

# 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 3-21

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“Determined Leadership- Great Men Have It, Great Nations Need It”

**Please join us for the Department of Indiana Winter Encampment  
on January 29th, 2022 at 9:00 am EST**



Please contact Commander Dennis Hutchinson at [31stind@gmail.com](mailto:31stind@gmail.com) or Secretary Bill Adams, PDC at [adamswr949@gmail.com](mailto:adamswr949@gmail.com) that you plan to attend by January 26th. There will be coffee, juice and donuts and a lunch provided. A free will offering is requested to cover the costs of the food and drinks.

LOCATION: Lions Club Building at 365 South Leedy Lane,  
Andrews, IN

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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*

**Department Treasurer's Report – \$9938.00 (from somewhere at sea)**



Brothers of the Department of Indiana – The current treasury of \$9938.00 as of Nov. 20, 2021 is in safe hands. I have a secret safe in the bilge of this ex-minesweeper I bought off the family of John Wayne. If you need me I will be in one of the Caribbean Islands that doesn't have extradition treaties with the US.

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**From the Desk and Museum of Brother Bruce Kolb:**



I have only seen two of these original Civil War insignia during my twenty plus years of collecting. I have kept the information to myself, and have not shared my research until now. This insignia was actually used during the Civil War by Officers.

The insignia is called an Officer's circlet. The regulation overcoat (greatcoat) for Officers was dark blue while the Enlisted men wore sky blue. Once the war started, the dark blue coats made the Officers targets. General Order No. 102 issued on November 25, 1861 allowed Officers to wear the sky blue greatcoat. This unfortunately made it impossible to tell the Officers rank since rank straps were not worn on the shoulder. Adding braids on the sleeve in the field was not practical either. On November 22, 1864 General Order No. 286 was issued

which allowed Officers to wear the same greatcoat as the enlisted men of their command, and that no ornamentation was required. Thus, the circlet was allowed but not required.



The Officer's circlet can be found in the period catalog published by Schuyler, Hartley, and Graham. Another example can be seen in the artist Don Toiani's Soldiers in America.

The circlet in my collection can be used for 2nd Lieutenants who would just wear the circle pin. A 1st Lieutenant would wear the single bar in the center of the circle. A Captain would wear two bars mounted inside the circle.

### **Last Soldier of Fulton County – John Shelton**

On September 11, 2021 at the IOOF Cemetery in Rochester, Indiana, John Auten Camp 8, dedicated the final resting place of the “Last Soldier” of Fulton County. The soldier was Private John H. Shelton, born in 1847 and died in 1942. He served in Co. B 142nd Ind. Vol. Inf.

Pre- program music was provided by Bill Brenan of General Pritchard Camp 20, Kalamazoo Michigan, (on fife) and Alan Hall of John Auten Camp 8, South Bend Ind. (drums). Will Radell of David D. Porter Camp, 116 Valparaiso, Indiana sang “The Battle Hymn of the Republic.” Fulton County Historian Shirley Willard spoke on Fulton County in the Civil War. National Vice President of the WRC Elizabeth Thurston presented wreaths for the WRC and the LGAR.

The rifle squad was made up of members from Co. D 27th Ind. and Co. A 14th Michigan. The combined SVR unit was under the command of 3rd Military District Commander Lt. Col. J. Alan Teller. The rifle squad was Commanded by Capt. Dean Lamphere Jr. 14th Michigan SVR.

SUVCW and Allied Orders participating were: Orlando Somers Camp 1, Kokomo, IN; John Auten Camp 8, South Bend, IN; Champion Hill Camp 17, Huntington, IN; David D. Porter Camp 116, Valparaiso, IN; General Pritchard Camp 20, Kalamazoo, MI; March to the Sea Camp 135, Centreville, MI; Arsinoe Martin LGAR Circle 78, Elkhart and The Women’s Relief Corp, National.



### **Last Soldier of LaPorte County – Benjamin Kimbrel**

On August 28, 2021, John Auten Camp 8, South Bend and David D. Porter Camp, 116 Valparaiso joined forces to mark the final resting place (Westville, Indiana) of Benjamin F. Kimbrel, the “Last Soldier” of LaPorte County. Benjamin was born on 10/16/1844 and died 12/27/1944. He was a private in Co. H, 66h Indiana Vol. Inf.

Eight members of Benjamin’s family were present for the dedication including his granddaughter Dorothy Huber of Lemont IL. Dorothy shared her remembrances of Benjamin so that all felt they knew the man we honored better.

Elizabeth Thurston, National Vice President of the WRC served as the Chaplain for the ceremony and LaPorte County Historian Bruce Johnson spoke on La Porte County in the Civil War. SUVCW Brother Will Radell sang “the Battle Hymn of the Republic.” Co. D 27 Indiana SVR presented the Colors and fired the rifle salute. Additional support was provided by Champion Hill Camp 17 and Arsinoe Martin LGAR Circle #78 of Elkhart.





Brother Will Raddell singing the ‘Battle Hymn of the Republic’



Grave of Pvt. Kimbrel

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### Father and Son Join John Auten Camp in Dual Ceremony

The John Auten Camp 8, South Bend had a unique experience Saturday November 13, 2021. The camp welcomed a father and son into our camp at the same ceremony. Rick Deutscher and his son Wesley participated in the SUVCW initiation ceremony at a special meeting called for that purpose. Both Rick Deutscher's other son, Alex, has also joined John Auten Camp but was unable to attend the ceremony due to work obligations and travel distance from his home in

Alabama. The ceremony was recorded however so he could watch at a later time. Rick lives in Michigan city, Indiana and Wesley lives in Evanston, Illinois. Rick's daughter and son-in-law were also in attendance. His daughter had the honor of pinning her dad and brother's membership Badges on them! Camp guest, Brother Tom Schmitt of Campion Hill camp 17 served as the guide for the initiation ceremony. Both new Brothers were welcomed and joined John Auten camp members and their families in refreshments and fellowship following the ceremony.



### The Following Article was Submitted by Brother Mike Beck, PDC:

Three years ago, I was contacted by my cousin Thomas LeHew to see if I could help him reset a family Civil War military headstone. This particular stone belonged to Corporal James LaHew (misspelled on the headstone) LeHew of Company A. 28<sup>th</sup> Iowa Volunteer Infantry. Corporal James LaHew (LeHew) is the older brother of my Great, great grandfather Sgt. Joseph Snyder LeHew of Company H. 15th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Finally, this September, Brother DC Dennis Hutchinson (Indiana) and I were able to meet Thomas at the Oakwood Cemetery, Shellsburg, Benton County Iowa and we cleaned and reset Corporal James LaHew's (LeHew) headstone.

The following photographs were taken during this event



Puling the Stone



Finished Job

(An interesting but important footnote to history; The 28<sup>th</sup> Iowa was a part of the 2nd Brigade of the 12<sup>th</sup> Division of the 13<sup>th</sup> Corps. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Brig. Consisted of the 28<sup>th</sup> Iowa, the 24<sup>th</sup> Iowa, the 56<sup>th</sup> Ohio, and the 47<sup>th</sup> Indiana. At Champions Hill on May 16<sup>th</sup> 1863 the brigade was commanded by Col. James Slack of Huntington, Indiana. The 28<sup>th</sup> Iowa was instrumental in the brigade carrying the famous ‘crossroads’ and capturing Waddell’s Alabama Battery.)

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The following article was written by Harry McCawley former Assc. Editor of the Columbus Republic Newspaper. It was originally printed June 15, 2017.

**“From the annals of Bartholomew County Indiana”**

Bartholomew County has had its share of witnesses to history — individuals who may not have made history themselves but were in the wings when it was made.

Jonathan Moore, the one for whom a portion of Indiana 46 west of Columbus is named, probably ranks as the earliest local witness. He served in the elite Life Guard assigned to protect and tend to the personal needs of Gen. George Washington during the Revolutionary War.

Apparently one of his duties related to making sure the general was clean shaven. Among the items passed down to his descendants were a razor and strop used to sharpen the blades which had been used by the general and given him to Moore.

His connection to the county came about several years after the young nation won its independence when he moved here from Ohio, shortly after Bartholomew County was created in 1821. According to military pension records he had worked as a tailor while living in Ohio but by the time he moved here when he was 64, infirmities associated with old age incapacitated him. Ironically, he would live to be 99 years old and is buried in Sharon Cemetery.

Another well-known local witness was Barton Mitchell, who was a foot soldier for the Union during the

Civil War. It was during a rest period in a march along the Maryland countryside that he was thrust into a pivotal moment in American history.

As he sat on the ground, the soldier noticed a package alongside the road. At first he couldn't believe his luck as the package contained several cigars. It was when he took the cigars out to share with a fellow soldier that he noticed another infinitely more valuable item.

The package contained the battle plan drawn up for Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. It outlined in detail how his forces were to be deployed for the approaching encounter with Union forces at the small Maryland town of Antietam.

Mitchell took the plan to his superiors, who used it to fashion their own plans for the battle which Lee saw as a prelude to an invasion of the North.

What followed was one of the bloodiest campaigns of the Civil War, one the North would have lost had Mitchell not "discovered" Lee's lost order. As it turned out, the costly campaign resulted in a draw but Lee was forced to withdraw.

Like Moore, Mitchell came to Bartholomew County late in life. He and his family settled in an area around Hartsville and he died in 1868, six years after making his historic discovery. He is buried in the Hartsville Baptist Cemetery.

It is only in recent days that another Bartholomew County witness to history has emerged — one who also served during the Civil War and was called upon in the days immediately following the war's conclusion to perform a sad but important duty.

Jariah Dinkins was assigned to stand guard over the body of the assassinated President Abraham Lincoln as it lay in state at the White House. Dinkin's story relates much more to Bartholomew County than those of Jonathan Moore and Barton Mitchell. Unlike the two latecomers, he was born and raised in Bartholomew County. His parents were Henry and Polly Price Dinkins and he lived most of his life, before and after the war, in Elizabethtown.

In 1861, shortly after the war began, he enlisted in the 19th Indiana Infantry and was assigned to Company H. According to the book, "Iron Men, Iron Will," by Craig L. Dunn, the 19th fought in several bloody encounters and Jariah Dinkins was in the thick of them.

According to Dunn, the young Elizabethtown soldier was wounded twice. On one occasion he walked seven miles from the battlefield to an aid station where he was treated for his injuries. He came to his moment in history in the days immediately after the war ended when he used a pass to travel into Washington. It was late in the evening on his way back to camp that he first heard the news of Lincoln's assassination from a passing stranger.

His trip back to the camp was interrupted when he was stopped by sentries in the area. Ironically, he was not held under any kind of suspicion but was instead enlisted by an officer to perform an unusual and highly honored assignment — to guard the body of the president. For the next night and two days, the Elizabethtown soldier stood over the body of Abraham Lincoln in the White House.

Years later he told of his feelings. "Lincoln was a great man. It is a pity he didn't live to finish the great work he had started. His vision and patriotism and firmness in the right were an inspiration to all of us." Ironically, he had voted a Republican ticket only once in his life. On that occasion in 1864 he voted for Lincoln as president.

After being discharged from the Army, Dinkins returned to Sandcreek Township where he farmed for most of the rest of his life. In his later years he became incapacitated and was forced to move to

Indianapolis, where he could be cared for by his daughter. In 1937, six years after the move to Indianapolis, he died at his daughter’s home.

His remains were returned to Bartholomew County and he was buried in Newsom Cemetery in Sandcreek Township.

The roles of Jonathan Moore and Barton Mitchell in American history have been long recognized in Bartholomew County, but that of Jariah Dinkins has been understated at best.

There is only one mention of his role as Lincoln’s “guard” in the archives of The Republic, and that was only a passing sentence in the middle of his obituary in The Evening Republican of Dec. 14, 1937.

That it has now come to light is due to a conversation between Steve Coffman, local camp commander of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, and David Skinner, who has been custodian for the Newsom Cemetery for more than 20 years.

“We were having lunch and near the end David asked if I knew that a guard at the services for Abraham Lincoln was buried in Bartholomew County,” Steve said. “It was the first time I had heard the story and I confirmed it through a lot of research on the internet.”

Steve didn’t let the matter rest at that confirmation. This last Memorial Day, members of the local Sons of Union Veterans included in their annual services a ceremony at Newsom Cemetery.

I suspect it marked the start of a tradition.

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### Lincoln’s Boyhood Home Invitation

The Department of Indiana has been invited to participate in the Lincoln Day event held annually in Spencer County at Lincoln’s Boyhood Home. This beautiful site located close to the old burial grounds has seen the Department act as a color guard from many years. All brothers of the department are invited to be a part of the ceremony and presentation. The 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana will once again present colors and lead the procession from the main building to the cemetery. The ceremony starts at 2pm (Central Time) on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

### Somers Camp, No. 1 Gathers for Remembrance Day



L-R Larry Myer, Matt Elkin, Ord LeMaster, Jim Godby, Chris Godby, Travis LeMaster  
Members of the Orlando A. Somers Camp # 1 gathered for a Remembrance Day photo after their  
November 20 meeting in Kokomo displaying the new vinyl banner advertising the camp



## Foster Camp Triple Ceremony Held

On Saturday September 25th, the John W. Foster Camp #2 held a Triple Ceremony event in Spencer County, Indiana. The Event was to honor 3 Civil War Soldiers at 3 separate cemeteries within the county.

The first ceremony was for Private William Schwartz of the 42nd Indiana, which took place at the Mariah Hill Cemetery, Mariah Hill, Indiana. John W. Foster Camp #2 Commander David Hoesli led this ceremony with Tim Beckman giving a biography of his ancestor. The format followed the 1917 GAR headstone dedication ceremony. The presentation of colors and pledge of allegiance was added to all ceremonies.

The second ceremony was a “Last Soldier” ceremony for Private David Jackson Smith of Co G, 136th Indiana Infantry, at the Oak Hill Cemetery, Chrisney, Indiana. The standard “Last Soldier” ceremony was used. David Hoesli led the ceremony and Dennis Hutchinson read the biography of Private Smith and the Memorial Officers part. Five descendants of the soldier were in attendance as well as the local newspaper writer from the Leader. A stone with a “Last Civil War Soldier Buried in this County” plaque was installed at the site. This event was well attended by the public.

The third ceremony was for Private Benjamin Bunton of Co. F, 1st Indiana Cavalry, at the Beasley Cemetery, Chrisney, Indiana. This ceremony followed the 1917 GAR headstone dedication ceremony. A biography written by John W. Foster Camp #2 member and Bunton descendant, Tom Carson was read.

Members from the host camp, John W. Foster Camp #2, Ben Harrison Camp #356, John B. Anderson Camp #223 and Calhoun Camp #2, Calhoun Kentucky participated. Three of the Sons represented the 27th Indiana SVR. The following other groups participated in the event.

- Brig. Gen. Eli Huston Murray, National Society of Daughters of the Union 1861-1865
- Evansville Society, Children of the American Revolution
- Hugh McGary Sr., 1812 Society
- Ohio Valley Sons of the American Revolution
- National Society, Colonial Dames 17th Century
- American Legion, Post 242, Santa Claus, IN



Participants at the William Schwartz Event: L-R edge of photo, Brian Lankford, Terry Furgason, Eric Sprouls, Bradley Clements, David Hoesli, Tim Beckman, Joe Beckman, Alben Shockley and Dennis Hutchinson



Participants at the David J. Smith “Last Soldier” Event: L-R; Joe Beckman, Tim Beckman, Dennis Hutchinson, David Hoesli, Bradley Clements, Terry Furgason, Allen Bivens and Alben Shockley





Participants at the Benjamin Buntin Event: L-R; Mike Robinson, Terry Furgason, George Payne, Bradley Clements, Brian Lankford, David Hoesli, Dennis Hutchinson, Eric Sprouls, Tim Beckman, Joe Beckman and Alben Shockley



Indiana Delegation at the 140th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in St. Louis, MO. Left to Right: Tom Schmitt, William Adams, Tim Beckman, Dennis Hutchinson, Bruce Kolb, Mike Beck, Jon Swarts



### **Eagle Scout Court of Honor**

Submitted by John and Amy Bowyer

My wife and I attended Kenneth Wickizers Eagle Scout Court of Honor (COH) on Sunday, October 10, 2021. The COH was held at the Knights of Columbus in Shelbyville, IN. Kenneth is a fourth generation Eagle and fifth generation scouter.

Sister Bowyer is a member of the Sister Anthony O'Connell Auxiliary #10 Cincinnati, OH.

With all memberships the two of us represented 4 of the Allied Orders of the SUVCW. This Scouting family has been personal friends of ours for several years. One of them remembered I attended COH's with a certificate presentation from years ago. So our message is making a difference and an impact.

As a side note I told them that 39 Wickizers fought for the Union, 3 from Indiana. I think this was news to all of them.

## Gettysburg Remembrance Day 2021



**At the Indiana Monument** - L-R, Bruce Kolb, Mike Beck, Alan Teller, Tom Schmitt



**Before the Parade** - L-R, Alan Teller, Tom Schmitt, Mike Beck, Bruce Kolb

### Update from Brother Dave Hoesli, Department of Indiana Graves Registration Officer

As of the end of November there are 421 new entries. I have 209 ready to upload and should be on the site by December 31. In addition are the soldiers that you submitted which are at 52 count, and once researched, will be added as well. By the end of the year 682 new entries should be uploaded into the system. So far this year graves in the counties of Floyd, Wells, Davies, White, Hancock, Marion and Wabash counties will be added.

Total Grave Entries in National SUVCW Graves Registration Database:

Ohio – 84,940  
Michigan – 55,294  
New York – 52,262  
Iowa – 44,490  
Illinois – 43,902  
Pennsylvania – 43,894  
**Indiana – 38,520**  
Wisconsin 34,932  
Massachusetts 31,330  
Kansas 30,757  
Kentucky 7,405

Indiana ranks in the top ten for total entries. Probably seventh overall at this point.