



The Indiana Legion



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA * JACK SHAW, COMMANDER

FALL 2008 EDITION

NATIONAL INFORMATION:

CONSTITUTION CHANGES

The Constitution changes effecting Juniors and Junior Associates were ratified. All changes to the National Constitution and Regulations adopted by the First Special National Encampment held on 17 November, 2007 in Gettysburg are in force.

FINAL ROLL CALL FOR ELIZABETH KOCH

Elizabeth Koch, a Past National President of the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, passed away on Thursday, June 19, 2008. She was a member of the Allied Orders for more than 74 years and was married to Elton O. Koch, who served this Order as Commander in Chief from 1979-1980. She will be greatly missed at our joint gatherings.

FINAL ROLL CALL FOR BOB LOWE

Brother Bob Lowe, PDC from the Department of California and Pacific, passed away on Monday, June 23, 2008. Bob also served as the National Graves Registration Officer. He was the recipient of the Meritorious Service Award with Gold Star and the Cornelius Whitehouse award as outstanding Brother of the year. This good man will be missed at future Encampments.

2008 SUVCW NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT

From Alan Teller



Indiana attendees at the National Encampment held in Boston August 7-10. L to R: Alan Teller, PDC; Ed Krieser, PcinC; Jack Shaw, DC; Mike Downs, CC and Ron Gill, PDC

2008 REMEMBRANCE DAY EVENT AND PARADE

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, will host this event on November 22, 2008. Events include SVR breakfast, 52nd anniversary GAR Ceremony, Parade, 78th Anniversary Dedication Day Dinner, and National Civil War Ball. For more information or to obtain registration forms, visit <http://www.suvcw.org/RembrDay/index.html>.

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION:

CHANGES TO THE INDIANA LEGION

This will be the final issue of the Indiana Legion that will be printed and mailed from the Department. A motion was passed at the June Department Encampment to make the Indiana Legion an electronic publication. If you want it printed and mailed to you, it will cost an additional \$5.00 per year. This goes into effect December 1, 2008. You can continue to receive the newsletter using a friend's computer, the computer at your local library, or camps can make printed copies available at camp meetings.

MONUMENTS REPAIRED

From Phil McClure

The monument that was scattered in many pieces about the Knox County courthouse lawn in Vincennes has now been reassembled. After years of fundraisers, which fell short of the goal, county commissioners approved a \$247,000.00 contract last year to complete the project. The money covered masonry restoration, repairs to the bronze statues and the rebuilding of the two entrance doors to what used to be a museum in the base.

A limestone monument in Ridgeville, Randolph County, has also been restored. The monument was very dirty, was leaning, and its base was fractured. The monument, has been cleaned, now stands straight and tall, and has a new base.

2008 CENTRAL REGION ALLIED ORDERS

St. Louis, Missouri

OCTOBER 3-4, 2008

The Holiday Inn – St. Louis South, located at 4234 Butler Hill Rd., will be the venue for the 2008 Central Region Allied Orders. Room rate is \$84.00 plus tax for single/double occupancy. Reservation deadline for this rate was September 3, 2008. The Encampment Committee would like to see Encampment weekend become a family event, and therefore, are encouraging members to bring their families. There are many attractions for family members to enjoy while members are attending the business sessions. Some of the more popular attractions include: Tours of local historic sites, such as U.S. Grant National Historic Site, Jefferson Barracks County Park, Jefferson National Museum of Westward Expansion and the Daniel Boone home (Defiance, MO), Fort Davidson State Historic Site in Pilot Knob, MO and Ste. Genevieve, MO.; antique shopping at historic Cherokee St. in St. Louis and the nearby South County Antique Mall; and famous St. Louis landmarks, such as the Gateway Arch, St. Louis Union Station, Anheuser Busch Brewery, St. Louis Zoo, Missouri Historical Society, Art Museum and Forest Park, site of the 1904 Worlds Fair. For more information, please contact Bob Petrovic at rpetro7776@aol.com / (636) 274-4567 or Walt Busch at wbusch@suvcwmo.org / (314) 630-8407

2009 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2009 Annual Meeting will be held Saturday, June 6, at IU Kokomo. This will be the 123rd Annual Encampment of the Department of Indiana SUVCW and the 61st Memorial Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic.

CAMP INFORMATION: ORLANDO A. SOMERS CAMP, NO. 1

No report submitted from this camp.

COL. WILLIAM H. LINK CAMP #12

No report submitted from this camp.

CHAMPION HILL CAMP #17

COMPANY SINGERS AT LINCOLN MUSEUM

From Gib Young



The Company Singers performing in Springfield, Illinois at the Lincoln Museum. The boys were paid \$50.00 to sing for the folks and then \$5000.00 not to sing for the folks at the museum. L to R: Bugs Fricke, Pretty Boy Young, Slumbering Jim Kline, Old Salt Bugge, Five Fingers Morgan, Babs Henly and Unknown Homeless Bum.

WILLIAM P. BENTON CAMP #28

No report submitted from this camp.

DAVID D. PORTER CAMP #116

COLONEL GILBERT HATHAWAY HONORED

On June 28, 2008, the David D. Porter camp, along with the SVR and the La Porte County Historical Society, honored Colonel Gilbert Hathaway with the unveiling of a new headstone and a ceremony honoring his service during the Civil War. In attendance were Department of Indiana Commander, Jack Shaw and Department Secretary, Alan Teller.

BEN HARRISON CAMP #356

STEPHEN JACKSON APPOINTED MADISON COUNTY HISTORIAN

From "Local history buff appointed county historian" by Aleasha Sandley, *The Herald Bulletin*, Aug 16, 2008

The Indiana Historical Society recently named Stephen Jackson as Madison County's new historian. He hopes to develop programs on the Delaware Indians and Moravian missionaries who made this area their home, to create presentations on the history of each Madison County township and on the types of transportation that influenced the county, and to prepare local residents for Madison County's 200th birthday, coming up in 2023. He is a member of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Sons of the Confederate Veterans of the Civil War and past president of the Indianapolis Civil War Round Table. As county historian, Jackson will act as the coordinator for the county's historical resources and as the resource person for public inquiries. He will educate local organizations on county history, learn new techniques and technology associated with preserving and studying history and promote cooperation among Madison County's historical societies.

CAMP HUGHES PLAQUE DEDICATED AT THE GOSPORT CEMETERY

From Tim Beckman

On May 26, 2008 the Ben Harrison Camp # 356 along with the 27th Indiana, Co D SVR, the 11th Indiana Reenactment Group, and the John Brighton Post 7850 VFW dedicated a new plaque recording the final resting place of eight 59th Indiana soldiers who died while at Camp Hughes which was located at Gosport Indiana. The ceremony of dedication was performed with approximately 75 guests in attendance. This ceremony was the culmination of over 2 years of research by the Ben Harrison Camp to mark the eight previously "unknown" graves. Camp Hughes was a Civil War training camp for the 59th Indiana and was located one-half mile southwest of Gosport on the White River and named for former Indiana Congressman James Hughes. Camp Hughes was in existence from September 1861 to February 13, 1862 when the 59th left Camp Hughes bound for New Albany, Indiana and active duty. Camp Hughes was the only known Civil War camp ever established in Owen County.

Research indicated that 12 men died while at Camp Hughes and that at least 8 men were buried in graves marked "unknown" at the Gosport Cemetery. The 59th Indiana soldiers who died while at Camp Hughes apparently contracted measles and died between late January and February 1862. It is unclear today why these men were buried in graves marked "UNKNOWN 59th IND INF" since the microfilmed 59th Indiana Correspondence File at the Indiana State Archives revealed that the regiment certainly knew who these men were as it listed 8 names that were reported to have been "buried by their regiment in the Gosport Cemetery." The Ben Harrison Camp made arrangements for a plaque to be struck with the names of all 12 men who died while at Camp Hughes. The plaque was affixed onto a large granite marker already in place over the 8 "unknown" graves on May 10, 2008. This block of rough gray granite was placed over the graves in October 1923. According to an article in the *Gosport Reporter* of October 25, 1923, L. R. Gray placed the large granite stone there with the intention of having the marker either lettered or a bronze tablet attached. The granite stone was lettered with the following: IN MEMORIAM Died in Camp Hughes -1861-2. It is unclear whether they ever intended to list on this marker the individual names of the 59th soldiers who died while in camp.



Camp Hughes Granite Marker with Newly Installed Plaque



**Ben Harrison Camp Members in Attendance at the Plaque Dedication
Left to Right: Mike Beck (Commander), Jerry Thompson (Secretary), Phil McClure
(Past Camp Commander), John Copeland (Color Bearer), Mike Tomey (Chaplain),
Tim Beckman (Senior Vice Commander), and David Wiley (Council).**



**Members of the 27th Indiana Co. D, SVR and the 11th Indiana Reenactment Group
Fire a Volley .**

The Indiana Legion

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.

(Abraham Lincoln, from a speech in Edwardsville, Illinois, September 11, 1858, quoted in *The Oxford Dictionary of Civil War Quotations*, edited by John D. Wright)
“What constitutes the bulwark of our own liberty and independence? It is not our frowning battlements, our bristling sea coasts, the guns of our war steamers, or the strength of our gallant and disciplined army. These are not the reliance against the resumption of tyranny in our fair land. All of them may be turned against our liberties without making us stronger or weaker for the struggle. Our reliance is in the *love of liberty* which God has planted in our bosoms. Our defense is the preservation of the spirit which prizes liberty as the heritage of all men, in all lands, every where.”

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