

THE INDIANA LEGION

ORLANDO A SUMMERS CAMP #1 KOKOMO

JOHN W. FOSTER CAMP #2 EVANSVILLE

CHAMPION HILL CAMP #17 HUNTINGTON

WILLIAM P BENTON CAMP#28 CENTERVILLE

DAVID D PORTER CAMP #116 VALPARAISO

JOHN B ANDERSON CAMP #223 COLUMBUS

BEN HARRISON CAMP #356 INDIANAPOLIS

Newsletter of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of Indiana
William R. Adams – Commander
Issue 3-15

Greetings to all Brothers:

I just wanted to take a moment to comment on a few items for all of us to consider now that summer is coming to an official end. Fall brings many of us back to our regular camp meetings. Depending on your camp, your meetings may not have been held regularly over the summer. This is not unusual due to vacations and each camp working projects or attending events where we can make more people aware of the SUVCW.

I know for Porter Camp the summer is one of our busiest times attending local festivals and historical events. It seems almost a relief to get back to the regular meetings and the meals we share before the meeting. But as we get back in our meeting routine please remember that we need to make them more than just fellowship time with our Brothers. There are a number of areas we can always be improving and finding better ways to continue the memory of the Boy's in Blue.

Examples of this can be improving our camp newsletters to be sure all members are included in our camps information and plans. This can make those far away feel some sense of belonging if they can't always attend. It could also bring back members who for whatever reason placed the SUVCW on their backburner of things to do.

We should be looking for Schools where we can speak to the students about the Civil War, the flag, and patriotism. Maybe attend a local Civil War Roundtable or help out the local museum or library in presenting a program on the Civil War. Also let's not forget the Boy Scouts and the ROTC programs close to your local area where you can not only present them with a wonderful certificate and medal but also provide a possible avenue to increase your camp membership.

Indiana played a significant role in the Civil War, not only with the number of volunteers sent but with the reputation many of those regiments received for heroism, valor and courage. In the same manner we need to do all we can to grow the Sons and make sure no one forgets what they did.

One last note, I would like to congratulate the Major William A. McTeer Camp # 39 Tennessee for their outstanding performance this past year. They received 2 key awards at the recent National Encampment; The Horace Greely award for the best website and the Abraham Lincoln CinC award for the most outstanding Camp. At the same time the Department of Tennessee received the US Grant Cup for the greatest percentage increase in membership with 23%.

I bring this up first because one of our former Department members, Michael Downs, is the Commander for the Department of Tennessee and is also a member of McTeer Camp #139 and I think it is appropriate to Congratulate Mike, the Department of Tennessee, and his Camp for a job well done. Last year John W. Foster Camp # 2 in Evansville won the Horace Greely award and I would like to challenge all Hoosier Camps to work to equal or exceed the performance of McTeer Camp and the Department of Tennessee next year and let us take home a number of the awards at the National Encampment in Springfield Illinois.

William Adams Commander, Department of Indiana

*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*



Commander Adams before taking command of Dept.



Commander Adams after two years in command.



Midwinter Encampment – Jan. 30, 2016 Greenwood, Indiana
Max and Erma’s Restaurant at Stop 11, US 31 South
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Department of Indiana Encampment 2016
Mid-Winter Encampment

Registration Form

Deadline - No Later Than January 15, 2016!

Date: January 30, 2016

Time: 9:00 am

Location: Max & Erma’s Restaurant (just north of the Greenwood Park Mall)
8817 U.S. Highway 31, Indianapolis, IN 46227

Map - <http://www.maxandermas.com/locations/search.php?searchbyaddress=46227>

Lunch will be ordered off the Max & Erma’s menu:
(See menu at) <http://www.maxandermas.com/menu/>

Pre-Registration _____ X \$10.00 Total = \$ _____

Day of Registration _____ X \$20.00 Total= \$ _____

Total= \$ _____

Please look at the menu posted above so you have some idea on what you want to order for lunch.
Wives & guest are welcome at the luncheon.

Name: _____ Camp # _____

Guest: _____

Make checks payable to - **SUVCW Ben Harrison Camp # 356**

Send checks to:
PDC Mike Beck
322 Yorktown Rd.
Greenwood, IN 46142

McCarthy who went to the war with her husband to Nurse the sick, General Robert A Cameron and his Wife Jane Cameron who went with him to war to Nurse the sick and wounded, Almira Fifeld who was a nurse and part of the Sanitary Commission, Col. ICB Suman, Col Mark Demotte and others of local interest.

The Committee is also working on getting a replacement stone for Harrison N Carver who was one of the very first professors and Head of the Classics Department at Valparaiso University. He served with the 98th Ohio Infantry, and as far as we can tell has been missing a stone for more than 50 years.

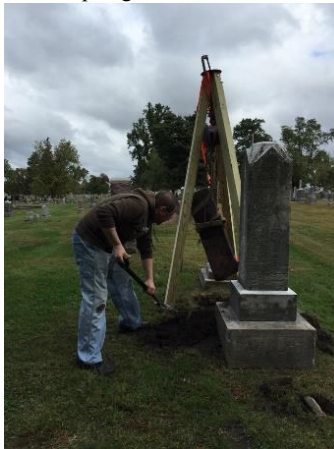
While verifying the cemetery records and the Original Burial records of the Chaplain Brown GAR Post 106, at a specific cemetery, Brother Mockler came across several missing stones, one in particular grave for Veteran, PVT Rudolph Thimmings of the Indiana 5th Cav. Brother Mockler enlisted the help of the Camp Commander, and his father, Commander Steve E Mockler with help in photographing all of the stones and reviewing the original cemetery records. While in the area of where Pvt Thimmings was supposed to be buried, Commander Mockler noticed a stone sticking about 1 inch out of the ground. Upon digging a small amount with their hands, they were able to tell it was a military stone. They determined that more investigating would need to be done.

You can see in the picture that all that was showing was the Very white top of the stone.

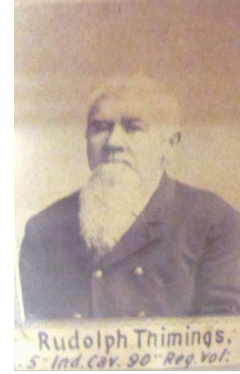


After working with the Cemetery Officials, and getting proper permission The younger Mockler, was able to raise and reset the stone with the help of one of his friends. Upon Further investigation, there are about another 10 stones (although not as bad) that the camp will be resetting come spring.

After we dug the stone out enough that it was loose enough to move back and forth in the hole we were able to raise it up with the Tri-Pod and Chain-Fall. We compacted the dirt , added pea gravel, and then more dirt to set it.



We determined through cemetery volunteer records, that Pvt Thimmings Stone was missing for at least 60 years. With a little bit of muscle and care, this stone is back to how it originally should have been set. Our camp will continue to look out for Pvt Thimmings and all of this fellow brethren, just as they did for all of us during their time in The Civil War.



Pvt. Rudolph Thimmings (Several spelling of his last name exist) Born in 1828 in Holstein Germany. At this time it is not yet known when he came to this country, but he enlisted into the 5th Indiana Cav, Co I on 08/01/1862 and Mustered out on 08/19/1864. After the war he was worked as a Day Laborer and a Farm Hand. He mustered into the Chaplain Brown GAR Post 106 on 12/25/1888. He died 08/26/1896.

The Grave registration Committee has also been working on cleaning just a few of the nearly 500 Vets that are buried in Valparaiso. As you can see we have made some good progress on the cleaning of these. More detailed cleaning with D2 will be done in the spring.

On October 7th Members of David D Porter Camp were honored to be able to attend a VIP reception for the Lincoln Funeral train held in Hammond Indiana. This was the last stop of the year for both the Funeral Car as well as the Engine- “Leviathan” If one has not had an opportunity to see both of these Replicas of the Originals it is one would be missing out. These both have been built from the ground up with painstaking research down the last nails and bolts that are used to construct them.

The event was open to the public and people from all over Northwest Indiana, Chicago, and other parts of the region. Over the course of 5 days, over 8,000 people went to see the funeral car and train. People of all ages attended and it was super exciting to see a lot of children, teens, and young adults come out and learn the history of the original Funeral Car, The building of the replica, as well as some history on the assassination of President Lincoln. This Event was at the Hammond Visitor’s Center in Hammond Indiana. The Visitors Center along with other sites in NW Indiana are working to get the Funeral car on permanent display.

Members of David Porter Camp were in attendance along with 9th Indiana and Department officers as well. It was a great day and there were a lot of questions about the SUVCW so we were able to explain and teach many people about our organization, the GAR, as well as information on some of the Regiments of the area.



We were fortunate to have State Commander Bill Adams, and State Graves Registration officer John Eger standing guard. On the other side of Commander Adams, We had Scott Hurst and Kyle Kremke. Kyle and Scott also were great resources as they were able to answer many questions about the life of a soldier. They also were showing many people for the first time a Civil War Rifle. Standing guard on the opposite side of the Funeral Car was Pvt Will Radell of the 9th Indiana and David Porter Camp. As he stood on the opposite side of the car, he had the opportunity to let many people take their pictures with him. It was a real honor for him to be able to have so many people interact with him and ask questions about not only the CW, but many were able to relate stories they had heard about different CW battles, or even speak about family members who fought for the Union or the Confederate Side. We even had Dept Secretary Allan Teller on hand. He was inside the Funeral Car explaining to the public what different items in the car were as well to help answer any question that someone might have.

Notes from Commander Mockler of David D Porter Camp 116:

As I take a look back on this year, I feel we had the opportunity to be much involved within the community. We Kicked our summer off with the largest Memorial day Celebration we have seen in many years. We worked in cooperation with the Porter County Museum as well as the Memorial Opera House of Valparaiso. We were able to hold our annual ceremony, and reach out to the community and had nearly 200 in attendance in the morning and then we were aske to be part of the afternoon celebration at the Opera house where 2 of our camp members did readings, and posted colors. We are already thinking of ideas of how we can make next year's even bigger.

After our annual Memorial Day Celebration, we were able to attend the Mid Year Encampment, and had a great showing from our camp. We had 7 from our camp in attendance.

After Midyear, we were invited to come out to the Heston Steam Show and Civil War Days. We were able to set up a camp, and speak with many folks about CW History. It was a fabulous time to interact with re-enactors, and many SCV members as well. It was a great time to talk about ancestors, talk of battles, and get to know others with the same interests. The weather cooperated with us and there were several thousand people that came through the gates to see the steam show, ride the trains, and we were able to give out several applications, and get our camp information out to many other people.

We attended the Aukiki River Fest on the Kankakee River in Kouts Indiana in August, and again we were able to speak to numerous folks about local history, CW units, and helped to further educate the public on our organization. This was a 2 day event and saw hundreds of people even though the weather did not cooperate with the event, but was fitting for the setting. Veterans Day was the next event we were asked to participate in. We were asked to Present Colors at the City of Valparaiso's annual Veterans Day Cabaret at the Memorial Opera House. We were asked to present and retrieve colors. It was a great honor. As we close out the year, we have added 2 new Members and have several more that may join in the next year. It has been a great year and we are looking forward to making next year even bigger and better



ABE LINCOLN IN INDIANA

On the night of Feb. 12, 2016 the finest Abraham Lincoln historical interpreter in America today, Mr. Fritz Klein, will be making a presentation at the Forks of the Wabash Historic Park in Huntington, Ind. This event is hosted by the Huntington County Historical Society and is the first of their four part series celebrating the 200th Anniversary of statehood. The main sponsor for Mr. Lincoln is Champion Hill Camp 17, SUVCW. All brothers are invited to attend and tickets are free. However there is only enough seating for 200. So if you are interested in coming to this event in February you need to contact Brother Gib Young at 260 356 7643 or gibyyoung@comcast.net to see if there are tickets available. As of this writing there are only 35 tickets left.

Answers to the quiz

1. Chief of Staff with Gen. Henry Halleck serving there first.
2. On July 7,
3. Frederick, Maryland after finding the 'Lost Order'.
4. President Abraham Lincoln

26th Indiana Monument at Vicksburg Update Submitted by Bruce Kolb, PDC

As most of you know, the 26th Indiana Monument and two others are now located outside of Vicksburg Military Park. The location is at Iowa Circle which is south of Interstate 20 and modern Iowa Avenue. These monuments are to be moved to locations near the current visitors center. The timing of the move has changed due to the change in Park leadership and the deployment of National Guard members overseas. In addition, the City of Vicksburg wants a MOU regarding the movement of the monument, and the National Guard unit responsible for airlifting the monument wants a hold harmless agreement in case the monument is damaged during the move. Right now the plan according to the Chief of Maintenance is to move the monuments in the Spring of 2016. Hopefully by then the new footing and bases will be ready to receive the monument. The Park preservation society is working on the location and determining how best to take the 26th monument apart for movement. All of this work will be done and paid for by the park. I am awaiting current photos of the monument but have attached the ones I have showing before and after views.



As you can see by the photos at least one if not two state seals are missing. They are slightly less than twelve inches and I am trying to get a more precise measurement. I am also looking into how a replacement can be cast, and if grant money from the National is available. The Park is in the first year of a five year cycle maintenance project on the Park monuments. This past week (August 2015) the Indiana State Memorial Statue of Governor Morton was cleaned and waxed. All Indiana monuments and markers along the tour road inside the Park have been cleaned and the bronze plaques waxed. A wonderful job is being done by the maintenance personnel.

**Veterans Day Grave Rededication of Corporal Barton Warren Mitchell
Co. F. 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry
Hartsville Baptist Cemetery in Hartsville, IN.
Hosted by John B. Anderson Camp # 223
Assisted by Benjamin Harrison Camp #356**

Color Guard – Company D. 27th Indiana SVR





Corporal Barton Warren Mitchell's Gravestone

A Brief History of Barton W. Mitchell
By J. B. Anderson #233 Camp Commander Steve Coffman
Submitted with photographs by PDC Mike Beck

Barton W. Mitchell was born on August 17, 1816, in Preble County, Ohio. He moved to Huntington, Indiana in 1843. His occupation was known as being a “cooper” or a person who makes wooden barrels. His Civil War service began at Camp Morton in Indianapolis, Indiana when he mustered in as a private on September 12, 1861 in the 27th Indiana Infantry.

Barton W. Mitchell was quite old to be a soldier- he was approximately 45 years old when he enlisted in September, 1861, leaving a wife and four children at home. On September 13, 1862, (coincidentally exactly one year and one day after he enlisted) his unit stopped to take a break from marching in the area that was 2 miles south near Fredrick, Maryland. The area was recently vacated by Major General D. H. Hill of the Confederate Army. Mitchell discovered a bundled up piece of paper with three cigars inside of it. Upon examining it, he discovered it was an order addressed to General D. H. Hill from Confederate Commander General Robert E. Lee. The order was known as “Special Order 191,” which laid out General Lee's plans to invade Maryland. Within the hour, “Special Order 191” was in the hands of General George McClellan, Commander of the Army of the Potomac, who declared, "Now I will beat Lee or go home."

General McClellan brought General Lee's army to battle on September 17, 1862, at Sharpsburg, Maryland, known as the Battle of Antietam in the bloodiest single day of American history. The two armies suffered approximately 23,000 casualties in a tactical draw and a strategic Union victory- since it forced General Lee’s Confederate forces to abandon his invasion of Maryland.

Corporal Barton Mitchell was severely wounded in the leg at the Battle of Antietam while fighting in the infamous Cornfield, and spent 8 months in hospitals due to his wound. Mitchell returned to the 27th Indiana Infantry regiment in 1863 and fought at Chancellorsville and at the Battle of Gettysburg. But in late 1863, still troubled by his wound received at Antietam, Mitchell voluntarily took a reduction in rank to Private to serve on ambulance duty. Mitchell mustered out of service in September 1864 in Georgia.

Barton Mitchell never received any formal recognition during his lifetime for finding Lee’s “Special Order 191” or also known as “Lee’s Lost Order.” He operated a saw mill in Hartsville, Indiana, until his death on January 29, 1868. In the days before antibiotics, such wounds tended to be lifelong afflictions. Apparently it was a factor in Barton W. Mitchell's death in January 1868; leaving this world when he was only 51 years old.