

The Indiana Legion

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA • GIB YOUNG, COMMANDER



Volume 22

Fall 2004

General Orders No. 1 Introducing Indiana's Sons of Veterans Reserve

Series 2004 — 2005

1 I heartily encourage each member of this order to attend camp meetings and become involved with this organization at any appropriate level. Each brother has a talent or skill that enhances what we are trying to do — to keep the faith with our ancestors who wore blue and served the cause of the Union so many years ago.

2 I heartily encourage each camp to develop a focus for its energies. The strength of a camp is that its members see a purpose and gain a sense of satisfaction from belonging.

3 I heartily encourage each brother to talk to at least one prospective member. Share with the individual your own history and the reasons you belong to the SUVCW.

The Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) constitutes the authorized military component of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW). To be eligible to join the organization, and

to maintain membership in the SVR, a Brother must be a member or associate in good standing of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Here in Indiana the SVR supports the SUVCW in ceremonial functions at schools, memorials, museums, parades, and special events. Within the last year the SUVCW has appeared at encampments, Memorial Day services, Remembrance Day, Lincoln's Birthday events, a school function, a grave stone dedication, and a museum presentation. Future events that would need a Civil War color guard or uniformed presence would be considered for possible attendance.

The group meets 5 or 6 times a year to discuss business and rehearse for upcoming ceremonies. The most important ceremonies for 2004 - 2005 are:

- 1) SUVCW Department Encampment — 22 January 2005 and 4 June 2005.
- 2) Lincoln Day Ceremonies at Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial, 13 February 2005.
- 3) Memorial Day Ceremonies in

Continued on page 3



Newly elected Commander Gib Young speaks to the membership at the 118th Encampment of the SUVCW, Department of Indiana, held in 5 June at IU Kokomo. See From the Commander's Inkwell on p. 2.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Commander's Inkwell	2
Department Encampment	2
Department Officers	4
Camp News	
Benton	6
Champion Hill	5
Harrison	3
Porter	7
Somers	5
Father Corby plans change	6
In Memoriam	3
New Comander-in-Chief	3
Other news	4,7

*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*

From the Commander's Inkwell . . .



Commander Gib Young in the persona of President Theodore Roosevelt at a High School program.

I would like to take this space in *The Indiana Legion* to share with the members who were unable to attend the summer encampment in Kokomo some thoughts that I spoke of at the time of my installation. I think it important that the Department of Indiana be aware of some of the issues that those honored to serve as officers see as important.

I see growth as our number one concern. This is nothing new. It is a priority that has been passed down through the terms of several department commanders — because if we do not grow, if we remain stagnant, the order will die. And with the demise of the SUVCW will go the sense of responsibility and sense of duty to remember, preserve, and honor the heritage of our ancestors. The bond with the Grand Army of the Republic and all it meant will be lost.

The SUVCW must continue, and to continue it must grow. Like department commanders before me, I will look for ways to help new camps start and to strengthen old ones.

I believe every brother, and every camp, should make a Memorial Day observance in some manner. Whether it be an elaborate ceremony for the general public, or a simple trip to the local cemetery where a flag can be put on a lonely grave, it does not matter as much as the fact that we have remembered, and that we have acted on that memory.

It would be a credit to the organization if each camp were represented at the Lincoln Boyhood Home in southern Indiana that each February. Several dedicated brothers have made this trip over the past few years, but I urge all brothers to consider a weekend in southern Indiana includes being part of the ceremony in the beautiful chapel and the hilltop graveyard. I still think of Mr. Lincoln as a Hoosier, so I would hope that other men in this department might consider the weekend as worthy of consideration.

I would like to see the department develop a relationship with the legislature of Indiana. At some point in the future, it might do well to have a familiar contact in the state house.

There is a department committee right now taking up the reins to work on finding an affordable liability insurance policy for the whole department. We are near to getting such a policy, which might cost the department \$1.50 to \$2.00 per member, which really is a small price, considering that some camps face providing "certificates of insurance" for their activities. Such a policy will also protect the officers as well as the camps in general for liability arising from camp activity.

I will support and encourage the creation of a quality book about monuments, memorials, and Civil War related items in our state. This is a worthy goal that will most certainly generate publicity and good will for the SUVCW in Indiana. At the same time, it could generate extra funds for the department treasury. It is a book that should cover the whole state. We have the talent, but do we have the will? It is a job, but one that will be richly rewarding.

I hope these thoughts will generate conversation and debate in the camps around the state. I look forward to visiting each camp. I invite any brother to send thoughts, ideas, and opinions to me.

I am sure our order will grow and prosper because, as the poet said, "Ain't God good to Indiana? Ain't he Fellers, Ain't He Though?"

Yours in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty


Department Commander

At the Annual Department Encampment in June

An enthusiastic group of SUVCW members gathered at the 56th Memorial Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic and the 118th Encampment of the Department of Indiana, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, held on the campus of Indiana University at Kokomo on Saturday, 5 June 2004.

After registration, the picking up of programs and encampment badges, together with some good conversation, coffee and bagels, the meeting was called to order at around 9:15 a.m. Whereupon the Sons of Veterans Reserve paraded the colors, and Commander Teller conducted the opening ceremony.

Secretary and Treasurer Shawn Clements then called the roll of the 2003-2004 officers. Present were Department Commander Alan Teller, Senior Vice-Commander Gib Young, Jr. Vice-Commander David Wiley and Department Council members Ron Gill, Russell Kirchner, and Thomas Crawford.

National Secretary Ed Kriesier presented Department Commander Alan Teller and Department Council Member Thomas Crawford with certificates for their work in restoring a Civil War Cannon in Kokomo. The past National Commanders from Indiana were recognized and the minutes from the 117th Encampment were read and approved.

Officers then presented reports that illustrate the scope of SUVCW activity in Indiana: those of the Department

Continued on page 4

The Indiana Legion

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Department of Indiana

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
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Camps should send news items, photographs, ancestor accounts, and so on, to the editor by e-mail or regular mail on or about the editorial deadline on 15 December 2004. The anticipated publication date for the Winter issue is 3 January 2004.



Stephen A. Michaels

New Commander-in-Chief Named

Stephen A. Michaels of Wisconsin was elected Commander-in-Chief of the SUVCW at the 123rd National Encampment held in Ceder Rapids, Iowa, last month.

All correspondence requiring his attention should be addressed to 6623 S. North Cape Road, Franklin, WI 53132-1227. Phone and Fax: 414 425-4648. E-mail: SUVCWINC@aol.com.

Commander Michaels will publish General Orders regularly on the national web site, www.suvcw.org, and in the national publication *The Banner*.

See the web site for other important contact information.

IN MEMORIAM

Paul R. Diehm

Ben Harrison Camp No. 356
Brother Diehm's ancestor was
Pvt. John C. Schuler of the
10th Indiana Light Artillery

Harold D. Vail

Past Camp Commander
David D. Porter Camp No 116
Brother Vail's ancestor was
Pvt. Benson Jewell of
Co. I, 71st Infantry, Indiana Vols.

Richard C. Schlenker
Past Commander-in-Chief
SUVCW

SVR continued from

your local area May 28, 29, 30 (30th preferred).

Indiana's SVR Unit is designated as Co. D of the 27th Indiana Volunteers in the Third Military District of the SVR. It tries to dress and present itself as Co. D of the 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry would have looked in 1861-1865. (The 27th was a distinguished regiment that fought at Gettysburg, Chancellorsville, Antietam amongst others — and even found itself on the infamous "Mud March.")

Finding out more

For further information, access <http://suvcw.org/svr/svr.htm>. SVR dues in Indiana are \$3.00. All SVR members are required to pay the annual dues at first of each year. Dues are payable to the SVR Commander, 1st Lt. Larry Ebert. Individuals interested in joining the SVR may contact Ebert at royalebert@aol.com, phone 765 457-1577.

Request for Donations

Since we act as color guards in the majority of the ceremonies in which we participate, we would prefer to present true Civil War colors. With that in mind, work and planning has begun to obtain the flags of the 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Effort has started on a National Flag. We are also seeking someone to paint a regimental flag. We would prefer, as a minimum, to acquire national and regimental flags, but the possibility of purchasing a Department of Indiana flag is also being discussed. Several members have already donated money and materials for these items.

Obviously our \$3.00 dues will not cover this endeavor so we are requesting additional donations. A department flag could cost \$550.00. Any flags we make will require poles, spears, holders, etc. If you are an artist and capable



Delegates from Indiana are considering their vote for the Council of Administration. Five men were running for this office and three votes had to be taken to fill vacancies that were created by the Encampment when the participants expanded the Council membership from three to five. One term had expired (that of our own Ron Gill) and two additional posts were created. Those elected were Brad Shall (California and Pacific), Leo Kennedy (Rhode Island), and Charlie Kuhn (Pennsylvania).

of painting a flag, time would be a welcome donation. You do not have to be a member of the SVR to make a contribution. All members of the SVR should consider giving a gift.

Donations should be sent to Alan Teller, 3003 Lamplighter Lane, Kokomo, IN 46902-8125. Please note the money is to be used for SVR Flags but make the check payable to Alan Teller.

— Alan Teller

Ben Harrison Camp at Crown Hill

The impressive and serene surrounds of the Crown Hill cemetery in Indianapolis were the scene of a special Memorial Day ceremony held by the Ben Harrison Camp No. 356 on 29 May.

Researched and prepared by Steven Bauer, Past Camp Commander, the program celebrated the life of Captain William Alexander Ketcham, who was elected National Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic at its fifty-fourth encampment in 1920.

An Indianapolis native, Ketcham also served as commander of the Indiana Department of the GAR and for several years as the Judge Advocate of the national organization.

Active in public affairs, and always the patriot, Ketcham opposed the growth of the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana during the 1920s and worked to preserve the non-commercial character of

Continued on page 5

Encampment, continued from page 2

Commander, the Senior and Junior Vice-commanders, the Patriotic Instructor, the Graves Registration Officer, the GAR Highway Officer, and the Civil War Monuments Officer.

Council Member Russell Kirchner asked that \$200 be set aside for graves registration data entry. The motion was seconded by Thomas Crawford and passed.

Patriotic Instructor Bruce Kolb raised the question of whether or not to develop a brochure or book about Civil War monuments in Indiana and what sort of database on the subject might be developed. Brother Kolb will gather information and report at the Midyear Encampment. A motion to that effect was made by Randy McNally, seconded by Ed Krieser, and passed.

At this stage of the proceedings, the members moved next door to exchange greetings with the members of the Annual Encampment of the Indiana Department of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

The meeting resumed later with reports on the Eagle Scout program, the Sons of Veterans Reserve, and *The Indiana Legion*. After a discussion, and on the motion of Ed Krieser, it was agreed that *The Legion* could be extended to eight pages.

A discussion followed concerning camp and department property, and the claim of the national organization claim to records of post histories. A motion was made by David Wiley for the new Department Commander to appoint a committee to research and find records of GAR Posts in Indiana. The motion was seconded by Allen Moore. The motion passed. Alan Teller, Alan Loomis, and Tim Beckman will be on this committee.

Gib Young discussed insurance coverage for the department and camps. He asked for a motion to form a committee of three to review the costs and cover-

age available. The motion was seconded by Archie Lintz and passed. Shawn Clements, Jim Perry, and Ron Gill will make up the committee.

The meeting was adjourned for lunch. Guest speaker Donna Schmink, Museum Specialist at the Indianapolis War Memorial, presented a very informative program, illustrated with PowerPoint slides, about the Battle Flags of various Indiana regiments.



This montage of photos by Ron Gill could not be used in the printed version because the red printing was unreadable in black and white.

After the noon program, the business meeting continued with a discussion about memorial ribbons. It was decided that camps should order them through the department secretary.

Commander Teller proposed placing an advertisement in the SUVCW national publication for the current National Commander, thanking him for his service. Ron Gill made the motion, seconded by Cody Shaw, and the motion passed.

Past National Commander Alan Loomis reviewed plans for the Father Corby Day at Notre Dame.

The question of delegates to the national encampment in August was raised. It was pointed out that all past commander-in-chiefs, and past and current department commanders in good standing are automatically delegates. All department members were proposed as possible alternates on the motion of Alan Loomis, with a second by David Wiley.

The department officers for 2004-2005 were unanimously elected and initiated by Brother Dennis Hershman (see sidebar for a contact list of elected and appointed officers).

Gib Young, the new commander, took the gavel and spoke of his future plans for the Department of Indiana.

It was decided that the Midyear Encampment will be held in Huntington.

An award was presented to past commander Alan Teller in recognition of his deep commitment and service to the Department of Indiana and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

The Encampment adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Departmental Officers 2004-2005

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Junior Vice-Commander

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Harrison Camp continued from page 3

the Soldiers and Sailors Monument in Indianapolis.

During the Rebellion, Ketcham enlisted as a private in Company A, 13th Indiana Infantry, and rose in rank to become Captain of Company C at the age of nineteen. The 13th Indiana had a distinguished record during the war, not the least of which was its experience



At the grave site of Captain Ketcham, Ben Harrison Camp Commander Bruce Kolb presents a certificate of appreciation to Department Commander Alan Teller, soon to become PDC at the summer encampment in June.

in the 10th Corps, Army of the James, when heavily engaged in the battle of Cold Harbor, and in several operations around Bermuda Hundred, Petersburg, and the attack on Fort Fisher in North Carolina.

Camp Meeting Schedule Planned

The Harrison Camp will meet this fall and winter at 11:00 a.m. at the MCL Cafeteria, 5520 Castleton Corner Lane, at the Allison Road exit, on 11 September, 16 October, 13 November, and 11 December. All brothers, and those interested in gaining camp membership, are cordially invited to these Saturday meetings for lunch, a program, and fellowship. — David Wiley



A new headstone for Pvt. A. J. Wells, Sr., Co. E. 40th Indiana Volunteers. Installed 24 July 2004 in the Parker Moore Cemetery, Center Township, Delaware County, near Muncie, by SUVVCW member Mark Krebs and others.

Somers Camp on the March

The Orlando A. Somers Camp No. 1 meeting of May 20, 2004, had sixteen members and guests present. Timon Pike presented a report about this Eagle Scout Project. He is trying to clean and restore a pioneer cemetery at roads 750 East and 200 South in Howard County. Two Civil War Soldiers are known to be buried there. The camp donated \$100.00 to Timon's project.

Harvey Warner presented the program for the May meeting. He talked about—and showed us parts of—his Civil War collection. It consists mainly of paper goods, documents, newspapers, and general ephemera.

Memorial Day Events

On Sunday, May 30, 2004, the camp conducted Memorial Day services at Estates of Serenity Cemetery in Marion and at Riverside Cemetery in Gas City. In Marion the services were conducted at the GAR Monument. Gas City's services were conducted at the grave of John C. Adams, who was the last surviving Civil War Veteran in Indiana. The DUVCW, Marinda B. Dye Tent No. 17, was also represented. Taps was played by John Brane. These services were organized and led by Allen W. Moore, PC-in-C. He has ably served our camp in this capacity since the inception of these services.

Civil War Exhibit & Fall Schedule

It is worth noting that the Greentown Historical Society has a Civil War display scheduled through December of 2004. Several members of the Somers Camp have loaned items for the exhibit, and an article about it was written up in the *Kokomo Tribune*. Our own Jon Ayers, a resident of Greentown, was quoted, and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was mentioned as aiding the display. Featured was the Hugh H. Willichs GAR Post No. 424 and several of its members: Tence L. Osborn, Joseph H. Weaver, (great grandfather of Jon Ayers), John P. Baker, James Gallion, Jonah G. Brown, David G. Lennington, Daniel Simpson, and Peter Fox. Another Greentown resident, Past Department Commander Russ Kirchner, and his family, provided support for this exhibit.

Our fall schedule of meetings is as fol-

lows: Sept. 18, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, and Dec. 18. As always, we are meeting at noon at Richard's Restaurant in Kokomo on the 3rd Saturday of the month. We hope all members will attend and extend an open invitation to guests to join us for lunch and a program. — Alan Teller

Four Colonels Saga Continues at Huntington

As previously reported in these pages, the struggle of the good brothers of the Champion Hills Camp No. 17 to establish a monument to those who served in the Civil War—and particularly the four colonels from Huntington County—has been fraught with difficulty.

The camp has been enthusiastic about the project, and has been hard at work on raising money to pay for it, but its newsletter reports that the monument, originally designed to be made of stone and erected in Slack Park in Huntington, has been redesigned. Moreover, plans are afoot to move the edifice to a new location—a "Memorial Plaza" on the northwestern edge of the city.

The new design is exciting in concept and provides greater space to describe the service of the four colonels, but it is to be made of glass! Laminated and two layered to be sure, and supposedly hard to chip and break, placed in a well-lighted area, but glass nevertheless.

Some observers may well wonder whether this monument will be for the ages, and there is some concern that the cost, estimated to be between \$2500 and \$5000 will not be within the camp's reach. It should be noted, however, that the brothers of the Champion Hill Camp have proved themselves to be intrepid, and doubtless will persevere.

The Camp will once again host the midyear meeting of the Department, and volunteers to support the event in the splendid GAR room of the courthouse are already being called for.

The annual encampment, which is to be held next June, has also been scheduled to take place in Huntington—no surprise to anyone, because one of their own, Brother Gib Young, will be the first department commander to be elected from this energetic group, a camp which, after all, came into being not very long ago.

Time is Short for Central Region Conference Registration

Notice has reached *The Indiana Legion* about the Central Region Conference for 2004, which promises to be an interesting and informative meeting with a chance to renew old friendships with members from throughout the Midwest. The Conference will be hosted by the Department of Wisconsin and convenes 2 October at Milwaukee's Ramada Inn South. The hotel is located five minutes from Mitchell International Airport and 15 minutes from downtown Milwaukee, and is adjacent to the I-94 Freeway from Chicago and O'Hare.

This year's conference topic is "Effective Communication with the Masses." Participants will hear from several presenters about improving communication within the organization and with the public, by using newsletters, press releases, e-mail and the Web.

The Schedule

Those arriving on Friday may register for the conference at the hotel from 5 to 7:00 p.m. Registration continues on Saturday morning from 8 to 8:45 a.m. Plans include dedication of Civil War veteran and Medal of Honor recipient Boatswain John Breen's previously unmarked grave at Calvary Cemetery and a look at the historic Milwaukee Soldiers' Home, formerly the Northwestern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.

Lunch will be at Milwaukee's historic Turner Hall, headquarters site for the 1889 GAR National Encampment. The German Palm Garden dining room is the perfect setting for dining and camaraderie.

After returning to the hotel, the Central Region Conference will convene for the afternoon. The evening Banquet and Campfire will feature a reception for the incoming Commander-in-Chief. Our Campfire speaker will be Tom Ludka, Commander of the Van Eimeren-Kolonka American Legion Post #27 in South Milwaukee and Wisconsin Dept. Services Officer, whose topic will be "Patriotism, Strength and Courage: the GAR's Impact on Today's Society."

Lodging and Registration

Rooms are available at the Milwaukee Ramada Inn-South; unfortunately, the deadline for a special room rate has passed

The CRC Registration Packet (PDF file) for information about the conference hotel, together with a form to register for the conference plus sign up for your lunch and dinner selections may be downloaded from <http://people.msoe.edu/~peterson/suvcw-wi//crc/>

Seating is limited, so the registration form with payment must be sent by the deadline of September 18, 2004, in order to reserve a place. Walk-ins are not possible.

Further Information

Hotel Address: Ramada Inn—South (Airport) 6401 South 13th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Phone: (414) 764-5300. Contact person: Kent A. Peterson, 6024 South Kirkwood, Cudahy WI 53110-3106. Tel.: 414-769-0681. E-mail: kapeterson@suvcw-wi.org

Centerville Camp Activity

Members of the William P. Benton Camp No. 28 fired a salute over Civil War graves during Memorial Day ceremonies at the Crown Hill Cemetery in Centerville.

Camp members have also cared for the grave of Lt. Commander James Pritchett, executive officer of the Union gunboat *Cairo*, sunk by Rebel mines in the Yazoo River on 12 December 1862.

Artifacts from the *Cairo*, raised in



Pictured at the grave of Lt. Commander James Pritchett are from left to right, Camp Commander Ernest Ravinnett, camp member Dan Boyer, and Ray Moak, camp Vice-Comander.

1964, are in a museum near the Vicksburg, Mississippi, National Cemetery. Pritchett's sword and canteen are on view there near the gunboat. The USS *Pritchett*, named after the officer, was engaged by Kamikaze pilots during the Okinawa campaign. The destroyer defended itself well by shooting down five Japanese planes. The *Pritchett* was hit, but sustained the damage successfully.

— Clifford Cox
Camp Secretary

Father Corby Event Postponed

The Father Corby ceremony and award event, scheduled for 2 October at Notre Dame, has been postponed until 12 November of 2005. That is the Saturday Notre Dame plays Navy.

The Wall Street Journal Makes a Point

In a Memorial Day related article about the surviving children of Civil War Veterans, which featured SUVCW real son Harold Becker of Michigan, the Wall Street Journal suggested that northern heritage groups, such as the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Daughters of Union Veterans of Civil War, have difficulty finding them.

"The 36,000-member Sons of Confederate Veterans," on the other hand, "has erected billboards and purchased TV and radio commercials seeking descendants. The 22,000-member United Daughters of the Confederacy in 1994 began a seven-year search for literal daughters."

By way of contrast, the SUVCW, has only 7000 members and the DUVCW have just 4000. The WSJ writer suggests that this is because northern people are "less emotionally connected" to the "War Between the States."

See Jeffrey Zaslow, "Disappearing Breed: Their Fathers Fought In the Civil War," *Wall Street Journal*, May 28, 2004: A1.



Real son Harold Becker in 2002 at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument dedication in Indianapolis

David Porter Camp No. 116 & Memorial Day

The *D. D. Porter Camp Monitor* reports two major activities on 31 May, a day that began in bright sunshine and closed with the threat of inclement weather.

The schedule started at the Kimball Cemetery just north of Valparaiso, with a dedication of a plaque for Jacob Mooker, the last Civil War veteran to be buried in Porter County. Past Commander-in-Chief Alan Loomis conducted the ceremony, with Ed Krieser, also a Past-Commander-in-Chief acting as Chaplain.

Descendants of Jacob Mooker were in attendance. "The family stone," reports *The Monitor*, "was cleaned with an amonia/water solution and looked like new . . . The dedication plaque is between that and the new government headstone that was ordered from the Veterans Administration."

This event concluded, the group moved to the Porter County Courthouse for the Memorial Day ceremony held by the camp. Several brothers participated and Company E of the 9th Indiana Infantry gave the salute followed by a playing of Taps. Three ladies who constitute the Buckley Family Singers, and who were dressed in costumes of the 1860s, sang several songs from the Civil War era.

With sadness the camp conducted a special ceremony in memory of its past camp commander, Harold D. Vail, who died in May. His name, *The Monitor* reports, has been removed from the Porter camp rolls and "inserted in our Honor Roll plaque that hangs in the War Room of the Old Jail Museum in Valparaiso. Here hangs his name, along with six others active brothers who have left the camp for their eternal home."

Graduation at the Soldiers & Sailors Home

Saturday, May 22, 2004, was a beautiful day to be sitting in Lincoln Hall on the campus of the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home (ISSCH) in Knightstown. I was there

Fifteenth Annual Civil War Days

On Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, 8 through 10 October, the Fifteenth Annual Civil War Days will take place in Hartford City. Sponsored by the Blackford County Civil War Reenactment Club, the event promises an historical and educational commemoration of the Civil War. Each day is crowded with Civil War demonstrations and presentations, skirmishes, company and artillery drill and concerts — the Champion Hill Company Singers are scheduled to perform, amongst others.

Of particular note will be the dedication of the Blackford County Civil War Monument at 9:00 AM on Saturday and the Military Ball at the National Guard Armory at 8:00 in the evening.

The "Donation Admission" is \$5.00, though students under 17 pay only \$3.00, and seniors over 61, \$4.00. A minimum of \$1,500 of this income will be contributed to the Blackford County Civil War Monument Fund. For further information, contact Earl Willman at 756 348 0919 or Robert Uggen at 765 348-1981.

for the graduation ceremony of Morton Memorial High School. They had a small class in 2004 of four students.

The graduates were Pleas Crank, Valedictorian, Kelsey Woods, Salutatorian, Eric Napier, and Philecia Fletcher.



This is Graduation Day at the Indiana Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's Home in Knightstown. Daughters are front row Beverly Massey, Barnara Stone, Vickie Layman, Department President. Back Row Ester Cook, Lee Ann Teller, and SUVCW-member Alan Teller, Department Commander 2003-2004.

One other SUVCW member, Graham Morey, was present. Five members of the Daughters were present, Lee Ann Teller, Vicki Layman, Department President Barbara Stone, Beverly Massey, and Ester Cook. The SUVCW presented a \$20.00 cash gift to each graduate. It was an honor to represent the SUVCW in presenting each graduate his or her gift.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the large attendance at this event by the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and their Auxiliaries. These organizations from all over the state of Indiana support the ISSCH all year long. At the graduation ceremony they present a multitude of gifts and scholarships to

these graduates. Many of the veteran organization members are known individually to the young men and women of the home. Our own Graham Morey is the Commander of an American Legion Post in Speedway. His attended as the Post Commander. These individuals—veterans and their wives—give a lot of themselves to the home and its students. They are to be commended for their untiring dedication to this cause.

— Alan Teller

Active Officers Fund Established

In a letter to Indiana Department Officers in July, Commander Gib Young announced the establishment of an "Active Officers Fund" that will be supported by the volunteer contributions of department officers.

The idea was arrived at in a conference between the Commander, Senior Vice-Commander, and the Treasurer.

The fund will be a "way of meeting an 'immediate' cost that does not have to be ratified by a vote of the department members at either of the two department encampments."

The fund will not be used for entertainment purposes, to cover the cost of *The Indiana Legion*, or for any personal purpose. It will be held by the department treasurer and will be strictly accounted for.

It is not anticipated that the fund will become much larger than \$350, but should a sizable amount be accumulated, a transfer to the general fund would be anticipated.



Telegraphing in the Field
a period drawing by Walton Taber

DISPATCHES...

- Visit the national SUCVW web site at www.sucv.org • Join the IndianaSUCVW news list by contacting dwiley@earthlink.net, we really want to see you there • Download the Champion Hill Camp Newsletter online at www.huntingtoncounty.org/sucv • See the Department site at sucv.org/in/DEPTIN.html • Visit the General Lew Wallace Study and Museum web site www.ben-hur.com • Central Region Conference details at <http://people.msos.edu/~peterson/sucv-wi//crc/> • Deadline for registration 17 September •

The Indiana Legion

*Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War,
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Bloomington, IN 47403-4123*

Brothers,

This space, reserved for the address in the printed edition, gives your editor room for a some random comments; to wit,

1. This is the first eight page edition, and it filled up fast — there were still some materials that didn't get in, particularly those really splendid photographs of the August encampment that Rick Henley sent on a disk, unfortunately the disk arrived just after *The Indiana Legion* had gone to press.

2. Please keep the material flowing in, though — ancestor histories, camp activity, photographs, comments — if possible specially written for the *Legion*, but if not, send what you have. The next issue will be in early January and will point toward the midyear encampment later that month.

3. I am struck, once again, by the great work performed by you, the SUCVW gentlemen of Indiana, on and around Memorial Day, in celebration of the lives of our Civil War forebears. It may seem a bit strange to read in September about activity took place in May, but when you think about it, every day is Memorial Day with us.

Yrs. in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

David Wiley