



The Indiana Legion

DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA • SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
JAMES M. FLOYD, JR., COMMANDER

Issue 3-22

October 2022



Brothers of the Department of Indiana:

With this issue of *The Indiana Legion* a new era begins. Brothers Gib Young, PDC and Tim Beckman, PDC have both earned a well-deserved “retirement” from their years of dedicated service as they pass the reins of *Legion* editor, producer, and distributor to Brother Jon Swarts. Thank you again to Gib, Tim, and Jon!

This newsletter... YOUR newsletter... can only showcase the amazing work occurring in the Department of Indiana IF you provide the information and photographs to Brother Swarts. Please do so.

I sincerely ask that you attend the Mid-Year Encampment on October 29, 2022 to participate in the essential work, the fellowship, and the enjoyment that will be a part of the Encampment. We want and need each Camp's input to inform how the Department can best serve and support the Camps and Brothers of Indiana through good business decisions.

It takes all of us to maintain the heritage of the Grand Army of the Republic and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Indiana. It is our sacred duty to forever keep green the memory of the boys in blue, and none of us can do it alone. We are better together, so please ensure your Camp is represented as we come together at the Mid-Year Encampment.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions, comments, ideas, or concerns.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Jim

141st SUVCW National Encampment Grand Rapids, Michigan • August 11-14, 2022



Department of Indiana Attendees: (L to R) Alan Teller, PDC; Jonathan Swarts; Bruce Kolb, PDC; Tim Beckman, PDC; Bill Adams, PDC; Jim Floyd, DC; Dennis Hutchinson, PDC; Tom Schmitt; Travis LeMaster; Herb Smith. Not pictured: William Truss.

The National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War took place August 11-14, 2022 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Department of Indiana was represented by eleven delegates, ten of whom are pictured above.

At the Encampment, Orlando A. Somers Camp #1 was awarded the Horace Greeley Award for the most outstanding camp website nationally. Congratulations to Camp Commander Travis LeMaster and Signals Officer Drew Godby!

Among other decisions, the Encampment voted to raise annual national per capita dues by ten dollars. The Department of Indiana delegation voted against this increase. However, the motion to raise the dues passed. This increase resulted from the failure of a previous motion to publish and provide *The Banner* in digital format instead of it being printed and mailed to members. The dues increase is to assist in offsetting printing and postage costs.



Department of Indiana

Officers

Commander: James M. Floyd, Jr.
Senior Vice Commander: Thomas Schmitt, PCC
Junior Vice Commander: Travis LeMaster
Council Member: Dennis H. Rigsby, PDC
Council Member: Dennis Hutchinson, PDC
Council Member: Timothy J. Beckman, PDC
Secretary: William R. Adams, PDC
Assistant Secretary: Jonathan Swarts
Treasurer: Gilbert H. Young, Jr., PDC
Patriotic Instructor: Brian Mexin
Chaplain: Alan Teller, PDC
Graves Registration Officer: David Hoesli
Historian: Bruce R. Kolb, PDC
Civil War Memorials Officer: Michael W. Beck, PDC
Eagle Scout Coordinator: Michael W. Beck, PDC
Counselor: Bruce R. Kolb, PDC
GAR Highway Officer: William R. Adams, PDC
Signals Officer: Timothy J. Beckman, PDC
Legion Editor: Jonathan Swarts
GAR Records Officer: Bruce R. Kolb, Jr., PDC

Camps

Orlando A. Somers #1 (Kokomo)
John W. Foster #2 (Evansville)
John Auten #8 (South Bend)
Champion Hill #17 (Huntington)
William P. Benton #28 (Centerville)
David D. Porter #116 (Valparaiso)
John B. Anderson #223 (Columbus)
Ben Harrison #356 (Indianapolis)

UPCOMING Events

October

22: Mother George Ceremony
Lindenwood Cemetery, Fort Wayne (SVR)
1:30 p.m. EDT

29: Department Mid-Year Encampment
Mishawaka-Penn-Harris Public Library, Mishawaka
9:30 a.m. EDT

November

19: 66th Annual Remembrance Day Parade
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania (SVR)
1:00 p.m. EST

December

19: Wreaths Across America
Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis (SVR)
11:00 a.m. EST

SVR: Indicates event at which Sons of Veterans Reserve members are encouraged to participate in uniform.

Mother George Ceremony

On October 22, there will be a ceremony honoring Mother George at Lindenwood Cemetery in Fort Wayne beginning at 1:30 pm. Elizabeth George was a civil war nurse who went above and beyond the call of her duties in caring for the sick and wounded, to whom she became known as "Mother George." She would contract typhoid fever and die in May 1865. Her burial on May 16, 1865 was conducted with full military honors. At the ceremony on October 22, the SVR will fire volleys, members of the Allied Orders will speak, and President Lincoln will give a speech. This will be an excellent opportunity for the Allied Orders to work together on a project. After the ceremony, tours of the National Veterans Shrine and Museum with the Vietnam Wall will be available.



DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA • SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

OCTOBER 29, 2022 • 9:30 a.m. EDT

MISHAWAKA-PENN-HARRIS PUBLIC LIBRARY
209 LINCOLNWAY EAST, MISHAWAKA, IN 46544

- BUSINESS MEETING –
 - FIREHOUSE SUBS BOX LUNCH MEAL AND DRINKS ON-SITE –
 - SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS –
 - ENCAMPMENT IS FREE TO ATTEND (COST ONLY FOR LUNCH MEAL) –
- PLEASE BRING YOUR CAMP FLAG AND ITS BASE**

LUNCH MEAL, IF DESIRED, MUST BE PAID FOR IN ADVANCE



ENCAMPMENT PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

LUNCH MEAL ORDER DEADLINE IS OCTOBER 25, 2022

Lunch Meal checks made payable to *John Auten Camp No. 8, SUVCW*

Mail this form to: Jonathan Swarts • 1231 Wayne Street South • South Bend, Indiana 46615

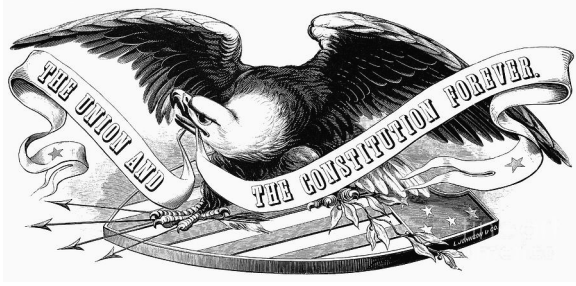
Name: _____

Number of Lunch Meals

@ \$14.00 each:

Camp: _____

TURKEY ___ HAM ___ ROAST BEEF ___



PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION

BRIAN MEXIN, PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

“Secretary to the Stars”

Military secretaries served as administrative assistants to generals. This appears to have been a specialized role, given that there were approximately 560 Union generals out of a total Union Army strength of 2,128,948. I am sure that a good military secretary was invaluable to his general as he kept the general organized so that he could think the big thoughts. As legendary Marine Chesty Puller once said, “Paperwork will ruin any military force.”

Ely Parker was born in the back of a buckboard wagon in 1828, as his parents traveled thirty miles to their reservation in Western New York. He attended two white schools before spending three years “reading law” with a New York law firm. After he was denied admittance to the bar due to being an Indian (and therefore, at the time, not an American citizen), he instead became a civil engineer and even worked on the expansion of the Erie Canal.

When the Civil War broke out, Ely Parker made two attempts to join the action. He tried to raise a regiment of Iroquois volunteers, but the governor of New York denied his request. He then offered his services to the Federal government as an engineer, but the secretary of state told him “The fight must be settled by the white men alone. Go home, cultivate your farm, and we will settle our troubles without any Indian aid.”

Two years into the War, Ely Parker received a brevet commission as a Captain of Engineers and was able to serve as an engineer officer during the siege of Vicksburg. He became an adjutant to General U.S. Grant when he became commander of the Military Division of the Mississippi. Captain Parker went with his general through the Overland Campaign and the Siege of Petersburg. At Petersburg, Ely became Grant’s military secretary and was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. As military secretary, he wrote much of the General’s letters, which included writing the final draft of the surrender documents at Appomattox Courthouse.

Following the Civil War, Ely again served as military secretary to Grant, as he was completing his assignment as commanding general of the U.S. Army. During this time Ely also served as part of a commission that was renegotiating treaties with tribes that supported the Confederacy. During his post-war army service, Ely Parker married Minnie Orton Sackett, a Washington D.C. socialite who was 21 years his junior. General Grant served as best man and gave away the bride. Two years later, Ely retired from the army as a brevet Brigadier General.

Following Ely Parker’s military service, President Grant appointed him as the first Native American Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and he served in this position for around two years before most of his authority was taken away following allegations of misconduct (even though he was cleared of wrongdoing) and he resigned.

Ely Parker became a stock market investor and accumulated a fortune that he subsequently lost in the Panic of 1873. His unfortunate situation bears out the quote of American financial historian Peter Bernstein, “The history of markets is one of overreaction in both directions.” His final career was that of a desk clerk with the New York City Police Department.

Brevet Brigadier General Ely Parker, U.S. Army, died a poor man in Fairfield, Connecticut in 1895, after spending his last years battling kidney disease, diabetes, and a series of strokes. Two years later he was re-interred in New York next to the grave of the Seneca orator Red Jacket.

In 2000, the Department of the Interior named an office building in Reston, Virginia after Ely Parker and the representative of the Secretary of the Interior stated “It is appropriate that we name this building after Ely Parker, a former warrior and Commissioner of Indian Affairs. We welcome his descendants to this special place.”





CAMP DISPATCHES

ORLANDO A. SOMERS CAMP #1

Last Union Civil War Soldier in Blackford County Honored

Orlando A. Somers Camp #1 and Company D, 27th Indiana Volunteers, 3rd Military District, Sons of Veterans Reserve gathered on September 11, 2022 in Hartford City to honor and mark the grave of the Last Union Civil War Soldier to be buried in Blackford County: Private James Augustus Alfrey of Company I, 132nd Indiana Infantry. Several members of Somers Camp along with nineteen descendants of Pvt. Alfrey were in attendance for the ceremony at the Hartford City IOOF Cemetery, including a 5x great-grandson. In spite of the rain, Somers Camp brothers were able to honor his memory and make new friends in the community.



JOHN W. FOSTER CAMP #2

Last Union Veteran Buried in Orange County, Indiana

Participation in the Last Union Veteran Ceremony for Sergeant Thomas Jefferson Cave, Co. E, 18th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, was fabulous. The event was hosted by John W. Foster Camp #2 and held at the Ames Chapel Cemetery just east of French Lick/West Baden, in Orange County on August 28, 2022. The color guard, led by Mike Beck, PDC, consisted of twenty-two people participating along with several others presenting. There were ten Sons from the Department of Indiana who participated and of those, eight were SVR members. Two Department of Kentucky Sons participated along with ten American Legion participants, three reenactors from the 18th Indiana Light Artillery reenactment group and two Sanitary Commission members. At least four descendants of Thomas Cave also were in attendance along with a good showing of the public. The ceremony was led by Foster Camp



Commander David Hoesli. Department Commander James Floyd concluded the ceremony.

Thomas Jefferson Cave was born on Sept. 11, 1844 in Dubois County to John and Sarah Jane Cave. When the Civil War broke out, Thomas joined the Union cause just shy of his seventeenth birthday. He enlisted with Co. E, 18th Indiana Volunteer Infantry in July, 1861. He served in some of the most conflict-filled states during the war, including Missouri, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Virginia, and Georgia, serving with Generals Grant and Sherman, and was part of Sherman's March to the Sea. Thomas served in a total of seventeen engagements throughout the war, rising to the rank of Sergeant in the 18th Indiana Infantry. Thomas mustered out in May, 1865 and returned to his home in Orange County near French Lick.

In 1867, Thomas married Mary C. Kirkland. They were blessed with four children: W.W. Cave (known as "Banker Bill"), Isis Hill, Bell Wells, and Stella Kearby, with two children, W.W. Cave and Isis Hill, surviving at the time of his death. Thomas was a lawyer within the Orange County area and was active in the Republican Party. In 1938, although never having fought at the Battle of Gettysburg, Thomas attended the 1938 reunion there, which proved to be one of the last major reunions of Civil War veterans. During the reunion, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was filmed unveiling a brand-new monument commemorating the battle. Some of that motion picture film was saved, and used in the Ken Burns Civil War documentary, where you can find a close up, three second shot of Thomas Cave, cupping his ear in the audience to hear the President's speech (photo below). On November 16, 1940, Thomas Jefferson Cave passed away and lies in his final resting place at Ames Chapel Cemetery as the Last Soldier of Orange County, Indiana.



(L to R) Travis LeMaster, Somers Camp Commander; David Hoesli, Foster Camp Commander; Jim Floyd, Department Commander





JOHN AUTEN CAMP #8

Redbud Trail Rendezvous

On April 22 and 23, John Auten Camp #8 attended the Redbud Trail Rendezvous in Fulton County. This was the third year that Auten Camp attended. The camp set up a tent and display table on the grounds of the Fulton County Historical Society to meet and engage the public in discussions and to teach them about the Civil War and the SUVCW. Auten Camp is designated an educational group by the Historical Society and as such is asked to present programs during both days of the event. Many people stopped by our tent, especially to report that they thoroughly enjoyed the program presented by Brother Tom Schmitt on the history of the US Marines uniform worn during the Civil War!



(L to R) Rick Deutscher; Bill Adams, Auten Camp Commander; Jim Wilson; Tom Schmitt

Memorial Day in South Bend

On Monday, May 30, John Auten Camp #8 held its annual Memorial Day program at Bowman Cemetery in South Bend. This year we were joined by WRC National Vice President Elizabeth Thurston and Penny Bucks of Arsinoe Martin Circle #78 of the LGAR. Live fiddle music was presented by Eric Fiechtner, son of camp Brother Greg Fiechtner. Eric provided pre-program music, including "Battle Cry of Freedom," "Lorena," and "Ashokan Farewell." (Yes, we know the latter is not from the Civil War period.) Music during the program was "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "The Vacant Chair." The camp and the Allied Orders entered following muffled drums played by Brothers Alan Hall and Jon Swarts (photo right). The program ended with the sounding of Taps played by John Auten Camp Brother Sean Kubsch and Hayden Grindle, both LaVille High School band students (photo below). Approximately 15 people joined us from the local area.





Door Village Harvest Festival

On Saturday, September 11, and Sunday, September 12, John Auten Camp #8 set up an informational tent (camp) at the Door Village Harvest Festival. Door Village is a small country area near LaPorte whose annual festival is dedicated to veterans, history, and family. After a two-year absence because of the pandemic, the festival was reinstated and John Auten Camp was invited to attend to educate the public on the Civil War and the SUVCW.

Saturday was a beautiful sunny day that brought many visitors to our camp. Brother Tom Schmitt, in uniform, did his usual entertaining talk on Civil War weapons to all who stopped by. Those manning the tent on Saturday—Brothers Greg Fiechtner and Tom Schmitt and Camp Commander Bill Adams—were kept busy all day. John Auten Camp was joined in the afternoon by Elizabeth Thurston, National President of the WRC, and Penny Bucks, President of WRC Oscar and Molly Mott Corps #1.

Due to very heavy rains on Sunday the informational tent was closed.



(L to R) Jim Faulstich, Rick Deutscher, Bill Adams, Greg Fiechtner, Bill Bierly, Alan Hall

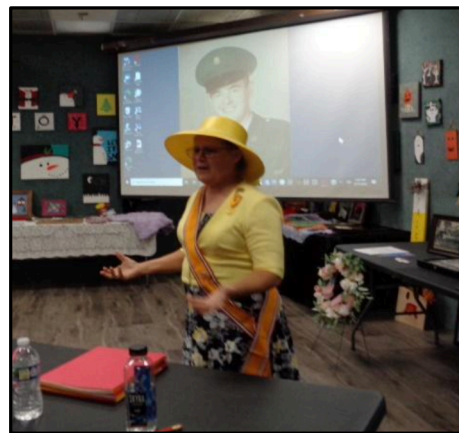
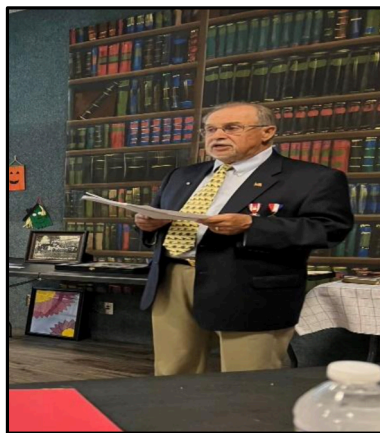


(L to R) Bill Adams, Tom Schmitt, Beth Thurston, Greg Fiechtner

Elkhart County Genealogical Society Presentation

On September 15, John Auten Camp #8 Commander Bill Adams and WRC National President Elizabeth Thurston jointly presented information on the GAR and the Allied Orders to the Elkhart County Genealogical Society. The presentation took place at the Bristol, Indiana Library before 15-20 people in attendance.

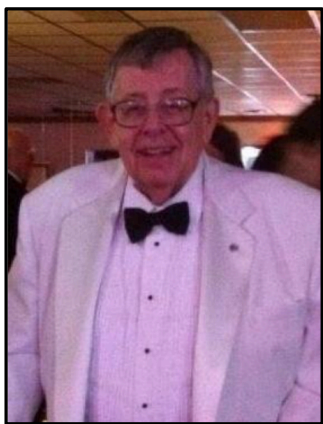
Beth and Bill told the story of how the two organizations began. Both explained in detail about their respective groups, the SUVCW and the WRC/LGAR.





A Tribute to Brother Graham Morey

By Timothy J. Beckman, PDC



Brother Graham Morey went to his eternal rest on September 1, 2022 at the age of 76. Graham was a member of Ben Harrison Camp #356 in Indianapolis as well as a dual and charter member of John W. Foster Camp #2 in Evansville.

Brother Morey was initiated into the order on January 9, 2000. He derived his membership in the SUVCW through both his great-grandfather, Charles Harvey Denby, and his great-great-grandfather, Graham Newell Fitch. Charles Denby was commissioned as a Lt. Colonel in the 42nd Indiana Infantry and was later promoted to Colonel of the 80th Indiana Infantry. Col. Denby resigned due to disability on January 17, 1863. Graham Fitch was commissioned Colonel of the 46th Indiana Infantry upon the outbreak of the Civil

War and resigned due to disability in late 1862. After the war, Col. Denby served as United States Minister to China from 1885 to 1898. Before the war, Col. Fitch served in the U.S. House of Representatives from Indiana's 9th congressional district for two terms, from March 1849 until March 1853, then as U.S. Senator from February 1857 until March 1861. Col. Fitch resumed his medical practice after the war.

Graham Morey and I first crossed paths in March of 2000, while I was conducting research on the 42nd Indiana Infantry. At that time, I was just “looking into” joining the SUVCW. With Graham’s encouragement, I finally joined and was initiated into the order on January 14, 2001, with Graham in attendance. Graham always had a smile on his face and was always quick to answer any questions I had about the order. Graham would later serve as the Ben Harrison Camp Treasurer, a position he held from 2005 to 2014.



Ben Harrison Camp Officers, Dec. 11, 2010. (L to R) Tim Beckman, Garry Walls, John Bowyer, Jerry Thompson, Graham Morey

Ben Harrison Camp brothers had several nicknames for Graham: “Grahambo” (which many called him even outside of the Sons) and “One More Morey.” Graham got the latter nickname by constantly keeping the camp officers updated when he received dues checks from members every year. His emails would read something like “we got one more dues check,” and the subject line would invariably be titled One More. Over the last five or six years, the camp did not see Brother Morey very much due to his declining health and we always missed seeing him at our meetings.

Graham was born in Evansville, Indiana to Freeman and Caroline (Denby) Morey on September 13, 1945. He was an alumnus of the University of Evansville, and he worked as an accountant, most recently for H&R Block before his retirement. He was a Vietnam veteran, proudly and bravely serving in the U.S. Army.



He was very active in the American Legion and was elected Commander of Post 500 in Speedway, Indiana. He was the Financial Secretary for the Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council and Governor of the Indiana Society of Mayflower Descendants. He was a member of several lineage societies such as the Sons of the American Revolution, a founding member of the Society of the War of 1812 in Indiana, and the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, in addition to the SUVCW. . He had a great passion for history and genealogy. Graham was a long-time parishioner of St. Christopher Catholic Church in Speedway.

In 2002, Graham was preceded in death by his wife Janice A. (Cooper) Morey. They married on November 11, 1975 in Marion County, Indiana. He is survived by his daughter Amanda Darling of Westfield, Indiana. Mass of Christian Burial took place on Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at St. Christopher Catholic Church in Speedway, with mausoleum entombment with full military honors at St. Joseph Cemetery, Indianapolis. Memorial contributions may be made to the Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council.

To honor Brother Morey, SUVCW Department of Indiana Commander James M. Floyd, Jr. ordered that all camp charters be draped in black and that brothers attach mourning ribbons to their membership badges for thirty days commencing September 12, 2022.

Graham, your brothers in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will miss you dearly. Rest in peace.

Central Region Association News

The annual CRA conference was held on October 1 at the GAR Memorial Hall and Museum in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. Commander Thomas Schmitt ran the meeting, with twelve members present. Among the topics discussed were ways to attract more people to CRA meetings and events. Brother Ed Krieser, PCinC was elected CRA Commander for the coming year. It was also decided that the next meeting would be in Dayton, Ohio, near the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, if possible.

The GAR Memorial Hall and Museum was an wonderful meeting venue, where the upstairs meeting room looks just like the GAR left it. Attendees were given a tour of this very fine museum, which is well worth the drive to see (call ahead to check on opening hours, which fluctuate).





SONS OF VETERANS ENCAMPMENT
HELD IN SOUTH BEND
JUNE 1910

RICHMOND GETS 1911 MEET

The morning sessions of both the Sons of Veterans and auxiliary opened at 10 o'clock, the former in the Auten post, G.A.R. hall, in the old court house and the latter in the Sons of Veterans quarters in Varier hall, South Michigan Street. ... One of the most stirring speeches given during the convention was that of A. P. Asbury, of Farmersburg, Ind., department commander of the G.A.R. in Indiana. ... Aside from being an enthusiastic veteran of the civil war, Mr. Asbury is an orator of ability and his remarks stirred the convention assembled to enthusiastic cheers.

The speaker proclaimed the praises of the organizations represented in the convention, as typifying the spirit of American independence. The perpetuation of the memory of the veterans of '61 and their sacrifices in behalf of the nation, he extolled as a fitting tribute to their name. The Sons of Veterans, he said, are destined to be a more important factor in the years to come than to-day, and this fact, he asserted, justifies conscientious interest in the work of the organization. As the ranks of the G.A.R. become thinner, the speaker presented the duties of the Sons of Veterans as one of value to the nation, in preserving the name and fame of the civil war veterans. ...

At the close of the afternoon sessions, the visiting members of both organizations were taken over the city on a sight seeing tour, in automobiles. The party went to Mishawaka, over the south side road and returned by way of the north side, stopping at the factory of the South Bend Watch company. The tour included a trip to Notre Dame university and St. Mary's academy. In the evening, the greater number of the visitors as well as local members of the organizations, attended the vaudeville performance at the Auditorium theater.

South Bend Tribune, June 8, 1910

Department and General Orders

Department Orders - Series 2022-2023

#1 - First Department Order, Appointments, Committees (June 5, 2022)

#2 - New Indiana Legion Newsletter Editor (July 29, 2022)

#3 - Installation of Camp Officers (August 17, 2022)

#4 - 2022 Mid-Year Department Encampment (Sept. 3, 2022)

#5 - Passing of Brother Graham Morey (Sept. 12, 2022)

Department Circulars

#2022-1 - Department Encampment Date Changes (June 24, 2022)

#2022-2 - Updates from Commander-in-Chief Michael Paquette (July 30, 2022)

#2022-3 - Updates from the National Encampment and Department Mid-Year Encampment (August 14, 2022)

General Orders - Series 2022-2023

#1 - New SUVCW Administration Announced (Aug. 19, 2022)

#2 - National Per Capita Dues Increased by \$10 (Sept. 8, 2022)

#3 - Passing of Queen Elizabeth II (Sept. 11, 2022)

#4 - Vicksburg National Cemetery - Burial Recovery and Stabilization Project (Sept 21, 2022)

#5 - Restoration of Lineage Documentation (Sept. 23, 2022)

#6 - Appointment of National Committee on Public Information (Sept. 24, 2022)

#7 - Withdrawal of General Order #5 and Clarification of Documentation Requirements (October 5, 2022)

#8 - Elmer (Bud) Atkinson Lifetime Achievement Award (Oct. 8, 2022)

Full documents are available at <http://suvwcwin.org> (Department) and <http://suvcw.org> (National).