

138th Annual Encampment

April 27, 2024

Department Officer, Camp, and
Department Committee Reports



Department of Indiana

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Thomas L. Schmitt
Department Commander

Department Officer Reports



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS

Department of Indiana

OFFICE OF THE

Commander

Thomas L. Schmitt
2326 Northway Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46845
(260) 610-5297

E-Mail: FXB443@gmail.com



It is my pleasure and privilege to submit this report on the activities of the Department of Indiana Commander, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. For the time period Nov 4, 2023 to April 27, 2024.

During this time period I attended meetings of 6 of 8 camps in person and one additional camp via Zoom. I met a lot of great brothers, most of whom I had never seen before. After doing this I realized how strong and hard working this organization really is, I was completely surprised by all of the different projects and activities that were being worked on. I had no clue of all these projects and this activity. Finding this made me realize just how much the Department and Camps do for their communities and veterans that no one knows about. I feel the Camps need to be more open about what they are doing so they can receive the recognition they deserve.

One common thing I heard at almost every location was that it was hard to get other camps to attend or help with their events. For myself I feel that Camps need to do a better job of announcing an event, no one will attend if they do not know it is happening.

Activities of the Department Commander

November 4 -- As Department Commander I lead the mid-year encampment at that time I had the pleasure of handing out four Certificates of Commendation to the following

William Adams PDC - Departmental Secretary

Jonathan Swartz- Indiana Legion Editor

Brian Mexin - Patriotic Instructor

David Hoesli - Graves Registration Officer

November 16-18 Attended Gettysburg Remembrance Day

November 21—Attended Meeting and Installed Officers, John W Foster Camp #2
Evansville

December 9 – Attended Ladies Tea Bristol Indiana. Served as guard for President
Lincoln

December 12 – Attended Meeting and Installed Officers, John B Anderson Camp #223
Columbus

December 16 – Attended Meeting and Installed Officers, Orlando A Summers Camp # 1
Kokomo

January 16 -- Attended Meeting and Installed Officers, Champion Hill Camp #17
Huntington

January 27 – Attended meeting and Installed Officers, John Auten Camp #8 South Bend

February -- Attended Meeting and Installed Officers, David D Porter Camp # 116
Valparaiso

February - Met with Tom Smith of The Indiana Veterans Home About Encampment

March 11- Departmental Secretary, William Adams and Myself met with Tom Smith at
Indiana Veterans Home

April 4- Presented Civil War Marine Program to Connersville Civil War Round Table

April 11-13 – Attended Lincoln Tomb Ceremony Springfield, Illinois. Presented Wreath
and Departmental Flag

Attended all camp meeting at Champion Hill and John Auten Camps

Worked on Mother George Monument for National Veterans Shrine and Museum. All
sidewalks around the civil war area at the Veterans Shrine are now completed

Respectfully Submitted in Fraternity Charity and Loyalty this 27th day of April 2024

Thomas L Schmitt Commander

Department of Indiana

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR



**Senior Vice Department Commander
Department of Indiana**

**Travis LeMaster, PCC
506 Maple St
Sweetser, Indiana 46987
Phone: (765) 667-1940**

Email: travis.lemaster@gmail.com



Brothers,

Regretfully, I will not be in attendance at the Encampment.

I am pleased to report on my activities.

- Working to update the profiles of past Department of Indiana Commanders on the WikiTree platform. Provided Brother Beckman links to profiles at WikiTree and FindAGrave for Past Commanders to update on the Department website.
- Participating in US Civil War Project Monthly Challenges at WikiTree - latest was to enter and update information on soldiers buried at the Vicksburg National Cemetery.
- Continuing to raise funds and spread the word about the restoration project of the Orlando A. Somers Camp at Thrailkill Cemetery. Recently received a \$400 donation from the Grant County Historical Society.
- Sponsored a new member, Guiffre (G J) Kilgren, to membership in the Orlando A Somers Camp.
- Attending meetings of the Orlando A. Somers Camp

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Travis J. LeMaster, PCC

Senior Vice Department Commander

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



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA



Report of the

Junior Vice Commander

138th Annual Encampment Report

November 1, 2023, to April 27, 2024

To: Department of Indiana Secretary, William Adams, PDC

Conforming to the duties of the office of the Jr. Vice Commander, I have the honor to report the status and activities of recruiting from November 1, 2023, to April 27, 2024.

Status: The Department of Indiana membership remains strong with 218 total Members and Associates at the beginning of 2024. The Department saw a total of 19 Members leave the organization. The loss included 13 Members and no Associate & Junior drops, 1 Member and no Associate & Junior Honorable Discharges, 4 Member deaths and 1 Member that transferred out of the Department. However, at the same time the Department brought in 28 Members, offsetting the loss to show a net gain of 9 new Members. Though 2022 saw a drop in members, by the end of 2023 membership has shown a fairly strong increase in the Department.

The Pandemic is for the most part behind us and while there may still be some lingering concerns of getting the virus, I do not feel this is hindering new prospective Members and Associates. Unfortunately, I do feel that rising costs and the current level of dues required by the National Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War still play a role in the recruiting effort. In my last report to the Department my desire in 2023 was to see the Department totals climb back to or above the 2022 level of 227. Unfortunately this didn't happen, but given the current situation of higher costs, the increase of 9 members is an exceptional start.

Department Camp final membership totals after gains & losses as of January 1, 2024, are as follows:

| Camp | Jan 2023 | Jan 2024 |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Ben Harrison Camp No. 357</i> | 53 | 45 – Net Loss of 8 Members |
| <i>Champion Hill Camp No. 17</i> | 33 | 49 – Net Increase of 16 Members |
| <i>Orlando A. Somers Camp No. 1</i> | 31 | 33 – Net Increase of 2 Members |
| <i>David D. Porter Camp No. 116</i> | 24 | 26 – Net Increase of 2 Members |

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|----------------------------|
| <i>John B. Anderson Camp No. 223</i> | 25 | 23 – Net loss of 2 Members |
| <i>John Auten Camp No. 8</i> | 21 | 20 – Net Loss of 1 Member |
| <i>John W. Foster Camp No. 2</i> | 13 | 13 - Remained the same. |
| <i>William P. Benton Camp No. 28</i> | 9 | 9 – Remained the same. |

Activities: As the Department Jr. Vice Commander my efforts have been to promote the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in any means possible. I've promoted this task with the responsibilities I have as Camp Commander and as such my activities will reflect this. Yet, no better tool can be given to us to improve recruiting than promoting the Indiana Department of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in a positive way through Camp activities. My efforts promoting the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War since November 2023 include the following:

- Attended Veterans Day Service at Locust Hill Cemetery November 10, 2023.
- Attended Open House at the Evansville, Indiana Coliseum December 10, 2023, to discuss the future of the GAR Room and talk to visitors about the SUVCW.
- Lincoln Day at Lincoln Boyhood Memorial Site, February 11, 2024, Lincoln City, Indiana.
- Completion of the replacement of 135 military headstones at Bellefontaine Cemetery & fence enclosure March 2024, Mt. Vernon, Indiana.
- Cemetery projects at Oak Hill Cemetery, Evansville, Indiana. [current activity]
- Cemetery Project at Fairview Cemetery, Rockport, Indiana. [current activity]
- Research and creation of a new plot map for Civil War burials at Bellefontaine Cemetery, Mt. Vernon, Indiana. To be given to the Bellefontaine Cemetery and Board for use. [current activity]
- Foster Camp meetings discussing potential members and projects, November to current, 2024.

These types of events and projects are central to the promotion of the Department of Indiana Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. They have put the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War name to the forefront in local Civil War history in all of our communities through in person contacts and social media.

Summary: While the Department has taken a couple of hits on its membership over the past five years, the end results could have been much worse than the data shows. Recruiting during 2023 came back strong and it appears the Department is in an upward trend. I will continue to promote the Department through person-to-person interaction and community projects. I strongly recommend the Department Camps try to push the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

agenda to its fullest despite the current level of costs. Advertise, write articles, plan events, speak at historical societies and schools as well as promote any projects that preserve the memories of the veterans of the Civil War through the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Utilize the tools the National and Indiana Department has provided such as the Last Veteran Project, Eagle Scout Recognition and ROTC, JROTC and NDCC Awards. The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War has a great deal to give back to its members and the community. Finally, feel free to contact me if needed to do ancestry research and/or assist in recruiting. I'm always happy to do what I can.

This 2024 138th Annual Report of the Jr. Vice Commander is hereby submitted.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Hoesli".

David Hoesli
Jr. Vice Commander
Department of Indiana,
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS

Department of Indiana

OFFICE OF THE

Department Secretary

William R. Adams

2772 N. 150 East

La Porte, IN 46350

Home: (219 575-8483

E-Mail: Adamswr949@gmail.com



Department of Indiana 138th Annual Encampment April 27, 2024

Department Secretary Activity Report from November 4, 2023 to April 27, 2024

- Completed and mailed all Camps Form #22 “Certification of Election and Installation of Camp Officers” to National Hdqtrs.
- Completed the November 4, 2023 Department of Indiana Midyear Encampment minutes and forwarded them to Department Commander Thomas Schmitt.
- Received and confirmed 990-N IRS acceptance of the four Camps currently required to file by May 15th 2024. This includes Co. D 27th Indiana SVR. Remaining Camps must file between July 1, to November 15, 2024.
- I completed and filed with National Hdqtrs. Form #11, “EIN # by Camp” and the “Certification” Form signed by Commander Thomas Schmitt.
- I have received and reviewed 8 Camp’s Form #27’s. All corrections were reported back to the individual camp Secretary.
- I have had numerous communications via phone, email and USPS providing forms and instruction to new camp organizers forming new camp #33 William Bumgarner, Bluffton, IN.
- Searched for and requested records from National for several camps.
- I have answered numerous questions on forms, form due dates, Memorial University, applications, By-Laws, Life Membership, general and honorable discharge.
- Since November 4, 2023 I have processed (24) Form #30’s.
- Results from the Camp’s 2024 Form #27’s provides the following: Total Hdcnt. 218; Total for determining Delegates 208. (dual and Jr. Members removed) Please refer to Jr.-Vice Commander David Hoesli’s report for a summary of department membership statistics.

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

William R. Adams

William R. Adams PDC
Secretary, Department of Indiana
SUVCW



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Patriotic Instructor Department of Indiana

Brian Mexin

957 Balto Drive

Shelbyville, IN 46176

Phone: (317) 400-3342

Email: mexinbrian@yahoo.com

Report 10.28.23 – 4.5.24

- October 28, 2023: Distributed National Patriotic Instruction from Brother Don Martin, PCinC.
- November 1, 2023: Distributed Department Patriotic Instruction regarding the principles upon which our Order was founded.
- November 11, 2023: Elected Camp Commander for 2024 (Ben Harrison Camp No. 356).
- November 30, 2023: Distributed National Patriotic Instruction from Brother Brian McManus.
- December 3, 2023: Sent a short article to Brother Jon Swartz for inclusion in the Indiana Legion.
- December 9, 2023: Installed as Commander of Ben Harrison Camp No. 356.
- December 13, 2023: Distributed Department Patriotic Instruction on “The Mother of the 51st Regiment.”
- December 17, 2023: Participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at Williams Creek Cemetery as member of Company D, 27th Indiana, SVR.
- December 31, 2023: Distributed January 2024 Department Patriotic Instruction entitled “For God and Country”.
- January 5, 2024: Distributed January National Patriotic Instruction from Brother Brian McManus.
- January 17, 2024: Notified the department of the passing of Brother Ivan D. Lancaster, PDC.
- February 4, 2024: Distributed February Department Patriotic Instruction entitled “The Jackass Regiment”.
- February 29, 2024: Distributed March Department Patriotic entitled “Indiana GAR – Last Man Standing.”
- March 25, 2024: Distributed National Patriotic Instruction from Brother Tad D. Campbell, PCinC.
- March 29, 2024: Distributed a link to the history of the 58th Indiana Infantry, written by the regimental chaplain.
- April 3, 2024: Distributed National Patriotic Instruction from Brother Tad D. Campbell, PCinC.

Department Chaplain Report 2024 Annual Encampment.

(Bill, I would ask you to read this and then ask for a minute of silence. See below)

A member of John W. Foster Camp #2 Jack Ray Robinson passed away 1/5/2024. He attended Indiana University majoring in Russian and Latin. After graduation he served 2 years in army intelligence as a Special Investigator. Returning to IU and he got a Law Degree. In Rockport, Spencer County, Indiana, he practiced law for 48 years. His Civil War Ancestor was Private George W. Masters Co. C 53rd Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

Ivan Dean Lancaster passed away at the age of 81, December 26, 2023. Ivan graduated from Franklin College in 1964 with a degree in Education. He taught school for 35 years; and belonged to many Masonic, Odd Fellows, and Historical Organizations. He was a member and past Camp Commander of Ben Harrison Camp #356 . He also served as the Department of Indiana Commander in 1973 and 1982. His membership in the SUVCW is based on his ancestor 2nd Lt. Nathan Elliott Co. B 53rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Out of respect for our lost brothers let us bow our heads and have a moment of silence.



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA



Report of the
GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER

138th Annual Encampment

October 15, 2023 – April 12, 2024

To: Department of Indiana Secretary, William Adams, PDC

I have the honor to report on the status and activities of the Graves Registration Officer for the Department of Indiana from October 15, 2023, through April 12, 2024.

As of early April, 2024, there were a total of 40,070 Civil War veterans buried in Indiana who are registered on the National Graves Registration database. This total reflects an increase of 581 veterans that have been added to the Indiana total since the 137th Mid-Year Department Encampment in November 2023 and an increase of 384 since January 1, 2024. The largest increases were in Floyd County having added 279 new veterans followed by Posey County 69 and Vermillion 39.

As Department GRO, I have added 226 new names to the National database and made 74 adjustments to existing graves data since the November Mid-Year Encampment. I deleted 6 duplicate records. My focus the past six months have been the veteran at the New Albany National Cemetery which is near completion. There still exists several duplicate records on the website which I will remove in the future. To date, I have contributed 4,153 names to the National Graves Registration database.

Throughout the United States there are 54,053 Indiana veterans that have been located and added to the National Graves Registration database. This is an increase of 825 since the Mid-Year Department Encampment in November 2023 and 529 since January 1, 2024.

The counties from Indiana with over 1000 total number of veterans on the National Graves Registration database are as follows:

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Floyd – 2,036 | 6. Lawrence – 1,316 | 11. Clinton – 1,011 |
| 2. Marion 1,574 | 7. Cass – 1,314 | |
| 3. Allen – 1,543 | 8. Howard – 1,136 | |
| 4. Grant – 1,500 | 9. Kosciusko – 1,067 | |
| 5. Wayne – 1,472 | 10. Hamilton – 1,043 | |

In addition to these, there are five more counties just under the 1000 veteran mark. They are Dearborn, Delaware, Noble, Owen, and Tippecanoe.

The following is a breakdown of the contribution to the Graves Registration project by county since the November 2023 Encampment report:

| <i>County</i> | <i>Total</i> | <i>Increase/Decrease</i> |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Adams | 355 | +2 |
| Allen | 1,543 | 0 |
| Bartholomew | 607 | +1 |
| Benton | 200 | +1 |
| Blackford | 402 | 0 |
| Boone (Boon) | 259 | +2 |
| Brown | 289 | 0 |
| Carroll (Carrol) | 602 | 0 |
| Cass | 1,314 | - 1 |
| Clark | 194 | - 3 |
| Clay | 47 | +2 |
| Clinton | 1,011 | +1 |
| Crawford | 633 | - 1 |
| Davies | 248 | +3 |
| Dearborn | 852 | 0 |
| Decatur | 131 | +1 |
| DeKalb | 237 | +4 |
| Delaware | 921 | +5 |
| Dubois | 177 | 0 |
| Elkhart | 162 | +1 |
| Fayette | 211 | 0 |
| Floyd | 2,036 | +256 |
| Fountain | 74 | 0 |
| Franklin | 317 | - 1 |
| Fulton | 486 | 0 |
| Gibson | 193 | +12 |
| Grant | 1,500 | +30 |
| Greene (Green) | 98 | +3 |
| Hamilton | 1,043 | +1 |
| Hancock | 258 | +5 |

| | | |
|------------|-------|------|
| Harrison | 156 | +2 |
| Hendricks | 143 | +2 |
| Henry | 138 | +7 |
| Howard | 1,136 | 0 |
| Huntington | 741 | +1 |
| Jackson | 119 | 0 |
| Jasper | 42 | +1 |
| Jay | 505 | 0 |
| Jefferson | 171 | +1 |
| Jennings | 56 | 0 |
| Johnson | 357 | +1 |
| Knox | 177 | +3 |
| Kosciusko | 1,067 | +1 |
| LaPorte | 295 | +1 |
| Lagrange | 398 | +1 |
| Lake | 142 | 0 |
| Lawrence | 1,316 | 0 |
| Madison | 365 | +4 |
| Marion | 1,574 | +15 |
| Marshall | 517 | +3 |
| Martin | 109 | 0 |
| Miami | 69 | 0 |
| Monroe | 188 | +4 |
| Montgomery | 288 | 0 |
| Morgan | 104 | +1 |
| Newton | 249 | 0 |
| Noble | 821 | 0 |
| Ohio | 82 | 0 |
| Orange | 183 | +2 |
| Owen | 954 | - 10 |
| Parke | 492 | +3 |
| Perry | 242 | +12 |
| Pike | 177 | 0 |
| Porter | 477 | +2 |
| Posey | 429 | +69 |

| | | |
|------------------|------------|-----------|
| Pulaski | 326 | 0 |
| Putnam | 43 | +2 |
| Randolph | 237 | +1 |
| Ripley | 220 | +1 |
| Rush | 33 | 0 |
| St. Joseph | 188 | +23 |
| Scott | 34 | 0 |
| Shelby | 268 | +1 |
| Spencer | 502 | +1 |
| Starke (Stark) | 338 | +1 |
| Steuben | 298 | +23 |
| Sullivan | 53 | 0 |
| Switzerland | 105 | 0 |
| Tippecanoe | 959 | +2 |
| Tipton | 582 | 0 |
| Union | 24 | 0 |
| Vanderburgh | 641 | - 1 |
| Vermillion | 83 | +39 |
| Vigo | 55 | +2 |
| Wabash | 265 | +4 |
| Warren | 279 | +1 |
| Warrick | 189 | +6 |
| Washington | 221 | +5 |
| Wayne | 1,472 | +9 |
| Wells | 433 | +9 |
| White | 400 | 0 |
| Whitley | <u>468</u> | <u>+1</u> |
| Subtotal | 39,395 | + 593 |
| Unknown Counties | <u>675</u> | - 17 |
| Total | 40,070 | |

* Names in parentheses () are alternate spellings and are included in final count.

The total increases by county are slightly different than the total increases by an “Indiana” search only. Subsequent recounts resulted in the same scenario. The most likely cause is due to errors in data entry that can throw the count off when searching individual counties versus by state only. These miniscule errors are difficult to find.

The effort to reduce the number of errors and duplicate entries is ongoing. A major issue that still exists are Indiana records that have no named county. Though there have been great strides in reducing the number resulting in only 675 Indiana registrations that still list no county. This is up 6 from the November Mid-Year Encampment Report. The accumulated total of 40,070 is inclusive of these 675 Indiana registrations. Reductions in duplicates and errors may offset any gains that a county may have uploaded to the database as well as any overall totals. For example, if a submitter has added 10 names to the database for a specific county but had 5 removed from an administrator in the same county, their overall addition to the database will only reflect 5 new entries when counted. The database does not distinguish new additions and removals. Only a total number.

In all, 55 out of the 92 Indiana counties contributed to the increase of new veterans added to the National database. There were 6 counties that had a slight decrease due to errors or duplications. Sixteen counties recorded at least five or more new veteran registrations to the National database since November. Nine of those counties had ten or more.

The following list is a compilation of states and their respective total of entries to the National Graves Registration database. Following that are the combined totals by Departments since some of these Departments are comprised of two or more states.

National Graves Registration

By State

| <u>State</u> | <u>Nov. 2023</u> | <u>Apr. 2024</u> |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Ohio | 90,559 | 90,796 |
| 2. New York | 56,204 | 57,157 |
| 3. Michigan | 54,851 | 54,701 |
| 4. Pennsylvania | 50,893 | 52,151 |
| 5. Iowa | 46,379 | 46,738 |
| 6. Illinois | 45,958 | 45,952 |
| 7. Indiana | 39,559 | 40,070 |
| 8. Wisconsin | 34,984 | 35,110 |
| 9. Massachusetts | 31,776 | 32,444 |
| 10. Kansas | 31,223 | 31,450 |
| 11. Missouri | 25,690 | 29,286 |
| 12. California | 28,741 | 28,854 |
| 13. Tennessee | 26,481 | 26,561 |
| 14. Virginia | 24,211 | 24,415 |

| | | |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|
| 15. New Jersey | 21,828 | 21,909 |
| 16. Nebraska | 19,179 | 19,184 |
| 17. Georgia | 18,341 | 18,360 |
| 18. Maine | 17,247 | 17,386 |
| 19. Vermont | 14,007 | 14,002 |
| 20. Minnesota | 9,322 | 11,585 |
| 21. Oklahoma | 10,212 | 10,216 |
| 22. Connecticut | 9,283 | 9,327 |
| 23. Rhode Island | 9,100 | 9,155 |
| 24. New Hampshire | 8,819 | 8,911 |
| 25. Colorado | 7,681 | 7,712 |
| 26. Kentucky | 7,536 | 8,014 |
| 27. North Carolina | 7,489 | 7,482 |
| 28. Louisiana | 7,040 | 7,290 |
| 29. Oregon | 7,201 | 7,257 |
| 30. District of Columbia | 6,774 | 6,778 |
| 31. Arkansas | 6,230 | 6,250 |
| 32. Washington | 6,156 | 6,220 |
| 33. South Carolina | 5,324 | 5,317 |
| 34. Mississippi | 5,044 | 5,199 |
| 35. Maryland | 4,859 | 4,987 |
| 36. South Dakota | 3,554 | 3,912 |
| 37. West Virginia | 3,861 | 3,881 |
| 38. Texas | 2,762 | 2,886 |
| 39. Florida | 2,440 | 2,460 |
| 40. Montana | 1,400 | 1,419 |
| 41. Idaho | 1,361 | 1,373 |
| 42. Alabama | 1,333 | 1,337 |
| 43. New Mexico | 950 | 961 |
| 44. Arizona | 894 | 903 |
| 45. Delaware | 784 | 787 |
| 46. North Dakota | 653 | 669 |

| | | |
|-------------|-----|-----|
| 47. Utah | 667 | 665 |
| 48. Nevada | 545 | 549 |
| 49. Wyoming | 446 | 445 |
| 50. Alaska | 58 | 58 |
| 51. Hawaii | 41 | 42 |

By Department

| <u>State</u> | <u>Apr 2024</u> |
|---|------------------------|
| 1. Ohio | 90,796 |
| 2. New York | 57,157 |
| 3. Michigan | 54,701 |
| 4. Pennsylvania | 52,151 |
| 5. Iowa | 46,738 |
| 6. Illinois | 45,952 |
| 7. Wisconsin & Minnesota | 46,695 |
| 8. Indiana | 40,070 |
| 9. Chesapeake (Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, & D.C.) | 40,061 |
| 10. Massachusetts | 32,444 |
| 11. Tennessee (With Mississippi) | 31,760 |
| 12. Kansas | 31,450 |
| 13. California & Pacific (With Nevada, & Hawaii) | 29,449 |
| 14. Missouri | 29,286 |
| 15. Nebraska (With North Dakota & South Dakota) | 23,765 |
| 16. Georgia & South Carolina | 23,677 |
| 17. New Jersey | 21,909 |
| 18. Maine | 17,386 |
| 19. Vermont | 14,002 |
| 20. Columbia (Alaska, Oregon & Washington) | 13,535 |
| 21. Colorado & Wyoming (With Idaho, Montana & Utah) | 11,614 |
| 22. Texas (With Louisiana) | 10,176 |
| 23. Oklahoma | 10,216 |

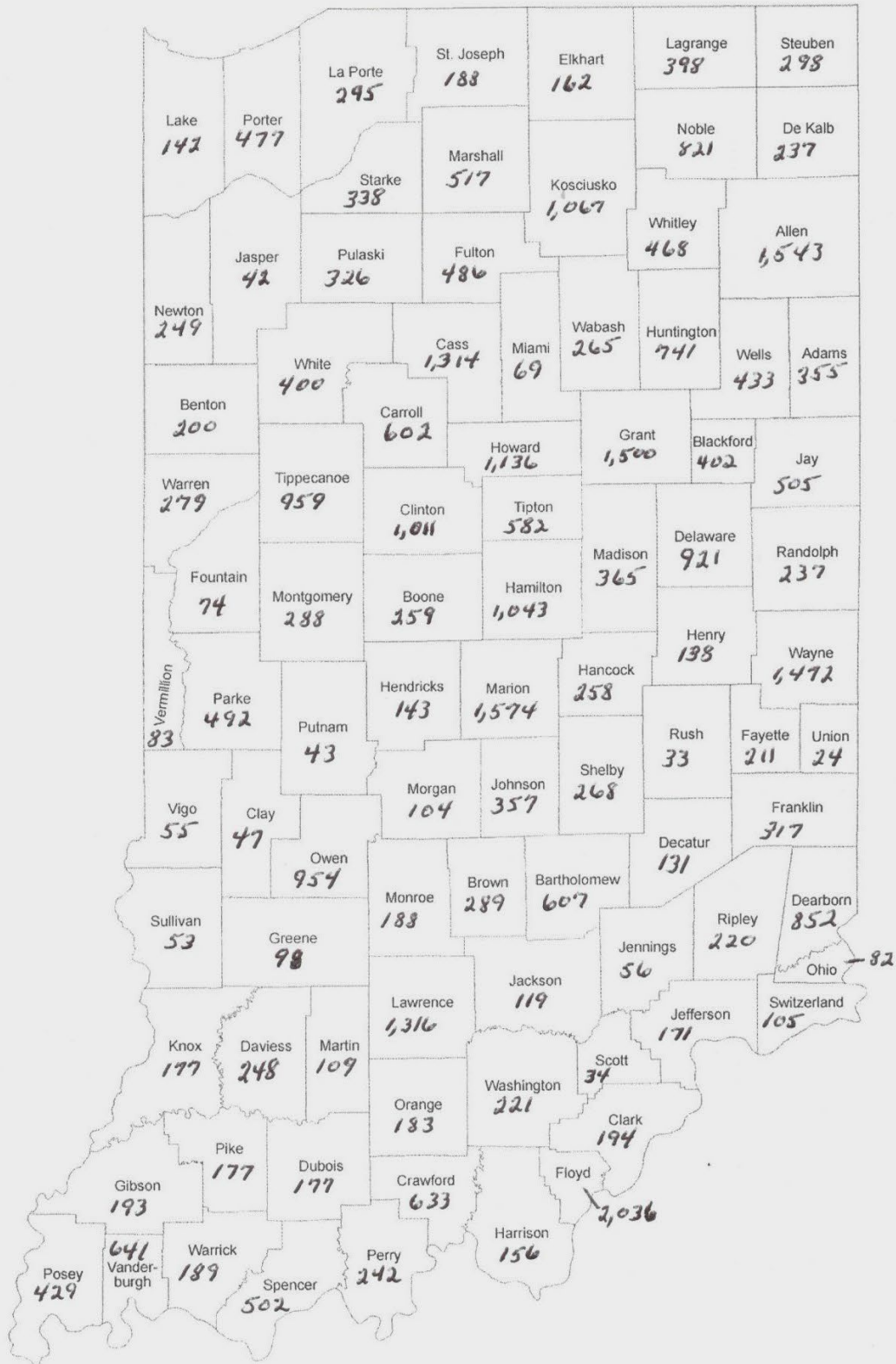
| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| 24. Connecticut | 9,327 |
| 25. Rhode Island | 9,155 |
| 26. New Hampshire | 8,911 |
| 27. Kentucky | 8,014 |
| 28. North Carolina | 7,482 |
| 29. Florida | 2,460 |
| 30. Southwest (Arizona & New Mexico) | 1,864 |
| 31. Alabama | 1,337 |
| 32 Foreign Countries | 602 |
| 33. Lost at Sea | 96 |
| 34. MIA | 95 |
| 35. Unknown | 27 |

* Totals include all fifty states and the District of Columbia. Territories and foreign countries are calculated separately.

The Department of Indiana continues to advance and improve its graves registration process every year. Brother Tim Beckman of the Ben Harrison Camp has recently been elevated to Administrator that allows him to add or delete any information to existing records. He has also been actively working with the SUVCW-FindaGrave team to correct and add information to both databases. His work includes the New Albany National Cemetery, Marion National Cemetery, Gosport Cemetery in Owen County and Park Cemetery in Hancock County.

Two new Brothers have been registered as submitters to the National Graves Registration site as well. Brother Eric Sprouls of the John W. Foster Camp was added this year and has actively engaged in registering counties in west-central Indiana. Brother Fred Leickly of the John B. Anderson Camp has been appointed the Camp GRO and has been working on researching veterans from Bartholomew County to submit into the database. This is in addition to the many existing Brothers across the state that already add information to the database annually.

Finding and researching Civil War veterans can be time consuming but must be done in a respectful manner. Please keep in mind as you enter data to the website, the effort here is to not only register as many Civil War veterans as possible on the National Registry, but to do it in a manner befitting the service these veterans have given to protect our Union. While the number of entries can be impressive, entering just a name and cemetery doesn't do the veteran or the researcher any justice. The intended goal should be quality over quantity. I commend all of our Brother's for taking the time to make sure our Civil War veterans are remembered through the National Graves Registration.



The Indiana Department Graves Registration Report for the 2024 Annual Encampment is hereby submitted.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David J. Bush".

Graves Registration Officer
Department of Indiana,
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



**Department of Indiana SUVCW
Past PDC & Eagle Scout Coordinator**

Michael W. Beck
322 Yorktown Rd.
Greenwood, IN 46142
(317) 364-6064 Cell

E-mail fsgtcod11thindiana@att.net
Website
<http://suvwin.org/>



November 4, 2023 - April 27, 2024
Monuments Officers Report

All monuments and GPS coordinates have been placed on a Google Map system by Benjamin Harrison PDC Tim Beckman.

Indiana Monuments Page can be found on the Benjamin Harrison Camp #356 website
- <http://benharrisoncamp.org/indiana-civil-war-monuments-markers-and-sites-inventory/>

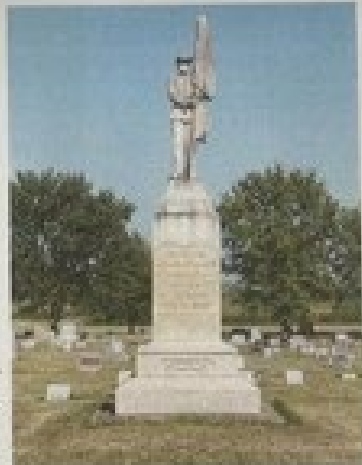
1. Blackford
2. Cass
3. Clark - Mt. Zion Cemetery - Henryville, IN - Photograph (New)
4. Clinton
5. Dubois
6. Fayette
7. Gibson
8. Grant
9. Hancock - GAR Stain Glass Window at the Fortville United Methodist Church
10. Henry
11. Howard
12. Huntington
13. Johnson
14. LaPorte
15. Madison
16. Marion
17. Monroe
18. Montgomery - Photographs & GPS Coordinates
19. Morgan
20. Newton
21. Orange
22. Owen
23. Putnam
24. Rush - Soldiers and Sailors Stain Glass Windows in Morton Hall Auditorium
25. Shelby
26. Tippecanoe
27. Vermillion

- 28. Vigo
- 29. Warren - Photographs - GPS Coordinates
- 30. Warrick
- 25. Wayne

Ongoing Indiana Monuments Projects



Save Our Soldier!



In 1910, the Swayzee Edwin Lennox, Post #408, of Grand Army of The Republic had constructed and dedicated in the Thrailkill Cemetery, the FIRST Veterans monument in Grant County. These Civil War Veterans raised the funds to purchase and install this monument. Now through time this monument has been damaged and in need of repair and cleaning to preserve the memory of our local Veterans.

Members of The Orlando A. Somers Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are teaming with the local Township Trustee to raise fund to have the restoration work done.

If you would like to donate to the efforts to restore this Veterans monument, please contact SUCVW member:

Randy D. McNally

607 S. Washington, Swayzee IN46986

765-860-8542, randydmcnally@aol.com

or

Travis LeMaster

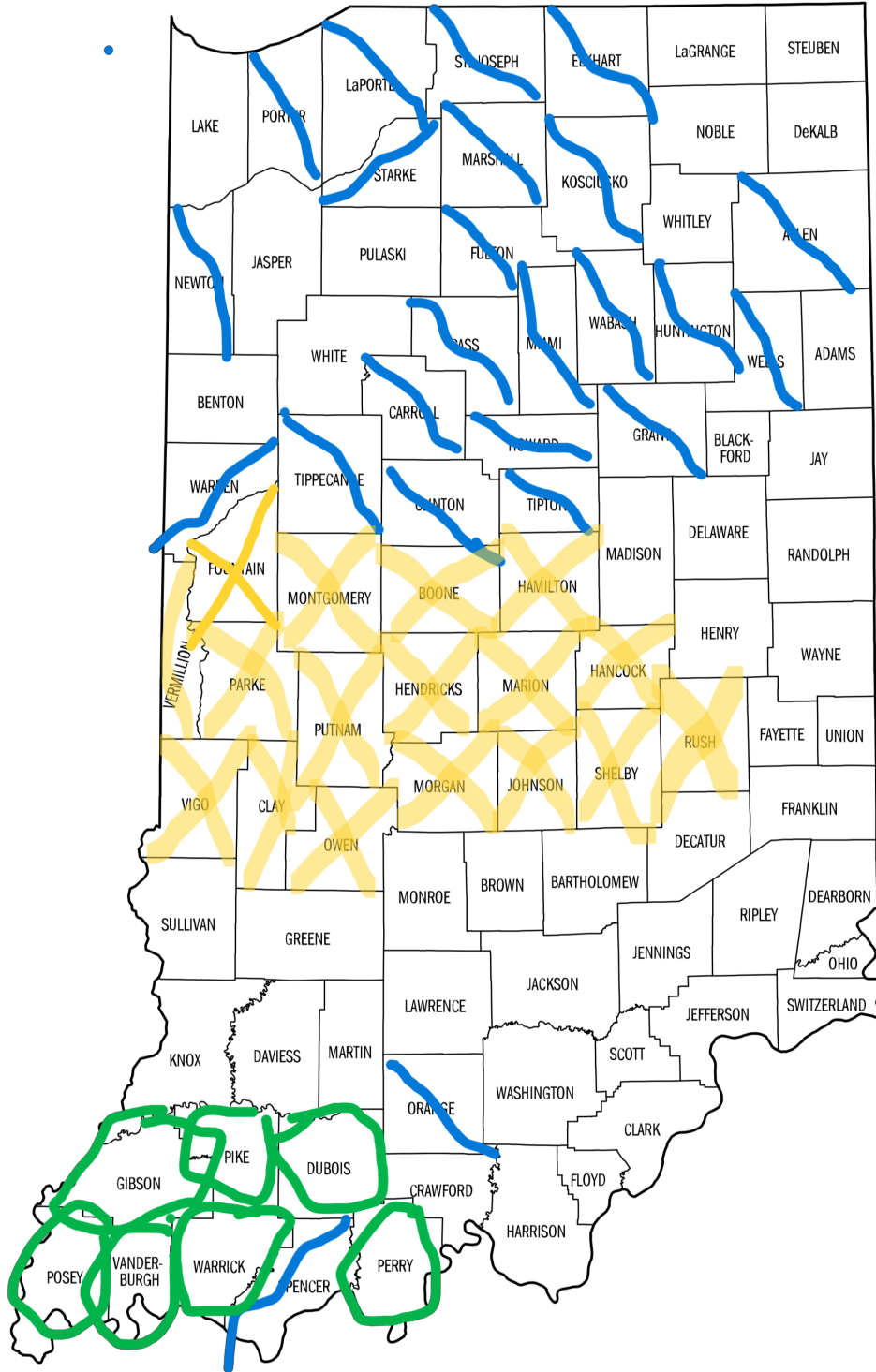
PO Box 56, Sweetser IN 46987

765-667-1940, Travis.lemaster@gmail.com



Last Soldiers Projects

INDIANA



David D. Porter Camp
#116
Lake Co.
Jasper Co.
Benton Co.
Pulaski Co.
White Co.

Champion Hill
Camp# 17
LaGrange Co.
Steuben Co.
Noble Co.
DeKalb Co.
Whitely Co.
Adams Co.
Blackford Co.
Jay Co.

Orlando B.
Somers Camp # 1
Madison Co.
Delaware Co.

John B. Anderson
Camp # 223
Bartholomew Co.
Brown Co.
Monroe Co.
Lawrence Co.
Washington Co.
Clark Co.
Jennings Co.
Ripley Co.
Dearborn Co.
Ohio Co.
Switzerland Co.
Scott Co.

John W. Foster
Camp # 2
Knox Co.
Sullivan Co.
Greene Co.
Davies Co.
Miami Co.
Crawford Co.

John Auten
Camp # 8

William P. Benton
Camp # 28
Randolph Co.
Henry Co.
Wayne Co.
Union Co.
Franklin Co.

Ben Harrison Camp # 356
Rush Co.
Shelby Co.
Hamilton Co.
Marion Co.
Johnson Co.
Morgan Co.
Hendricks Co.
Boone Co.
Owen Co.
Putnam Co.
Montgomery Co.
Clay Co.
Vigo Co.
Fountain Co.
Vermillion Vo.
Parke Co.

Commander – Monuments Coordinator Department
Michael W. Beck
PDC Michael W. Beck



**Department of Indiana SUVCW
Past PDC & Eagle Scout Coordinator**

Michael W. Beck
322 Yorktown Rd.
Greenwood, IN 46142
(317) 364-6064 Cell

**E-mail fsgtcd11thindiana@att.net
Website <http://suvwin.org/>**



Eagle Scout Coordinator's Report for November 4, 2023 – April 27, 2004
Eagle Scout Certificates presented to the following:

1. Matthew J. McDonald, Germantown, TN – Camp Assigned – Ben Harrison
2. Devon J. Noel, Vincennes, IN – Camp Assigned – John W. Foster
3. Owen J. Snow, Hammond IN - Camp Assigned – David D. Porter

| Number of Eagle Scout SUVCW Certificates sent out from each camp 2023-2024 | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1 | Orlando A. Somers Camp #1 - Kokomo, IN | 0 |
| 2 | John W. Foster Camp # 2 – Evansville, IN | 1 |
| 3 | John Auten Camp # 8 – South Bend, IN | 0 |
| 4 | Champion Hill Camp #17 - Huntington, IN | 0 |
| 5 | William P. Benton Camp #28 - Centerville, IN | 0 |
| 6 | David D. Porter Camp #116 - Valparaiso, IN | 1 |
| 7 | John B. Anderson Camp # 223 - Columbus, IN | 0 |
| 8 | Benjamin Harrison Camp #356 - Indianapolis, IN | 1 |
| | Total | 3 |

Camp Eagle Scout Coordinators:

Orlando A. Somers Camp No. 1 (Kokomo, IN) Brother Drew Godby - dcgodby@gmail.com

John W. Foster Camp No. 2 (Evansville, IN)

John Auten Camp No. 8 (South Bend, IN) Brother Jonathan Swarts - jswarts@pnw.edu

Champion Hill Camp No. 17 (Huntington, IN) Brother Tom Schmitt – fxb443@gmail.com

William P. Benton Camp No. 28 (Centerville, IN) PDC Dennis H. Rigsby - dhrigsby@aol.com

David D. Porter Camp No. 116 (Valparaiso, IN) Brother Bob Westfall - bobpamwestfall@gmail.com

John B. Anderson Camp No. 223 (Columbus, IN): Brother Fred Lickley - leicklystory@gmail.com

Benjamin Harrison Camp No. 356 (Indianapolis, IN): PCC John Bowyer - bwyrpndltn@yahoo.com

Department of Indiana – Eagle Scout Coordinator

PDC Michael W. Beck



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS

Department of Indiana

OFFICE OF THE

GAR Highway Officer

William R. Adams PDC

2772 N. 150 East

La Porte, IN 46350

Home: (219) 326-6498

E-Mail: Adamswr949@gmail.com



Department of Indiana Annual Encampment April 27, 2024

GAR Highway Officers Activity Report from November 1, 2023 to April 27, 2024

There is nothing new to report since the Midyear Encampment of November 4, 2023

GAR Highway signs in Indiana continue to be in proper placement and in excellent condition across the entire length of the GAR Highway, US 6.

I wish to thank Brother Tom Schmitt, who continues to drive the eastern portion of US 6 and provides updated reports on the US 6 signage.

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

William R. Adams

William R. Adams PDC

GAR Highway Officer

Department of Indiana, SUVCW

**SONS OF UNION VETERANS
OF THE CIVIL WAR
PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA**



TIMOTHY J. BECKMAN
1135 N. LELAND AVE.
INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46219
PHONE: 317-410-1299
E-MAIL: TIMBECKMAN@GMAIL.COM

<http://suvwin.org>

Signals Officer Report

Here are my Department of Indiana Signal Officer's activities since the 2023 Mid-Year Encampment:

Added Department of Indiana Newsletter, The Indiana Legion, Issue 4-23, to the Department of Indiana website on January 3, 2024.

Added Upcoming Events to the Department of Indiana website in January and February of 2024.

Updated the Department of Indiana Commanders and Encampment page on the Department of Indiana website on March 1 and March 26, 2024

Updated the Commander-in-Chief from the Department of Indiana page on the Department of Indiana website on March 26, 2024.

Updated the 27th Indiana SVR 2024 list of events on the Department of Indiana website on March 18, 2024.

Added the 2023 Department of Indiana Mid-Year Encampment Minutes to the Department of Indiana website on April 10, 2024.

The Department of Indiana Zoom Pro account was used by the following camps for their meetings during the period November 2023 through April 2024: John W. Foster Camp No. 2 and the Ben Harrison Camp No. 356.

I continue in the role of moderator of the Department of Indiana Google Group e-mail list. There are currently 175 registered users in the group. I encourage all brothers to sign up for this if they have not already done so as this list has proven to be a very effective communication tool. Sign up is easy. Just send an email to me at timbeckman@gmail.com to request to be added to this group.

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty, this 27th day of April, 2024.

Timothy J. Beckman

Signals Officer
Department of Indiana
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



The Indiana Legion

DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA • SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
EDITOR'S REPORT

Report to the 2024 Annual Encampment

Since the Mid-Year Encampment in November 2023, I edited and distributed one issue of *The Indiana Legion* (December 2023). I would like to thank all camps and camp officers for the submission of materials related to camp activities, as well as to several brothers who made creative suggestions for new features and submitted interesting material. Suggestions, ideas, and submissions on all aspects of camp and Department activities are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Jonathan Swarts
Editor, *The Indiana Legion*



Dear Brothers:

As the Department of Indiana GAR Records Officer, I have had numerous emails requesting information regarding GAR posts in Indiana and our membership records. I have been able to respond to each request in a timely manner.

As the Department of Indiana Historian, I am still making SUVCW members and the public aware of the law concerning Cemetery Preservation which can be found in the Indiana Code at IC 14-21-2 and pertains to the sale and purchase of GAR grave markers in Indiana, which at this time is still illegal.

Respectfully submitted this 27th day of April 2024.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Kolb', is positioned below the typed text.

Bruce Kolb, PDC
Department GAR Records Officer
Department Historian



COMPANY D. 27TH INDIANA SVR
SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE
[HTTP://SUVWIN.ORG/?PAGE_ID=295](http://suvwin.org/?page_id=295)



2024 Annual Encampment Activity Report
27th Indiana SVR
November, 2023 – May, 2024

November 4, 2023

Co D 27th Indiana SVR presented and retired the Colors at the Department of Indiana Midyear Encampment held in Newburgh, Indiana. The Colors were presented by 2nd Lt. B. Kolb and 1st Sgt. Dennis Hutchinson. Others attending in uniform were Cpt. Mike Beck, 1st Lt. Bill Adams, and Pvt. Tom Ashley. Those not in uniform were Pvt. T. Beckman, Pvt. D. Godby, Cpl. D. Rigsby, Pvt. J. Beckman, Cpl. G. Young, Pvt. J. Swarts, Pvt. D. Hoesli, Pvt. T. LeMaster, 2nd Sgt. T. Schmitt, and 2nd Sgt. G. Walls.

November 18 2023

The Annual Gettysburg Remembrance Day parade was represented by members of the 27th Indiana. Those attending and participating at Gettysburg were Lt. Col. Alan Teller, 2nd Sgt. Tom Schmitt, Cpt. Mike Beck, 2nd Lt. Bruce Kolb, Pvt. Randy McNally, 2nd Sgt. Stephan Hagman, Pvt. Andrew Hagman, and Pvt. Fred Leickly.

December 16, 2023

Members of the 27th SVR, joined Ben Harrison Camp members, at the National Wreath's Across America day at Williams Creek Cemetery in Indianapolis. In uniform were 2nd Lt. Bruce Kolb, Cpt. Mike Beck, Pvt. Tim Beckman, 2nd Sgt. Garry Walls, and Pvt. Brian Mexin. Also attending was SVR member Joe Beckman.

February 11, 2024

Co D 27th Indiana SVR was again honored by being invited to provide the Official Color Guard for the National Park Service at their 100th annual Lincoln Day Ceremony. The service is conducted annually at the National Lincoln Boyhood Home National Park. The 27th opened the ceremony by presenting the Colors. After the service indoors they retired the Colors and led the processional to Nancy Lincoln's grave site where they stood guard at the grave during the remainder of the ceremony. Those Brothers serving in uniform were: Lt. Col. Alan Teller, Captain M. Beck, 2nd Lt. Bruce Kolb, 1st Sgt. D. Hutchinson, 2nd Sgt. T. Schmitt, 2nd Sgt. Garry Walls, and Pvt. T. Beckman. Not in uniform were Pvt. D. Hoesli and Joe Beckman.

April 13, 2024

Co. D 27th Indiana SVR was represented at this year's Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield, Illinois by 2nd Sgt. Tom Schmitt. Thank you, Sgt. Schmitt for participating!

*** Current Unit strength, as of March 31, 2024 stands at (72). That number represents a loss of 7 members as of the same date last year. We currently have (1) Capt. (1) 1st Lt. (1) 2nd Lt., (1) first sergeant, (4) sergeants (7) corporals and (57) privates. The treasury currently has \$384.48

*** I have filed the 2024 Unit application, the 2024 Unit Strength Report, and paid all required dues to the National and the Third Military District. Co D 27th Indiana SVR's 990-N has been filed and accepted by the IRS.

Respectfully Submitted

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

1st Lt. William Adams

Adjutant, Co. D 27th Indiana Infantry, SVR

Camp Reports

April 27, 2024 Dept. of IN Encampment Orlando A. Somers Camp, No. 1 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

We have 36 members including two Junior.

Our membership has custodial duties for a Civil War canon located in Highland Park, Kokomo, IN. Once a month, a Somers Camp member cleans the enclosure and the cannon.

Our meetings are at the South Branch of the Kokomo Howard County Public Library, 1755 East Center Road, Kokomo, IN 46902.

December 16, 2023 (10 members and 5 guest attended) 2023 Officers were nominated, elected, and installed. Drew Godby was elected Camp Commander. Department Commander Tom Schmitt installed all officers. An Audit Committee audit the books of our treasurer. We had a "Show & Tell" program.

January 20, 2024 (8 Members) A discussion began on an update for the Thrailkill Cemetery Memorial was given. The Camp Charter was revealed after it was restored. There was not after meeting presentation

February 17,2024 (6 Members attended) The camp partnered up with a Pizza Company in Converse to help do a fundraiser for the Monument Fundraiser. About \$500 was raised. The They are in the process for coordinating with a company to restore the GAR monument and get a quote.

March 18, 2023 (8 Members attended and 2 Guest) The Camp Decided to do a Memorial Day Ceremony at Trakill Cemetery in Sawyzee IN. We will be participating with SVR and American Legion to recognize those Soldiers that severed and fought for our country. A Guest and cousin of Brother George Franz did a presentation about his ancestor and his account at Andersonville POW Camp and life after

April 20, 2023 Trakill Restoration and Memorial Day committee is planning to meet with Grave Association Rep to discuss further details. Merrel presented a program on the Civil War

May 27, 2024, Our Camp will be doing a Memorial Day Ceremony at Trakill Cemetery in Sawyzee IN. We will be participating with SVR and American Legion to recognize those Soldiers that severed and fought for our country.



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

JOHN W. FOSTER CAMP No. 2

DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA

Report of the

Commander

138th Annual Encampment

Camp Report

November 1, 2023, to April 27, 2024



To: Department of Indiana Secretary, William Adams, PDC

I have the honor to report the status and activities of the John W. Foster Camp No. 2 from November 1, 2023, to April 27, 2024

Meetings Held

The Camp held a total of five hybrid meetings from November 2023 to April 2024. All meetings but one were held at the Newburgh Public Library on Belle Road as well as being held via Zoom. The February meeting was held via Zoom due to weather. The meeting facility is at no cost to the Camp.

Camp meeting dates were:

November 21, 2023, Hybrid

February 20, 2024, Hybrid

December 19, 2023, No meeting.

March 19, 2024, Hybrid

January 16, 2024, Zoom

April 16, 2024, Hybrid

Membership

The Camp had, as of January 1, 2024, a total of 13 Brothers. The Camp had one member pass away this year, reducing our membership. The Camp has had steady activity from potential new members to join the Camp since November and are still considered to be active potential members.

Treasurer's Report

The Camp as of April 27, 2024, has an account balance of \$1,643.04.

Representation of the Camp and SUVCW in the Community

Department of Indiana Mid-Year Encampment, November 4, 2023 – The John W. Foster Camp hosted the 137th Mid-Year Encampment held at the Newburgh Public Library. In attendance from the Foster Camp were Camp Commander David Hoesli, Sr. Vice Commander Brian Lankford, Jr. Vice Commander Mike Robinson, Secretary Dennis Hutchinson PDC, Brothers George Payne and Lance Ferris.

Veterans Day Memorial Event, November 11, 2023 – Commander David Hoesli attended the Veterans Day Service held at the Locust Hill Cemetery in Evansville, IN. In attendance were Mayor Loyd Wineke, members of the VFW, American Legion, Am Vets and several Ladies Auxiliaries.

Evansville Soldiers and Sailors Coliseum, December 10, 2023 – John W. Foster Camp Commander David Hoesli, Jr. Vice Commander Mike Robinson, Secretary Dennis Hutchinson PDC, and Brother George Payne attended the open house organized by County Council At-Large Jill Hahn for the purpose of bring attention to the future renovations of the coliseum. Constructive conversations between Camp members and Ms. Hahn took place to ensure the SUVCW will be part of any future discussions with reference to the GAR room and the artifacts possessed by the GAR. The Camp Commander was also present to view the GAR artifacts prior to their removal to the storage facility and made suggestions for their storage.

Lincoln Day at Lincoln Boyhood Site, February 11, 2024 – Camp Commander David Hoesli and Secretary Dennis Hutchinson PDC attended the event in conjunction with the Department of Indiana Company D, 27th Indiana Infantry, Sons of Veteran Reserve to pay tribute to Abraham Lincoln. In addition to the event was a wreath laying at the grave of his mother Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

Last Union Veteran Project

The John W. Foster Camp No 2 will have a Last Union Soldier event to be held on October 12, 2024, to honor the Last Union Soldier buried in Gibson County, IN. Private Cato Powell was in Company C, 8th U.S. Colored Artillery (11/24/1846 – 12/1/1940). He is buried in the Sand Hill Cemetery, Princeton, Gibson County Indiana. Brother Tim Speedy of the John Foster Camp has been doing a great deal of research on Private Powell and his family to ensure they are available for the event.

Cemetery Projects

Bellefontaine Cemetery, Mt Vernon, Indiana: The John W. Foster Camp has completed the Bellefontaine Cemetery project at Mt. Vernon, Indiana. In all, there were 135 military headstones replaced and reset within the Soldiers Row and various other locations at Bellefontaine. Over one quarter of the soldiers buried in Soldiers' Row at Bellefontaine died at the Mt. Vernon, Indiana U.S. General Hospital during the Civil War. The remaining number

were buried after the war and include a small number of Spanish American war veterans as well as one Indian War and WW I veteran. The research to find unknown named soldiers has been ongoing since February of 2022. Work at the cemetery is nearing completion with only minor details left to complete. Additional work to be completed by May 2024 includes a complete post and chain fence enclosing Soldiers Row and a War Memorial monument to be placed within Soldiers Row by the Sons of the American Legion as well as a completed new plot map showing all burials of Civil War veterans in Bellefontaine Cemetery by Commander Hoesli of the Foster Camp No. 2. The cemetery lacked any form of records going into the project. This will facilitate any further research in the future. The Foster Camp has been working side by side with the Sons of the American Legion Post in Mt. Vernon, Indiana to complete the headstone replacement.

Horace McCrary Headstone, The Camp is working on an Eagle Scout project to replace a damaged headstone in Spencer County in addition to fencing the area off to preserve the site. The site is in a plowed field and is in severe deterioration. This project is still in the planning stage.

Fairview Cemetery, Rockport, Indiana: The John W. Foster Camp No. 2 has inspected Fairview Civil War veteran headstones and in the next few months will be cleaning, straightening, and replacing any headstones as needed soon. In all, there are 17 known Civil War veterans buried at the cemetery.

Oak Hill Cemetery, Evansville, Indiana: The John W. Foster Camp is currently working on the construction of two metal cannon carriages to replace the older wooden carriages that have fallen apart. The goal is to have at least one of the two cannons that have sat in Section 24 since 1872 back in the section by the fall of 2024. Currently the University of Southern Indiana Engineering Department has completed the CAD digital copies of the original blueprints and are compiling a list of materials and costs on the first cannon. In addition to the replacement carriages, the Camp will be cleaning and straightening all the headstones in Section 24 as well as painting the mounted siege cannons, mortars, and the fence as needed during the year.

Grand Army Records

As Commander of the John W. Foster Camp, I have taken special interest in locating local Grand Army of the Republic records. Since the 1st of January of this year the records and artifacts of four GAR Posts and one WRC Circle have been located and will be scanned and transferred to USI's digital department. This is in addition to the Farragut Post records. The following Post and Auxiliary records have been located.

GAR Farragut Post #27 Records

An additional Cash Book has been located.

GAR John K. Highman Post # 415 Records

Damaged Charter & misc. documents. One missing Minute Book is still not accounted for.

GAR U.S. Grant Post # 72

All records and photos of the Post found.

WRC U.S. Grant Post # 72 Auxiliary

All records & photos located.

GAR Glendale Post # 560

The Glendale Post # 560 records are few and are mixed in with the U.S. Grant records.

GAR Masters Post # 120

One Minute Book located, misc. documents and photos as well as artifacts from the Post.

Future Grave Memorial Ceremonies

Bellefontaine Cemetery, Mt. Vernon, Indiana, A dedication ceremony is slated for September 28, 2024, for the approximately 135 headstones that were replaced and reset.

Camp Inventory

The Camp reports the following articles in our inventory:

1. John W. Foster Camp No. 2 Charter.
2. Horace Greely Award for “Most Outstanding Camp website during the 2013-2014 administrative year”.
3. One complete set of station banners.
4. SUVCW John W. Foster Camp No. 2 Memorial wreath.
5. John W. Foster Camp No. 2 banner to be used at events.
6. Four SUVCW membership medals.
7. John W. Foster Camp No. 2 Flag.
8. Flagpole and stand for camp flag.
9. Indiana Department Commanders Citation award and flag streamer on October 29, 2022, for gaining access to and retrieving records of the Farragut Post 27 to be digitized.

Summary

The John W. Foster Camp No. 2 has been very active in promoting the memory of the veterans of the Civil War through events, speaking engagements and cemetery projects. The Camp hopes

to expand the effort by additional school related projects and media sourcing. The Camp was able to hold all monthly virtual meetings except in December due to the Holidays, as well as attend events all year. The loss of one member due to death was a sad moment for the Camp and while activity has been very good on new member prospects, there's much more work ahead to add additional members to the Camp. Without question the stability of the Camp is great and the future is bright for the John W. Foster Camp No. 2.

Inclusive of this report is the Roster of the John W. Foster Camp No. 2.

This 138th Annual Camp Report of the John W. Foster Camp No. 2 is hereby submitted.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "David J. Furb".

Commander
John W. Foster Camp #2
Department of Indiana,
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

John W. Foster Camp No. 2 Membership

Timothy J. Beckman, 1135 N Leland Ave, Indianapolis, IN 46219 (317) 410-1299
tbeckman@indy.rr.com

Thomas Jackson Carson Jr., P.O. Box 1023, Little Compton, RI 02837 (401) 635-2924
tjcarson@cox.net

Joshua A. Claybourn, 1 Lincolnwood Drive, Evansville, IN 47715 (812) 480-6224
jclaybourn@gmail.com

Lance L. Ferris, 511 Breckinridge Loop., Lewisburg, KY 42256 (270) 847-2705
lanceferris@yahoo.com

David J. Hoesli, 13945 N. CR 475 E., Lamar, IN 47550 (812) 544-2577
swincoll@hotmail.com

Clay Hoffman, 17122 Tam O Shonter Dr., Poway, CA. 92064 (858) 603-3322
clay.hoffman@gmail.com

Dennis C. Hutchinson, 3780 N. Old State Rd., Rockport, IN 47635 (812) 499-3843
31stind@gmail.com

Brian S. Lankford, 7484 Old Boonville Hwy, Evansville, IN 47715 (812) 476-9153
cave1808@yahoo.com

Ronald D. Patton, 110 Bordeaux Way, Braselton, GA. 30517-2416 (540) 290-5999
1rdpsr@gmail.com

George A. Payne, P.O. Box 743, Newburgh, IN 47629-0743 (812) 453-0385
gapayne@sigecon.net

Harold Michael Robinson, 5521 Mulberry Pl., Owensboro, KY 42301 (812) 660-0563
haroldrobinson@twc.com

Tim Speedy, 309 Roosevelt Dr., Princeton, IN. (812) 664-8796
timspeedy22@gmail.com

Eric P. Sprouls, 5225 Valeah Dr., Wadesville, IN 47638 (812) 622-0274
esprouls47@gmail.com

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP 13



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS

John Auten Camp # 8

OFFICE OF THE

Camp Commander

William R. Adams PDC

2772 N. 150 East

La Porte, IN 46350

(219) 575-8483

E-Mail: Adamswr949@gmail.com



Department of Indiana 138th Annual Encampment – April 27, 2024

The following reports the activities of John Auten Camp 8, South Bend from November 4, 2023 to March 31, 2024. Our camp meets every other month. We held camp meetings in November, January, and March. All meeting were held in person at various Branches of the St, Joseph County Public Library.

The membership of John Auten Camp, 8 South Bend currently stands at 20 members That represents one less than at this time last year and two less from our total of 22 on December 31, 2023. John Auten Camp 8, has grown membership every year since it was chartered in 2018 with the initial 7 charter members until January of this year.

November 4, 2023: Camp Commander William Adams, Sr.-Vice Commander Thomas Schmitt, and Secretary/Treasurer Jonathan Swarts attended the 2023 Mid-year Encampment at Newburgh, Indiana.

November 18, 2023: John Auten Camp regularly scheduled Camp meeting. Camp officers were elected at this meeting.

November 18, 2023: Camp Sr.-Vice Commander Thomas Schmitt attended Remembrance Day at Gettysburg, PA.

December 9, 2023: Camp Commander Adams and Camp Sr.-Vice Commander Schmitt attended the "Lincoln Tea" at the Bristol, Indiana Library. The event was hosted by the Arsinoe Martin Circle 78 of the LGAR. Elizabeth Thurston and Penny Bucks hosted the event. SVR members Adams and Schmitt were in uniform and guarded the President. Brother Rick Deutscher of Auten Camp also attended. There were about twenty-five in attendance to hear an excellent presentation by Lincoln interpreter Kevin Woods

January 27, 2024: John Auten Camp's regularly scheduled Camp meeting was held this day. It was a rescheduled date due to inclement weather postponing the originally scheduled January 20, 2024 meeting date. Indiana Department Commander Tom Schmitt was present to install all John Auten Camp 8, Officers and appointed positions.

March 27, 2024: John Auten camp's regularly scheduled March Camp meeting. This was a working meeting. We reviewed our Memorial Day Program and assigned responsibilities for planning the different sections. The meeting also discussed the preliminary plans for a major event with a date yet to be determined. The Camp will present a program honoring Mother (Sister) Angela of St. Mary's University. In response to Governor Morton's call of 1861, eighty Sisters of the Holy Cross under the leadership of Mother Angela served as military nurses. The Sisters became the forerunners of the Navy Nurse Corps in 1862 when they boarded the Red Rover, the navy's first hospital ship. The Camp is planning a significant event that hopefully include the Universities of St. Mary's and Notre Dame.

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

William R. Adams

William R. Adams PDC
Camp Commander, SUVCW

Camp Commanders Report
Champion Hill, Camp 17
Spring 2024 Encampment
Department of Indiana
SUVCW

Brother Scott Baker of Ohio contacted the camp to set up a new headstone dedication for an ancestor (Issac Delong, 8th Indiana Inf. And 11th Indiana Cavalry) at Mt. Hope Cemetery in Bluffton Indiana. The ceremony is to take place at 8 pm on May 27th.

Camp Commander Young had been asked to be a reader of the names of men from Waterloo New York who died during the 1861-1865 period of the Civil War. The ceremony will be May 24th at their Memorial Day ceremony.

Camp Commander Young was guest speaker at the Camp Tippecanoe Civil War Roundtable in January of 2024. While there he spoke of the Dept. of Indiana's desire for a camp or two in northwest and of west central Indiana. And invited interested men of the roundtable to contact him concerning starting a camp.

Brother Young talked about Indiana at Gettysburg before some 40 guests at the WALLA society in West Lafayette in February 2024. WALLA is an adult learning organization for continuing education for older adults.

Brothers of Camp 17 donated CW related items to the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum in Ft. Wayne. At the February Camp Meeting the Brothers of Camp 17 voted to donate \$500.00 to the same organization to help complete outdoor work near the Civil War section of the grounds.

March of 2024 Brother Young gave another talk on the Civil War at the WALLA session at West Lafayette. It was on Glory and Romance of the war through literature about the war.

Yours respectfully
Camp Commander Young

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

WILLIAM P. BENSON CAMP # 28

ACTIVITY REPORT NOV. 2023 TO APRIL 2024

CAMP 28 PARTICIPATED IN THE WINCHESTER, IN. FIRST ANNUAL SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT LIGHTING CEREMONY ON NOV. 10TH. TOM AND DENNIS ATTENDED IN UNIFORM TO BEGIN THE CEREMONY WITH THE FIRING OF THE CANNON. THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER ESTIMATED THERE WAS APPROXIMATELY 1000 PEOPLE IN ATTENDANCE.

CAMP 28 GAVE OUR "UNION NAVY DURING THE CIVIL WAR" PRESENTATION TO THE "BLUE AND GRAY" ORGANIZATION IN CONNERSVILLE, INDIANA ON MARCH 7TH. THIS WAS VERY WELL RECEIVED.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Ashley".

THOMAS ASHLEY, CAMP COMMANDER



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS
DAVID D. PORTER CAMP #116

Larry R. Hautzinger
Camp Commander
4250 E.104th Ave
Crown Point, IN 46307
E-Mail: Larry_Hautzinger@hotmail.com



March 16, 2024
In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

139th Annual Department of Indiana Annual Encampment – April 27, 2024

To: Department of Indiana Secretary, William Adams, PDC

The following is the report for the activities of the David D. Porter Camp #116 in Valparaiso, since the Department of Indiana's November 4, 2023 Mid-Year Encampment. (Nov. 4, 2023 - Apr. 27, 2024)
Our camp meets every other month. We've held a camp meetings in November of 2023 and camp meetings in February and March of 2024. All meetings were in person at the Valparaiso Memorial Opera House's "Chaplin Brown G.A.R. Post No.106", 2nd floor meeting room.

Membership: of the David D. Porter Camp #116 currently stands at 26. (1 new members since the last Department Mid-Year Encampment)

The David D. Porter Camp #116 held the following Meetings and Activities:

November 11, 2023 Camp meeting and Memorial Opera House (MOH) "Veterans Day Program"– Eleven Brothers met in our historic "Chaplin Brown G.A.R. Post No.106", at the Valparaiso Memorial Opera House. Brother and past Camp Commander Steve A. Mockler made a five-minute presentation on the "History of the MOH). Color Guard presentation was made by Brothers Pat Cave, Rick and Trevor Smurdon. In all ten members (one member could not attend the program part of the evening), along with the Community band was there to conduct the evening's ceremony.

January 13, 2024 –_Camp meeting - postponed due to freezing temperatures and snow.

February 3, 2024 Camp meeting – Eleven Brothers met in our historic "Chaplin Brown G.A.R. Post No.106", at the Valparaiso Memorial Opera House (MOH). Our Dept. Commander, Tom Schmitt, installed the 2024 David D. Porter's officers assisted by Dept. Secretary and Brother Bill Adams.

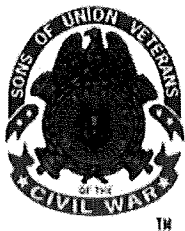
February 11, 2024 – Several Brothers attended the Crown Point "Civil War Round Table" in hopes of attracting new membership.

March 9, 2024 Camp meeting – Eight Brothers met in our historic "Chaplin Brown G.A.R. Post No.106", at the Valparaiso Memorial Opera House (MOH). Our camp conducted a "Ritual Memorial Service" for departed Brother Fred Karst and also an "Initiation" of a new Brother, Ron Morey.

March 10, 2024 – Several Brothers attended the Crown Point "Civil War Round Table" in hopes of attracting new membership.

Treasures Report: The camp as of March 11, 2024 has an account balance of \$2,674.80.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,
Larry R. Hautzinger
Camp Commander
SUVCW



Ben Harrison Camp No. 356

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
— Department of Indiana —

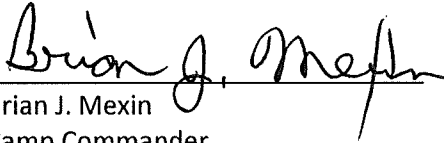
Brian J. Mexin – Commander
957 Balto Drive
Shelbyville, IN 46176
317-400-3342
mexinbrian@gmail.com

April 15, 2024

Dear Department Commander Schmitt,

Please accept this letter and accompanying inventory as the Ben Harrison Camp Report in advance of the 2024 Department Annual Encampment. I was installed as camp commander on December 9, 2023, by Past Department Commander Tim Beckman. We had a virtual camp meeting on January 13, 2024, at which I presented a patriotic instruction. We had an in-person and virtual camp meeting on March 9, 2024, at which I presented a patriotic instruction and presided over a brief memorial service for Past Department Commander Ivan Lancaster. We had an in-person and virtual camp meeting on April 13, 2024, at which I presented a patriotic instruction and presided over a memorial service for Brother John J. Copeland. I also presented a biography of Brother Jerrod Baugh as part of our camp member spotlight.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,


Brian J. Mexin
Camp Commander



Ben Harrison Camp No. 356
— Department of Indiana —

INVENTORY OF CAMP PROPERTY
April 15, 2024

GRAY STORAGE TUB #1: (in possession of Camp Secretary)

- 3 leather parade flag carrying belts
- Railroad spike found at Andersonville, GA (week of 4-5-99), donated to camp by John Copeland
- Bullet found on Munfordsville battlefield, donated to camp by John Copeland
- 11" x 14" picture of Benjamin Harrison
- Red, white & blue table cover with gold fringe
- Blue "356" cover with gold fringe
- Red & gold patriotism banner
- 8" x 10" picture of 5 membership badges (member, junior, GAR, associate & war medal)
- Shrink-wrapped copy of *Butler's Battlin' Blue Bastards* (The Story of the Men of the 3rd Battalion – 395th Infantry in WWII Under the Leadership of Lt. Col. McClernand Butler) by Thor Romington

- Copy of *Butler's Battlin' Blue Bastards* (The Story of the Men of the 3rd Battalion – 395th Infantry in WWII Under the Leadership of Lt. Col. McClernand Butler) by Thor Romington
- KJV Bible (presented to Carter C. Keith and his wife, Aug. 22, 1975)
- Flag bunting
- 2 photo albums of camp and department activities, (photos donated by widow of David Wiley)
- Original SVR membership card (1972), donated by John Copeland
- *The Acme Haversack* (1890) songbook, donated by John Copeland
- Discharge paper for Corporal Henry Roberts, Co. D, 138th Indiana Infantry

GRAY STORAGE TUB #2 – HISTORICAL ARCHIVE: (in possession of Camp Secretary)

- Former member records
- Correspondence
- Minutes
- Hayes Embezzlement file
- Old installation and quarterly reports
- Bank statements
- General Memorial Association information
- Unknown application papers
- 2007 National Encampment Souvenir Program
- 2 boxes of computer discs of camp files
- Bible presented to SUVCW Ben Harrison Camp #356 by Mrs. Dema Monson, March 21, 1944
- Computer CD – SUVCW Archives
- Photos from Camp Morton marker dedication (10-25-03)
- Photos taken at World War Memorial and Crown Hill
- Photos taken at Lincoln's Boyhood Memorial
- Computer SUVCW banner
- GAR Commemorative Badge
- Blue folder containing 2005 Department Encampment program and Monroe County Civil War Roundtable "The Sentinel" tribute to David Wiley

BLACK STORAGE TUB (CURRENT RECORDS): (in possession of Camp Secretary)

- Copies of Form 10, 13, 22, 27 and 30 Reports
- Postage Permits
- Legion Costs

- 1991 Indiana House Concurrent Resolution 60 celebrating 125th anniversary of 1st National Encampment of GAR in Indianapolis
- Job Description notebook
- Current member records
- Table display file
- SUVCW cannon and descendants project file
- Rosters
- Promotion and advertisement pamphlets
- Monument documents
- Department reports
- EIN Number information
- CWPT maps
- Current correspondence
- Constitution and regulations
- Certificate originally mailed to Smith Cornell Impressions for help with Camp Morton markers (was returned by the post office)
- Camp By-laws
- Action Items File
- Memorial Day programs

OTHER CAMP ITEMS (in possession of Camp Secretary)

- Minutes and monthly financial reports
- Camp Morton Medal (sold out)
- Camp Ben Harrison medals
- In Memoriam ribbons
- Official Camp Membership Book (started in Dec. 2006, but backdated to 1981 using archive information)

OTHER CAMP ITEMS (in possession of Camp Commander)

- Camp U.S. Flag (donated by Brother Beck)
- Camp flag & base (base was donated by Brother Walls)
- Camp Bible
- Camp Gavel
- Duplicate Camp Charter and stand
- Color Copy of Duplicate Camp Charter
- Charter black mourning drape
- Blue cloth altar square
- Ceremonial bugle
- Computer LCD Projector and case
- Portable projection screen

- 100 State of Indiana stick flags for Gettysburg Remembrance Day decoration
- 144 U.S. stick flags for Gettysburg Remembrance Day decoration
- 2 Medal of Honor stick flags for Gettysburg Remembrance Day decoration (donated by Brother Joe Beckman)
- Portable PA/sound system (donated by Brother & Sister Floyd)
- Camp banners
- Bible the camp presented to Commander in Chief Frank C. Huston in 1931.

OTHER CAMP ITEMS (in possession of Camp Senior Vice-Commander)

- In-Ground Flag holders for outdoor activities (donated by Brother Beck)

OTHER CAMP ITEMS (in possession of Camp Treasurer)

- Financial books
- QuickBooks program

OTHER CAMP ITEMS (in possession of Graves Registration Officer)

- 4 gallons of Biocide (for cleaning grave stones)
- Come-along, rope, and tripod for gravestone work
- Chain hoist for grave stone tripod (donated by Brother Floyd)
- Lifting strap for grave stone work (donated by Brother Floyd)
- 4x6" 34-star souvenir flags to hand out for events
- WPA – GAR burial cards for Marion County
- 3 GAR grave stone markers
- New, heavier base for Camp flag (donated by Brother Tim Beckman)

GIFTS FROM BOB WINTERS

- 1 Dinning fly
- 2 dog tents
- Assorted tent stakes
- 1 tarred knapsack
- 2 pair of gaiters (one plain and one tarred, both small)
- Assorted rope tighteners
- 2 one gallon spray tanks

Committee Reports

26th Indiana Monument – Vicksburg National Military Park

Vicksburg, MS

Report Presented to the 138th Annual Department of Indiana Encampment

April 27, 2024

Brothers at our Midyear Encampment November 4, 2023 I reported on the history and current state of the situation in Vicksburg National Military Park in Vicksburg Mississippi. I at that time recommended that we need to continue to “march in place”, to remain patient and maintain a constant monitoring of the Parks environmental situation. Once that improves then to move forward with our request to locate the 26th Indiana Monument to more secure Park property.

While that recommendation is still probably a good idea there have been some developments at VNMP. In a recent newsletter from the Friends of Vicksburg, of which I am a member, I noted several updates that would suggest things are changing there and some improvement is occurring.

Changes noted were, repairs to the roads have begun and work has begun to repair National cemetery ground, and reinter the remains of the mainly USCT veterans whose graves were washed out at the National Cemetery that resides in the park. I remind you that the National SUVCW is involved in that project. (Reference General Oder#4 Series 2022-2023) Also noted was that a number of other state’s monuments had been repaired and restored including that of Rhode Island. What caught my attention was an article on the renewal of the “Resumption Ceremony”. Three pictures and brief descriptions depicted National Graves registration Officer Henery Duquette and Department of Tennessee with Mississippi Commander Brother George Huttick speaking at the ceremony with a heading of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

The last change I noted was that VNMP announced on July 21st 2023 the selection of a new Park Superintendent, Carrie Mardorf. She had been

serving as the interim Superintendent since September of 2021. (see attached News Release)

Based on all of these developments I reached out to current Department of Tennessee and Dual John Auten camp Brother Mike Downs. Mike having previous knowledge of our ongoing efforts with Vicksburg and the 26th Indiana Monument, was the right person to introduce me to then Department of Tennessee with Mississippi Commander Geroge Huttick. Mike reached out to Brother Huttick and on March 11, 2024 Brother Huttick and I had a 20-minute phone conversation. The call ended with Brother Huttick providing a Vicksburg contact and the agreement we would meet up at the National Encampment in Lexington, KY in August.

The contact was the Executive Director of "The Friends of Vicksburg", Bess Mitchell Averett. I wrote to MS. Averett March 22, 2024 referencing Brother Huttick's recommendation that I contact her. (Communication attached) To date I have not received a reply. I have called the phone number that is provided on all Friends of Vicksburg communications but no one answers.

We however can not get discouraged. The Vicksburg Monument Committee comprised of Brothers Bruce Kolb, Michael Beck, Eric Sprouls and myself will meet and discuss a direction to continue forward on this project. There are a number of things we can do. Contact the new VNMP Superintendent to bring her up to date on the project, contact the Department of Iowa and Missouri to add their help, and bring this situation to the National SUVCW Officers and Brothers there by bringing the weight of the entire SUVCW Organization pushing to move this project to completion.

Respectively Submitted,

William Adams

William Adams, PDC

Secretary, Department of Indiana

SUVCW

Committee On Department Record Storage

Presented to the 138th Annual Department Encampment 2024

West Lafayette, Indiana

At the Midyear Encampment November 4, 2023, I reported that I had been in contact with Dr. Heather Galloway, Director for the Center for Fraternal Collections and Research, Indiana University. She recommended that we arrange a time for face-to-face discussions. We are to bring with us examples of our records so she can better analyze the records to determine the best options to preserve our department records. She expressed a willingness to meet with us to review the records and discuss her program.

At the conclusion of my report in November I reported that I had requested two others be assigned to join me in those deliberations with Dr. Calloway. Then, Department Commander Jim Floyd, stated that he would leave the appointment of those two Brothers to incoming Commander Tom Schmitt. Commander Schmitt and I have discussed these appointments and recently have added Brother Alan Teller and Brother Travis LeMaster. The final committee members were not finalized until just recently so we have not made contact with Dr. Calloway as yet to proceed with the review. Our intent would be to have that review some time between May through July.

They offer different options of service; in that they can review and recommend and train us on how to digitize and store records. Or they can digitize the information and store it for us if we are unable to do that ourselves. Their first order of priority for storing records are for those organizations that are now extinct as they don't want the records lost or destroyed. I explained how we were currently storing ours and the concern for environmental damage.

The Centers Mission Statement:

The Center for Fraternal Collections and Research collects, preserves, and makes accessible historical and cultural materials related to fraternal organizations and their membership, with an emphasis on organizations that are extinct or without stable historical repositories, and promotes research into the history of fraternal organizations in service of the university's teaching, research, and service mission.

Respectively Submitted,

William Adams, PDC