

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 3-17

THE UNION FOREVER!!!!



FOR THOSE WHO STILL HEAR BUGLES CALL AND REMEMBER

FROM THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

SUVCW Battlefield Flag and Monument Policy

As approved during the 136st National Encampment - Lansing, Michigan, 2017

WHEREAS, we, as the descendants of Union soldiers, sailors and marines and revenue cutter servicemen who, as members of the Grand Army of the Republic, met in joint reunions with Confederate veterans under both flags in the bond of unity.

WHEREAS, we, as members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War strongly condemn the use of any American or Confederate flag by any and all hate groups.

WHEREAS, we the members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War strongly condemn the removal, defacement or destruction of any Civil War Veterans Monument or tablet, whether Union or confederate.

WHEREAS, we, the members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, support the flying of all U.S. and C.S.A. flags at our National Battlefield sites and to be honored publicly in museums as our authentic archival documentation of our National past.

THEREFORE, we, the members of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are committed to teaching the history of the American Civil War in our educational system and ask that all descendants of Civil War participants join us in this endeavor.

*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*

LAST SOLDIER PROJECT HONORS ANOTHER VETERAN

Eel River Cemetery, Allen County, Indiana. – At 2 pm on Sunday, Oct. 15 of this year Champion Hill, Camp 17 sponsored another dedication and recognition of a county's last Union veteran to pass over to the great encampment of all old soldiers. Pvt. John Smith of the 44th Indiana Volunteer Infantry was the last Union soldier in Whitley County with his death in 1940. Private Smith was buried in Allen County in a cemetery just about a mile east of the county line. Brother John Eger of Champion Hill, Camp 17 was instrumental in arranging and setting up the ceremony and deserves a brevet for his good work. But Brother Eger would not want all the recognition for himself and is grateful for the help of many others in getting the project to its fitting end. Civil War re-enactment units, the 30th Indiana Volunteers and the 44th Indiana Volunteers were on hand as was the 5th Indiana Battery. The Whitley County Historical Society under Russ Gilliom supported the project and it was covered by the Columbia City paper. The Civil War Round Table of Northeastern Indiana was there and Margaret Hobson, who has written a 3 volume book on the 44th Indiana spoke about Private Smith specifically. Brothers from Somers Camp, #1 and Porter Camp, #116 were also on hand with wreaths to add to the ceremony. Camp 17 Brothers Rich McConnell and Eric Fricke provided music on the fife and drum, Brother Jim Kline acted as Chaplain. Camp 17 Commander Dave Tilden welcomed guests and Brother Alan Teller of Camp 1 gave a short address about the Last Soldier Project.



Margaret Hobson of the Northeast Indiana Round Table of Ft. Wayne speaks about Pvt. Smith



Brother Alan Teller addresses some of the family of Pvt. Smith about the Last Soldier Project

From the Treasurer of the Department:

Brothers, in case you were wondering what I do in keeping tabs on the vault which holds our funds the following picture gives an idea of the fun I have with money.

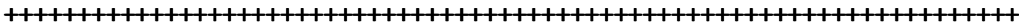


**As of Oct. 31, 2018 the accounts for the Department of Indiana, SUVCW shows the following balance.
\$10110.00**

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.)



Greeting Brothers:

Please join us for a fun day of Department business, GAR heritage, and SUVCW comradery at the upcoming Midwinter Encampment on January 27, 2018 – 9:00 a.m. EST – at Eden United Methodist Church, 2122 E. Eden Rd., Greenfield, IN 46140, hosted by Ben Harrison Camp No. 356 and Elizabeth E. George Auxiliary No. 356.

There is ample parking and easy ramp access to the meeting facilities from the parking lot.

Your wife/significant other is cordially invited and encouraged to attend the concurrent Auxiliary meeting.

The registration fee of only \$15.00 per person includes a light breakfast, and lunch of lasagna (your choice of meat or vegetable) with salad, bread sticks, and dessert served on site. Drinks and snacks will be available throughout the day.

The following special presentations and activities are planned:

- 1) Honoring the GAR members and Union Veterans who are buried in the cemetery adjacent to the church;
- 2) Remembering SUVCW brothers who have died;
- 3) Recognizing the service of the Boy Scouts of America to the GAR and SUVCW;
- 4) A guest speaker during lunch;
- 5) Displays of Civil War memorabilia; and
- 6) A Civil War book raffle.

A flyer, with the registration form, and a map of the Midwinter Encampment location are attached below.

Please return the registration form BY JANUARY 20, 2018. Checks made payable to BEN HARRISON CAMP NO. 356. Mail to: Jerry Thompson, Camp Secretary, 6019 Allendale Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46224

On behalf of Department Commander Dennis Rigsby, the Department Officers, Eliza E. George Auxiliary, and Ben Harrison Camp, we look forward to seeing you at the Midwinter Encampment!

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Jim Floyd

Camp Commander & Patriotic Instructor
Ben Harrison Camp No. 356
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Department of Indiana

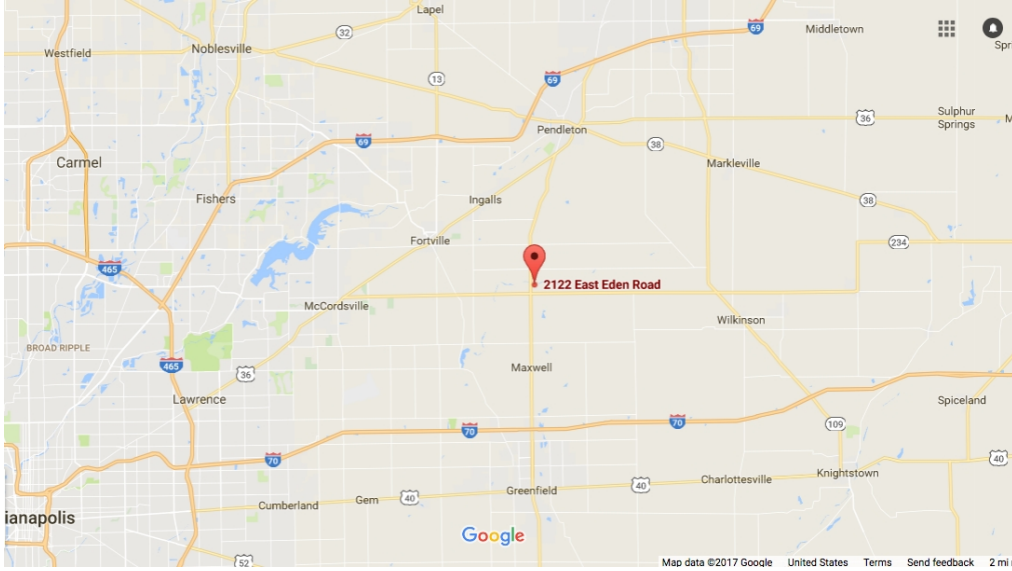


PLEASE RETURN BY JANUARY 20, 2018. Checks made payable to BEN HARRISON CAMP NO. 356.
MAIL TO: Jerry Thompson, Camp Secretary • 6019 Allendale Drive • Indianapolis, IN 46224

Name: _____ Camp #: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Please choose one per person attending: # of Meat Lasagna: ____ # of Vegetable Lasagna: ____



Location of 2018 Midwinter Encampment



Dept. of Indiana Delegation at the SUVCW National Convention, Lansing, MI - 8/11/2017

The Indiana Legion – Issue 3-17

On a Saturday September 16, 2017 under beautiful blue skies and 80 degree temperatures, 14 Brothers and their families from David D. Porter Camp, 116 got together for a Camp Picnic. We met at shelter #2 at Kesling Park in La Porte. The camp provided the brats, hotdogs and hamburgers while each Brother brought various side dishes in support to pass.

This is the third time we have held the picnic and it was brought back this year by popular demand after several years of absence. It is a wonderful way for the Brothers of David D. Porter Camp, 116 to get together in a fun casual manner with our families! It also allows the wives and significant others to meet each other. They also get to meet the Brothers and put a name to a face that they may have heard about. No one left hungry and any excess food that was not perishable was donated to a local food bank. We already have a tentative date set for the 2018 picnic.



Last Soldier Project

Beginning in 2003, the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War embarked on the Last Soldier Project. The purpose of the project is to locate and appropriately mark the final resting place of the last Civil War soldier buried in each county/parish and in each state of this great country."(From our National website) This is one of the great projects of our order. It is a local project. As SVR members, we are often called upon to participate. It is a service to the community and brings history and the "boys in blue" alive and is a project all units should look forward to participating in. There are lots of counties/parishes.

Go to our National website - www.suvcw.org ; click on "Projects & Preservation"; scroll to the bottom; look under "SUVCW Special Projects" and click on "Last Soldier Project". Scroll down to "Last Soldier Checklist". It will suggest how to get started and carry out a project. Click on "Last Soldier Ceremony" and you will have a ceremony that you may want to use.

Over the years I have participated in seven "Last Soldier Projects" both as a member of the SVR and as a speaker. This is a chronological listing:

May 1, 2006, Grant County, Indiana, Riverside Cemetery, John Christian Adams (8/17/1847-2/11/1949) Private Co. C 17 West Virginia Infantry. He was a drummer. He was the Last Soldier to die in Grant County and in Indiana. He was a member of GAR Magnolia Post #409.

June 10, 2007, Howard County, Indiana, Albright Cemetery, Gordon Williams (3/15/1848-3/27/1943) Unassigned PA Volunteers. He was a member of GAR Thomas J. Harrison Post #30. An interesting quote from the Kokomo Tribune, March 27, 1943, "At last Howard County's long dimming "line of blue" has faded out - faded out forever. It was 4:45 o'clock Friday morning, approaching the time for reveille. The call that came, however, was not for reveille, but taps. After all though, it was reveille – the reveille that announces the eternal morning."

Oct 18, 2008, Carroll County, Indiana, Burlington Cemetery, George W. Beck (10/23/1847-2/10/1942) Private Co. M 1st Indiana Cavalry.

November 11, 2009, Cass County, Indiana, Mt. Hope Cemetery, William A. Ziegler (8/17/1846-3/12/1942) Corporal Co. E 19th Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was a member of GAR Logansport Post #14.

October 16, 2010, Miami County, Indiana, Converse Cemetery, William J. Rennaker (7/28/1846-1/12/1940) Private Co. A 25th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He was a member of GAR W.A. Rayburn Post # 56.

October 15, 2011 Clinton County, Indiana, Bunnell Cemtery, Cyrus Clark (4/18/1846-7/22/1939) Sergeant Co. C 10th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He was a member of GAR Stones River Post # 65.

October 15, 2017, Whitley County, Indiana, Eel River Cemetery, John W. Smith (11/2/1846-7/21/1940) Private Co. C 44th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. The attendance was much larger than expected.



Indiana SUVCW & SVR Grave Rededication

On September 24, 2017, members from the Benjamin Harrison Camp #356 & John B. Anderson Camp #223 (representing Indiana SVR - Company D. 27th Indiana Vol. Infantry) along with Company D. 11th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, conducted a SUVCW grave rededication for five (5) Civil War soldiers buried in the Moravian Cemetery in Hope, Indiana. Listed below are the five (5) names of the soldiers whose grave were rededicated:

- Pvt. William H. McNulty – Co. F. 11th Indiana
- Pvt. Henry Christman – Co. I. 33rd Indiana
- Pvt. Henry G. Crawford – Co. I. 41st Illinois
- Pvt. Grif^o Ogden – Co. H. 27th Indiana
- Pvt. Andrew J. Emmert – Co. H. 188th Pennsylvania Vol. Inf.



A Well Deserved Recognition

Brother Ron Gill was honored for 43 years of dedication and commitment to the SUVCW and David D. Porter Camp, 116 Department of Indiana on Saturday October 21st at a surprise dinner. The dinner was attended by 18 Camp and Department Brothers and guests at Kelsey's Steak House in Valparaiso, Indiana.

Former David D. Porter Camp Commander and PCinC Ed Krieser also attended to surprise his longtime friend. Ron received his 40 year pin from Department of Indiana Commander Dennis Rigsby. Ron also as presented a SUVCW Plaque by Camp Sr.-Vice Commander Stephen A. Mockler from David D. Porter Camp for his years of Commitment to the Camp. Sr.-Vice Commander Mockler read the engraving which said: Ron Gill, For 43 years of dedication and commitment to the SUVCW and David D. Porter Camp, 116. Congratulations wishes were read that were received from Brothers Mike Downs, Department of Tennessee and Alan Teller, Department of Indiana who were unable to attend.

Ron is a charter member of David D. Porter Camp, having been instrumental and key to re-chartering the Camp in 1976. Through the years Ron has held many positions within the Camp including Camp Commander, Sr.-Vice Commander, Secretary, Treasurer, and Patriotic Instructor to name some of them. He also is a past Department Commander. Before 1976 he traveled for two years to Chicago to attend the SUVCW meeting at a Camp that met at a Public Library in the area.



Ron Gill with his wife Rose



Indiana Dept. Commander Dennis Rigsby with Ron



Brothers Bill Adams and Stephen Mockler of Porter Camp with Ron

Headstone Installation Workday:

On Sunday November 5th, 2017, John W. Foster Camp members participated in their first headstone installation project working with Ms. Patti, her family and church members of the Clayton Harris United Methodist Church near the small town of Tobinsport in Perry County, IN. Camp members participating were Dennis Hutchinson-Commander, David Hoesli-Sr. Vice Commander and Keith Batteiger-Chaplin. New headstones were researched and obtained through the efforts of Pat and David. New headstones were installed for James Wood, Co. "L", 1st Indiana Cavalry at the Simon Cemetery near Tobinsport, Thomas Carter, Co. "C", 12th Kentucky Cavalry, John Henderson, Co. "E", 44th Indiana Infantry and George W. Powers, Co. "C", 10th Kentucky Infantry at the Simon Cemetery next to the C. Harris UMC.

Submitted by Dennis Hutchinson-Commander, John W. Foster Camp #2



Dennis Hutchinson, Keith Batteiger and David Hoesli at the Simon Cemetery

CIVIL WAR SOLDIER'S PHOTO RECENTLY DISCOVERED:

by Dennis Hutchinson-Commander, J. W. Foster Camp #2

In 1997 I began Civil War reenacting with some friends of mine at church. This rekindled my interest in Civil War history which made me think about the large portrait of a bearded man with a sword I remembered seeing at my grandparents' home as a teenager. In 1997, I asked my Uncles if they knew who that person was. They told me that it was my 2nd Great Grandfather, Andrew Gosnell and that their aunt had the portrait in her basement. My great Aunt gave the portrait to me in April of 2000. The 16 in. x 20 in. "crayon" portrait is an enlargement of a smaller photo of him. The picture frame was deteriorated and the portrait was broken into 3 major pieces and was crumbling. The portrait paper is on a heavy photo board that is acidic giving it a brownish hue. The wooden backing broke in three pieces causing the cracks in the portrait. On the back of the portrait written in cursive is "Mrs. Gosnell". Another unreadable name is on the back which we believe to be the Photographer or the business which may have enlarged it.

Ever since re-discovering the large portrait I've had hopes of someday finding the original photo of Andrew. I asked family members about its whereabouts, searched the internet, civil war shows and antique stores hoping that maybe it would be found.

On December 10, 2016, while going through my Uncle's estate, the original photo from which the large portrait was made was found by my cousin, loose in a box in an attic closet. I was filled with great excitement of the news and in January of 2017, I made the trip back home to see it for the first time. My hands were shaking when looking upon the very image my 2nd Great Grandfather posed for, over 156 years ago. The photo is a black lacquer tintype of irregular shape and measures 2-5/8 in. w x 3-1/4 in. h overall. It appears to have been held in a rectangular case at one time with a double elliptical (rectangular with round corners) mat due to the faint outline of where a mat was. His jacket buttons have been hand colored with gold paint as well as the reverse US on his belt buckle. A slight tinting of rose can be seen on his cheeks.



Original tintype of Andrew Gosnell

Andrew Gosnell mustered into the 31st Indiana Volunteer Infantry on September 20th, 1861. He was wounded in the hand at Shiloh, promoted to Corporal in July of 1862, was captured at Stones River on December 31st, 1862 and sent to Libby prison, was released 5 days after arriving at Libby prison and mustered out when his term limit was up in September 1864. For more information on Andrew and his regiment visit <http://www.31stind>.



First Division Third Corps Army of the Potomac