

# 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 1-16

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## THE UNION FOREVER!!!!



Brothers Bruce Kolb and Alan Teller lead the march to Nancy Hanks Lincoln's grave site

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*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 Vaults of the Department Treasury**



(I get so tired counting all the gold. I love rolling in it though.)

As of May 15, 2016 there is \$8094.00 in the department account. Of that amount \$600.00 is being held for the Allied Orders.  
Brother G. Young – Dept. Treasurer

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. The 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. (Or you can get one or two at the department encampment.)



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Dates for the calendar –

Dispatches from the Camps

**Ben Harrison Camp #356**

Memorial Day May 30, 2016: The Ben Harrison Camp #356, Eliza E. George Auxiliary and Co. D. 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry (SVR) will be honoring Dr. Collins Thomas Bedford, who served in Company E. of the Eighth Indiana Infantry. Dr. Collins became a doctor after his military service, a medical professor, and started a wholesale and retail drug business. He lies buried in an unmarked grave at Crown Hill Cemetery. Sister Thompson has researched this regiment and is currently writing a two-volume book on this regiment and its men. She will be sharing a brief biography she has written about this self-made man at our ceremony.

**Champion Hill Camp #17**

Brothers of Camp 17 will be attending and participating in Memorial Day ceremonies in two places this year. Brothers will be joining with the 30<sup>th</sup> Indiana Inf. at Lindenwood Cemetery in Ft. Wayne to recognize officers and men there interred. There will be no illumination ceremony this year. Other brothers will be in Waterloo New York which is the home of the first Memorial Day ceremony.

“Things that Brother Dennis Rigsby told me around the campfire”

“If I had a dollar for every woman who found me unattractive they’d soon find me attractive.”

“A man knocked on my door and asked for a small donation to the Richmond city swimming pool so I gave him a glass of water.”

“I changed my password to ‘incorrect’ so whenever I forget it the computer will say ‘Your password is incorrect.’”



**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Charitable Foundation - Alan Teller**

I want to introduce you to one of the most unknown organizations you have never heard about. The current board of directors includes seven members, all members of the SUVCW. Three of the directors are Past Commander-in-Chiefs.

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Charitable Foundation, SUVCW-CF, was created in 2003 exclusively for educational and charitable purposes. Those purposes broadly include: providing information and enlightenment of the Armed Conflict of 1861-1865, supporting projects and charities attributable to Civil War history, monument preservation/restoration, monument construction and erection, scholarships and benevolence to members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. The Foundation is a tax-exempt organization as established under Sec. 501(c)3 of the U. S. Internal Revenue Code. As such, contributions are tax deductible for U.S. Income Tax purposes.

In 2007 the Foundation established the Abraham Lincoln Endowment Fund to maintain a continuing program for obtaining and distributing funds to support the mission of the Foundation. Many members of the SUVCW have made donations to this organization, myself included.

Out of each gift made through the Lincoln Fellow program 80% is invested within the permanent Endowment Fund. The remaining 20% is placed in the General Fund of the SUVCW Charitable Foundation for current grants. Over the period of nine months ending March 31, 2016 four grants were made: Restoration of Col. Samuel Merrill Mausoleum Des Moines, IA, \$1,500.; Placement of Civil War historical marker, Fort Fisher, NC, \$1,500.; Restoration of GAR monument, Towanda, NY, \$700.; High School living history presentations, Civil War Roundtable, Lynn, MA, \$300. Currently 7 projects are pending totaling \$7,500. These projects are from the five states of AK, IL, KY, NY, and OH.

Further information about the Foundation, including how to contribute and grant applications, is available on the Foundation website – [www.suvcw-cf.org](http://www.suvcw-cf.org).

Donations that cost you nothing can be made through [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com). The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Charitable Foundation has registered with [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com). This website is the same as the [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) you normally shop, except once you choose Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Charitable Foundation, [www.suvcw-cf.org](http://www.suvcw-cf.org), as your chosen charity, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchases, less discounts and shipping and handling, to the Foundation. It cost you nothing. You, however, get to donate to a charity you support whose mission broadly stated includes: providing information and enlightenment of the Armed Conflict of 1861-1865, supporting project and charities attributable to Civil War history, monument preservation/restoration, monument construction and erection, scholarships and benevolence to members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. You provide support for the Foundation at no cost to yourself.

So what do you do? You go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com). (This URL is the same as [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), but a different URL address and with all of the shopping possibilities of [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), but it is [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com).) If you already have an account with Amazon click on “Your Account” at the top left side of the screen. (Remember you are in [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com)) Then pick “Choose Your Charity” or “Change Your Charity” and type in “suvcw-cf”, up will pop “Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Charitable Foundation”. Then just click “Select”. Now all of your purchases using the website, [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com), will create a donation to the Foundation. If you do not have an account with Amazon, you will have to establish an account or set an account up. Remember to use the “smile” website for all your Amazon purchases after registering.

# Summer Encampment Info

The Annual Encampment of the SUVCW Department of Indiana will be Saturday, June 4, 2016, at the South Branch of the Kokomo Howard County Public Library, KHCPL, 1755 East Center Road (CR 300 South), Kokomo, IN 46902. (Various signs refer to the road as Center Road or County Road 300 South.) Our business meeting will begin at 9:00 AM.

The library is in the extreme south east corner of the city. Coming from the south: Follow US 931 into Kokomo. **Do not take US 31 toward South Bend.** The first stop light will be IN 26, go straight. The next stoplight will be Center Road; turn right or east. Go about 1.25 miles and the library will be on your right. Parking is behind the library. Coming from the north: Follow 31 to IN 26. **Do not take US 931.** Take exit 158 west toward Lafayette and US 931. At US 931, the first light and about 1 ½ miles, turn right or north onto US 931. The next stoplight will be Center Road; turn right or east. Go about 1.25 miles and the library will be on your right. Parking is behind the library. Coming from the east or west: Follow IN 26 to US 931 and turn north onto US 931. The next stoplight will be Center Road; turn right or east. Go about 1.25 miles and the library will be on your right. Parking is behind the library.

For lunch we will convene at noon at the Half Moon Restaurant and Brewery, 4051 South Lafountain, not quite 1 ½ miles away, and eat off the menu. The menu is large and the food is good. There is no payment due in advance, as we will each pay for our own luncheon. I will need a head count for the restaurant to set up our table. If you are planning on attending, please respond on the registration form or to my phone 765-455-0484. You can follow me to the restaurant. I hope you plan on attending.



**130th Annual Department of Indiana Encampment  
68<sup>rd</sup> Memorial Encampment to the GAR  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Registration Form**

**South Branch Kokomo Howard County Public Library  
1755 E. Center Road, Kokomo, IN  
Saturday June 4, 2016**

**Deadline No Later Than May 20th !**

Pre-Registration      \_\_\_ x \$5.00      \_\_\_\_\_

Total      \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch will be at your own expense. Please indicate below if you wish to eat with the group

Wives& guest are welcome at the luncheon.

Make checks payable to **SUVCW Dept. of Indiana**

Send checks to Alan Teller, 3003 Lamplighter Lane, Kokomo, IN 46902-8125

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Camp # \_\_\_\_\_

Guest: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We would like to eat with the group \_\_\_\_\_

## FROM THE BOOK RACK Book Reviews by Mike Downs

Rather than discuss a book this month I am going to review a recent Civil War program I took part in. The Blue and Gray Educational Society offered a tour, at a reasonable cost, that covered Abel Streight's 1863 raid across northern Alabama. The BGES is a "not for profit" and has been around for at least 25 years and is led by its founder Len Reidel with its headquarters in Chatham, Virginia. This was the seventh program that I had enrolled in covering battles in the Western Theater however, their offerings cover the entire Civil War. The Streight program guide was Norman Dasinger, Jr. who is a highly regarded Civil War historian from Gadsden, Alabama.

Some background information about Streight's Raid will probably be useful at this point. After the battle of Stones River (or Murfreesboro) the Army of the Cumberland, led by General William S. Rosecrans, required a great deal of refitting. New troops were needed to fill the ranks that were depleted in battle, horses for the cavalry were in great demand and basic supplies were stockpiled for future use. However an inordinate amount of pressure was being put on the Commanding General by the Secretary of War Edwin Stanton and the General-in-Chief Henry Halleck, to place his army in motion and rather than move prematurely Rosecrans agreed to support a raid across Alabama similar to the incursion Benjamin Grierson had led through Mississippi. Colonel Abel Streight first proposed the idea to Rosecrans's Chief of Staff, General James Garfield, who strongly supported the concept and urged approval by the Army of the Cumberland's Commander. By early April 1863 Streight was organizing his "Independent Provisional Brigade" made up of the 51<sup>st</sup> and 73<sup>rd</sup> Indiana Volunteer Infantry, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ohio V. I., 80<sup>th</sup> Illinois V. I. and two companies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Middle Tennessee Cavalry. You will note that the force was composed of primarily infantry and for the raid they were required to be mounted; however, because of the high demand for horses only unbroken MULES were available. Through various trials and tribulations the force of nearly 1500 men was finally able to arrive at the small village of Eastport, Mississippi which would be their jump off point. To lure any potential Confederate Cavalry away from Streight, Granville Dodge, with a force of 2000 mounted troopers, was to act as a lure and lead a feint toward middle Tennessee starting at the same time. Dodge soon proved incapable of completing his role in the plan when a Confederate column led by General Philip Roddey appeared leading the Union Cavalry to beat a hasty retreat. As a result the troopers of the "Provisional Brigade" were quickly located by Confederate horse men led by Nathan Forrest and for close to 350 miles, across northern Alabama, the two columns fought and sniped at each other until Streight's forces, exhausted, hungry and short of powder, were forced to surrender just a few miles east of Gadsden.

The tour was based out of Cullman, Alabama which is where we met on Friday evening for introductions and an overview of the weekend by Norman Dasinger. Early Saturday morning nine of us boarded a van and we left for the west Mississippi area where the bustling river town of Eastport was located in the 1860's, however today it is under water in the middle of a lake created by a Tennessee Valley Authority dam. From there we drove to Chickasaw Station, Tuscumbia, Mount Hope, Moulton, Crooked Creek and Days Gap which were all areas of fighting during the raid and covered a seven day period for the Union and Southern soldiers. At the end of a long day we returned in the early evening to our hotel in Cullman. On Sunday we stopped at Blountsville, Blount's Farm, Gadsden to see the Emma Sansom monument and finally the site where Streight's forces surrendered to Forrest's cavalry column. Blount's Farm was of interest to me because that is the location where Colonel Gilbert Hathaway of the 73<sup>rd</sup> Indiana, from LaPorte, was slain by a rebel sharp shooter. A few years ago when I was the Camp Commander of the David Dixon Porter Camp, Sons of Union Veterans, we placed a new headstone on his grave site at Pine Lake Cemetery. I was also attracted to the program because my GGGUncle, Private William Downs, was in the 73<sup>rd</sup> Indiana. Additionally in 2000 I located the Civil War diary of Colonel Alfred B. Wade who was the Adjutant and Lt. Colonel for the same regiment and in his writings a detailed description of the raid and his subsequent time as Prisoner of War in the infamous Libby Prison were to be found.

During the weekend we traveled close to 240 of the approximately 350 miles of the actual raid with over nine different handout outs, which included maps, order of battles and pictures were made available for our use. Overall the program was excellent with Norman Dasinger very knowledgeable about the topic while more than ready to accept the material that I also presented from Colonel Wade's Journal. One point of interest that I did note however was that at the surrender site, which is on county property and is near Weiss Lake and Dam, Alabama, that there is only a "National" Confederate flag flying and I think it would be most appropriate that a United States ensign also be placed at the site. A possible project for the Tennessee Department to undertake?????



Monument at the Surrender site located on Hwy 9 about 3 miles East of Cedar Bluff, AL



Colonel Abel D. Streight surrendered his M1848 Artillery Sword to Forrest at Cedar Bluff AL on May 3, 1863  
The sword now resides at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Editor's Note: For those of you who do not remember Mike Downs he is a sorely missed brother from the Indiana Department (Porter Camp). About three years ago Mr and Mrs Downs finally got tired of northern Indiana winters and moved to Knoxville. He is working on his second year as the Tennessee (with Alabama and Mississippi) Department Commander and visiting many of the Battlefields around the area. He is a member of the Colonel William McTeer Camp which also happens to be the group that was awarded the Abraham Lincoln Award at the last national encampment. His other hobbies include collecting Civil War related stamps and Postal Covers (Union) and developing a collection of Civil War Tokens. He also writes a monthly column for the Camp and Department newsletters that reviews new and classical Civil War related literature.

**SUVCW in Springfield – April 16, 2016**  
(as seen through the eyes of special correspondent – Brother John Eger)



The ceremony at the Tomb of Lincoln.  
C in C Eugene Mortorff at podium.



Dept. of Indiana Brothers – Tom Schmitt  
Pat Doyle, Dennis Rigsby, Bernie Doyle

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Girls just love a Civil War Sailor – ‘Oh those buttons!’