

The Indiana Legion

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



Volume 18, Number 1

January 2002

General Orders No. 2

Series 2001-2002

1 Congratulations to all the newly elected camp officers. Thanks also to those officers serving a second year. We all wish you success!

2 Our Mid-Winter Department Meeting will be held on Saturday, 26 January, from 9:00-3:00 in the GAR room at the Huntington courthouse in downtown Huntington.

Here is your chance to see a newly restored, authentic GAR meeting room.

The Huntington camp has formed a "soldiers' chorus" to entertain us. We are also looking forward to hearing the Huntington Library approach to researching our Civil War ancestors.



Commander Tom
Crawford

I have, by the way, some Lincoln prints, and one very fine Grant print, to present to lucky winners of door prizes.

Join us for the fun and fellowship!

3 Camp commanders should have a short one-page report ready to turn in to the department secretary at this meeting.

4 Please keep in mind that the camps encouraging fun and fellowship, matched with worthy projects, will be strong and growing.

I, for one, value the friends I have made since joining the Sons, and I look forward to each of our meetings.

Featuring the Champion Hill Post No. 17

The brothers of the Champion Hills Post, spearheaded by Camp Commander Gib Young and committee members Robert Fettinger and Jim Perry are busily getting ready to host what promises to be a rewarding and entertaining mid-winter encampment.

Where

Huntington County Courthouse GAR Room

When

Saturday, 26 January 2002

- 9:00 Coffee & fellowship, followed by a business meeting
- 12:00 Catered lunch at the courthouse. Entertainment by the Company Singers, among other amusements.
- 1:00 Researching Civil War ancestors & the business meeting continued
- 3:00 Adjournment

Getting There

From the south take Interstate 69, exiting toward Huntington at exit 78 (state route 5).
From the north take exit 86 (US route 224).
From the west take US route 24.
The courthouse can't be missed. It is best to enter the west door on Jefferson (a one-way street).

But the mid-winter encampment is only one of the several activities of this energetic camp (or is it a Post in the GAR manner?) has in the works. The light-hearted and entertaining newsletter, which is already in its 10th edition. The camp is busily at

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continued on p. 2

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 Orders

Continued from page 1

5 Russ Kirchner is our department Graves' Registration Officer. If you would like to help, please contact him at russ@ipalloy.com.

Ned Baker is our Eagle Scout Officer. So if you know of anyone who will soon be an Eagle Scout, let Ned know. We have a very nice certificate to present. Call Ned at 765-457-7735.

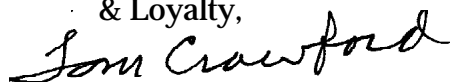
We still need a monuments officer. If you are interested, contact me at 765-452-4773 or rawford@netusa1.net/.

6 Several camps put out a monthly news letter, and they very kindly send me copies which I enjoy. This is how I know what the camps are doing worthy projects.

It is my hope that all would share news with all our Indiana brothers, so let us make more use of *The Indiana Legion* and *The Nigwag* online. They exist for this purpose. Please send news about your activities to these two fine publications.

If I may be of help let me know. To all my brothers I wish health and happiness for 2002!

In Fraternity, Charity,
& Loyalty,



Department Commander

In Memoriam

McClernand Butler
Ben Harrison Camp #356

Champion Hill

Post No. 17 *continued from page*

at work on recruitment, and is fairly aggressive about it, having recently added a forty-second member, Bruce Van Guilder.

The newsletter reminds the camp members that a man does not have to be an actual descendent to become an associate member: "If he can hear the long roll," says the newsletter, "or see the flash of the guns, that's enough."

To all appearances, Champion Hill is proud of the varied background of its members: doctors,

It's That Time!

Camp Dues are owing since the first of the year. Don't make your camp treasury carry the burden of the Departmental and National tax without your contribution!

lawyers, judges, editors, bankers, educators, and even one undertaker. If that is all true, it is a varied bunch indeed.

There are, in addition, committees with plans afoot. Members Rod Stine and Don Morgan have it in their heads to discover what presence the camp can have at local festivals—particularly the Pioneer Festival. Another member, Rick Henry, is planning to set up a web site.

All of this suggests that we have something to learn from these fellows. We shall look forward to meeting them all on the 17th.

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Getting Unit Files Online

Computerized brothers who wish to link up with others who may have information about an ancestor's unit should try the Civil War Units File by sending an email request to ROOTS-L-request@rootsweb.com. Subject: archive.

Part Filename	Contents
0 CWUNITS	introduction only
1 CWUNITS1USA	national & states A-I
2 CWUNITS2USA	states K-N
3 CWUNITS3USA	states O-W
4 CWUNITS4CSA	national & states A-M
5 CWUNITS5CSA	states N-V
Q FAQ	freq. asked questions

For part 2 (for example), send the text: `get genealog.cwunits2`.

For the FAQ, send the text: `get genealog.cwunitsq`

The period (.) has to be after genealog and before the file name. Parts 1-5 include the introduction as well as the listings. Within a state, the units are organized by number (1st Infantry, etc.).

To get a listing of all of the ROOTS-L files, send the com

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***The* Indiana Legion**

Newsletter of
The Department of Indiana
Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War
David Wiley, Editor
Tel.: 812-337-0649 • E-mail:
dwiley@cecasun.utc.edu or
dwiley@earthlink.net

☆
Camps should send news items,
photographs, and ancestor
histories to the editor by email
or regular mail on or about
1 April 2002

News from the Camps . . .

Orlando Somers Camp No. 1 of Kokomo

The Orlando A. Somers Camp #1 is embarking on a project to put a gun tube on a carriage. The city of Kokomo has a 12# Howitzer in its possession. It is currently in storage. There have been several offers from Pennsylvania residents to buy this gun tube for substantial dollars. We have decided to get it mounted on a carriage and put it on display. We are working with the Howard County Historical Society. They are promising to display it indoors for everyone to see in the Carriage House of the Sieberling Mansion. The City of Kokomo would keep title to the tube, but lease it to the HCHS for display purposes indefinitely.

This cost of this project is substantial. The price of a carriage is estimated anywhere from five thousand to north of eight thousand five-hundred dollars. We have an offer from a fellow Hoosier to create a replica of a battle flag—Somers Camp picking up the cost of supplies only—for a raffle. We will probably have a smaller version of a battle flag fabricated. This would enable us to frame it for hanging on a wall. Normal battle flags are so large most homes are not big enough for normal display purposes. It is our current thinking to have the Iron Brigade Battle flag produced. Now this would be a silk battle flag with a fringe and made up just like the original. It would be quite a handsome piece of art and would make a nice addition to a Civil War buff's collection. Let's face it; the flag would look good on any SUVCW brother's wall.

We are just starting to explore the options offered for construction of a carriage. There are several small companies, one located in South Bend, that build carriages. There are companies that manufacture wheels only. There are companies that work in wood, fabricated metal, cast metal, etc. We have found a gentleman in the Kokomo area who makes miniature cannons. He claims to have the machine shop to manufacture everything, except the wheels, in wood or metal. He has even told us the location of a limber and an extra set of wheels

stored in Kokomo.

We are exploring obtaining a 501(C3) designation from the IRS. This would allow donations to be tax deductible and for us to receive grants from foundations.

While all of this is going on, we are researching the history of the tube. We have been asked by the city not to let too much information out about it. However, we know, within 4 months, the manufacture date. We do not know what battles it fought in, when it came to Kokomo, or how it came to Kokomo. We are not even sure of where it has been for the last 130 plus years

As I said in the beginning, we are embarking, just getting started. It should be an exciting project for our Camp. ☆

—Alan Teller

Ben Harrison Camp No. 356 of Indianapolis

Beginning this year, the Ben Harrison Camp will meet every other month beginning in January.

The meeting place will still be in the MacArthur Room of the Indiana War Memorial Building in Indianapolis. The day will still be the second Sunday of the month; the time will still be 2:00 PM.

Guests are very welcome. If you plan to come, set aside an hour so you can visit the refurbished building with its many interesting exhibits. It will be a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

As readers of *The Indiana Legion* will know, last year the Ben Harrison Camp completed the preparation and installation of medallions marking the boundaries of Camp Morton, the prisoner of war camp named after Indiana's Civil War governor.

To further commemorate this important site, our camp has prepared a distinguished badge of gray and blue that, in part, replicates the markers. The sale price is \$25.00 postage and handling in-

cluded. A portion of the proceeds will be given to the Camp Morton Neighborhood Association.

The badge may be ordered by sending \$25.00, payable to the Ben Harrison Camp No. 356, to Camp Commander Stephen Bruce Bauer, 2412 N. Saturn Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46229-1152. ☆

—David Wiley



The Camp Morton Badge

Champion Hill Post No. 17

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On a Sunday afternoon in September members of the camp met to dedicate five new headstones for veterans buried in Huntington's Mount Hope Cemetery. In attendance were local citizens and members of the Department of Indiana.

Brother Bob Stephan ordered and installed new headstones for Sam Vernerder, 12th Indiana, Brig. Gen. James Slack, 47th Indiana, 3 C Powers, 34th Indiana, Silas Welch, 47th Indiana, and George Pride, an honorary colonel who served on Gen. Grant's staff from Belmont to Shiloh. In addition, Brother Stephan anchored a GAR marker at the grave of Isaiah Sours, 130th Indiana. Members of the camp formed a color guard and firing squad for the ceremony. Brother Stephan spoke to the assembled of the project, prayer was given, and the new eight-man, uniformed, Company Singers performed two hymns. A very moving 'Taps' was given by Brother (and chief bugler) Sean McConnell.

Champion Hill, Camp 17 hopes to continue replacing headstones as an ongoing project of the camp. ☆



*Benjamin Harrison,
23rd President of the
United States and
Bvt. Brig. General
USV.*



Meeting of the Porter Camp in December. Pictured in the foreground are Brother Bob Griffin, PCC, with his wife Thelma. In back is Commander Fred Karst and on the right Leroy Johnson and Larry Clark facing the camera.

David D. Porter Camp #116 of Valparaiso

The Porter Camp has a very spirited, and very informative newsletter—the *D. D. Porter Camp Monitor*—reflecting an energetic slate of activities. This will be old stuff for the Porter enclave, but news to our far-flung brotherhood elsewhere in the state.

The latest news is a plan for the January meeting at the first Christian Church, which will conclude the two-year service of Fred Karst as Camp Commander.

The October *Monitor* presents an interesting account of two events. One in Philadelphia held this past September at which Past Commander-in-Chief Ed Krieser spoke at a testimonial dinner for the newly elected C-in-C George Powell, and another about the Central Regional Conference mentioned in the last *Legion*. See also *The Banner* for December 2001, p. 9.

The January *Monitor* tells us about the November meeting at the Valparaiso Public Library, pictured above, together with an account of the November trek to Gettysburg by the intrepid Ron Gill and Ed Kreiser for Remembrance Day 2001.



Do you have pictures of the stone marking the last resting place of your Civil War ancestor? Do you have a story that goes with it? Send along a copy for future issues of The Indiana Legion!

Orlando Somers Camp Receives Thanks

In November, the Orlando Somers Camp received thanks from James Lighthizer, President of the Civil War Preservation Trust for its recent generous gift to the Civil War Preservation Trust. His letter contains useful information about the state of the Trust, and reads in part:

In a very real way, by supporting the CWPT, you are giving an important gift this holiday season . . . a legacy of remembrance that future generations will enjoy and appreciate as they walk those hallowed grounds that you are working so hard to preserve. And quite frankly, as many people as there are out there with an interest in the Civil War, there are actually only very few who are willing to generously donate to preserve the land itself. You are truly part of an essential group of concerned individuals.



Shaking hands on Remembrance Day at Gettysburg

We have much for which to be thankful for this year, not the least of which is the fact that the United States Congress has agreed with us that America's battlefields are a national priority. They have appropriated \$11 million over the next three years—which we are required to match, dollar for dollar—to secure battlefield land. This is a tremendous opportunity and a tremendous challenge. I look forward to working with you to meet that challenge and save even more hallowed ground in 2002.

Bloedner Heritage Event Planned

Readers of the *The Indiana Legion* will recall that the Department of Indiana last year donated, with each camp making a contribution, a total of \$500.00 to the 32nd Indiana Regiment (1st German) Civil War Monument Preservation fund.

This is an update for activities planned for Saturday, 2 February, in Louisville at the Cave Hill National Cemetery located at 701 Baxter Avenue.

The Louisville Germanic Heritage Auxiliary and the Kentucky Military History Museum will be cosponsors of a day long event to commemorate the 140th anniversary of the August Bloedner 32nd Indiana Regiment Civil War monument. The Indiana 5UVCW will be very welcome, so please plan accordingly.

Museum Manager, John M. Trowbridge, will direct a grave side memorial ceremony beginning at 11:00 A.M.

Re-enactors of the 32nd Indiana and the Bluegrass Mountain Artillery of Fort Duffield Camp #1 will be on hand to honor those Indiana men killed at the battle of Rowlett's Station on December 17, 1861.

A posting of the colors, invocation, and dignitary remarks will culminate with a military salute and benediction. An afternoon symposium examining the history of the monument, the battle, and the regiment will commence at 1:00 P. M. at the German-American Club located at 1840 Lincoln Avenue.

Several individuals and organizations are focusing their attention to preserving this important symbol of American heritage and are accepting donations for that purpose.

Checks should be made out to the Kentucky Historical Society with a notation indicating that it is a contribution to the Bloedner Monument Project. Donations may be sent to: Manager John M. Trowbridge, The Kentucky Military History Museum, 100 West Broadway, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-1931. E-mail john.trowbridge@mail.state.ky.us Phone: (502) 564-3265. ☆

Unit Files

Online *continued from page 2*

mand get roots-l.catalog.

On the Web, the file is available on the American Civil War Homepage—<http://sunsite.utk.edu/civil-war/warweb.html> under the heading Rosters & Regimental Histories. ☆

An ancestor history

Editor's note: This is only the second ancestor history that has been submitted to The Indiana Legion. I know there are many interesting stories out there. Why not submit one with a picture for the next issue?

Henry Richardson was born October 8, 1837 in York, Livingston County, New York to Schuyler and Julia Maria Richardson. On April 12, 1861, Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter, SC.

The American Civil War had begun, and Henry volunteered for military service, to save the Union.

On May 22, 1861, at age 24, he enlisted at Geneseo, New York, in the New York 33rd Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Company E, as a Private, for 2 years. The Regiment would see service in the Peninsula Campaign, and Henry was mustered out on Nov. 2, 1862.

The continuation of the Civil War, far beyond what many had considered would be an early end to hostilities, caused Henry to take up arms once more. He reenlisted on 12 December 1863 for three more years in the Illi-

nois 12th Cavalry Veteran Volunteers, Company M, which was consolidated with Company H.

On 12 February 1864 he and the 12th Cavalry Regiment marched to St. Louis, Missouri, embarking on a western front campaign in the Department of the Gulf. After being promoted in March 1864 to Duty Sergeant, he and the 12th were ordered to New Orleans, going by steam-



boat down the Mississippi River.

In early August, much of the 12th received new seven shot Spencer Carbine repeating rifles. Henry, with troopers of the 12th, made many raids northward looking for Confederate guerillas, and was wounded in the hand at one point.

In one raid, a Rebel officer carrying \$70,000 in Federal money, stolen from citizens of the county, and destined for the purchase of arms and war materiel, was killed in a fire fight.

Henry and the Illinois 12th

Cavalry were involved in a last Louisiana combat operation in late November 1864. In May 1865, on returning to Memphis, Tennessee, Henry was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant.

On June 15, the regiment was ordered to Alexandria, Louisiana, and then on to Newton County Texas and Reconstruction duty under Brevet Major General George A. Custer.

The regiment was finally mustered out on 29 May 1866: they were transported to Springfield, Illinois, for final separation.

Henry returned directly to York, Livingston, New York, where he resumed farming on 134 acres, marrying his sweetheart Jemima Robertson on 17 November 1869 at St. James Church, Batavia, New York.

Henry was active in the GAR in York, or Geneseo, NY. His GAR Badge shows he had attained Past Post Vice Commander Rank prior to 1886.

In 1897, he attended the GAR National Encampment in Buffalo, receiving a commemorative badge.

My Great Grandfather, Lieutenant Henry Richardson, died 27 January 1902 at age 65, and he is buried in Olivet Cemetery, Covington, Livingston County, New York. ☆

—Brother Noel Reen
of Orlando Somers Camp
#1, Kokomo

Why does your camp have the name that it has? Send answers to the editor for the next issue of The Indiana Legion.

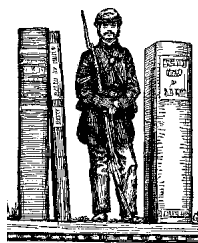
A word from the past that befits our time . . .

. . . grief is not the end of all. I seem to hear the funeral march become a paean. I see beyond the forest the moving banners of a hidden column. Our dead brothers still live with us, and bid us think of life, not death—of life to which in their youth they lent the passion and joy of the spring. As I listen, the great chorus of life and joy begins again, and amid the awful orchestra of seen and unseen powers and destinies of good and evil our trumpets sound once more a note of daring, hope, and will.



So spoke Oliver Wendall Holmes, Jr., on Memorial Day 1884, before the John Sedgewick Post No. 4, Grand Army of the Republic, Keene, New Hampshire. In his youth, Holmes served as a Lieutenant in the Twentieth Massachusetts Volunteers at Ball's Bluff, the Peninsular Campaign, and Antietam. He was wounded three times. It was once thought that he cried out to Lincoln, as the president stood exposed to fire on the parapet at Fort Stevens, "Get down, you damned fool." Recent scholarship suggests that this was just a good story, often repeated, but probably not true. Holmes served on the United States Supreme Court between 1902 to 1932 under four chief justices. He is universally recognized as one of America's most distinguished jurists.

Recent Books . . .



Buckingham, Peter H. *All's for the Best: the Civil War Reminiscences and Letters of Daniel W. Sawtelle, Eighth Maine Volunteers Infantry.* Knoxville: The University of Tennessee Press, 2001.

Eicher, David J. *The Longest Night: A Military History of the Civil War.* Forward by James M. McPherson. New York: Simon & Shuster, 2001.

Welcer, David A. *Tempest at Ox Hill: The Battle of Chantilly.* New York: Da Capo Press, 2002.

Winik, Jay. *April 1865: The Month that Saved a Nation.* New York: Harper Collins, 2001.

An Important Message

The Indiana Legion

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Department of Indiana

3800 Woodmere Way
Bloomington, IN 47403-4123

This second electronic issue of *The Indiana Legion* is the result of an effort to reduce publication costs for the Department of Indiana SUVCW. It is being delivered primarily to those who have requested this method as an alternative to the mail version. We are also sending electronic copies to friends, and to other SUVCW brothers who are not members of an Indiana camp.

The process is not without its difficulties, particularly because we have received some email addresses without accompanying names, so we have not easily been able to coordinate our printed mailing list with our electronic one.

It will be of great help to us, then, if you would email the editor if any of the following points apply to you:

I am receiving both the printed and email versions, so

Please send the electronic version only.

Please send the hard copy only.

Please continue to send both

I do not wish to receive The Indiana Legion.

**Many thanks,
David Wiley, dwiley@earthlink.net**