

# THE INDIANA LEGION

ORLANDO A SOMERS 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  
Dennis H. Rigsby – Commander  
Issue 2-17

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## THE UNION FOREVER!!!!



"OK, Sgt. Beck tell me how this plan works again?"

"Well Col. Kolb all you have to is stand on the parapet and yell insults at the Johnnies and while they are shooting at you I'll sneak into the Girls Seminary Dormitory over yonder and check them – I mean 'it' out!"



## IMPORTANT REMINDER

The SUVCW National Encampment is August 10-13 in Lansing, Michigan  
for more details see:

<http://www.suvcwmi.org/2017NatEncampment/2017Encampment.php>

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### Charitable Foundation SUVCW

I was asked by PDC, and Editor of the Legion Gib Young why I support the Abraham Lincoln Endowment Fund of the Charitable Foundation. I choose to do so because I believe it is vital that we keep alive the history of the United States, and especially this period of time in our Country's history.

The Charitable Foundation helps preserve the history of the Civil War era in a number of ways. The grants it awards restore, and repairs existing monuments, and memorials that are in need of attention. The grants also fund new historical markers, and monuments like the new historical interpretive markers just approved about the capture of Fort Fisher in North Carolina. The Charitable Foundation also funds educational projects like a high school living history presentation that has been funded in Lynn, Massachusetts. I think this is very important work that we can't afford not to do. There are more projects listed in the Winter Edition of the Banner, and on our web site.

John Eger, Champion Hill, Camp 17

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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*

## The Department Money Tree - (It resides in a secret backyard in Raintree County.)



As of June 28, 2017 there is \$10086.00 growing on the fruitful, and well nurtured plant.

### News from the Front



Conservator Francis Miller, of Hamden, describes the restoration work being performed on the Civil War monument on the Derby Green in Derby, Conn. on Tuesday, June 6, 2017. The restoration project is being performed by the Hamden Conn. company - Conserve ART.

The black grime and greenish corrosion from 140 years of acid rain is being washed away. The chiseled letters identifying the battles at Atlanta, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and New Bern that killed 82 Derby and Huntington soldiers are being reformed. And the bronze rifle strap and bayonet torn from his body are being replaced. Slowly, the weary Civil War soldier leaning against his long-barreled rifle is being reborn, thanks to contributions for restoration. "I'm hoping to be done by the end of September," said Francis Miller of Conserv Art, LLC in Hamden, which is doing the \$72,000 job. "The granite was absolutely filthy. I doubt there was ever much cleaning done." (Thanks to Porter Camp 116 for sharing this.)



### **From Benton Camp #28**

Bro. Tom Ashley and Commander Rigsby raise the flag before the evening "Fireworks" display on "Roosevelt Hill" in Richmond, IN.

From Champion Hill Camp #17



Brother Francis Frederick and Ft. Wayne Wayne High School Freshman Carl Haro at the April 24 SUVCW award ceremony.

**Minutes of the Summer Encampment – Alan Teller Dept. Secretary**

The 2017 Annual Encampment, Department of Indiana, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was held at the South Branch Kokomo Howard County Public Library, 1755 East Center Road, Kokomo, IN June 3. Department Commander Dennis Rigsby opened the meeting at 9:05AM. Co. D 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana SVR presented the colors.

The Secretary called the roll of officers as follows:  
Commander, Dennis H. Rigsby, present  
Sr. Vice Commander, Timothy J. Beckman, present  
Jr. Vice Commander, John K. Eger, present  
Secretary, J. Alan Teller, present  
Treasurer, Gilbert H. Young, Jr, present.  
Council Member #1 Jack Shaw, absent  
Council Member #2 Bill Adams, present  
Council Member #3 Mike Beck, present  
Signal Officers, Josh Claybourn, excused  
Historian, Bruce Kolb, presented  
The Legion Editor, Gib Young, present  
Chaplain, Thomas Ashley, present  
Civil War Memorials Officer, Mike Beck, present  
Eagle Scout Coordinator, Mike Beck, present  
Patriotic Instructor, Bret Caldwell, absent  
Graves Registration Officer, John Eger, present  
GAR Highway, William Adams, present  
GAR Records Officer, Bruce Kolb, present  
Asst. Signals Officer, Tim Beckman, present

The Department as a body held an opening ceremony conducted by Commander Rigsby. Commander Rigsby. He introduced Donald Shaw, National Vice-Commander-in-Chief. Brother Shaw brought us greetings and remarks from Commander-in-Chief, Don Martin. The Commander then introduced Mark Goret, a visiting member from Tilden Camp in NYC, NY. Department Commander Rigsby then stated he would give a few minutes to read the minutes. John Eger made a motion to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Dennis Hutchinson; passed.

Department Officers reports were as follows:  
Commander, report  
Sr. Vice Commander, report  
Jr. Vice Commander, report  
Secretary, (see minutes above) Noted his inventory was included with the minutes  
Treasurer, report  
Council Member #1 Jack Shaw  
Council Member #2 Matt Elkin  
Council Member #3 Mike Beck  
Signal Officers, report read by secretary  
Historian, report  
The Legion Editor, oral report  
Chaplain, report  
Civil War Memorials Officer, report  
Eagle Scout Coordinator, report  
Patriotic Instructor, no report  
Graves Registration Officer, report  
GAR Highway (US 6), report  
SVR, report

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Alan Teller stated the Department has enough funds to be ready to help the Camps with funding for various projects and should consider future funding. No motion was made. Mike Beck made a motion for him to order 20 Boy Scout Eagle Patches, from Department funds, for future presentations to Scouts. Ashley seconded; passed. Bill Adams will check on signage for the Iron Brigade on US 12. The meeting was adjourned from 10:15 AM to 10:30 AM.

Camp Reports were as follows:

Somers Camp #1, report and inventory submitted

John W. Foster Camp #2, report and inventory submitted

Champion Hill Camp #17, report and inventory submitted

Benton Camp #28, report and inventory submitted

Porter Camp #116, report and inventory submitted

John B. Anderson Camp # 223, report and inventory submitted

Harrison Camp #356, report and inventory submitted

Brother Young led the encampment in a Civil war Quiz of 11 questions. He presented prizes of used books for the most correct (5) and second most correct answers (4).

The meeting was adjourned for lunch at Richard's Restaurant at 11:50 AM and reconvened at 1:25 PM.

Old Business:

Bill Adams gave an update on the Vicksburg 26th

Indiana Monument. It is still unresolved. Brother Adams will meet with the head Park Ranger this fall to discuss the matter further and to make sure he knows we want this problem resolved and are not going away. He further hinted we have contacts within the

Parks Department and could use them if needed. Commander Rigsby thanked all members who participated at the

Lincoln Boyhood Ceremony 02/12/2017 and the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony 04/15/2017. Jim Floyd made a

motion to amend the Bylaws by adding: Article XI Minors Sec. 1. The Department of Indiana and all subordinate Camps shall remain

in full compliance with General Order 22, Series 2013-2014; the National Policy Regarding Minors adopted by the Council of

Administration July 11, 2014, plus any subsequent Policy, General Order and/or Regulation of the Order regarding minor's

participation in any and all activities of the Order occurring within the Department.

Seconded by John Eger; Passed.

New Business:

Commander Rigsby made note of the National Encampment Aug 10-13 in Lansing, MI and announced the

Secretary had credentials ready. Brother Beck made a motion to make all members of the Department of

Indiana Alternate Delegates to the 2017 National Encampment; Brother Floyd seconded; passed. Brother

Adams noted a committee of John Eger, Alan Teller, and himself were working on a meeting for the Central

Region Association to be in Valparaiso, IN on Oct. 6, 2018. Future SVR activities were discussed. The latest

SUVCW Charitable Foundation donations of John Eger were discussed. Rigsby noted his appointment of

Dennis Hutchinson as Department Patriotic Instructor. The Department Midwinter will be January 27, 2018 in

Greenfield, hosted by Ben Harrison Camp. Bruce Kolb made a motion to place a ½ page ad in the National

Encampment Booklet at a cost of \$25.00; seconded by Dennis Hutchinson; passed. Thomas Ashley noted the

Winchester Monument will be dedicated Oct 7, and the SUVCW and SVR should be there in mass. The slate

of elected and appointed officers was presented as below. After calling for nominations from the floor three

times and getting none Thomas Ashley made a motion for the secretary to cast a vote for the slate as

presented.

Guest Don Shaw installed the 2017-2018 officers:

Commander, Dennis H. Rigsby

Sr. Vice Commander, Timothy J. Beckman

Jr. Vice Commander, John K. Eger

Secretary, J. Alan Teller

Treasurer, Gilbert H. Young, Jr.

Council Member #1 Bruce Kolb

Council Member #2 Bill Adams

Council Member #3 Mike Beck

Signal Officers, Josh Claybourn

Historian, Bruce Kolb

The Legion Editor, Gib Young

Chaplain, Thomas Ashley

Civil War Memorials Officer, Mike Beck

Eagle Scout Coordinator, Mike Beck

Patriotic Instructor, Dennis Hutchinson

Graves Registration Officer, John Eger

GAR Highway, William Adams

GAR Records Officer, Bruce Kolb

Asst. Signals Officer, Tim Beckman

Commander Rigsby adjourned the meeting at 2:10 PM.

J. Alan Teller,  
Department Secretary



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It should be noted there were 16 members present, 2 guests Don Shaw and Mark Goret. 6 Camps were represented. An attendance sheet will be filed with the minutes. 15 members of the SVR were present and 13 were in uniform. (SVR Present in uniform: Dennis Hutchinson, Dave Tilden, Jim Floyd, Alan Teller, Larry Myer, Dennis Rigsby, John Eger, Michael Beck, Rick Wiegmann, Bob Winters, Tom Ashley, and Bruce Kolb. Not in uniform were Dennis Rigsby, Tim Beckman, and Gib Young.) Others attending were Ron Gill. Bruce Kolb noted a listing of Civil War dead can be found in a six(6) volume book at the Indiana State Library on Ohio Street in Indianapolis. It is titled "Civil War Veterans That Died During the Civil War".

\*Please note that Brother Teller says the By-Laws changes were approved by the National Organization.



Dennis Hutchinson, Foster Camp #2 and Alan Teller Somers Camp #1 arguing over who gets to sit next to Commander Rigsby at lunch.



Dept. of Indiana Officers for 2017-2018. Natl. Jr. Vice Don Shaw, Tom Ashley, Alan Teller, John Eger, Com. Dennis Rigsby, Tim Beckman, Gib Young, Mike Beck, Bruce Kolb

From Champion Hill Camp #17



L. Brothers Steve Williams (L) and Francis Frederick (R) and Don Morgan (hidden) of Champion Hill Camp 17 lay flower, flag, and wreath at the CW Monument in Huntington's Memorial Park at the Illumination Ceremony on Decoration Day, 2017.

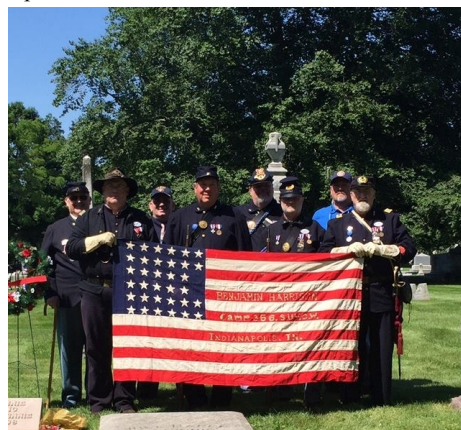


R. Local Citizens participate in the lighting of 217 candles at the Illumination Ceremony.

From Ben Harrison Camp #356



L. Ben Harrison Camp members working at the second of three scheduled annual work days in the Shelbyville City Cemetery, Shelbyville, IN on May 13, 2017.



R. Ben Harrison Camp members and the 27th Indiana, Co. D, SVR at the camp's annual Memorial Day ceremony at Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis IN on May 29, 2017

## **Forgotten Chapter in Lafayette's Civil War History Brought to Light**

### **Rebel Prisoners in City; Story of Hospital**

In its prime one of the imposing structures of Lafayette's earlier days, the graying three-story business building at 209-11 South Street remains as a nearly forgotten monument to an interesting chapter of the city's Civil War history about which little has been written. In this building, now 81 years old, a hospital for rebel prisoners sent to the city was maintained for several weeks during the late winter of 1862. They had been captured in the battle at Fort Donelson which resulted in a major victory for the Union army.

Between 10,000 and 15,000 prisoners were taken and 6,000 of them were sent to Indianapolis which was not able to take care of the great number. Lafayette, Richmond and Terre Haute agreed to accept from 800 to 1,000 each. The 800 sent to Lafayette remained quartered in the city for nearly a month. That was 76 years ago. Except for the old South Street building, known as the Walsh block, most vestiges of the Civil or incident have long since disappeared.

Local newspapers of 1862 (The Journal, Courier and Argus) gave details of the prisoners' arrival and additional information as been obtained from government records and older residents, although there is not a little contradiction in the different stories.



Yanks and Rebs (Americans all) rest side by side.



Those known have their names inscribed.

### **Prisoners Arrive**

It was on Sunday, February 23, 1862 that the prisoners arrived, 806 of them according to the newspaper accounts, this number including several "contrabands" (slaves brought into the Union lines). Several days later a roll call of the "Secesh" as the rebels were called, showed 712 prisoners.

Prisoners who died here were buried in Greenbush cemetery, where their graves may still be found in a row, marked by small, pointed marble stones, in the extreme north-west corner, along Greenbush Street. There are 28 of these stones, although a newspaper account, under date of March 31, 1862, at states that 33 prisoners died.

During the greater part of their stay, the prisoners' barracks were located in the Sample porkhouse, which later became the Dryfus Packing plant, in the south-west part of the city. The sick were kept in Walsh's hall and also in the hospital of Tippecanoe camp, near the Junction, south of the city, where Union soldiers were recruited and drilled.

### **Business Men Act**

Arriving Feb. 23, all the prisoners except those in hospitals, were taken back to Indianapolis, March 16, 1862, thus remaining here approximately three weeks. Newspapers and other sources do not reveal how long a hospital for sick prisoners was operated here. The last death of a prisoner was recorded April 28, and another reliable source indicates, that medical service for them was provided two months and 10 to 12 days.

After it was learned that some of the prisoners might be sent here, Lafayette business men met, Friday evening, February 21, 1862, and inaugurated a movement to obtain custody of a contingent of them. A committee made up of Moses Fowler, T. T. Benbridge, R. C. Gregory, G. S. Orth and N. C. Dodge, was appointed to go to Indianapolis and lay the matter before Governor Morton. This was done the next day, Saturday, the governor agreeing to send 800 of the Secesh here.

The city then began making hasty preparations to receive and quarter the prisoners. Extra newspaper editions told the news and issued appeals for donations of food; the appeal was repeated the next morning in churches. The response was generous. The sheriff's office was soon filled with baskets, and the guard room of the jail also soon filled, providing enough to feed the prisoners bountifully (if unwidely, as it turned out), for several days.

The special train carrying the prisoners was due to arrive at 5 P.M., but a crowd began gathering about the South Street station as early as two. The vicinity was crowded, women predominating, despite universal mud. Thorntown Cyrus, one of the city's early and well known characters, amused the throng by reciting one of his thrilling poem, "closing with a glowing eulogy on the life and character of the Pilgrim Fathers."

The train, over the Lafayette and Indianapolis, now the Big Four, was made up of 21 or 22 passenger and freight cars. Troops, acting as guards, held back the people and cleared a path which extended from the station, along the towpath of the Wabash and Erie canal, to the old Red warehouse, which has been hurriedly fitted up for the prisoners.

### **Many Young Men**

Most of the prisoners were young men, pale, beardless boys, some under seventeen, members of the 32nd and 41st Tennessee regiments. They had served but four and one-half months. Few were in uniforms, most wearing butternut jeans. All carried huge bundles, containing blankets, etc., and many had old fashioned skillets of the hoe cake pattern.

The Red warehouse, where the prisoners were first taken, was at the foot of Chestnut Street, on the east side of the canal and near the present strawboard plant. The building was called "Red" because of its color, according to Michael Tigue, nonagenarian, who remembers the prisoners. It was owned by W. K. Rochester, grandfather of Rochester Baird, local attorney, who was a leading business man of the city then; a number of city sub-divisions still retain his name.

The need of larger quarters was at once evident, and the prisoners were moved in a few days to the Sample porkhouse, owned by H. T. Sample, Esq.

### **Provide Hospital**

Many of the prisoners had severe colds, and 12 or 14 were seriously ill upon their arrival. The widespread illness among them was explained a little later by a prisoner, in a published statement. He related that they had suffered twenty days of unparalleled exposure and hardships before and after their capture.

This condition suggested immediate steps to provide hospitalization. A number of women, calling to their assistance Mr. Benbridge and J. B. Falley, with the consent of Col. John S. Williams, commanding officer of the 63rd regiment, guarding the prisoners, rented the "large and commodious room" known as Walsh's hall, now at 209.11 South Street, for a hospital. The room quickly was fitted with beds. The executive committee of women handling this matter was made up of Mrs. Lewis Falley, Miss Fields Stockwell, and Mrs. Dr. O.L. Clark.

### **Doctor Reports**

Dr. Thomas Chestnut was appointed by the citizens' committee as physician and surgeon for the sick. It seems he had sore difficulty collecting from the government for his services, and so it is we have a letter he wrote later to Capt. H. Freedly, of the 3rd Infantry, Indianapolis, pressing his claim and giving information which other sources do not reveal. The letter is now a part of official government records dealing with the War of the Rebellion. He points out in his letter that a majority of prisoners were attacked by camp diarrhea, and that typhoid and pneumonia in the most malignant form, then broke out. He continues that Tippecanoe hospital and the hospital in Walsh's hall were opened Feb. 25, and both were filled immediately.

Dr. Chestnut wrote that a list was lost a little later when he went to the battlefield of Corinth to help care for Union soldiers. The first month, he wrote, would average "150 patients per day; the second, 50 to 60 per day, and the last 10 or 12 days, not more than 20." This is the only reference found as to how long the sick prisoners may have remained here.

On Feb. 28 there were 29 patients in the South Street hospital. Dr. D. T. Yeakel, a local physician, in a published letter, states that this hospital had a capacity of 70. James Warden was the first prisoner to die, on March 3; Rev. William Graham, of the Fifth Street M. E. Church, conducted burial services in Greenbush.

The war department, in 1912, compiled a list of prisoners buried in Greenbush, a copy of which is on file today in the cemetery's office, according to R. E. Acheson, superintendent. The tombstones bear the simple inscription, "UNKNOWN - C.S.A." (C.S.A. - meaning, Confederate States of America.)

All did not run smoothly for the South Street hospital. The city council, at a meeting March 10, had complaints from residents of the vicinity holding the hospital a nuisance. A week later the council had a report that the South Street hospital had been abandoned. The patients had probably been moved to Tippecanoe camp hospital.

#### **Walsh Building**

The Walsh building, a pretentious one for its day, carries a tablet between third story windows, with this inscription: "ERECTED 1857 - M.M. Walsh." In 1862 it was in the center of the business district. A short distance east, at the south-east of Third and South, was the Bramble House, leading hostelry of the day, and on another corner was the Jones House, also popular. Across the street from Walsh hall was the residence of T.T. Benbridge, grandfather of Dr. R. B. Wetherill. On Second Street, a little south, Dr. William Mayo had an office and practiced two years during this period; then he went to Rochester, Minn., where he established the famous clinic still bearing his name.

Lafayette's first city directory, published for 1858-59, lists M. M. Walsh an a grocer and provision dealer, on the south side of South Street, between Ohio (Third) and Wabash (Second). His residence was given at the some address. Later directories give the name as Welsh, although at the some address, this spelling was also used in Dr. Chestnut's letter. Without doubt, however, Walsh and Welsh were the same man.

According to Walter J. Ball, retired Lafayette banker and authority on early city history, Mr. Walsh was a prominent democratic leader of the city in his day. Walsh's hall, probably the same room used for the hospital, was often used for party rallies and was the starting point for many torchlight parades. The property on which it is located has had many owners, including John Purdue, according to James M. Sharp, of the Mitchell agency. M. M. and Margaret Walsh owned it from 1857 to 1890, and it has been owned by August Goepp, Rensselaer, since 1919. Mr. Walsh was the grandfather of H. C. Smith, Jr., member of the city school board and popular business man.

#### **The Barracks**

Older residents do not agree as to the location of the main barracks for the prisoners, although records say the Sample porkhouse. Records also state that the 40th regiment used the same quarters. Ferdinand Jackson, 92, West Lafayette Civil War veteran, and a resident of the county since 1855, confirms the published statements, stating the prisoners and also the 40th were quartered in what was a cooperage and storage room of the Sample porkhouse. Mr. Jackson recalls visiting an uncle who was a member of the 40th, in this building, and also states that he once visited the rebels, at the same place. Others say this was a rough frame building, and Mr. Jackson says daylight could be seen between cracks in the boards.

John Collins, employed at the Dryfus plant over 50 years and now a watchman there, recalls the building to which Mr. Jackson refers. It stood on the exact site of the present cold storage plant, a part of the Dryfus establishment, and was torn down about 1902, he states.

#### **Scandals in Camp**

Lafayette had its own scandals in connection with the prisoners. April 7 an order was issued barring women from serving in the hospital, after there had been complaints they were sympathizing too much with the rebel sentiments of the prisoners. The escape April 29, of William March, brought this situation to a head. A grand jury (where members had an average of six children) is reported to have questioned six or eight ladies with reference to the escape, but elicited nothing of value. The jury, asking instructions of Judge Test, hinted other scandals, such as citizens holding private conferences with prisoners in their offices, and prisoners dining and visiting in local homes without guards.

#### **Cemetery Markers**

Sleeping beside the rebel prisoners in Greenbush cemetery, in an unbroken row, are 22 Union soldiers, whose graves are marked by stones with round tops, contrasting to the pointed stones over the Confederates. Those Union soldiers were killed in a wreck, Oct. 31, 1864, when a passenger and cattle train collided near Culver, now Crane Station, eight miles south-east of Lafayette. Thirty were killed. The dead and injured were brought to the Jones House, across from Walsh's hall, and those unclaimed were buried in Greenbush.

Thus, nearly 80 years later, the old Walsh hall still stands as a memorial of that day, in Greenbush cemetery, 50 boys of the Blue and of the Gray, foes in the war of 1861-65, still sleep side by side, many miles from the scenes where their embattled brethren saw action under their respective banners.

*Cecil C. Miller*

*Reference: Lafayette Journal Courier, April 23, 1938*