



The Indiana Legion



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

WINTER 2008 EDITION

NATIONAL INFORMATION:

UNION DEFENDER'S DAY – FEBRUARY 12

Abraham Lincoln is considered one of the greatest U.S. Presidents of all time. His birthday was first recognized in 1866, less than a year after his death. It wasn't until 1892, however, that it was officially recognized and that was in the state of Illinois only. Other states soon followed suit, but it wasn't until Lincoln's one-hundredth birthday that Congress officially sanctioned the holiday. In SUVCW General Order No. 17 (1889), the request was made that the Camps throughout the Order generally hold appropriate services for the celebration of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, on the 12th day of February. The Indiana Sons of Union Veterans will take part in the Remembering Lincoln Program at Lincoln's Boyhood Home on Thursday, February 12, 2009.

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION:

CHANGES TO THE INDIANA LEGION

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.

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

I am resigning as editor, effective June 2009. My final edition of The Indiana Legion will be issued in March 2009. If you are interested in becoming the next editor, please contact me before the end of February at jkt60@att.net, so I can put your contact information in the Spring edition. I will also send you the email lists for each camp.

ALLIED ORDERS CENTRAL REGION CONFERENCE

Article submitted by Jack Shaw, Commander, Dept. of Indiana

Seventeen members of the Allied Orders Central Region Conference were in attendance October 4th, 2008 at St. Louis, MO. Present from the Department of Indiana was Alan Teller, Lee Ann Teller, Barbara Stone, Mike Beck, Bruce Kolb, Jack Shaw and Cody Shaw. Lunch was served promptly at 12:00 pm, followed by Guest Speaker, Randy McGuire, Ph D. The topic was preserving archives. McGuire had many tips on preserving GAR and family Genealogy materials.

The business meeting commenced around 2:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll call of officers. Last year's minutes were approved and three committees were nominated to carry on the business of the Order. The Central Region by-laws were amended, ratified and approved by the attending body and the meeting went on to New

Business. It was decided that Indiana would host the 2009 Conference. Missouri would host in 2010 and Kansas in 2011. Next year's Central Region Conference will be held the weekend of October 3rd, 2009, in Indianapolis. Arrangements are still pending. Under new business, some of the newly elected officers were, as follows:

- Walt Bush (MO.) - Commander
- Lee Ann Teller (IN)- Senior Vice
- Don Palmer (MO) -Junior Vice
- Jack Shaw (IN)- Sec/Treas.
- Alan Teller (IN) - Historian

MID-WINTER ENCAMPMENT

The mid-winter encampment is scheduled for January 24, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in the GAR room in Huntington, Indiana. Current membership cards will be required. Michael Downs, Camp Commander of the David D. Porter camp is going to do a presentation on Indiana in the Civil War. Directions to Huntington:

From the South: Take I-69 to the Warren exit at IN-5; follow IN-5 north to US 224, turn left on South Jefferson Street all the way to the courthouse.

From Fort Wayne: Take I-69 to the Markle exit, US-224; take US-224 west to IN-5, continue west on IN-5, South Jefferson Street, all the way to the courthouse.

From the West: Take US-24 to Huntington. At the junction of IN-9 and IN-37, continue straight on Park Drive into town. At the intersection with North Jefferson Street, turn right, and go three blocks to the courthouse.

From the North: Take IN-5 south; it becomes North Jefferson Street. Follow all the way to the courthouse; or, as a last resort, take IN-9 south, till it T's at BUS-24. Turn right for two city blocks, veer to right at the Y. This is First Street; go south to Market Street, turn west, right, onto Market Street. Take Market to North Jefferson Street. Turn left for one block to courthouse.

Park anywhere around the courthouse, but enter the West Jefferson Street doors. The GAR room is on the second floor. There is an elevator if needed.

FALL 2008 EAGLE SCOUT CERTIFICATES

Submitted by Mike Beck

1. Eagle Scout Paul Mishler
Clarksville, Indiana
Court of Honor – July 12, 2008
Sagamore Council – Troop 307
2. Eagle Scout Aaron L. McKnight
West Lafayette, Indiana
Court of Honor – No date
Lincoln Heritage Council – Troop 4010
3. Eagle Scout Philip D. Shettle
Williamsport, Indiana
Court of Honor – December 7, 2008
Sagamore Council – Troop 393

DOES THE CONFEDERATE FLAG OFFEND YOU?

Article submitted by Jack Shaw, Commander, Dept. of Indiana

As I enjoyed my dinner at this year's National Encampment, Lt. Commander, Michael Givens, Son of Confederate Veterans, shared a troubled story about a member of his group that wanted to display his Confederate flag from a hotel window, during an Encampment. Long story short, the S.C.V Compatriot was asked to kindly remove the flag from the window by the hotel management, he did not comply and was eventually lead away by police, despite his protests.

Lesson learned – the Confederate flag still has a place in our 21st century world. It should be used to decorate the graves of fallen Confederate soldiers, to be used in historical re-enactments, and strictly used by ceremonies pertaining to the Sons of Confederate Veterans. This would not include decorating private property without permission. I believe this is where the S.C.V. Compatriot made his first mistake.



REMEMBRANCE DAY PARADE, GETTYSBURG, PA NOVEMBER 22, 2008

At 4:30 pm on November 21, 2008, members of Benjamin Harrison Camp #356, Orlando A. Summers Camp #1 SUVCW and DUVCW Indiana Tent # 17 met to have their pictures taken at the Indiana Monument, south of Culp's Hill.



On November 22, most of the members shown in this photograph met on Lefever Street at 12:00 PM, and at 1:00 PM marched out onto the parade route portraying

Company D, 27th Indiana SVR. The members of Company D exited Lefever Street onto East Confederate Ave., then turned west onto East Middle Street. Upon striking Baltimore Street, the parade turned south and then veered southwest onto Steinwehr Ave, where it terminated at the National Park.

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

SOMERS CAMP MEETINGS FALL PROGRAMS

Submitted by Alan Teller

September 20th Ken Anderson talked about the "Silent Service – Submarines"

October 18th The meeting had several purposes. We had a dedication for the placement of the Bronze Plaque for George W. Beck, the last Civil War Veteran to die in Cass County. He is buried in the Burlington Cemetery. Tom Crawford made all of the arrangements for the plaque and the dedication. We then retired to the Burlington Community Park for a picnic arranged by Commander Elkin and his wife. Our program was presented by Mark Jaeger.

November 15th Gerald Jones presented a program on the "Common Soldier". He brought a table full of artifacts, which were passed around for everyone to review.

December 20th This meeting will be our traditional "Show and Tell Program," plus our election and installation of officers.

COL. WILLIAM H. LINK CAMP #12

No report submitted from this camp.

CHAMPION HILL CAMP #17

No report submitted from this camp.

WILLIAM P. BENTON CAMP #28

No report submitted from this camp.

DAVID D. PORTER CAMP #116

WEB PAGE UPDATED

Article submitted by Jack Shaw, Commander, Dept. of Indiana

The David D. Porter Camp #116 SUVCW web page has recently been up-dated with new pictures and information from this year's Camp activities. Please feel free to browse the web page. Scroll down and click on "Activities 2008" to see the latest Camp #116 photos and projects. On the home page, click on "Slide Show" to see all pics without searching them out. Please don't forget to sign the GUEST BOOK!

David D. Porter Camp at: www.tribalpages.com/tribes/ddporter116

Any questions about this web page or the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, please reply to the following email address: jackshaw6@verizon.net

Our National web page: www.suvcw.org

MONON RAILROAD MUSEUM

Article submitted by Jack Shaw, Commander, Dept. of Indiana

Camp #116's Patriotic Instructor, Larry Eggleston is an active member of the La Porte County Historical Society and has been very instrumental in the building and recent success of Wanatah's, Monon Railroad Museum, tucked away in an old Caboose. The Museum and it's memorial grounds, still a work in progress, are located in the exact spot where Lincoln's Funeral train once came to a halt in the small town to allow residents to pay their last respects to a beloved President. The old Monon tracks that once ran through the bustling town of Wanatah are nothing but a memory of those days gone by, but because of the efforts of Brother Eggleston and the La Porte County Historical Society, we can once, again re-live life as it once was on the Monon Railroad.



David D. Porter Camp annual picnic, gathered at the Museum with family and friends for a tour.

FINAL MUSTER

Article submitted by Jack Shaw, Commander, Dept. of Indiana

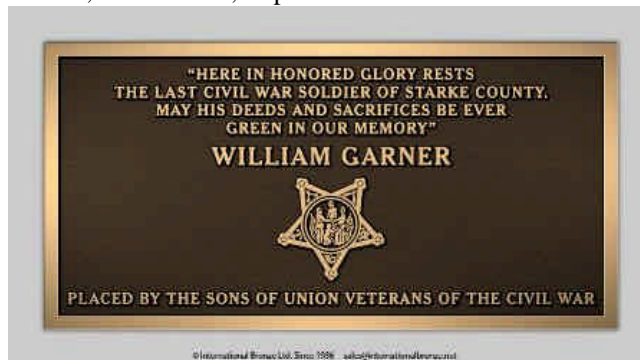


On May 3rd, 2008, Brother John Epley passed away at the Catherine Kasper Life Center, where he had been a patient for two weeks. Brother Epley was a resident of Plymouth, Indiana and a long-time member of the David D. Porter Camp #116, Valparaiso. Epley served his country well with the United States Army from 1943, to 1945 and was awarded the Battle Star and the President's Unit Citation. He also started a relief program in Hamburg, Germany and was awarded for his post-war efforts by the city of Hamburg. Brother Epley retired from Amoco Oil Company, after 30 years of service on October 1st, 1986. He was a member of many organizations including the Loyal Order of Moose, The Veterans of Foreign War, the American Legion, the SUVCW and the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Brother John Epley was put to rest in White County, Illinois.

John Epley, 1923-2008.

LAST CIVIL WAR SOLDIER OF STARKE COUNTY, IN HONORED

Article submitted by Jack Shaw, Commander, Dept. of Indiana



The ceremony to honor Private William W. Garner, took place on September 20, 2008 at the Crown Hill Cemetery, Knox, Indiana. Camp Commander Michael Downs and the David D. Porter Camp placed a memorial plaque on the grave of Garner, earlier in the year and set a date for the ceremony to take place on the 20th. The V.F.W and the American Legion, along with many Starke County residents came to honor Private Garner and pay tribute to the man's life as a citizen of their community. WKVI Radio personality, Ed Hasnerl gave a touching performance as the "seasoned" William Garner, accounting Garner's life in the first person.

BEN HARRISON CAMP #356

RESTORATION AND DISPLAY OF CO. K, 27TH INDIANA'S BATTLE FLAG

Submitted by Mike Beck

On November 9, 2008 the restored battle flag belonging to Company K, 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, was unveiled at the Dubois County Museum. This flag was a made by a group of Jasper, Indiana women and was presented to the members of Company K at a farewell dinner August 6, 1861.

Company K's flag was carried by a group of Union soldiers from Dubois County and saw action in the Civil War battles of Antietam, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg. On November 4, 1864, the flag mustered out of service along with the surviving members of Company K.

After the war, Company K's flag was returned to Jasper, Indiana, where it was handed down from member to member, until the last survivor, Conrad Eckert, died in 1932. The flag was eventually given to his granddaughter, Ruth Buecher, who had it until she died in 1996. At that time it was passed on to her son, Phil Buecher, who donated the flag to the Dubois County Historical Society.

After receiving Company K's battle flag, the Dubois County Historical Society contacted Jennifer Hein, a textile restoration specialist from Indianapolis, to see if it could be preserved. After years of working to restore this battle flag, Ms Hein's finally brought the finished product back to Jasper, Indiana. The finished product was placed in a wooden display case and can be viewed by the public on the first floor of the Dubois County Museum.

In attendance at the Dubois County Museum for the rededication of Company K's battle flag was Camp Commander Michael W. Beck. CC Beck was there representing the

Department of Indiana SUVCW, Benjamin Harrison Camp #356, (Indianapolis) SUVCW
and SVR Company D. 27th Indiana.



Mr. & Mrs. Philip Buecher with the Battle Flag of Co. K, 27th Indiana Vol. Infantry



Company K, 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Flag

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 remarks at the opening of the Sanitary Commission Fair in Baltimore, Maryland, April 18, 1864, quoted in *The Oxford Dictionary of Civil War Quotations*, edited by John D. Wright)

“The world has never had a good definition of the word liberty, and the American people, just now, are much in want of one. We all declare for liberty; but in using the same *word* we do not all mean the same *thing*. With some the word liberty may mean for each man to do as he pleases with himself, and the product of his labor; while with others the same word may mean for some men to do as they please with other men, and the product of other men’s labor.”

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Department of Indiana
6019 Allendale Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46224