

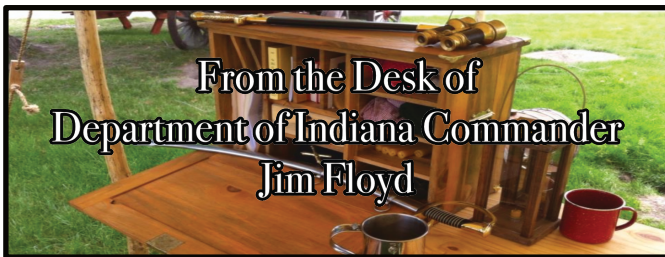


The Indiana Legion

DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA • SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
JAMES M. FLOYD, JR., COMMANDER

Issue 2-23

April 2023



Brothers of the Department of Indiana:

As I have previously announced, I have decided to pursue other opportunities and therefore at the 137th Annual Encampment of the Department of Indiana, SUVCW in Kokomo, IN on April 29, 2023, I will not seek reelection, nor will I serve a second term as Department Commander.

This will create an opening for an elected Junior Vice Department Commander.

This is in addition to the elected Department Treasurer as Brother Gib Young, PDC is stepping down at the Encampment. Finally, an elected Department Council position will be open. If you are interested in any position, please let me know ASAP.

We are better together, so please ensure your Camp is represented as we come together at the Annual Encampment.

I look forward to seeing you and having a productive Encampment!

Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Jim

Department Returns to Lincoln Day Ceremony



Members of Co. D, 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve at the grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

After a two-year hiatus, the annual Lincoln Day Ceremony returned to the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial on February 12, 2023 and the Department of Indiana was there.

Members of Co. D, 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, SVR provided the color guard for the day's activities. The ceremony began with a procession led by the SVR into the Memorial's historic chapel where a program was held, including music and a talk on Thomas Lincoln, the President's father. At the conclusion of the program, brothers of Co. D led the procession to the hilltop grave of Nancy Hanks Lincoln, the President's mother, where another short ceremony was held and wreaths were laid.

The day was a beautifully clear and warm one for mid-February. After the cancellation of the event in 2021 due to the pandemic and in 2022 due to poor weather, Indiana brothers were happy to renew our participation in a ceremony in which the Department has historically played such an important role.

See additional photos on page 5.



Department of Indiana

Officers

Commander: James M. Floyd, Jr., PCC
Senior Vice Commander: Thomas Schmitt, PCC
Junior Vice Commander: Travis LeMaster, PCC
Council Member: Dennis H. Rigsby, PDC
Council Member: Dennis Hutchinson, PDC
Council Member: Timothy J. Beckman, PDC
Secretary: William R. Adams, PDC
Assistant Secretary: Jonathan Swarts
Treasurer: Gilbert H. Young, Jr., PDC
Patriotic Instructor: Brian Mexin
Chaplain: Alan Teller, PDC
Graves Registration Officer: David Hoesli
Historian: Bruce R. Kolb, Jr., PDC
Civil War Memorials Officer: Michael W. Beck, PDC
Eagle Scout Coordinator: Michael W. Beck, PDC
Counselor: Bruce R. Kolb, Jr., PDC
GAR Highway Officer: William R. Adams, PDC
Signals Officer: Timothy J. Beckman, PDC
Legion Editor: Jonathan Swarts
GAR Records Officer: Bruce R. Kolb, Jr., PDC

Camps

Orlando A. Somers #1 (Kokomo)
John W. Foster #2 (Evansville)
John Auten #8 (South Bend)
Champion Hill #17 (Huntington)
William P. Benton #28 (Centerville)
David D. Porter #116 (Valparaiso)
John B. Anderson #223 (Columbus)
Ben Harrison #356 (Indianapolis)

UPCOMING Events

April

29: 137th Department of Indiana Annual
Encampment
South Branch, Kokomo-Howard County
Public Library
Kokomo, Indiana
9:30 a.m. EDT

May

28: Last Union Veteran of Miami County
Ceremony (SVR)
Mt. Hope Cemetery
1411 N. Grant St., Peru, Indiana
2:00 p.m. EDT

June

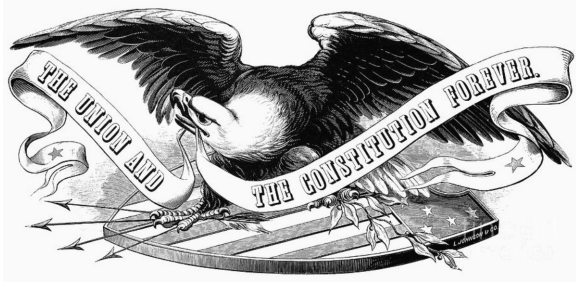
10: Last Union Veteran of Kosciusko County
Ceremony (SVR)
Oakwood Cemetery
421 N. Maple Ave., Warsaw, Indiana
Time: TBD

August

3-6: 142nd National Encampment, SUVCW
Courtyard by Marriott
Nashua, New Hampshire

SVR: Indicates event at which Sons of Veterans Reserve
members are encouraged to participate in uniform.





PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION

BRIAN MEXIN, PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Indiana's First Department Commander - Elmer S. Walker

Brother Elmer S. Walker, PDC was born in 1862 in Indiana to Dr. Augustus Clement Walker and Ann Maria Sherman. His father had studied medicine at the University of Pennsylvania and the University of New York and had served as a surgeon with the 63rd Regiment of Indiana Volunteers from July 1862 to June 1865. Brother Elmer lived in West Lebanon, Warren County in 1880 and his occupation at the time was listed as "at school." He married Clara Jane Robb (the daughter of a carpenter) on December 24, 1883, in Williamsport, also in Warren County. Brother Elmer was elected Department Commander at the first Department of Indiana Sons of Veterans Encampment, which was held in Richmond, Indiana in 1887. He was elected to a second term in 1888 when the Department Encampment was held in Indianapolis.



SONS OF VETERANS ENCAMPMENT.

The Sons of Veterans, headed by the Richmond City band, left Wm. P. Benton camp at 7:30 last night, marching from thence to Phillips Opera-house. The band discoursed splendid music.

The stage of the opera-house was gorgeous with banners and redolent with bloom. The spacious building was packed with ladies and gentlemen. Mayor Moore made a neat and unpretentious address of welcome.

On the part of the Sons, Col. E. S. Walker responded. He spoke of the warm welcome Richmond had given the first encampment of the Sons of Veterans; of how they appreciate that treatment; of the beauty of the city; of the differences between the Grand Army and the Sons-the parent and the offspring; of the terms that belong wholly to the G.A.R.; comrade means weary marches, long days and nights of sickness, days of battle and of blood, shattered limbs and unutterable agony; it belongs to the Grand Army alone. The Sons style themselves "brothers." He sat down amid deafening applause.

Richmond Item, May 18, 1887



CAMP DISPATCHES

JOHN AUTEN CAMP #8

CHAMPION HILL CAMP #17

Department of Indiana Participates in 2023 National Vietnam Veterans Day Tribute

The Department of Indiana was represented at the 2023 National Vietnam Veterans Day Tribute on March 25 by John Auten Camp #8, South Bend and Champion Hill Camp #17, Huntington. Also present were members of Oscar and Mollie Mott Corps #1, WRC, and Arsinoe Martin Circle #78, LGAR.

The tribute ceremony was conducted at the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The program was organized and conducted by the staff of the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum. Brother Tom Schmitt, PCC, a dual member of John Auten and Champion Hill camps, is a Board Member of the group. Brother Schmitt gave the opening prayer and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

After opening remarks and a presentation by the program speaker, the names of those from Allen County and the surrounding area who were killed in Vietnam were read. The names were read in thirteen groups by different Vietnam Veterans. The fourth group of names was of eight nurses who died in Vietnam and whose names are on the Vietnam Wall. The program was concluded with Brother Schmitt playing Taps.

Wreaths were presented by National President of the WRC, Elizabeth Thurston, and Penny Bucks of the LGAR. Brother Rev. Greg Fiechtner presented a wreath from John Auten Camp #8 and Brother Gib Young, PDC presented a wreath from Champion Hill Camp #17. Other SUVCW Brothers present were Phil Dyer, PCC of Champion Hill and Bill Adams, PDC from John Auten camps.



Tom Schmitt, PCC speaks at the Veterans National Memorial Shrine, Ft. Wayne, Indiana



Department Represented at Lincoln's Tomb

Brother Tom Schmitt, PCC represented the Department of Indiana at the 67th Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony held on April 15 in Springfield, Illinois. Brother Schmitt participated in the uniformed color guard at the ceremony.



More Photos from Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial



Alan Teller, PDC marches in the procession



Tim Beckman, PDC leads the color guard into the chapel



A Tribute to Jack S. Thompson

By Terry Furgason, PCC

On a cool Monday, March 27, 2023, my father-in-law, Jack Thompson, was laid to rest at Marion National Cemetery in Marion, Indiana. A Korean War veteran, Jack was a proud Marine who enjoyed an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. in 2018. Jack and Vivian, his wife of 65 years, often joined their daughter Jan, my wife of 35 years, and me at the Vernon (Indiana) Sassafras Tea Festival and Civil War Reenactment, especially to enjoy the Blue and Gray Ball. After retiring from teaching, Jack and Vivian moved to Hamilton Lake, Indiana, where he spent much of his time fishing and actively participating in church activities. This location allowed me access to Sons of Veterans Reserve events in Northeastern Indiana.



As his son-in-law and a member of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, John B. Anderson Camp #223, I was privileged to assist the Marine Corps League Honor Guard to fire a volley for Jack. In my SVR uniform, I joined Charles Moon, Larry Walker, and Conrad Heslin from Tripoli Detachment #844 in Marion who fired three volleys to recognize Jack's contributions as a Marine. Marine Sergeant Torres and Marine Sergeant Sanford of Grissom Air Force Base folded and presented a United States flag from the coffin to Vivian. Sergeant Sanford played "Taps" as we stood at Present Arms. Following the ceremony, brass was policed, put in a ceremonial bag, (with paper cartridge and spent cap from me) and presented to Vivian.



I have joined the local North Vernon VFW many times as part of the Honor Guard for Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and a few funerals. This, however, was a truly memorable occasion as it honored my father-in-law, Jack Thompson.



Appomattox: A Poem

By William Henry Harrison Polhamus

Fifty years ago my comrades,
So the army records say,
We were mustered into service
And set out that very day
For the field of Appomattox,
O'er a long and bloody way,
With a very vague conception
Of the price we'd have to pay.
Yes,—the field of Appomattox,
There to meet a host in gray,
Veterans of a hundred battles,
Pride of South Land under Lee.

Ah! the way was long and dreary,
And the foe was ever near;
And oft' times our hearts grew weary
As we toiled on year by year;
But each fierce succeeding battle
Told us that the day would come
That would end the cannons' rattle
And the dreaded roll of drum,
For our arms would be successful
And our warfare would be done.
So like young and sturdy yeomen
We pressed on, for well we knew
We must meet these haughty foemen
On their field of Waterloo.

We went out like many others,
Singing patriotic song,
As we told our weeping mothers
That the war would not be long.
Yet, for four long years we pressed it
From the rivers of the plains
Down through Kansas and Missouri
And the famous Ozark Range.
From the shores of old Kentucky
To the hills of Tennessee,
All the way was strewn with
comrades,
Boys who fought with you and me.

Then we joined the Eastern army
On the Rappahannock shore,
And took part in fierce engagements
That would number half a score.
From the fight at Bloody Angle

Where the riddled oak tree fell,
To those struggles 'round Deep
Bottom.—
That epitomy of Hell.
Then we took the trail of Early
And like bloodhounds in full bay
Sent them "Whirling up the valley"
As our little Phil would say.

Yes, we sent them up the valley
Very much against their will;
Through Opicken, through Front Royal,
Snickers Gap and Fisher Hill.
On through Cedar Creek and Staunton,
On through Strausburg, on through
Bley
To the field of Appomattox
While dead comrades marked the way.
Yes—the field of Appomattox;
There we brought the foe to bay
And compelled them to surrender,
All that mighty host in gray.

Then the battle field grew silent,
Ceased the cannons' deafening roar,
Ceased the groans of maimed and
dying,
For the cruel war was o'er.
And we laid aside our armor;
Laid aside both sword and gun,
And were mustered out of service,
And our army life was done.
Ever since in peaceful callings
We have done what we could do,
And at times seem past recalling
That we ever wore the blue.

But we've seen our land united
This fair land we love the best,
From the rivers to the ocean,
North and South and East and West.
So that coming generations
And the poor across the sea
May enjoy a land of freedom
Handed down to you and me.
Yes—we've seen our land united,
And men learn to know its worth,

And our flag is now respected
To the corners of the earth.
We're older, comrades, older
Than in eighteen sixty-one,
When with shoulder touching shoulder
Our long march was first begun.
But our lives have not been wasted
Nor our marches been in vain,
For we've always been united
And our purposes the same.
We've stood for equal justice
On the land and on the sea,
And for purity and honor
And those things that make men free.

Deeds of valour, fame or glory
In the future as the past,
Will be themes for song and story
Just as long as time shall last.
Tell they yet of Yorktown dreary
Where Cornwallis met defeat,
Sing of Perry on Lake Erie
He who sank the English fleet.
So adown the coming ages
Men will not forget the day
Nor the field of Appomattox
Where we brought the foe to bay.

Comrades, age is creeping o'er us,
Bending form and furrowed brow
Tell us that the work before us
We should each be doing now.
For e're long we'll hear the bugle
Over on the Mystic Shore
Bidding us to final roll call
To be mustered out once more.
And when we have crossed the River
Where our souls shall be set free,
May we find each missing comrade
Camped beside the Crystal Sea,
Waiting there for you and me.

Written in 1911 by W.H.H. Polhamus,
who served in the 2nd Ohio Volunteer
Cavalry and is an ancestor of Brother
Fred Leicky of John B. Anderson Camp #223.



Honoring Their Memory With WikiTree

By Travis LeMaster, PCC

As Brothers, one of our missions is to honor the memory of the Boys in Blue. We do this in a number of ways, from Last Veteran projects to records preservation. I want to share with you another option for those with a passion for genealogy – WikiTree.

WikiTree (www.wikitree.com) is a free, collaborative world tree that allows researchers and historians to work together to honor the memory of their ancestors. This is done by creating profiles on the page and adding biographical data, such as birth, death and marriage information, that can be expanded upon by other researchers. I have recently began using WikiTree to document not only my ancestors, but also to create profiles for Civil War soldiers in order to perpetuate their memory.

One benefit of WikiTree is that it is free, so that the data and information is not hidden behind a paywall, such as at Ancestry.com. Because it is not behind a paywall, search engines such as Google can crawl the site and someone searching for a particular ancestor or relative can easily find the link to the WikiTree profile. The greatest benefit is the collaborative nature of the tree, where multiple researchers can add information, pictures or documents about a soldier to flesh out their life story.



Some of the profiles on WikiTree are quite extensive, while others are bare-bones. Privacy controls prevent information about living individuals to be displayed. Checks are in place to make sure that duplicate records are not entered and merges can be initiated.

Currently, I have been participating in the US Civil War Project Monthly Challenges. During these challenges, participants enter/update records for profiles of soldiers who either were at a particular battle or are buried at a National Cemetery. Recent projects deal with Andersonville and the Battle of Shiloh.

My personal project lately has been to create profiles for the soldiers in my ancestor's unit, the 39th Indiana Infantry. Additionally, I've began adding profiles for Past Department Commanders of the Department of Indiana.

I would encourage you to take a moment to check out WikiTree, and if so inclined, join in the fun!





You and your family are cordially invited to the Last Union Veteran Ceremony for

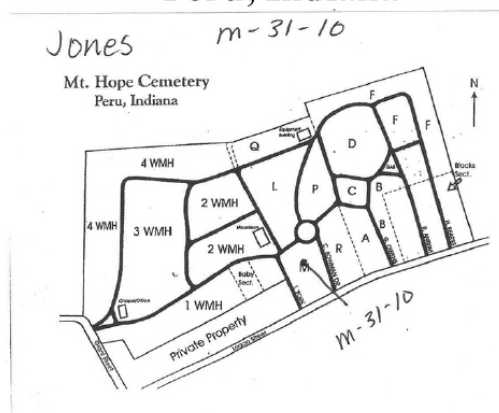
Pvt. Jonathan Jones

Last Union Veteran of Miami County
Company K, 11th Indiana Infantry

Sunday, May 28, 2023

2:00 P.M.

**Mount Hope Cemetery
Peru, Indiana**



**Ceremony Presented by Orlando Somers Camp #1, Kokomo
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW)
Aided by Sons of Veteran Reserves (SVR), Co. D 27th Indiana Infantry**



Please join us as we honor Private Jones

For more information, please email

somerscamp.suvcw@gmail.com



Meet...

Brother Travis LeMaster entered the Order as a member of Orlando A. Somers Camp #1 in February 2020. He claims membership through his paternal 2nd great-grandfather, Luman Walker LeMasters (1842-1931) who served in Company C, 39th Indiana Infantry (later 8th Indiana Cavalry).

Brother LeMaster has served as the Camp Patriotic Instructor since December 2020. He was elected Camp Commander in December 2020 and



served for the 2021 and 2022 calendar year. He currently serves on the Camp Council. Brother LeMaster was elected Junior Vice Commander of the Department at the June 2022 encampment.

Brother LeMaster grew up in Alexandria, Madison County and graduated from Ball State University. He obtained his Masters of Business Administration from Indiana Wesleyan University. He is employed as the Collections Manager for Allegion, based in Carmel, the parent company of Schlage Lock.

Brother LeMaster serves on the Town Council of Sweetser and also on the Grant County Visitor Bureau board. He currently serves as the President of the Grant County Historical Society, and is a member of the Mississinewa Battlefield Society. He enjoys genealogy and is a member of a number of lineage societies, including MOLLUS, the Sons of the American Revolution, the General Society of the War of 1812, Mayflower Society and Society of Indiana Pioneers.

Brother LeMaster has been married to the former Eileen Cummings of Marion, Indiana for 22 years. They met on a blind date arranged by co-workers. Between them they have three daughters and six grandchildren, and enjoy spoiling the grandchildren.

Department and General Orders

Department Orders - Series 2022-2023

#2023-1 - 137th Annual Encampment
Department of Indiana, SUVCW (February 2, 2023)

Department Circulars

#2023-1 - 137th Annual Encampment, Proceedings of the 2022 Mid-Year Encampment, CinC Meeting with Department Commanders, Camp Officer Installations, The Indiana Legion, Department Treasurer (February 13, 2023)

General Orders - Series 2022-2023

#17 - Passing of ASUVCW Past National President Betty J. Baker (January 26, 2023)

#18 - Revocation of General George G. Meade Camp #5 Charter (February 10, 2023)

#19 - Heinous or Infamous Crime Flagging (February 24, 2023)

#20 - Revocation of Joshua L. Chamberlain Camp #69 Charter (March 8, 2023)

#21 - Revocation of General Alvin C. Voris Camp #67 Charter (March 15, 2023)

#22 - Revocation of Colgrove-Woodruff Camp #22 Charter (April 21, 2023)

Special Messages - Series 2022-2023

#1 - SUVCW Promotions and Marketing (October 23, 2022)

#2 - Remembrance Day SVR Breakfast - Call to Arms (October 25, 2022)

#3 - USMC Birthday, Veteran's Day, SUVCW Birthday (November 10, 2022)

#4 - Quartermaster Status (December 30, 2022)

#5 - IRS 501(c)3 Status Update (January 31, 2023)

#6 - New Website Announcement (April 2, 2023)

Full documents are available at <http://suvwin.org> (Department) and <http://suvcw.org> (National).