

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 1-22



“Where do men such as these come from?”



Summer Encampment 2022 – Department of Indiana S.U.V.C.W.

Please join us for the SUVCW Department of Indiana Summer
Encampment (136th Annual Encampment)
on June 4th, 2022 at 9:30 am EDT

Location: Kokomo-Howard County Public Library South Branch; 1755 E
Center Rd, Kokomo, IN 46902,

Due to limited seating please reserve your seat:

Contact Commander, Dennis Hutchinson at 31stind@gmail.com,
CELL: 812-660-2192

Note: A limited number of people are allowed to attend Virtually. Please note that with your reservation request. Valid reasons are illness and extreme travel distance. Individuals attending events hosted by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, by virtue of their attendance, agree to the usage of their likeness in the Banner, any Camp or Department Newsletter, any SUVCW website and/or on any SUVCW Social Media outlet, promotional brochures, or any other SUVCW material.

*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



Brothers of the Department of Indiana – the current treasury of \$9629.60, as of April 13, 2021, is in safe hands. Even if the treasurer himself is so poor that all of his family has to wear a shirt made from the same bolt of cheap cloth.

Graves Registration Report

The current number of Civil War soldiers in the Graves Registration database is quickly approaching 40,000 with the actual number at 38,955. The most notable increase has been in Floyd County since January 1 with an increase of 86 new entries. Posey County has had an increase of 40 new entries. The number of soldiers entered on the database is expected to be well over 39,000 by the June Encampment. As always, if you have a Civil War Veteran that you need researched or entered in the database and do not have the ability to do so, please contact me and I will be willing to do this for you.

An important change has been made to the Graves Registration online form effective immediately. For some time, there has been a discussion to remove the ability to enter Confederate soldiers onto the database. The Council of Administration granted this request and has now gone into effect. National Graves Registration Officer Henry Duquette announced that the online Confederate records will be turned over to the Sons of Confederate Veterans organization and the SUVVCW will no longer enter or track this information. Brother Duquette recommends that if you have a Confederate soldier's military and burial information to pass it along to someone within the Sons of Confederate Veterans. If you have any questions, please contact me at swincoll@hotmail.com

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,
David Hoesli
Graves Registration Officer
Department of Indiana

Editor's Note: Along with Brother Hoesli, I urge you to get out and visit cemeteries in your area looking for Union Soldiers and Sailors who can be included on Indiana's list. You are doing a good service, getting a little exercise, sooner or later you will come across some interesting names and stories – not all related to the Civil War necessarily.

In early March I was in Louisville for four days. Having nothing to do I decided to explore a section of the city known as German Town. I came across St. Stephens Cemetery near I – 65. It is a German cemetery and many many stones are in the German language. I went looking for CW soldiers and found a couple belonging to Kentucky infantry regiments. Then I spied one that was a Medal of Honor stone for a soldier. I went over and found that the stone was for a soldier named Otto Voit who died in 1906. It was a MOH stone for the soldier who was in Co. H of the 7th US Cavalry. Yes, that 7th US Cavalry and he won it at the Little Big Horn. He won it for volunteering to go with three other men to provide covering fire for the volunteers who went down to the river to gather water for their

surrounded comrades from Benteen and Reno’s commands. They stood exposed drawing the Indian fire away

from the water carriers. The little discovery made my day and I offered a heartfelt salute to such a soldier, even though his time of service was post-Civil War.



Pvt. Otto Voit – Co. H 7th US Cav.

From the Desk and Museum of Brother Bruce Kolb:



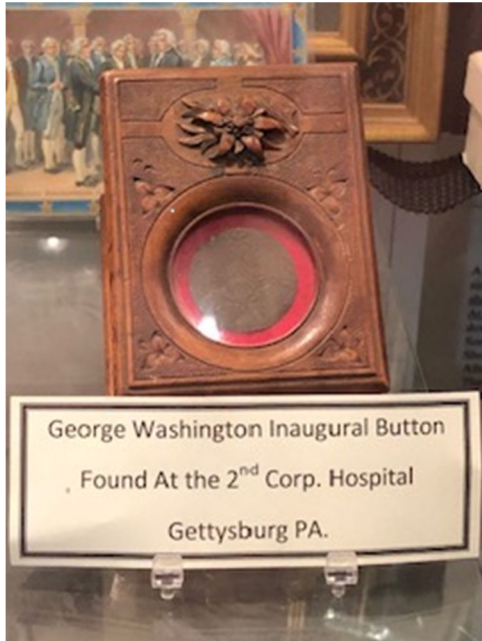
I am always thrilled when hobbies and collections intersect with history. Not only am I interested in the Civil War but I am also interested in the American Revolution, and collecting relics from that war. I am most proud of my GGGGGGrandfathers service during two wars. He served during the Revolutionary War and was also a U.S Privateer during the War of 1812. Skidmore’s powder horn is actually part of the permanent collection at the Peabody Essex Museum.

As a kid, one of my hobbies was collecting coins and reading various coin magazines. Every so often I would find an article talking about George Washington Inaugural buttons, and the fact that they were highly prized by coin collectors. Medal detector enthusiasts call them the “holy grail” and finding one always brings notoriety and status.

So, I began my quest to acquire an Inaugural button began. I now have a collection of them.



In the first inauguration of a President of the United States in 1789, President-elect George Washington appeared in New York, “dressed in dark brown, with metal buttons, with an eagle on them...” according to Senator William Maclay of Pennsylvania. Merchants created elaborate buttons made of copper and brass embossed with eagles, Washington’s initials, and slogans like long live the President. It is said that one large coat button (typically 35mm in diameter and 1mm in thickness) cost on average six months wages.



What I found exciting is that one of the coveted Washington buttons was in the collection of The Gettysburg Museum of History located at 219 Baltimore Street (see button to the left). It seems that one of the buttons was recovered on the battlefield near the 2nd Corps hospital.

The Division Hospitals of the Second Corps were located July 2nd at the Granite School House but were soon removed to near Rock Creek west of the creek and six hundred yards southeast of the Bushman House. They remained there until August 7th, 1863. These Hospitals cared for 2200 Union and 952 Confederate wounded.

These images (see below) are unique in that they are the only known photographs taken of any Gettysburg hospital tents besides those at Camp Letterman, and the only photos of any hospital tents taken in the immediate aftermath of the battle. This is striking in that Union corps field hospitals and twenty-four Confederate field hospitals were present when

two prominent groups of photographers, one headed by Matthew Brady and another by Alexander Gardner, made their trips to Gettysburg.



Picture of the 2nd Corps Hospital After the Battle



Another After the Battle Photo

During my visit to the Museum, I learned that another Washington Inaugural button was discovered at the 2nd Corps hospital location, although closer to rock creek. Makes one wonder if the buttons were worn by family members or perhaps a whole Company wore them on their coats with pride. Unfortunately, their story is lost.

So yes, George Washington was at the battle of Gettysburg.

In FC&L, Bruce Kolb



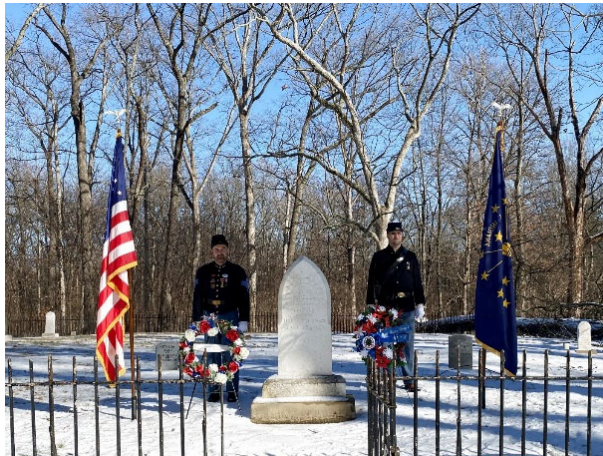
On Sunday, March 27, 2022, two members of the Champion Hill Camp # 17 and members of Co. D 27th Indiana SVR, attended an Eagle Scout Court of Honor which was held at the St. Michael Lutheran Church in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. During the ceremony twin brothers Michael and Andrew Snider, Troop 333, were presented with the SUVCW Eagle Scout Certificates and Patches by 2nd Sgt. Thomas Schmitt and PDC Gib Young (see picture top of next page).



(LtoR) Tom Schmitt, Isaac Beam (prospective member), Michael and Andrew Snider, and Gib Young

Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, Lincoln Day Event:

Department Commander Dennis Hutchinson and Josh Claybourn, PCC, performed Color Guard duties and presented wreaths at the Lincoln Day event on Sunday 2/6/2022 (see picture below). The in-person Lincoln Day event was cancelled due to inclement weather. We, however, were invited by the National Park Service director to be videoed posting the colors and presenting wreaths. The video was later posted on the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial website.



Connecting With History

By Sue Hughes | [For the Pendleton Times-Post](#) - March 31, 2022

PENDLETON — Lance Stevens has always loved history. “It was my favorite subject in school,” he said of his years at Pendleton Heights High School.

Stevens, 65, who lives in Huntsville, said he specifically loves the Civil War era in the United States. Dressed in his Civil War garb, he spoke at the Pendleton Historical Museum about his passion on Sunday, March 20, the second of a three-part history series called Gathering at the Museum.

Stevens said when he was a young boy, his father took him to Civil War battlegrounds every summer. He said he feels fortunate to have been at Gettysburg the summer of 1963 on the 100th anniversary of the battle there. Stevens said because of the trips he took with his parents - and when he got older, his wife - he has visited 98% of the Civil War battlegrounds.



Speaking to a full room, he talked about the impact the war had on Pendleton. When asked which side of the war he was on, Stevens said he had family in the North and the South. He is a member of both the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Because there was so much moving in the country at that time, it was not uncommon to have family members on both sides of the war. Stevens added, “It was often brother against brother.”

There were about 1,500 men from Madison County who enlisted to fight in the Union Army, he said. Most signed on for three months, believing the war (1861-65) wouldn’t last any longer than that. After the three

months, some re-enlisted while others left.

Stevens discovered in his research that ancestors of his and another Pendleton resident, John Boyer, were in the same regiment at the same time. Another Pendleton enlistee was Maj. Samuel Henry, he said. Henry was studying to be a lawyer when the war broke out. Because of his education, he was made a 1st lieutenant immediately. He fought with the 89th Indiana Infantry and was killed in Missouri on Nov. 1, 1864.

His friends made sure he was returned to Indiana for burial. He is buried at Grove Lawn Cemetery in Pendleton. In another anecdote, Stevens said the cannon by the pond in Falls Park was once owned by Civil War veteran Stephenson “Daddy” Hair. Hair was artillerist with the 18th Indiana Battery. “Being a staunch Republican, he loved to fire the cannon across Fall Creek any time the Republicans won an election,” Stevens said.

Stevens spoke about Col. George Parker, who use to own a house located on the north side of Fall Creek Parkway west of Pendleton Avenue. Parker was in the 79th Indiana Infantry Division (sic). At one point, Parker was in command of all the troops in Nashville, Tennessee. “I would love to see a monument placed in front of his house,” Stevens said. Rumor has it that Parker’s horse is buried in the backyard.

Women were also involved in helping to win the war, Stevens said. Although most did not go into battle, they made socks, blankets and uniforms for the soldiers. And, Stevens said, there were a few women who did dress like men so they could go to war. The war had an impact on the population of men in Pendleton and elsewhere, he said. One man in a family would join, and the rest of the men would follow him.

In the Pendleton Historical Museum, there’s a picture of long-time resident Charlie Oldham’s grandfather, Abner W. Oldham, who served in the 94th Ohio Infantry. The picture of A.W. bears a striking resemblance to Charlie. Stevens said he and his wife, Judy, love to visit Gettysburg. “You can sit on a rock and just look,” he said. “You know Gettysburg is one of those places that something happened.” Stevens said he was there in 1998 participating in a large reenactment of Pickett’s Charge, a famous infantry attack named for Confederate Gen. George E. Pickett.

At the moment Stevens was running up a hill toward Cemetery Hill, with about 15,000 Confederate reenactors, he said he was thinking about his ancestors who fought there for the Union side during the actual battle. They would have been up behind the stone wall on Cemetery Hill waiting to repel Pickett’s advance. “I had tears running down my face thinking that I was running up the same hill my ancestors ran up,” he said. “I am proud to live in Pendleton, and I am proud of my heritage.”



All too often brothers in the Camps do something that is a big help to a camp or department and deserves recognition. Brother Alan Teller, of Sommers Camp #1, offers this article on such a brother.

Orlando A. Somers Camp # 1 has only one Dual Member, Randy D. McNally. His date of joining the SUVCW is unknown to this writer. I do know he stepped up in late 2003 after our long time Treasurer, Phil Burgin died; and became our Treasurer and remained as such thru 2008. These next dates are kind of fuzzy with me, but I believe around 2009, he moved to Tucson, AZ, because of work; but kept his membership in Somers Camp. About 2016, he joined the General RHG Minty Camp #2 in the Department of the Southwest, but now became a Dual Member of both Camps. In early 2022 he moved back to Indiana and established Somers Camp as his primary Camp, Minty Camp being his secondary Camp. I heard via a grapevine from northern Indiana that upon leaving the Department of the Southwest he had been presented a bronze plaque by the Department. I sent a general inquiry to them asking about the plaque and asking them to keep it a secret, because I intended on writing this article for The Legion.

(Next is the response to my inquiry.)

Congratulations Randy and welcome back!

Brother Teller, I awarded Brother Randy with the plaque, which reads "Presented to Brother Randy D. McNally PCC in recognition of your service, leadership and dedication to General RHG Minty Camp #2. In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty, Department of the Southwest, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, March 26, 2022." Randy was a very active reenactor and served as Camp Commander in 2017 and 2018. He served prior to that and after that as Camp Secretary-Treasurer from 2016 until he transferred out of the camp. He was excellent in his roles and was a great example to other camp officers throughout the Department. He is sorely missed!

FYI, our Department email server automatically forwarded a copy of your message to Randy (we haven't updated the list yet!), so the element of surprise is lost.
In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
John R. Conrad PDC



Wreaths Across America, Crown Hill National Cemetery
December 18, 2021
(LtoR) Mike Beck, Tom Schmitt, Tim Beckman



Wreath Laying Ceremony, Williams Creek Cemetery, Indianapolis
December 4, 2021
(LtoR) Tim Beckman, Joe Beckman, Mike Beck, Jim Sullivan