

THE INDIANA LEGION

ORLANDO A SUMMERS CAMP #1 KOKOMO
CHAMPION HILL CAMP #17 HUNTINGTON
DAVID D PORTER CAMP #116 VALPARAISO
BEN HARRISON CAMP #356 INDIANAPOLIS

JOHN W. FOSTER CAMP #2 EVANSVILLE
WILLIAM P BENTON CAMP#28 CENTERVILLE
JOHN B ANDERSON CAMP #223 COLUMBUS

Newsletter of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of Indiana
William R. Adams – Commander
Issue 3-14

THE UNION FOREVER!!!!



The 20th Maine Infantry at Gettysburg



Champion Hill Camp 17 hosts event at Armstrong Chapel – Green Hill – Warren Co. - Indiana

On Nov. 1 Camp 17 held a presentation and ceremony at Armstrong Chapel in western Indiana as a part of its activities during the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War.

Brother Bill Lynch of Camp 17 started the ball rolling for this ‘out of the way’ site a few years ago by mentioning that Brig. Gen. George Wagner was buried in the church cemetery – as were about 23 other

*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*

veterans. After much discussion and a visit to the site Camp 17 decided to hold its event at the Armstrong Chapel site. In cold but sunny weather about fifteen brothers from the department joined with seven brothers from Camp 17 to take part in the ceremony. Dept. Commander Bill Adams was in attendance and Brother Steve Mockler from Camp 116 was bugler.

The Warren Co. Historical Society and Benton Co. Historical Society along with American Legion Posts from Williamsport and Otterbein also joined with Camp 17 in bringing this project to life.



Dept. Commander Bill Adams



Bugler Steve Mockler

Before the ceremony at the graveside of Gen. Wagner the brothers of the SUVCW were joined by nearly seventy people for a presentation about the General and the 15th Indiana Infantry Regiment. Lafayette resident and WW II Navy veteran Bill Crane spoke about the role of the 15th Indiana in the western theater. Before that Lafayette resident Pete Arvidson, a descendant of Gen. Wagner spoke on the role of the General during the Civil War.

Mr. & Mrs. Don Issaccs of Lafayette provided period music before and after the ceremony. Mr. Issacc's is a member of the Camp Tippecanoe Civil War Round Table. The 27th Indiana SVR under the command of Brother Alan Teller provided the color guard for the ceremony.



Descendants of Brig. Gen. Wagner at the graveside



27th Indiana SVR

*Champion Hill, Camp 17 Camp Commander John Eger and Camp Sr. Vice Commander Gib Young wish to acknowledge and thank David Gray of Lafayette for his efforts as being the ‘man up front’. Without his efforts this project could not have gotten off the ground.

In the immortal words of that great philosophical musical group – Abba –



Money – Money – Money!!!!

Our beloved and handsome and popular Department Treasurer has the honor of reporting the finances for the Department at the time of going to press as – \$7965.25.. \$598.86 of that amount is money belonging to the Allied Orders.

On Sale – Still!

Sons of Veterans – Department of Indiana Badges.

These ‘sharp looking’ badges are of bright red bordered with gold. They are like those adopted and issued by the various departments over 100 years ago. They look sharp on hats (slouch or kepi) and look equally dashing on blazers or suit coats. The cost is a miniscule \$6.00 per badge. Send your check (or cash) to Gib Young, 2004 Hunters Ridge Dr. Huntington, Indiana 46750.



These badges are guaranteed to give the ladies the ‘vapors.’
(PS. This ad will be repeated until we get these badges sold.)

Richmond Monument Reveals Time Capsule

(From the Richmond Palladium-Item – Oct. 27, 2014)

Sometimes street repairs can reveal unexpected things. With South E Street being dug up for major changes, Thomas Owens, owner of the former firehouse on the southwest corner of South Ninth and E streets decided it was necessary to protect an important asset – a monument marking the site as the location of the Civil War – era

Camp Wayne.

Owens, commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars Kirk Little Post 1108, arranged for Mike Delucio and Son to move the monument to a safe place during the roadwork.

The monument was lifted, and a time capsule was discovered underneath.

About 20 members and friends of the Sons of Union Veterans gathered Saturday at the Wayne County Historical Museum to watch Owens open the time capsule.

The monument originally was erected by the Sons of Union Veterans on Oct. 8, 1926. As Owens struggled with the well-soldered box about the size of a videocassette tape, there was a lot of joking about what might be inside.

Gold, suggested one person. A jack in the box. A whoopee cushion. Ideas and chuckles filled the museum's library room as the minutes passed and Owens worked gingerly with metal cutters to open the capsule without damaging its contents. "Inside will be instructions on how to open it," said a voice of authority, drawing a big laugh.

Seconds later, Owens succeeded. He stepped back to let **Dennis Rigsby**, commander of the Sons of Union Veterans (sic) open the box and remove a small packet of folded papers.

The packet contained a list of the organization's officers at the time the monument was placed and a copy of the Sept. 19, 1926, issue of the Richmond Item. It took a few minutes more to discover the reason why the newspaper had been preserved so carefully. "Impressive ceremony arranged for Camp Wayne" reads the headline on Page 5. The story gives details of the monument and the plans for its installation.

"I think it's great that they even thought to leave us something," Rigsby said, "I understand a lot of Civil War veterans were still alive in 1926 and attended that ceremony."

Owens said he plans to re-install the monument in the spring as the nation marks the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War. He hopes to display it prominently along Ninth Street so it will get the attention it deserves.



Brother Dennis Rigsby on left – file photo

For many years brothers in the Department have been amazed and appreciative of the intellect that has come out of Kokomo’s Orlando Somers Camp #1. This periodical has been proud to offer small bits of wisdom that the central Indiana boys share on a regular basis. Therefore we offer.....

Words of Wisdom from Somers Camp #1

When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.

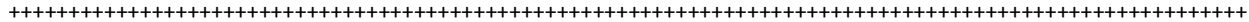
A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.

The batteries were given out free of charge.

A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

A will is a dead giveaway.



The Mid-Winter Encampment in Valparaiso Jan. 2015

The 2015 Mid-Winter Encampment, Department of Indiana, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War will be held in the Memorial Opera House in Valparaiso, Indiana on Jan. 31, 2015. The address is 104 Indiana Ave. Valparaiso, Indiana 46383. The encampment starts at 10 am Eastern and 9 am Central. A registration fee is yet to be determined. (A nearby restaurant will be reserved for lunch.) Porter Camp 116 is justly proud of this building and advises that we can learn more about it by going online to <http://www.memorialoperahouse.com/>.

2014-2015 Department Officers:

Department Commander: William R. Adams
Sr. Vice Commander: Dennis H. Rigsby
Jr. Vice Commander: Timothy J. Beckman
Department Council 1: Jack O. Shaw
Department Council 2: Matthew J. Elkin
Department Council 3: Michael W. Beck
Secretary: J. Alan Teller
Treasurer: Gilbert H. Young, Jr.
Patriotic Instructor: Dennis H. Rigsby

Chaplain: Bret A. Caldwell
Graves Registration Officer: John K. Eger
Historian: Bruce R. Kolb
Civil War Memorials Officer: Michael W. Beck
Eagle Scout Coordinator: Michael W. Beck
GAR Highway Officer: Stephen E. Mockler
Signals Officer: Joshua A. Claybourn
Indiana Legion Editor: Gilbert H Young Jr.
Dept. Counselor: Bruce R. Kolb

Porter Camp and the Memorial Opera House in Valparaiso

On October 25, 2014 David D. Porter Camp, 116 went home! David D. Porter camp returned to the Memorial Opera House in Valparaiso where the Chaplin Brown Post 106 of the GAR originated. Discussions were ongoing during the summer to return Porter Camp meetings back to the original room where the Chaplin Brown Post met. On October 25th the Porter Camp with the help of Co. D of the 27th Indiana SVR rededicated the building once again. The 45 minute program began to prelude music provided by the Valparaiso University/Community band of 30 members. The Director of the Opera House, Michelle Smith and Porter County Board of Commissioners Laura Blaney welcomed the SUVCVW to their new home and spoke on the history of the Opera House and its place in the community. Smith, Blaney, and Sr. vice Commander Jack Shaw also participated in a ceremonial ribbon cutting ceremony. The band finished with the Battle Hymn of the Republic to which followed three volleys’s fired by the 27th SVR and taps by Brother Steve Mockler of the Porter Camp.

What is now known as the Memorial Opera House in Valparaiso was originally built by Chaplin Brown Post 106 as a monument to the Union Soldiers and Sailors who served during the Civil War and named Memorial Hall. Construction began in 1893 and was completed on November 8, 1893. The Hall has hosted the likes of Teddy

Roosevelt, John Phillips Sousa and the Marx Brothers. The building was listed on the National Register of Historical Landmarks in 1984.



Proud members of Porter Camp 116 and the Dept. of Indiana stand in front of the Opera House.

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QUIZ TIME!!

YES, I KNOW YOU HAVE BEEN CHOMPING AT THE BIT AWAITING THE CHALLENGE THAT WILL TEST YOUR CIVIL WAR KNOWLEDGE. (And from what I have discovered that isn't very much for most of you.)

This week's prize for the winning answer is an all expense three day stay at Commander Bill Adams villa at 'Cabo San Dunes' outside of Michigan City in February.

Foster Camp #2 is named after: 1. Preston Foster, 2. Stephen Foster, 3. Foster Grant, or John W. Foster.

The 2nd Indiana and 2nd Michigan were combined to form the 2nd Michiana. T or F?

Both Purdue and I.U. will lose in the Old Oaken Bucket Game this year. T or F?

Bill Adams is the most handsome Commander the Dept. has had. The handsomest Commander the Dept. has had. Or the loveliest Commander the Dept. has had. Pick 1.

Recent Activities of the John W. Foster Camp No. 2

The newly formed John W. Foster Camp No. 2 based in Evansville quickly got to work with new educational programs. On October 20, 2014, members of the camp helped teach young Tiger Cub Scouts in Evansville, Ind. about the Civil War.

Brother Chris Cooke, Superintendent of Cemeteries for Evansville, provided a tour of the Civil War section of Oak Hill Cemetery in Evansville. Meanwhile Brothers Dennis Hutchinson and Scott Hurst dressed in uniform and discussed what it was like to be a soldier in the Civil War and what it would have been like to be in a river port and “border town” during that time.

The remains of 500 Union men are buried in Oak Hill Cemetery — all victims of Civil War battles. In 1868, the city began efforts to secure designation of the Union veterans’ areas as federal property, eventually succeeding with a Congressional appropriation and recognition in 1898. A memorial for local Union dead was added in 1909. Additional pictures can be found on the John W. Foster Camp's website here: <http://www.suvcwcampfoster.org/?p=193>



Answers to Quiz – 1. John W. Foster – A Civil War Era Insurance Agent in Evansville. 2. False, only the feeble minded in South Bend use the term Michiana. 3. False. Both teams will forget what date the game is, fail to show, and both will declare victory. 4. Does it matter?