



The Indiana Legion

DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA • SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
THOMAS L. SCHMITT, COMMANDER

Issue 3-23

August 2023



Brothers of the Department of Indiana:

It is my hope that each of you have had an enjoyable summer and especially were able to spend some time on the Fourth of July thinking about the veterans who made that day possible.

I spent the day with a ladies group cutting fallen trees (with the township trustees' permission, of course) in an abandoned cemetery where nine veterans are buried. We had a nice cookout after working.

I would like to report that the committee on the Indiana Veterans' Home visitation has been making some progress and the committee will be making an in-person visit to determine what we can do as a group to help them. We will keep you informed on what we find out.

On another topic, I plan to set up a committee to investigate the possibility of the Department of Indiana hosting a National Encampment. If you are interested in becoming a member of this committee or in heading it up, please let me know. Even if you do not wish to be a committee member, your input is needed, either for or against the idea. This committee is not to decide whether to host an encampment or not; instead, its function will be to collect information and report to the department members. I will be contacting some of you to see if you would like to be part of this committee.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Tom

137th Annual Encampment Held in April New Department Commander Installed



Newly-Installed Department Officers

The Department of Indiana met in Annual Encampment on April 29, 2023 in Kokomo, Indiana. This encampment followed the newly-revised schedule in which Annual Encampments are held in the spring and Mid-Year Encampments are held in the fall.

The brothers in attendance spent the day attending to the business of the Department and discussing issues to be considered at the National Encampment. At the encampment, outgoing Department Commander James M. Floyd, Jr. turned over the gavel to incoming Department Commander Thomas L. Schmitt. Installing Commander Schmitt and the other Department officers was National Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief (now Commander-in-Chief) Peter J. Hristko, Jr., who also spoke to the brothers about issues at the national level of the Order.

The next department gathering will be the Mid-Year Encampment, to be hosted by John W. Foster Camp #2 on November 4, 2023.



Department of Indiana

Officers

Commander: Thomas L. Schmitt, PCC
Senior Vice Commander: Travis LeMaster, PCC
Junior Vice Commander: David Hoesli, CC
Council Member: Dennis H. Rigsby, PDC
Council Member: J. Alan Teller, PDC
Council Member: Timothy J. Beckman, PDC
Secretary: William R. Adams, PDC
Assistant Secretary: Jonathan Swarts
Treasurer: Dennis C. Hutchinson, PDC
Patriotic Instructor: Brian Mexin
Chaplain: J. Alan Teller, PDC
Graves Registration Officer: David Hoesli, CC
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

August

19: Last Union Veteran of Elkhart County
Ceremony (SVR)
South Union Cemetery
Nappanee, Indiana
1:00 a.m. EDT

September

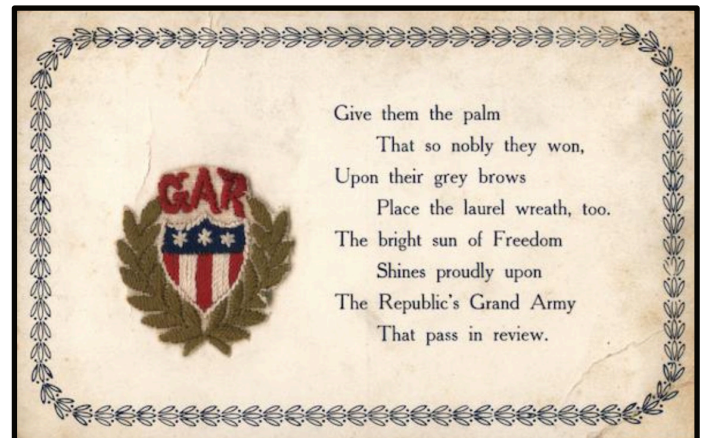
23: Last Union Veteran of Vanderburgh County
Ceremony (SVR)
Locust Hill Cemetery
Evansville, Indiana
1:00 p.m. CDT

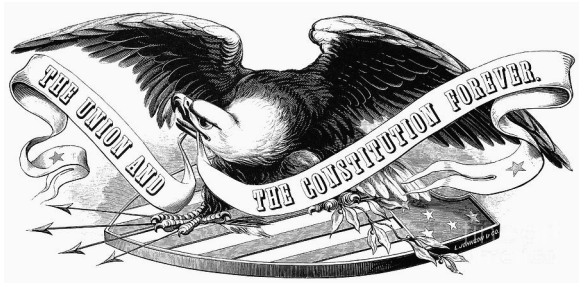
November

4: Department of Indiana Mid-Year Encampment
Newburgh, Indiana
9:30 a.m. CDT

18: 67th Annual Remembrance Day Parade (SVR)
Gettysburg, Pennsylvania
1:00 p.m. EST

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





PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTION

BRIAN MEXIN, PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Reuben Lancaster - Private to Captain

I have recently learned of another Union veteran in my family tree—one who has prompted my recent application to join the Indiana Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS). This application was prepared by the MOLLUS Registrar-in-Chief, Jeff Lilly, an SUVCW brother and former member of Ben Harrison Camp #356. Jeff was great to work with and I would encourage any interested brothers to reach out to him as well.

Reuben Lancaster was born on June 14, 1842, on a farm north of Georgetown, Kentucky. His grandfather was born in Virginia and moved to Scott County to create a farm out of the wilderness. His father Lewis bought land near the old home place and made a farm of his own and seems to have owned slaves. Upon the death of his parents, Reuben lived with a couple of uncles and another fellow before enlisting in Co. B, 6th Kentucky Cavalry as a private in September 1861. He served in the battles of Chickamauga, Mission Ridge, the Siege of Atlanta, and all the principal battles fought by the Army of the Cumberland. He received his commission as a captain in 1864 and commanded Co. B until his honorable discharge from the army in September 1865.

Captain Lancaster moved to Cass County, Illinois in 1866. He farmed, served as a deputy sheriff, worked in the livery business, and served as a postmaster. On March 11, 1880, he married Sue Heaton, and they had two children. Reuben was reportedly a staunch Republican, member of Dawning Post #321 of the GAR, a member of the Christian Church, and the former quartermaster at the Soldiers' Home. He died on January 10, 1917 at his home in Virginia, Illinois of heart trouble. Notice of his death published in the *Shelby County News-Gazette* included a reference to him as the youngest commissioned officer of the Union army during the Civil War.

This is about all that I know of my first cousin, but it is more than I know of my other Union veteran ancestors to date!

New Department Commander Thomas L. Schmitt Speaks to the Legion

Legion: Tell us a little about yourself and your background. You're a Buckeye—so how did you make it from Ohio to Indiana?

DC Schmitt: I grew up in a small town not too far from the Indiana state line. After school, I fooled around with a few jobs, then after two years I joined the Marine Corps. I never considered any other branch of service. I really did not know anyone who was in the Marines; I just thought it was what I wanted. After six years in the Marine Corps, I came home, but there really was no work in the little town. I decided to go to school in Tulsa, Oklahoma studying aircraft maintenance. I then transferred to Columbus, Ohio. There I received an airframe and power plant license. Working in Columbus on aircraft for ten years, I found there was more money in working on construction





equipment. I was offered a job in Fort Wayne by a rental company that was opening a location there because of the building of the new GM truck plant. I had never been to Indiana before, and I thought I would stay for about six months to a year then find something back in Ohio. I drove back and forth from Ohio for about a year, but I stayed with that rental company for thirty-two years and retired from there four years ago. I had planned to move back to Ohio as I have some property there. But I started volunteering at the National Veterans Memorial Shrine and Museum where I am now a board member. It keeps me busy and I enjoy being there—so I guess I am staying here! I belong to twenty-three veteran/history groups and am very active in about six of them.

Legion: Tell us a little about your military service. Was it your service that led you to become so dedicated to supporting veterans?

DC Schmitt: I joined the Marine Corps because I thought it was something that I needed to do. I always had great respect for veterans. I think being so dedicated to veterans is what caused me to join—not the other way around. I do not come from a military family, though I did have an uncle that served in the Army. After boot camp and aircraft schools, I was sent on a three-year tour of duty in Hawaii. I was air crew on CH-46 helicopters and after some time ran the engine shop for those helicopters. I did not like Hawaii and tried to get out of there whenever I could. I spent most of the time on small helicopter carriers. I completed three WestPac (Western Pacific) cruises, which I really enjoyed—and it got me out of Hawaii. After serving six years all over Asia and the Pacific, the Marine Corps decided I needed to come back to the continental United States. I did not want to do that and my enlistment was almost up. I thought that if I said I was going to get out if I had to go back to the US, they would let me stay. Wrong! Before I realized it, I was out and back home. I really had no intention of getting out. I really enjoyed my time in the Marines and am very proud of what I accomplished.

Legion: How did you get involved with the SUVCW?

DC Schmitt: I was at a German club in Fort Wayne and I saw one of the musicians was wearing a Civil War uniform. So I went to ask him what that was all about, as I had a lot of interest in the Civil War. He said he had just come from an SUVCW meeting. I had never heard of the SUVCW. His name was Eric Fricke. He took me to the next SUVCW meeting and to the Civil War Roundtable. Eric and I became very good friends and we went to all kinds of Civil War events together. Eric had a lot to do with my staying in Indiana. Sadly, Eric has passed. I still honor him at special events by wearing his Civil War uniform pants.

Legion: As the new Department Commander, what vision or plans do you have for the Department?

DC Schmitt: I would like to see a return to our traditional meetings, rituals, and ceremonies. I would like to see the Department attend more public events and work with other veterans groups—the idea being to get our name out into the public and let people know who we are and what we do. I think taking care of monuments and headstones is something we need to continue doing, along with the Graves Registration project.

Legion: What do you see as the biggest opportunity and challenges facing the Order?

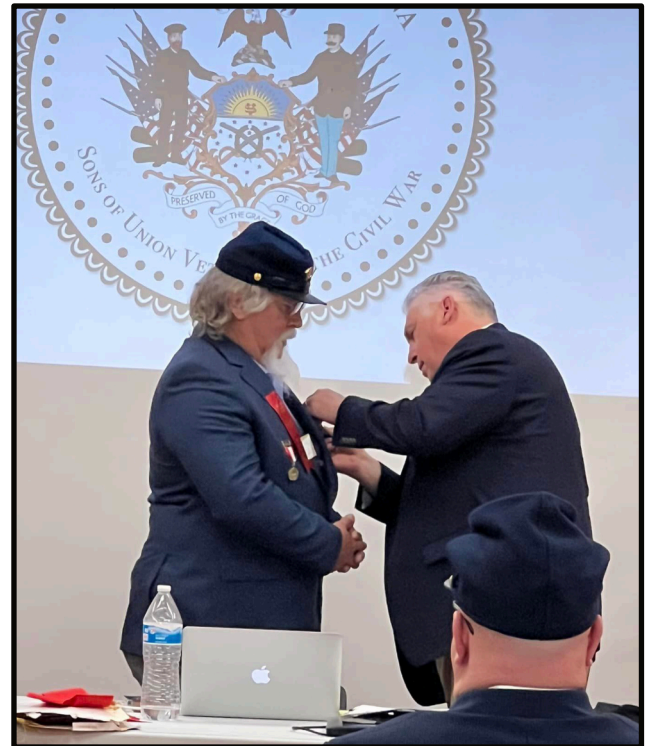
DC Schmitt: With all the honor and respect being shown for veterans at this time, I think there is a great opportunity for the SUVCW to grow and become a publicly respected organization. We just need to let people know we are here. As for challenges, I think the recruitment of younger members is very important. This is something we must work on as much as possible. Most groups are having trouble getting younger members to join. We need to make them feel welcome and welcome their opinions.

Legion: What is the most important thing you'd like to communicate to the brothers of the Department of Indiana?

DC Schmitt: That we represent a very honorable and brave group of men. It is our duty to honor and remember them! We should be very proud of what we do to honor them, and hope that what we do makes them proud of us.



More Scenes from the 137th Annual Department Encampment





CAMP DISPATCHES

ORLANDO A. SOMERS CAMP #1

Last Union Veteran of Miami County Honored

On May 29, 2023, Orlando A. Somers Camp #1 honored the Last Union Soldier of Miami County, buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Peru, Indiana. Pvt. Jonathan Jones served in Co. K, 11th Indiana Volunteers, having enlisted at the age of 15. Aided by members of the SVR, the ceremony was live-streamed to a descendant of the soldier.



SVR color guard commanded by
Cpt. Mike Beck, PDC



Lt. Col. Alan Teller, PDC



Lt. Col. Alan Teller, PDC and
Camp Commander Drew
Godby

JOHN AUTEN CAMP #8

Last Union Veteran's Grave in Warsaw, Indiana Dedicated

The last Civil War veteran buried in Kosciusko County, Indiana was recognized with a graveside dedication and ceremony on June 10, 2023. The ceremony and dedication took place in the Oakwood Cemetery in Warsaw under the direction of John Auten Camp #8, South Bend.

The Last Veteran of Kosciusko County, Isaac W. Sharp, was a Private who served in Co. G, 1st Ohio Cavalry. He was born March 9, 1848 in Troy, Ohio. He was elected to two terms (1942-1943) as Department of Indiana GAR Commander from Kosciusko Post #114 in Warsaw, Indiana. At the 78th Annual Encampment of the GAR in Des Moines, Iowa, he was elected Commander-in-Chief. He died on November 10, 1946 at the age of 98.



Elizabeth Thurston, President of Arsinoe Martin Circle #78 LGAR led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. Brother Will Radell of John Auten Camp sang "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Special guest Dan Copen, Kosciusko County Historian, spoke on the life of Isaac Sharp.

Brother Alan Hall of John Auten Camp presented and placed the Last Union Veteran marker. Wreaths were presented by Arsinoe Martin Circle #78 LGAR, Elkhart; Orlando A. Somers Camp #1, Kokomo; Department of Indiana, SUVCW; John Auten Camp #8, South Bend; and Champion Hill Camp #17, Huntington.

The 27th Indiana SVR, under the direction of Lt. Col. Alan Teller presented the Colors and fired the rifle salute. The program concluded with the playing of Taps.



SVR color guard commanded by
Lt. Col. Alan Teller, PDC

Commander Tom Schmitt Receives Memorial University Certificate

Thomas L. Schmitt, Department of Indiana Commander and Sr. Vice Commander of John Auten Camp #8, was recognized at the July 11, 2023 meeting of the camp.

Camp Patriotic Instructor Brother Alan Hall presented Brother Schmitt with the SUVCW's Memorial University certificate for completion of the "Officer Training Course." The course is designed to enhance participants' understanding of the SUVCW Constitution, Regulations, Ritual, and job descriptions.

Congratulations to Department Commander Schmitt for this honor. Commander Schmitt urged everyone to consider taking time to also take this course. He said it would be very beneficial to any Brother in better understanding the SUVCW as a whole.



DC Tom Schmitt receives his certificate from camp Patriotic Instructor Alan Hall



The Original Memorial University in Mason City, Iowa

CHAMPION HILL CAMP #17

Three Ancestors Honored in Lafayette

Four brothers of Champion Hill Camp #17 traveled to Lafayette's Greenbush Cemetery on July 29, 2023, to place markers at the graves of three Civil War soldiers from Tippecanoe County. Braving rain, humidity, and heat, Brothers Don Morgan, Phil Dyer, Tom Schmitt, DC and Gib Young, PDC placed markers at the graves of three of Brothers Young's ancestors.

The first soldier honored was Pvt. Charles Felix of the 16th Indiana Battery, the great-great-grandfather of Brother Young. Just down from Charles is a son, Ranzo Felix, also of the 16th Indiana Battery, and another son, William Felix of the 150th Indiana Infantry. Flowers and a flag were placed at the graves. (Another son, Charles Felix, served with the 10th Indiana Infantry [3 months] and then joined the 16th Indiana Battery and is buried at the Marion Soldiers' Home cemetery.) Also in attendance was Larry Felix, a great-great-great grandson of Charles, Gwen Brandenburg, a fourth great-granddaughter, and Gabriel Brandenburg, a fifth great-grandson.

After the markers, flags, and flowers were put down, the group went over to the monument on the north side of the cemetery where the Union soldiers killed in a train wreck in 1864 and Confederate soldiers who died on the way to a prison camp in 1862 are remembered. Flowers and an American flag were placed in front of monument to all the soldiers buried in a single long line in the cemetery.

After the time at the cemetery, Brothers Schmitt and Young visited with an official at the Indiana Veterans' Home and did a short tour of the facility.



(L to R) Brothers Gib Young, PDC; Don Morgan; Phil Dyer; Tom Schmitt, DC



(L to R) Brothers Gib Young, PDC; Gabriel Brandenburg; Larry Felix; Gwen Brandenburg

WILLIAM P. BENTON CAMP #28

Last Union Veteran of Union County Honored

On July 15, 2023, William P. Benton Camp #28 dedicated a plaque to the memory of Alexander P. Cook, the Last Union Veteran of Union County. Cook was a Private in Co. D, 9th Indiana Cavalry, enlisting at the age of 16. He died on June 2, 1940 at the age of 93. The ceremony took place at the Salem Church cemetery in Liberty, Indiana.



(L to R) Brothers Brian Kelly; Nate Rigsby; Tom Ashley; Parker Weiss; Dennis Rigsby, PDC



DAVID D. PORTER CAMP #116

Memorial Day Concert in Valparaiso

On May 29, 2023, David D. Porter Camp #116 participated in the seventeenth annual Valparaiso Memorial Day Concert at the Valparaiso Memorial Opera House along with the Valparaiso Community Band and local Girl Scout troops. The program included: Brother Andy Doyle read the opening prayer; Brother Garland Hicks read the Gettysburg Address; Brother Herb Smith, Camp Commander, read General Logan's General Order #11; Brother Pat Doyle read "Civil War Soldier" by Robert Henry Miller; Brother Scott MacDonald read "Sergeant Carney's Flag;" and Brothers Pat Cave, Larry Hautzinger and candidate Wayne Carr participated in the flag folding ceremony. The venue of the Memorial Opera House is quite significant to our Order as it was built by the Chaplain Brown Post #106 of the GAR in 1893 and later donated to the community. GAR meetings took place there in the GAR Room and Porter Camp of the SUVCW has now resumed meeting there again.



Brothers Pat Cave (facing), Wayne Carr (with back turned), Larry Hautzinger (at podium) at Valparaiso Opera House



Brother Pat Cave cleaning headstones



Brother Ken Pearman cleaning headstones

Headstone Cleaning

On June 7, 2023, Porter Camp cleaned Civil War tombstones at the West Creek Cemetery near Lowell, Indiana.

Juneteenth Celebration

On June 13, 2023, Porter Camp, along with John Auten Camp #8 participated in the First Annual Juneteenth Celebration at Indiana University Northwest. Juneteenth is a national holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. Brother Will Radell (pictured at right) read General John A. Logan's General Order #11 at the ceremony.





JOHN B. ANDERSON CAMP #223

“Talking Tombstones” Share Civil War Experiences with the Public

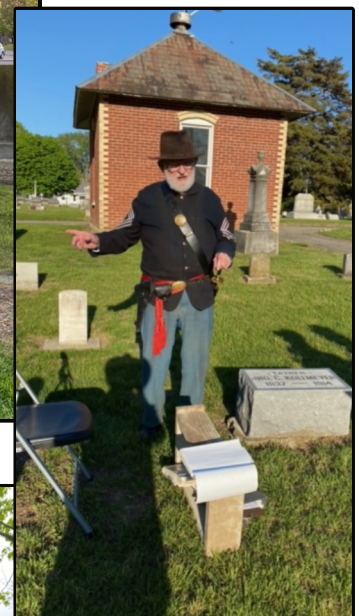
A few of the Civil War soldiers who are buried in the Columbus City Cemetery, Bartholomew County, came back to life for a few hours on May 4, 2023 as the Bartholomew County Historical Society’s (BCHS) fund raiser, “Talking Tombstones,” unfolded.

John B. Anderson Camp #223 has been working with the BCHS and volunteered to help with this event. A list of veterans buried in that cemetery was circulated and participants were asked which soldier they wanted to portray. The idea was that we would stand by our tombstone and, as guests came through, we would share our story and answer questions about our lives during that time. It was a most impressive first-person presentation.

We were told to prepare about five minutes of material and that during the two-and-a-half hour event, we would probably give that talk about five times. In reality, each of us gave our stories about every five minutes!

Brother Terry Furgason (right, top) portrayed Colonel Simeon Stansifer, who was appointed by President Lincoln to serve as the Provost Marshal. He was also the Commandant of Camp Rendezvous. Brother Pete Dieterlen (right, second from top) portrayed Private Jacob Franklin Pancake of Co. H, 53rd Indiana Infantry. Brother Fred Leickly (right, third from top) represented Major August H. Abbott of the 6th Indiana Infantry, who died leading his troops at Munfordville, Kentucky. Brother Phil McClure (right, fourth from top) stood guard over the GAR memorial to the unknown dead, representing all soldiers from the county who fought in the war. Brother Jeff Maudlin (right, fifth from top) was also in uniform and was our rover, helping wherever needed.

This was the first time the BCHS has sponsored such an event. It was unique in its perspective and a huge success. As Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, the brothers were honored to play a small part in helping inform the public about the lives and sacrifices made by our local Boys in Blue.





Salute Article Features John B. Anderson Camp

A tradition for Memorial Day for many years in Columbus, Indiana has been the annual “Salute” program. On the County Courthouse lawn, the Columbus Philharmonic Orchestra provides a musical tribute to the men and women who served and ultimately sacrificed their lives for us.

The Republic, the local newspaper, jumpstarts the weekend with their “SALUTE – A Tribute to Those Who Have Served” section. Usually, the articles feature stories from current veterans, honoring fallen heroes, interviews with military families, and testimonials.

This year they did something different. On May 25, 2023, the *Republic* included a special article on the project that John B. Anderson Camp #223 has been involved in to fill a void in our county regarding those who sacrificed their lives during the Civil War.

An electronic version of the “Salute” section can be found here: https://issuu.com/indysouthmagazine/docs/052523cr_salute_lo/2

Currently, there is no memorial to Bartholomew County’s Civil War dead. Brothers Fred Leickly and Jeff Maudlin have been working to correct that wrong. Previous publications from the 1990s listed anywhere from 240 to 270 who had fallen. When a memorial was planned for the plaza in Columbus, the decision was made not to include those names. Among the reasons given were that the war was so long ago, the names of the fallen would not be recognized by modern residents and would not be as important as names from recent wars, and that there were too many names to include.

Using better search techniques, Brothers Leickly and Maudlin have found close to four hundred soldiers who were either born, lived, died, or are buried in Bartholomew County. In the article, Brother Maudlin pointed out how the war shaped our nation and emphasized the importance of the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments, which ended slavery, granted African Americans the right to be full citizens and vote, and ensured equal protection under the law.

The *Republic* article ended with a quote from Brother Leickly: “Sometimes things etched in stone do become unrecognizable—the message is lost, forever. Time and the elements have taken their toll on the gravestones of those sons of Bartholomew County who gave their lives during the Civil War. We need to do something to create some memorial to recognize this group of men and boys who helped define our country.” Lest we forget.





Rededication of GAR Monument to the Unknown Soldier

On Flag Day, June 14, 2023, John B. Anderson Camp #223 rededicated a memorial to the Unknown Soldier in the GAR section of Columbus City Cemetery. The rededication focused on the placement of three plaques, each covering the original inscriptions that were no longer legible.

The site was prepared. A silken flag that was used for many years by the Indiana 49th re-enacting group covered the memorial. A banner from the original GAR post was posted close by.

The ceremony intentionally copied the initial dedication, the best we could, from Decoration Day, 1895. A brother discovered a copy of the local newspaper that fully described the event of 128 years ago.

The tone was set with the reading of the news of that day so many years ago by the master of ceremonies, Brother Frederick Leickly. The camp brothers took on the roles of brothers long departed. Brother Phillip McClure, acting as Major Strickland, representing Isham Keith GAR Post #13, unveiled the memorial and shared its story and read the inscriptions. The memorial was originally presented by three brothers of the Keith Post, Brothers W.T. Strickland, George Clutch, and B.M Hutchins, who paid for the memorial. Brother Maudlin acting as Major Glick of the GAR accepted the "gift" and then gave the same speech honoring the unknown dead that was given on that site in May 1895. There were two divine blessings given by Camp Commander Pete Dieterlen and Brother Kirk Womack. Representing the Women's Relief Corps, cosponsor of the memorial, was Sister Linda Leickly who portrayed Mrs. Dr. Hawley. She read the WRC ritual poem, "Rest." Brothers Terry Furgason and Michael Ochs were present as members of the honor guard.



The original dedication had young girls lay evergreens and flowers around the memorial. Not having any young girls to do this, we asked those who came to share this moment to do this. There were about fifteen spectators who honored us by helping with the ceremony. Evergreens and flowers were placed.

In lieu of the band, Cpt. Michael Beck of Co. D, 27th Indiana SVR lead a firing of three volleys.





BEN HARRISON CAMP #356

Camp Annual Cemetery Work Day

Ben Harrison Camp #356 conducted its annual cemetery work day at Eagle Creek Cemetery located in Westfield, Hamilton County, on May 13, 2023. Three stones were reset and cleaned and another seven stones were just cleaned. This is a two-year project as there are many more stones that need to be reset and cleaned.



(L to R) Brothers Raymond Brown, Brian Mexin, Garry Walls, Joe Beckman. Not pictured: Tim Beckman, PDC

New WWII Veteran Gravestone Installed

On May 20, 2023, the camp installed a small granite headstone in the Williams Creek Cemetery, located on the north side of Indianapolis, for Denzil Neville. Neville was a World War II veteran who died in 1975 and had been without a headstone since his death. Two of his granddaughters were in attendance and were very thankful for all the camp's work in getting his grave marked.



Back Row (L to R): Brothers Joe Beckman; Tim Beckman, PDC; Garry Walls. Front Row: Denzil Neville's granddaughters.



Triple Ceremony Day Upcoming in Fort Wayne

There are three Civil War events planned for the near future in the Fort Wayne area—all to be held on the same day (date to be determined).

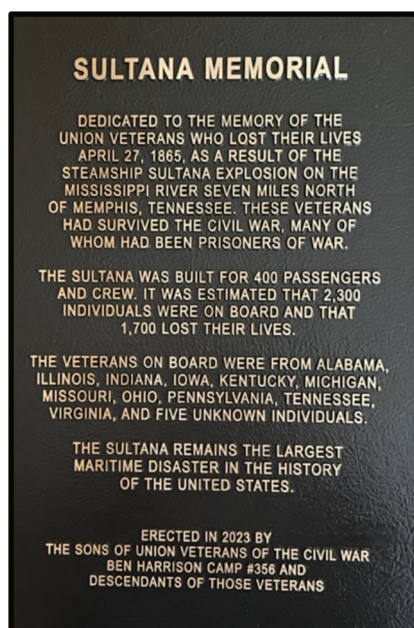
The first will be held at Lindenwood Cemetery in Fort Wayne. The other two will be held on the grounds of the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum a few miles away. The ceremonies are being held on the same day to limit the number of trips that groups would need to make and to encourage a larger number of people to attend.

Lindenwood Cemetery will see the dedication of the headstone of Pvt. Daniel H. Amsden of Co. B, 12th Indiana Cavalry. This veteran had been in an unmarked grave since 1881. However, thanks to the efforts of Department Commander Tom Schmitt who discovered the unmarked grave and determined to rectify the situation, Pvt. Amsden now has a new headstone to be dedicated on that day.

The group will then travel to the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum to dedicate a new monument to the *Sultana* disaster—the steamship explosion that took the lives of over 1,700 recently-released Union prisoners of war on April 25, 1865. The monument and its placement at the Veterans Memorial are the results of the efforts of Brothers Bruce Kolb, PDC, Tim Beckman, PDC, and Tom Schmitt, DC. (See January 2023 *Legion* for a story on the monument.)

The third and final ceremony will be the dedication of the new Civil War Monument that has taken its place alongside the other commemorative monuments on the grounds of the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum.

The date of these ceremonies has not been set at this time but will be announced shortly.





John W. Foster Camp No. 2

Department of Indiana
Sons of Union Veterans
of the Civil War
Evansville, Indiana

Invitation

*Join us in honoring the Last Union Veteran to be buried in Vanderburgh County, Indiana
on*

Saturday, September 23, 2023

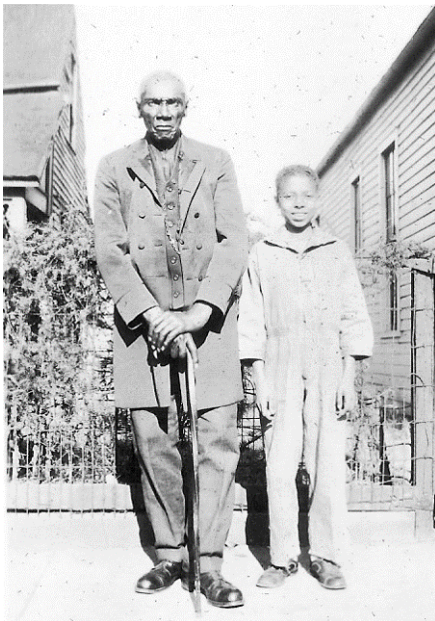
1:00 PM CST

Locust Hill Cemetery

3800 Kratzville Road

Evansville, Indiana

Coordinates: 38.01250, -87.58170



Corporal George W. Winlock was born in Logan County, Kentucky, in December of 1845. He enlisted as Private in Company C, 115th U.S. Colored Infantry on August 15, 1864, at Bowling Green, Kentucky. He was promoted to Corporal on December 1, 1865. He served until February 10, 1866, mustering out at Indianola, Texas. Corporal Winlock was the last surviving member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Fort Wagner Post No. 581 at Evansville, Indiana. While a member of the Fort Wagner Post, he served as Junior Vice Commander, Chaplain, and Delegate. He died on June 10, 1939, at the age of 91.

Biography & photo courtesy of Doretha Diefenbach-Hines

Please RSVP by September 10, 2023, if you plan to attend.

RSVP to:
David Hoesli
swincoll@hotmail.com



Frederick A. (Fred) Karst, 87, a journalist and writer died December 18, 2022. He was a member of David D. Porter Camp #116. Among other things, he owned several newspapers and traveled extensively. Sgt. John Michel, Co. I, 11th Missouri Volunteer Infantry was his Civil War ancestor.

Longtime member of Champion Hill Camp #17, **James Harrold Perry**, 82, was born September 21, 1940 and died March 19, 2023. Living most of his life in Warren, Indiana, he owed his membership in the SUVCW to Pvt. Lewis Harold of Co. E, 79th Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

One of the older members of Ben Harrison Camp #356, **John Joseph Copeland**, 89, passed away July 1, 2023. His membership in the SUVCW was based on his great-great-grandfather, Sgt. Moses B. Pike, Co. D, 70th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. See tribute to Brother Copeland below.

A Tribute to Brother John J. Copeland

1942-2023

Brother John Joseph Copeland passed away on July 1, 2023. He was born on June 2, 1942 to Russell Bly Copeland and Mary Esther Pike in Plainfield, Indiana. He was a 1960 graduate of Plainfield High School. After graduation, Brother Copeland served in the U.S. Army, receiving the SP4 Sharpshooter recognition while stationed at Fort Hamilton, NY before serving in Germany during the Cold War. John later worked for the Plainfield Police Department and then with the Chrysler Corporation as a night patrol officer until his retirement in the early 1990s. Brother Copeland married Janice Hallett and had three children, Russ, Sean and Carla. John would later marry Nancy Dayhuff, who had a daughter, Angie.



Proud to be a patriot, Brother Copeland was involved in a number of military and fraternal organizations, including: Ben Harrison Camp #356 of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (a member since 1998); the 16th Infantry Regimental Association, from which he was recognized with a Distinguished Member Medal; the Indianapolis Civil War Roundtable; the Indianapolis World War II Roundtable; the American Legion; the Society of the First Infantry Division/The Big Red One; and Odd Fellows McCarty Lodge #233 in Plainfield.

With a passion for history, especially the Civil War era, Brother Copeland participated in many Civil War reenactments, living history events, and presentations at his children's elementary schools. He was involved with his children's sports activities by being a coach, a referee, and sideline supporter. He also enjoyed playing cards and Yahtzee with family and friends. Brother Copeland was a man that loved the Lord and will be remembered as a compassionate, gentle, generous, and loving man. He is survived by his wife of forty-six years, Nancy (Dayhuff) Copeland; sons, John/Russ (Pam) and Sean (Eva); daughters, Carla and Angie; as well as six grandchildren, Darragh, Matt, Ashla, Mel, Ella and Aidan.



Two Medal of Honor Recipients from the 51st Indiana

By J. Alan Teller, PDC

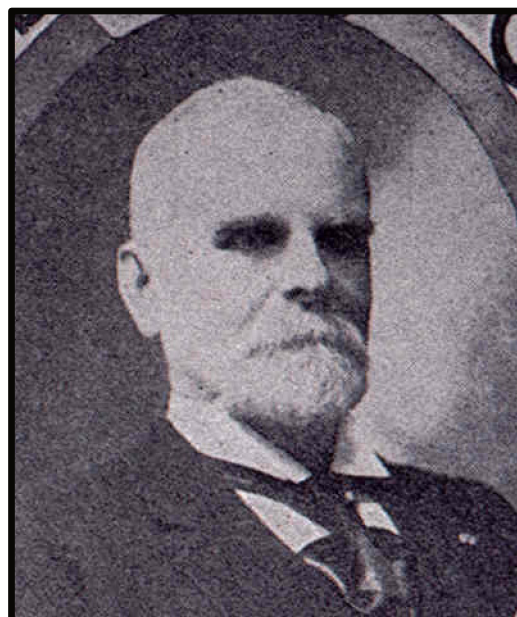
Marion T. Anderson was born in Decatur County, Indiana on November 13, 1839. He entered into Civil War service at Kokomo, Indiana when he enlisted in the 51st Indiana Volunteer Infantry on December 14, 1861. He was twenty-two years of age when he was mustered in as the 1st Sergeant for Company D. He was promoted to 2nd Lt. on April 30, 1862, then to Captain and Commander of Co. D on December 11, 1862.

Captain Anderson led Co. D at the Battle of Nashville, Tennessee on December 16, 1864. Despite receiving serious wounds at Nashville, he served through the end of the conflict, and resigned his commission on June 16, 1865, having fought and led men in the field for over three years. The Medal of Honor was awarded to him for his actions at Nashville on September 1, 1893, twenty-nine years later. His citation reads, "Led his regiment over five lines of the enemy's works, where he fell severely wounded." He died on February 7, 1904, at the age of sixty-four and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He was one of two 51st Indiana officers to be awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery during the Civil War.

The other was Milton F. Russell of Company A. Russell, a native of Hendricks County, Indiana, served as Captain and Commander of Company A, 51st Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his bravery in action at the Battle of Stones River, Tennessee on December 29, 1862. His citation reads "Was the first man to cross Stone River and, in the face of a galling fire from the concealed skirmishers of the enemy, led his men up the hillside, driving the opposing skirmishers before them." Russell received his medal on September 28, 1897.



Capt. Marion T. Anderson



Capt. Milton F. Russell



The Religion of Lincoln

By William Henry Harrison Polhamus

When the chain, and the lash and fierce baying hounds
Held captive men purchased with gold;
Where with Liberty's Bell there mingled the sound
Of their sweat, and their blood, crying out from the
ground,
Like Abel's, in that ancient story renowned,
Or Rachel, in Bethlehem old;
When the crack of the whip, and the cry of the slave,
Caused each freeman's heart to stand still;
When Tooms made his boast that a roll-call he'd have
Of those human chattels he held as his slaves,
And number them off, where our forefathers brave
Defended far-famed "Bunker Hill;"
When under the law, at the slave-holder's beck,
We had to run fugitives down,
When Boston mobbed Burns, and then threatened to
wreck
Like vengeance on Garrison, Phillips and Peck,
And such men as Lovejoy were dragged by the neck
Through the streets of a small western town;
When torn from their children, with sad streaming
face,
E'en mothers were sold on the "block;"
When girls forced to yield to their master's embrace,
And the child of his passion, shame, and disgrace,
Was sold by its father, with unblushing face,
Humanity quailed 'neath the shock.
It was then, and not 'till then, we 'woke from our sleep,
And peered through the mist and the fog,
And saw a huge storm-cloud from out the South sweep,
And the fierce blinding lightning-flash up from it leap,
And our ear caught the sound of a wail wild and deep,
That had reached to the quick ear of God;
Ah, then, how the eyes of God swept to and fro
Through the earth, to discover a man
Who would lead His dark children from bondage and
woe,
And their fetters break off—their oppressors o'erthrown,
And He found such an one out at Springfield; you
know,
It was Lincoln, "our own Abraham."
He was awkward and tall, he was rustic and plain,
He was modest in speech and in dress,
He was kindly to all, and the meanest might claim
A right to be heard, and their cause to maintain,
While with old and decrepit, the sick and the lame,
He shared in their woe and distress;
His creed was not long, his profession not much,

But his love was as broad as the sea;
'Though reared amidst hardships, privation and such,
Yet, somehow, his great, tender heart felt the touch
Of each sob, and each sign of the soul in the clutch
Of oppression, who'er they might be;
He was sturdy and brave, he was simple and grand,
And his creed knew no color or race;
He was made in God's image, and saw in each man
That look which revealed just one great mighty plan
Of the One who created, to weave ev'ry strand
In one fabric—each filling its place.
He, too, like the All Loving Father above,
Had heard the poor bondman's strong prayer;
He, too, like the Father, had felt that great love
And that pity for them, and resolved to remove
The fetters that bound them, and life them above
Their darkness, and gloom and despair.
He dared to do right—that alone made him great;
He dared to be standing alone;
He dared e'en to pilot the great ship of State
Through the mad turbid waters of malice and hate,
And 'midst the fierce breakers to hold her course straight,
'Till the last angry billow had flown.
He dared to be humble, he dared to be kind;
He dared to be honest and true;
He dared to be leading ahead of his time;
He dared to trust God, with a faith most sublime.
Do you know of a man with more virtues that shine?
Pray tell me his name, if you do.
Such was Lincoln's religion—not much, you may say,
But I think it full and complete;
More practical far than most of his day,
Or than one often meets with on life's rugged way,
And I cannot help think that the Great Judgment Day
Will find him at Christ's blessed feet;
For I read in God's word that the *true test* will be,
When Christ and His angels shall come
To give swift reward without further delay
To all who have plodded along earth's rough way,
Not the songs we may sing, nor the prayers we may say,
But just simply *what we have done*.

Written in 1902 by W.H.H. Polhamus,
who served in the 2nd Ohio Volunteer
Cavalry and is an ancestor of Brother
Fred Leickly of John B. Anderson Camp #223.

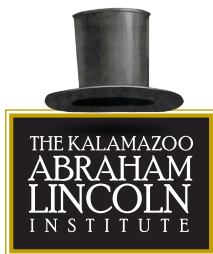
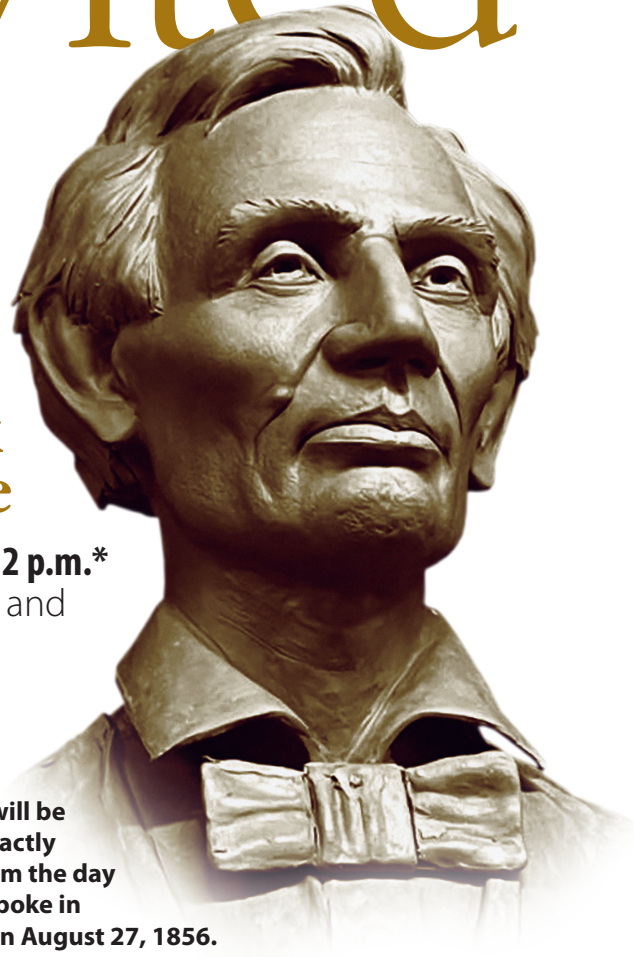


You Are Invited

**TO A JOYFUL
CELEBRATION**
of the Dedication
and Unveiling of

**Kalamazoo's
Bronson Park
Lincoln Statue**

Sunday, August 27, 2023 at 2 p.m.*
Bring your family, friends, and
folding chairs!



***The statue will be
dedicated exactly
167 years from the day
Mr. Lincoln spoke in
Kalamazoo on August 27, 1856.**



Special music by the Dodworth Saxhorn Band – America's Premier 19th Century Brass Band.
Guest soloist Alfrellynn Roberts.

Donations can be made online at www.KalamazooLincolnInstitute.org.

The Kalamazoo Abraham Lincoln Institute is a Michigan 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.



Meet...

Brother David Hoesli entered the Order as a member of Ben Harrison Camp #356 in August 2012. He transferred to John W. Foster Camp #2 on July 26, 2014, shortly after the Camp was established and has recently joined Co. D, 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, SVR.

He has been an active participant on the SUCVW Graves Registration database, entering nearly 3700 veterans since 2012. In June of 2020, he was appointed as the Department of Indiana Graves Registration Officer. He has been the Commander of John W. Foster Camp #2 since June 2020. In addition to being the Camp Commander, he is also the Camp Graves Registration Officer and Memorials Officer. He was elected as the Junior Vice Commander of the Department of Indiana in April of this year.



Brother David was born in Perry County, Indiana and grew up in Evansville. He graduated with honors from Indiana State University with a degree in the Development of Human Resources and completed a Master of Science Degree from Indiana State University with concentrated studies in Organizational Development.

He traces his direct Civil War lineage to his third great-grandfather, Pvt. John Garrick, who was a member of Co. I, 81st Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Pvt. Garrick was killed on the second day of battle at Chickamauga and is believed to be buried in an unknown grave at Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Brother David was previously employed as a maintenance manager for a civil marine contractor, but has since retired. He is a past President of the Perry County Museum in Cannelton, Indiana. He has been involved in several cemetery projects across southwest Indiana, including cannon and monument restorations, and takes great pride in the replacement of just under eight hun-

Department and General Orders

General Orders - Series 2022-2023

#23 - Temporary Replacement of Brother Christopher Workman (May 12, 2023)

#24 - Weapons Regulation (May 21, 2023)
(Overturned by the 142nd National Encampment)

#24(a) - Weapons Regulation (Amended, Search Clause Added) (August 1, 2023).
(Overturned by the 142nd National Encampment)

#25 - Memorial Day (May 28, 2023)

#26 - Department of Ohio Proposed Change to C&R (June 13, 2023)

#27 - Department of NY Proposed Change to C&R (June 16, 2023)

Special Orders - Series 2022-2023

#2 - SUCVW Logins & Passwords (June 12, 2023)

#3 - National Quartermaster Shop (June 16, 2023)

Special Messages - Series 2022-2023

#7 - Passing of MOLLUS Past Commander-in-Chief Douglas R. Niermeyer (June 29, 2023)

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

dred military headstones in Indiana and Kentucky since 1994.

He enjoys writing articles on local Civil War history and is currently researching the Civil War military hospitals at Evansville and the surrounding area. Besides doing Civil War research, he enjoys metal detecting Civil War campsites and when time allows, working on classic and antique cars.

He has been married almost forty-seven years to the former Ginger Wilson of Carmi, Illinois and together they have three children and eight grandchildren. More than the passions previously mentioned, he enjoys spending time with his family.