible to chew a bullet almost like chewing gum (please do not try this).

Another theory put forth is that the marks were made by wild animals. When or why they would chew on the bullets we do not know.

Unfortunately, we may never know the real reason for these chewed bullets appearing on the battlefields. Perhaps someday we will find evidence to answer this question.



2021 Memorial Day Service and Memorial Tribute to Brother Charles Hughes in the Dale Cemetery in Connersville, Indiana. Present Were Members of the Ben Harrison Camp #356 and 27th Indiana SVR

27th Indiana – SVR – Schedule

Gentlemen, I am listing the current scheduled events requiring uniformed SVR participation for the remainder of the year. Please review these upcoming ceremonies and events and contact myself with those you plan to attend. In most cases it's important we have at least 4 uniformed members present at each event. Three of these events are Last Soldiers events and at 2 of these descendants of the soldiers being honored will be present. At those we must have 4 uniformed members if possible.

- National Encampment, St. Louis MO - August 5th through August 8, 2021
- Sweetser Parade and Informational Booth - August 21, 2021
- Last Soldier of La Porte County, Westville IN - August 28, 2021 (descendants present)
- Last Soldier of Fulton County, Rochester IN - September 11, 2021 (descendants present)
- Foster Camp Triple Ceremony (Including Last Soldier of Spencer County), Spencer County IN area - September 25, 2021
- Remembrance Day Parade, Gettysburg, PA - November 20, 2021

Again please review these events and contact myself ASAP with the dates of those you are able to attend. Let's make sure that the Co D 7th Indiana makes a great showing at these events! additional reminders and information will be posted as we get closer to the dates of each event.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty
Lt. Bill Adams
Adjutant, Co. D 27th Indiana SVR SUVCW





Did you know.....? That the saying “God willing and the Creek don’t rise” was in reference to the Creek Indiana and not a body of water? It was written by Benjamin Hawkins in the late 18th century. He was a politician and Indian diplomat. While in the south, Hawkins was requested by the President of the U.S. to return to Washington. In his response, he was said to have written, “God willing and the Creek don’t rise.” Because he capitalized the word “Creek” it is deduced that he was referring to the Creek Indian tribe and not a body of water.