

*139th Annual Encampment*

*April 26, 2025*

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: [TXBHJ@gmail.com](mailto:TXBHJ@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 period of November 2, 2024 to April 26, 2025.

The Department of Indiana has a membership of 218 brothers, The brothers are divided over nine camps. We are happy to welcome the brothers from our newest camp, the William Baumgartner Camp # 33 in Bluffton, Indiana. With Kash Vanover as the first Commander.

The Department is very close to completing the Last Soldier project, and work on the new project of honoring Civil War nurses is progressing nicely. Many of the nurse's gravesites have been found and ceremonies have been completed. Much work has been completed cleaning cemeteries, maintaining monuments and headstones. Camps have been involved in educational events, providing information about the Civil War and the function & purpose of our organization.

### Actitives of the Department Commander during this period

The department commander installed the officers at 8 of the 9 camps at their locations in the department.

November 2, Held the midyear encampment at the National Veterans Shrine and Museum, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

November 16, Attended Remembrance Day parade Gettysburg, Pennsylvania.

December 14, Attended a ceremony for veterans at an event by the SAR/DAR at Oak Grove Cemetery, Fort Wayne. Played taps and fired volleys.

February 8, presented a one, hour presentation on Civil War for the Kankakee County Historical Society at Kouts, Indiana.

February 9, Attended Lincoln Boyhood Home Ceremony.

March 11, Presented the new Charter to the William Baumgartner camp 33 Bluffton, Indiana. Installed the new camp officers.

March 15, Cleaned and straightened headstones, cut brush and weeds at Oak Grove Cemetery Fort Wayne, Indiana.

March 22, Attended a ceremony for Civil War nurse Helene Wolff at Lindenwood Cemetery Fort Wayne. This was an SAR/DAR event. Played Taps and fired volleys.

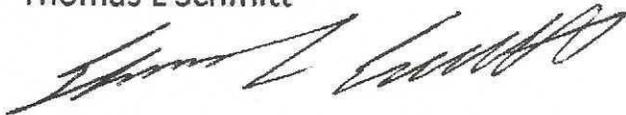
March 29, Attended a ceremony for Mother Angela at Saint Mary's College Notre Dame, Indiana. Fired volleys. While there the SVR placed 74 flags at gravesites of Civil War and Spanish/American War nurses.

April 12, Attended the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield, Illinois.

Due to the death of Brother Robert Petrovic I have been placed as Chairman of the Lincoln Charitable Foundation.

Respectfully, Submitted in Fraternity, Chairity and Loyalty on April 14, 2025

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](mailto:travis.lemaster@gmail.com)**



Brothers,

I am pleased to report on my activities as follows:

- Continue to work on updating 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.
- Continuing to raise funds and spread the word about the restoration project of the Orlando A. Somers Camp at Thraikill Cemetery.
- Attended the meetings of the Orlando A. Somers Camp in Kokomo.
- Attended the meetings of the Madison County Civil War Roundtable.
- Attended the February meeting of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) Indiana Commandery.

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**

**139<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment**

April 26, 2025



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 on the status and activities of recruiting from January 1, 2024, to April 12, 2025

**Status:** The Department of Indiana current membership remains strong with 215 total Members and Associates. This total is three less than January 1 of last year. The Department of Indiana Camps were expected to add additional members to their rosters by the end of the year, but losses due to deaths, discharges and drops offset the prospective gains. In all there were 4 deaths, 10 drops, and 2 Honorable Discharges totaling 16 losses offsetting all new Member and Associate gains for the year. While this may seem disturbing, the fact that our Camps were able to offset most of these losses with gains is a move in the right direction.

The 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 efforts, though the amounts are still below other heritage groups. As mentioned in previous reports, my goal was to see the Department totals climb back to or above the 2022 level of 227. As mentioned, our losses last year continued to offset our gains. Yet so long as the Department can, at a minimum, maintain our current levels despite our losses, it's clear that our efforts to bring to the forefront the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are still paying off. With rising costs and the current uncertainty of the financial markets, Camps may find though that dialing up their efforts in recruiting will be necessary to increase their membership.

The figures below indicate slight losses in four of the Camps with slightly to moderate gains in two of the Camps and two Camps maintaining their membership numbers. Although we would all like to see slight gains in our membership, I feel that it is normal for overall membership in each Camp to fluctuate up and down as much as 7%. A decrease of more than 7% may be of concern and warrant looking into possible reasons behind the decline.

The Department Camp final membership totals after gains & losses as of January 1, 2025, are as follows:

<b>Camp</b>	<b>Jan 2024</b>	<b>Jan 2025</b>
<i>Ben Harrison Camp No. 357</i>	45	42
<i>Champion Hill Camp No. 17</i>	49	35
<i>Orlando A. Somers Camp No. 1</i>	33	31
<i>David D. Porter Camp No. 116</i>	26	28
<i>John B. Anderson Camp No. 223</i>	23	28
<i>John Auten Camp No. 8</i>	20	18
<i>John W. Foster Camp No. 2</i>	13	13
<i>William P. Benton Camp No. 28</i>	9	9
<i>William Baumgartner Camp No. 33</i>	0	11
<b>Totals</b>	<b>218</b>	<b>215</b>

\*The figures above include inner Department transfers of 11 members from the Champion Hill Camp No. 17 to our newest William Baumgartner Camp No. 33.

**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 laminated this task with the responsibilities I have as Camp Commander and as such my activities will reflect this. No better tool can be given to us to improve recruitment than promoting the Indiana Department of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in a positive way through Camp and Department activities. My efforts promoting the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War since the Mid-Year Encampment include the following:

- Coordinated 2 new potential members to Ben Harrison Camp No. 357.
- Coordinate 1 new potential member to the Champion Hill Camp No. 17.
- Coordinated 11 new potential memberships to John B. Anderson Camp No. 223.
- Cemetery projects at Oak Hill Cemetery, Evansville, Indiana to honor veterans and to promote the SUVCW. [current activity]
- Cemetery project at Fairfield Cemetery in Spencer County, Indiana.
- Attended Lincoln Days on February 9, 2025.
- Bellefontaine Cemetery headstone dedication on November 9, 2024.
- Foster Camp meetings discussing potential members and projects, November to current, 2025.

Unfortunately, not all potential memberships pan out for one reason or another, but it's important to understand that some potential members are better than no potential members. Activities continue to be an important aspect of recruiting. 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 brought the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to the attention of local Civil War history in all our communities through in-person contacts and social media.

**Summary:** Membership during 2024 has for the most part maintained itself with just a slight decline. There still seems to be a great deal of interest in our Civil War ancestors and I tend to think the prospects are still promising to bring into the organization several new members despite economic trends. I strongly recommend that the Department Camps continue the good work they've been doing to push the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War agenda to its fullest. 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 Union 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, while this is my last report as Jr. Vice Commander of the Department of Indiana, I believe that there is a necessity to stay engaged in the recruiting of new members to expand the reach of the SUVCW and all the good that this organization does and will continue to do.

The 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment 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

DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA

Supplement to the Report of the

## Junior Vice Commander

139<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment Held on

April 26, 2025



To: Department of Indiana, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

Brothers of the Department,

As stated at the 139<sup>th</sup> Department of Indiana Encampment, I present the following membership figures related to all thirty-one departments of the National Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and how the Department of Indiana compares to the remaining departments. To provide a clear understanding of how the Department of Indiana stands, I compared each department's membership with the total male population available to pull from. While this is a good indicator, there are several factors that can skew the data such as a split between Southern and Northern alliance in the Southern departments, membership popularity in other fraternal and civic societies such as the SAR in the Northeastern departments, and the percentage of males below the age of fourteen. However, to get an idea of where Indiana ranks among other departments, a ratio of members verses male population can provide a general idea. In addition, this will also provide a general figure as to where the Department of Indiana should be with respect to its membership.

To facilitate a clearer understanding, the data will be split between "Northern Departments" (Midwest and Northeastern Union affiliated states), "Western Department" (both Union and Confederate states) and "Southern Departments" (including boarder states), thus putting the Department of Indiana in a better perspective. In my opinion, the Department of Indiana should be more aligned with the Northern Departments since this is where the highest concentration of potential members would be, taking in account the strength of Union lineage in these departments.

The overall membership ranking is in the left column and the overall members to male population ranking is in the far-right column.

### Northern Departments

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Total Members</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Ratio</i>	<i>Rank</i>
#29	Connecticut	67	1.8M	1:27K	#12

#8	Illinois	293	6.3M	1:22K	#10
#11	Indiana	228	3.5M	1:15K	#7
##19	Iowa	118	1.6M	1:14K	#6
#26	Maine	80	.7M	1:9K	#2
#15	Massachusetts	164	3.4M	1:21K	#9
#5	Michigan	395	5.0M	1:13K	#5
#30	New Hampshire	66	.7M	1:11K	#4
#7	New Jersey	300	4.6M	1:15K	#7
#2	New York	455	4.1M	1:9K	#2
#3	Ohio	414	5.8M	1:14K	#6
#1	Pennsylvania	676	6.4M	1:10K	#3
#20	Rhode Island	114	.5M	1:4K	#1
#28	Vermont	73	.3M	1:4K	#1
#9	Wisconsin & Minn.	263	5.9M	1:22K	#10
#14	Kansas	172	1.5M	1:9K	#2

**Southern Departments**

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Total Members</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Ratio</i>	<i>Rank</i>
#25	Alabama	97	2.5M	1:27K	#12
#6	Chesapeake w/VA,WV, DE, MD	320	8.7M	1:27K	#12
#16	Florida	162	10.8M	1:67K	#18
#22	Georgia & S. Carolina	113	7.8M	1:69K	#19
#10	Missouri w/Arkansas	230	4.5M	1:20K	#8
#24	North Carolina	101	5.2M	1:52K	#16
#21	Tennessee w/Mississippi	114	4.8M	1:42K	#15
#12	Texas w/Louisiana	198	16.1	1:81K	#20

#23	Kentucky	111	2.2M	1:20K	#8
-----	----------	-----	------	-------	----

**Western Departments**

<i>Rank</i>	<i>Department</i>	<i>Total Members</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Ratio</i>	<i>Rank</i>
#4	California & Pacific w/NV & HI	396	21.9M	1:55K	#17
#17	Colorado & Wyoming w/ID, MT, UT	320	6.5M	1:20K	#8
#13	Columbia, w/AK, OR, WA	180	6.4M	1:36K	#14
#27	Nebraska, N. & S. Dakota	78	1.9M	1:24K	#11
#31	Oklahoma	58	2.0M	1:35K	#13
#18	Southwest, w/AZ & NM	121	5.1M	1:42K	#15

When looking at the far-left column, the total membership in each department places Indiana in the 11<sup>th</sup> position in total membership. Pennsylvania has the highest membership with 676 members and Oklahoma is at the bottom with 58 total memberships. Yet in all fairness it's important to point out that the number of members should reflect the male population that each department has available to pull from. In the far-right column, Indiana is placed in 7<sup>th</sup> position and is tied with New Jersey. Though New Jersey shows a membership of 300, they also have 1.1 million more males to pull from, therefore the ratio stays the same.

The data clearly indicates what was previously mentioned in that the Southern Departments and Western Departments are sparse in membership with some departments averaging up to 1 in every 43,000 potential male members while the Northern Departments average 1 in every 13,700 potential male members. With respect to the Department of Indiana, the data shows the membership is 1 in every 15,000 potential male members. This clearly shows that while the Department of Indiana membership is near average, the numbers fall below average. Had the Department of Indiana been average at 1 in every 13,700 members, we should currently have approximately 256 members.

Furthermore, out of the sixteen Northern Departments, eleven were doing equal or better than the Department of Indiana and only four were doing worse than Indiana. The median number of potential male members in the sixteen Northern departments is 13.5K which supports the fact that the Department of Indiana should have 1 in about every 13,700 potential male members.

To summarize, in my original report I stated that Indiana membership remains strong in comparison to the other departments. I stand by those remarks since most of the thirty-one departments are performing much worse than the Department of Indiana. Yet the figures indicate that the Department of Indiana could and should do better establishing a membership at 256 or above. To offset losses for the year, the Department of Indiana must try to increase our new membership by a minimum of forty. This may be a difficult task to achieve and may take two to three years to reach that number. Yet, this is important for the Department of Indiana to achieve, not only to reduce the workload on those members that are deeply involved in keeping the lights on, but financially as well. Likewise, the Department of Indiana will need the additional members in the planning and execution of the National Encampment to be hosted by Indiana in the next few years.

The 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment Supplement Report of the Jr. Vice Commander is hereby submitted on this 5<sup>th</sup> day of May 2025.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

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

David Hoesli  
Sr. 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](mailto:Adamswr949@gmail.com)



## Department of Indiana 139th Annual Encampment April 26, 2025

### Department Secretary Activity Report from November 2, 2023 to April 26, 2025

- Completed and mailed all Camps Form #22 “Certification of Election and Installation of Camp Officers” to National Hdqtrs.
- Completed the November 2, 2024 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 15<sup>th</sup> 2025. This includes Co. D 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana SVR. Remaining Camps must file between July 1, to November 15, 2025.
- 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 9 Camp’s Form #27’s. All corrections were reported back to the individual camp Secretary.
- I have completed the Form #35 Department Annual Report to National and with this form pay our Annual dues for the Department.
- I have had numerous communications via face to face, phone, email and USPS providing forms and instruction to new camp organizers forming new camp #33 William Bumgarner, Bluffton, IN.
- I have answered numerous questions on forms, form due dates, applications, By-Laws, Life Membership, general and honorable discharge.
- Since November 2, 2024 I have processed (24) Form #30’s.
- I processed a total of (43) Form #30’s for the year 2024
- Results from the Camp’s 2024 Form #27’s provides the following: Total Hdcnt. 215; 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**

**DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA**

**Jonathan Swarts, Patriotic Instructor**

**2025 Annual Encampment Report**

Following is a report of my activities from 23 October 2024 to 14 April 2025.

2024

November 3: Wrote and sent out November Department Patriotic Instruction

November 5: Sent out November National Patriotic Instruction

December 10: Wrote and sent out December Department Patriotic Instruction

December 10: Sent out December National Patriotic Instruction

December 13: Wrote and contributed Patriotic Instruction to December issue of *The Indiana Legion*

2025

January 7: Wrote and sent out January Department Patriotic Instruction

January 7: Sent out January National Patriotic Instruction

February 6: Wrote and sent out February Department Patriotic Instruction

February 6: Sent out February National Patriotic Instruction

February 28: Wrote and sent out March Department Patriotic Instruction

March 3: Sent out March National Patriotic Instruction

March 29: Led Civil War Nurses ceremony organized by John Auten Camp #8 at Saint Mary's College, South Bend

April 1: Wrote and sent out April Department Patriotic Instruction

April 1: Wrote and contributed Patriotic Instruction to April issue of *The Indiana Legion*

April 10: Sent out April National Patriotic Instruction

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Jonathan Swarts  
Patriotic Instructor  
Department of Indiana

## **2025 Chaplain's Report**

### **SUVCW Department Indiana Annual Encampment**

**Lew (Mike) Michael Thomas**, Life Member 1029, died June 3, 2024 at the age of 79. He was a member of the SUVCW Orlando A. Somers Camp #1.

He served 25 years as a firefighter, Captain and instructor for the Anderson Fire Department and later Chief of the Pendleton Correctional Facility Fire Department. He also was a member of East Christian Church, Markleville; Madison Masonic Lodge #44 F. & A.M., Pendleton where he was a past worshipful master; Scottish Rite Valley of Indianapolis; Order of Kentucky Colonels; Sons of Confederate Veterans and Sons of Union Veterans. Mike was a school bus driver for many years for South Madison Schools.

**Dr. Donald E Gradeless** was born April 17, 1949, in Warsaw, IN. He spent most of his education and career in Wisconsin. On retirement he moved to Winona Lake, IN. He was a Life Member of the SUVCW Champion Hill Camp No. 17 in Huntington, IN. He was an active member and belonged to many other lineage societies. As an educator he received many accolades and honors over his storied career. Sadly, he passed away on Sept. 26, 2022.

(I would like to speak about my report if only to ask for a moment of silence for the passing of these two Life Members of the SUVCW.)



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA



Report of the  
**GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER**  
**139<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment**  
April 26, 2025

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 18, 2024, to April 12, 2025.

As of April 1, 2025, there were a total of 41,576 Civil War veterans buried in the state of Indiana who are registered on the National Graves Registration database. This total reflects an increase of 760 veterans that have been added to the Indiana total since the Mid-Year Department Encampment in November 2024. The largest increases were in Grant County having added 246 new veterans followed by Steuben County 78, Perry County 74 and Marion 57. La Porte had an increase of 83 due to spelling issues.

As Department GRO, I have added 167 new names to the National database and made 104 adjustments to existing graves data since November 2024. My focus since November of last year has been to enter the veterans from Perry and Steuben County. I continue to enter nearly 500 veterans buried in Steuben County that Brother Wiegmann was kind enough to pass along to me a few years ago. There still exist several duplicate records on the website which I will remove as I come across them. To date, I have contributed 4,407 names to the National Graves Registration database.

In addition to Steuben and Perry Counties, I continue to focus on identifying the Nurses that served during the Civil War and are buried in Indiana. The National GRO encourages the addition of Civil War Nurses to the Graves Registration database. There were several hundred nurses that served in Indiana hospitals during the Civil War and an untold amount that served in other hospitals around the country who were from Indiana. While a list of most of these Nurses can be easily obtained, identifying their married name if they were single at the time and then searching to see if they were buried in Indiana is challenging at best. Yet, challenging or not, this project is well worth the effort to recognize them for their service to their country and I encourage all Brother's that know of a Civil War Nurse buried in Indiana to let their Camp or Department GRO know so that they can be entered into the database in addition to adding a medallion to their headstone. To date, there are only 217 Nurses added to the National Graves Registration database. Of that number 3 are listed as buried in Indiana. I have a work-in-progress list of nurses found so far and is available upon request from any Brother who may be interested.

The number of veterans that fought for the state of Indiana that have been entered on the Graves Registration database total 55,901. This is an increase of 960 since the Mid-Year Department Encampment in November 2024. This total is a little over a quarter of the roughly 200,000 veterans that served from Indiana.

As mentioned in my last report, during the National Encampment in Lexington, Kentucky, I had a chance to speak to the National GRO Henry Duquette about the changes that are supposed to take place soon. His enthusiasm focused on the changes that would reduce the mistakes that are common when entering the data in the online form. Safeguards such as additional drop-down lists that reduce misspellings, and the option to add additional regiments to the form for veterans that served in more than one regiment were just some of the changes they're making. Brother Duquette had hoped to have the new changes in use by spring of this year. The Graves Registration database has not yet been updated to the changes described, but I hope to see them yet in 2025.

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

- |                  |                      |                     |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Floyd – 2,105 | 6. Lawrence – 1,329  | 11. Clinton – 1,018 |
| 2. Grant – 1,787 | 7. Cass – 1,315      |                     |
| 3. Marion 1,704  | 8. Howard – 1,145    |                     |
| 4. Allen – 1,546 | 9. Kosciusko – 1,090 |                     |
| 5. Wayne – 1,484 | 10. Hamilton – 1,066 |                     |

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

### *Department of Indiana County Totals*

The following is a breakdown of the contribution to the Graves Registration project by county since the November 2024 Mid-Year Encampment report:

<i>County</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Increase/Decrease</i>
Adams	358	+1
Allen	1,546	0
Bartholomew	634	+1
Benton	203	0
Blackford	406	+4
Boone (Boon)	261	+2
Brown	291	+1
Carroll (Carrol)	603	0
Cass	1,315	- 1

Clark	199	+2
Clay	51	+3
Clinton	1,018	0
Crawford	634	+2
Davies	252	+4
Dearborn	874	+1
Decatur	140	+3
DeKalb	257	0
Delaware	932	+2
Dubois	182	+2
Elkhart	171	+5
Fayette	215	0
Floyd	2,105	0
Fountain	155	+25
Franklin	321	+1
Fulton	486	0
Gibson	200	+2
Grant	1,787	+246
Greene (Green)	120	+8
Hamilton	1,066	+6
Hancock	321	+ 67
Harrison	158	+1
Hendricks	145	- 2
Henry	141	+1
Howard	1,145	+1
Huntington	747	+1
Jackson	123	+1
Jasper	45	+2
Jay	508	+1
Jefferson	177	+2
Jennings	62	+6
Johnson	362	+3
Knox	180	+1
Kosciusko	1,090	+16
LaPorte (La Porte)	379	+83

Lagrange	414	+12
Lake	145	+2
Lawrence	1,329	+4
Madison	371	+3
Marion	1,704	+57
Marshall	520	0
Martin	113	+3
Miami	72	+2
Monroe	213	+17
Montgomery	303	+9
Morgan	112	+5
Newton	250	+1
Noble	826	+1
Ohio	87	+3
Orange	203	+4
Owen	955	+1
Parke (Park)	496	+1
Perry	314	+74
Pike	180	+1
Porter	477	0
Posey	429	0
Pulaski	327	0
Putnam	46	+1
Randolph	244	+2
Ripley	222	+1
Rush	35	+2
St. Joseph	204	+9
Scott	36	0
Shelby	280	+3
Spencer	508	+1
Starke (Stark)	340	+1
Steuben	408	+78
Sullivan	57	+2
Switzerland	107	+1
Tippecanoe	977	+6

Tipton	582	0
Union	24	0
Vanderburgh	656	+2
Vermillion	451	- 1
Vigo	59	+1
Wabash	274	+5
Warren	280	0
Warrick	191	0
Washington	221	0
Wayne	1,484	+9
Wells	434	- 1
White	406	0
Whitley	<u>472</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	41,203	+ 827
Unknown & Misspelled Counties	<u>371</u> (Reduced 168 from last encampment)	
<b>Total</b>	41,574	

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

\*\* Totals taken on 4/7/2025.

The total increases tallied by county continue to be 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 is Indiana records that have no named county or incorrectly spelled county names. A clear example is the entry of the county La Porte. Most of the entries are entered as “LaPorte” and will not be included if searching “La Porte”. There have been great strides in reducing the number resulting in only 371 Indiana registrations with these issues. This is a considerable difference from the over 2000 errors just a few years ago. The 371 current error’s is down 168 from the November Mid-Year Encampment report. The accumulated total of 41,574 is inclusive of these 371 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, 68 out of the 92 Indiana counties contributed to the increase of new veterans added to the National database. There were 4 counties that had a slight decrease due to the removal of errors or duplications. There were 20 counties that recorded at least five or more new veteran registrations to the National database since November. Ten 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 I have added the combined totals by States and by Departments since some of these Departments are comprised of two or more states.

## National Graves Registration

### *By State & District of Columbia*

<u>State</u>	<u>Nov. 2024</u>	<u>Apr. 2025</u>	<u>Change</u>
1. Ohio	91,052	91,420	368
2. New York	58,057	59,499	1,442
3. Michigan	54,673	54,733	60
4. Pennsylvania	53,357	54,156	799
5. Iowa	47,042	47,531	489
6. Illinois	45,875	46,488	613
<b>7. Indiana</b>	<b>40,816</b>	<b>41,576</b>	<b>760</b>
8. Wisconsin	35,079	35,155	76
9. Missouri	32,226	34,689	2,463
10. Massachusetts	33,408	33,491	83
11. Kansas	31,634	31,832	198
12. California	29,120	29,110	(10)
13. Tennessee	26,807	27,594	787
14. Virginia	24,614	24,662	48
15. New Jersey	21,929	21,954	25
16. Nebraska	19,189	19,215	26
17. Georgia	18,431	18,291	(140)
18. Maine	17,823	18,033	210
19. Minnesota	12,475	14,796	2,321
20. Vermont	13,997	13,916	(81)
21. Oklahoma	10,221	10,227	6
22. Connecticut	9,404	9,417	13
23. New Hampshire	9,199	9,203	4
24. Rhode Island	9,141	9,152	11

25. Kentucky	8,421	8,857	436
26. Colorado	7,733	7,763	30
27. Oregon	7,449	7,470	21
28. North Carolina	7,357	7,366	9
29. Louisiana	7,288	7,307	19
30. District of Columbia	6,817	6,744	(73)
31. Washington	6,390	6,494	104
32. Arkansas	6,276	6,316	40
33. Maryland	5,079	5,801	722
34. South Carolina	5,324	5,290	(34)
35. Mississippi	5,242	5,265	23
36. South Dakota	4,416	4,662	246
37. West Virginia	3,872	3,905	33
38. Texas	2,950	3,042	92
39. Florida	2,477	2,478	1
40. Montana	1,425	1,439	14
41. Alabama	1,343	1,352	9
42. Idaho	1,330	1,350	20
43. New Mexico	959	962	3
44. Arizona	900	904	4
45. Delaware	783	785	2
46. North Dakota	679	686	7
47. Utah	666	666	0
48. Nevada	493	485	(8)
49. Wyoming	441	483	42
50. Alaska	59	59	0
51. Hawaii	40	77	37

*By Department*

<u>State</u>	<u>Apr 2025</u>
1. Ohio	91,420
2. New York	59,499
3. Michigan	54,733
4. Pennsylvania	54,156
5. Wisconsin & Minnesota	49,951
6. Iowa	47,531
7. Illinois	46,488
<b>8. Indiana</b>	<b>41,576</b>
9. Chesapeake (Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, & D.C.)	41,112
10. Missouri	34,689
11. Massachusetts	33,491
12. Tennessee (With Mississippi)	32,859
13. Kansas	31,839
14. California & Pacific (With Nevada, & Hawaii)	29,672
15. Nebraska (With North Dakota & South Dakota)	24,563
16. Georgia & South Carolina	23,581
17. New Jersey	21,954
18. Maine	18,033
19. Columbia (Alaska, Oregon & Washington)	14,023
20. Vermont	13,916
21. Colorado & Wyoming (With Idaho, Montana & Utah)	11,701
22. Texas (With Louisiana)	10,349
23. Oklahoma	10,227
24. Connecticut	9,417
25. Rhode Island	9,152
26. New Hampshire	9,203
27. Kentucky	8,857
28. North Carolina	7,366
29. Florida	2,478
30. Southwest (Arizona & New Mexico)	1,866

31. Alabama	1,352
32 Foreign Countries	665
33. Buried at Sea	299
34. MIA	108
35. Unknown	75

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

The compiled list above gives a clear picture where the Department of Indiana stands in comparison to the rest of the Departments. In the data you will see that Indiana ranks 7<sup>th</sup> in terms of state-by-state totals. When the data is grouped into Departments, Indiana ranks 8<sup>th</sup> in total number of Graves Registration entries. A closer look at the total of new veteran entries will show that Indiana is sixth in the number of entries to the Graves Registration database since last November.

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 2025 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment is hereby submitted.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,



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](mailto:fsgtcod11thindiana@att.net)**  
**Website**  
**<http://suvwin.org/>**



**November 3, 2024 - April 26, 2025**  
**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/>**

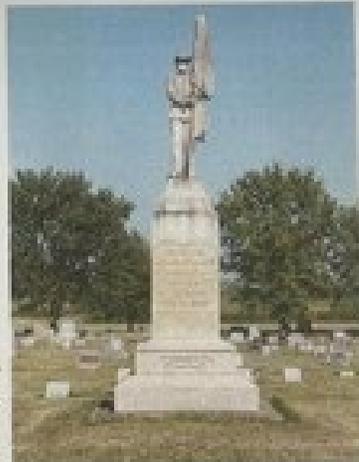
1. Blackford
2. Cass
3. Clark - Mt. Zion Cemetery - Henryville, IN - Photograph (New)
4. Clinton
5. Dubois
6. Fayette
7. Gibson - New Photographs of Civil War Monument in Princeton, IN
8. Grant
9. Hancock - GAR Stain Glass Window at the Fortville United Methodist Church
10. Henry
11. Howard
12. Huntington
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 SUVCW member:

Randy D. McNally

607 S. Washington, Swayzee IN46986

765-860-8542, randydmcnally@aol.com

or

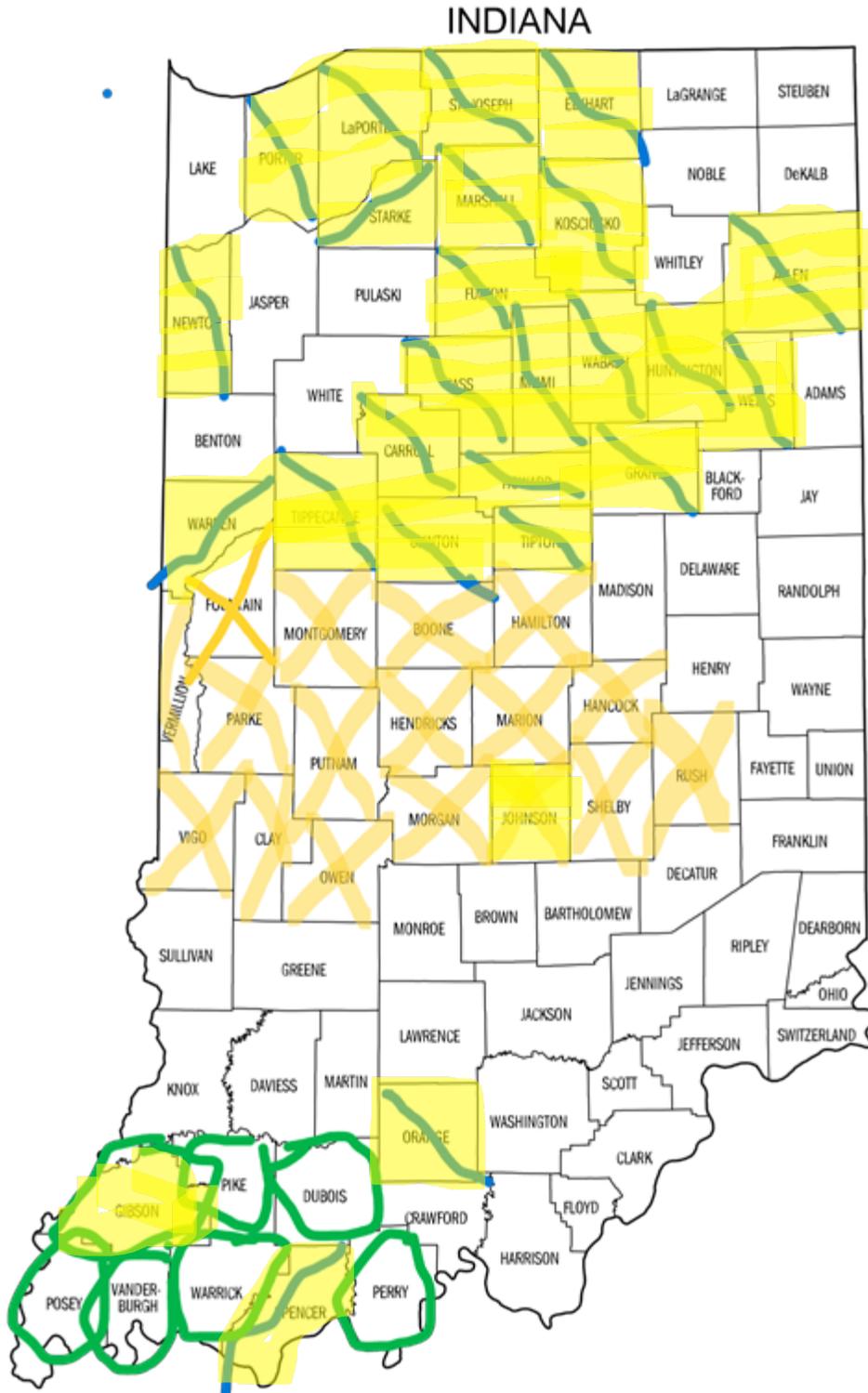
Travis LeMaster

PO Box 56, Sweetser IN 46987

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



Last Soldiers Project as of 04/25/2025  
Yellow Highlighted areas so Last Soldiers Project for that County have been completed



Last Soldiers Project as of 04/25/2025

Yellow Highlighted areas so Last Soldiers Project for that County have been completed

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](mailto:fsgtcd11thindiana@att.net)**

**Website <http://suvwin.org/>**



**Eagle Scout Coordinator's Report for November 3, 2024 – April 26, 2025  
Eagle Scout Certificates presented to the following:**

1. Samuel T. Osterman, Jasper, Indiana - Camp Assigned – John W. Foster

Number of Eagle Scout SUVCW Certificates sent out from each camp 2025	
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 0
7	John B. Anderson Camp # 223 - Columbus, IN 0
8	Benjamin Harrison Camp #356 - Indianapolis, IN 0
	Total 1

**Camp Eagle Scout Coordinators:**

Orlando A. Somers Camp No. 1 (Kokomo, IN) Brother Drew Godby - [dcdgodby@gmail.com](mailto:dcdgodby@gmail.com)

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

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

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

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

David D. Porter Camp No.116 (Valparaiso, IN) Brother Herbert Smith III – [hwsmith3@hotmail.com](mailto:hwsmith3@hotmail.com)

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

Benjamin Harrison Camp No. 356 (Indianapolis, IN): PCC John Bowyer - [bwyrpndltn@yahoo.com](mailto: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) 575-8483

E-Mail: [Adamswr949@gmail.com](mailto:Adamswr949@gmail.com)



## Department of Indiana 139th Annual Encampment April 26, 2025

### GAR Highway Officers Activity Report from November 2, 2024 to April 26, 2025

There is nothing new to report since the Midyear Encampment of November 2, 2024

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.

As always, I wish to thank Brother Tom Schmitt for his support as he continues to drive the eastern portion of US 6 providing reports on the GAR Highway signs location and condition.

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](mailto:TIMBECKMAN@GMAIL.COM)



<https://suvcw.in.org>

### Signals Officer Report

Here are my Department of Indiana Signal Officer's activities since the 2024 Mid-Year Encampment:

Updated the Past Department Commanders and Encampments page on the Department of Indiana website with new links for Elmer S. Walker, George C. Harvey, and John W. Newton, on December 3, 2024.

Added the 1911 32<sup>nd</sup> Dept. of IN GAR Journal onto the Department of Indiana website on January 7, 2025.

Added the following Department of Indiana Newsletters, the Indiana Legion, Issue 2-24, to the Department of Indiana website on December 15, 2024 and the Indiana Legion, Issue 1-25, to the Department of Indiana website on April 9, 2025.

Added and updated upcoming events onto the Department of Indiana website on April 9, 2025.

Will start working on getting all the Department Officer's reports onto the Department of Indiana website on or after April 12, 2025 for the Department of Indiana Annual Encampment to take place on April 26, 2025.

The Department of Indiana web site domain, SUVCWIN.ORG, was renewed for another 2-year period on February 3, 2025.

The Department of Indiana Zoom Pro account will be renewed for another 1-year on April 29, 2025.

The Department of Indiana Zoom Pro account was used by the following camps for their meetings during the period November 2024 through April 2025: 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 173 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](mailto:timbeckman@gmail.com) to request to be added to this group.

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty, this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025.

Timothy J. Beckman, PDC

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



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 12<sup>th</sup> day of April 2025.

Bruce Kolb, PDC  
Department GAR Records Officer  
Department Historian



**COMPANY D. 27<sup>TH</sup> INDIANA SVR**  
**SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE**  
[HTTP://SUV.CWIN.ORG/?PAGE\\_ID=295](http://suv.cwin.org/?page_id=295)



**2025 Annual Encampment Activity Report**  
**27<sup>th</sup> Indiana SVR**  
**April 2024 - April 2025**

April 27, 2024

138<sup>th</sup> Annual Department of Indiana Encampment at the Indiana Veterans Home Lafayette, Indiana. Co. D presented the colors at the opening of the encampment. In uniform were Captain Mike Beck, 1st Sgt. Dennis Hutchinson, Cpl. Randy McNally, Sgt. Garry Walls, Pvt Jeffery Mauldin, Pvt. Andrew Hagman, Cpl. Fred Leickly and Cpl. David Tilden. Members present not in Uniform were, Tom Schmitt, Bill Adams, Taylin Allen, Tom Ashley, Joe Beckman, John Bowyer, Larry Hautzinger, David Hoesli, Brian Mexin, Herb Smith, Jon Swarts, and Rick Wiegmann.

May 17, 2024

Old Ossian Cemetery, in Ossian Indiana, was rededicated after being restored to immaculate condition. Co. D 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana SVR members participated in the dedication. Sgt. Gary Walls, Cpl. David Tilden, Pvt. Tim Beckman, and Gib Young (all in uniform) fired the rifle salute. Pvt. Jon Swarts present a wreath, and Pvt Joe Beckman (not in uniform) also attended.

May 27, 2024

Ben Harrison Camp #356 Rededication of Captain William Bough headstone at Grandview Cemetery, Bloomfield, IN. Those present in uniform were Captain Mike Beck, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Bruce Kolb, 1st Sgt. Dennis Hutchinson, Pvt. Tim Beckman, and Pvt. Brian Mexin. Present not in uniform were Joe Beckman and John Bowyer.

August 17, 2024

On August 17<sup>th</sup> members of Co. D. 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana SVR held a G.A.R. grave rededication Ceremony for Private Jacob W. Boots (Co. A. 11<sup>th</sup> Indiana Vol. Zouaves) at the Peterson Cemetery in Montgomery County. 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana SVR members present for this event and in uniform were: Captain Mike Beck, Cpl. Randy McNally, Pvt. Tim Beckman, and Pvt. Brian Mexin.

### August 24, 2024

A dedication for the Last Veteran of St. Joseph County, Francis J. Barton, Highland Cemetery, South Bend was conducted by John Auten Camp #8. Co. D 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana SVR presented the colors and fired the rifle salute. 27<sup>th</sup> SVR Members present and in uniform were: Sgt. Tom Schmitt, Cpl. Will Radell, and Pvt Jon Swarts. Present not in uniform were Bill Adams.

### October 12, 2024

A Last Union Veteran Event for Cato Powell of the U.S.C.T. was conducted at Sandhill Cemetery in Gibson County on this date. Co. D 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana SVR presented the colors and fired the rifle salute. 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana SVR members present in uniform were: Captain Mike Beck, Sgt. Dennis Hutchinson, Pvt. Tim Beckman, and Pvt. Eric Sprouls. Present not in uniform were: Pvt. David Hoesli, Pvt. Joe Beckman, and Pvt. Tim Speedy.

### October 19, 2024

Four members of the 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana participated in a ceremony dedicating a memorial plaque to honor the service of Civil War Army Nurse Mother George. The ceremony was hosted by Sgt. Tom Schmitt (not in uniform) at the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Present in uniform were Lt Bruce Kolb, Lt Bill Adams and Pvt. Tim Beckman.

### November 2, 2024

Co D 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana SVR presented and retired the Colors at the Department of Indiana Midyear Encampment held in Fort Wayne, 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 16 2024

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

### December 14, 2024

Members of the 27<sup>th</sup> 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 9, 2025

Co D 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana SVR was again honored by being invited to provide the Official Color Guard for the National Park Service at the 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Lincoln Day Ceremony. 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana SVR and Foster Camp #2, member Brother Josh Claybourn was the featured

speaker for the event. The 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana opened the ceremony by presenting the Colors. After the indoor service, they retired the Colors and led the processional to Nancy Lincoln's grave site where they stood guard 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sgt. T. Furgason. Also in uniform were Cpl. R. McNally, Cpl. F. Leickly, Pvt. T. Beckman, Pvt. M. Ochs, and Pvt. J. Maudlin. Not in uniform were privates D. Hoesli, J. Beckman, A. Kolb, and J. Claybourn.

April 11, 2025 SVR members Cpt. Mike Beck, Lt Bruce Kolb and Pvt Tim Beckman presented Colors at the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Indianapolis Civil War Roundtable. They were joined by ICWR member and perspective SUVCW member Pastor Dave McKay.

April 12, 2025 Cpl Dennis Rigsby and Pvt Travis LeMaster represented the 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana at the Governor O. P. Morton Plaque Dedication in Centerville, IN at the Morton House. The SVR was joined by two members of William Benton camp, Centerville Indiana.

April 12, 2025

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

\*\*\* Current Unit strength, as of April 26, 2025 stands at (70). We currently have (1) Capt. (1) 1st Lt. (1) 2nd Lt., (1) first sergeant, (4) sergeants (7) corporals and (55) privates. The treasury currently has \$398.61.

\*\*\* I have filed the 2025 Unit application, the 2025 Unit Strength Report, and paid all required dues to the National and the Third Military District. Co D 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana SVR's 990-N has been filed and accepted by the IRS for the tax year 2024.

Respectfully Submitted

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

1st Lt. William Adams

Adjutant, Co. D 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry, SVR

# Camp Reports



Semi- Annual Report  
Orlando A. Somers, Camp #1  
Department of Indiana  
SUVCW  
26 March, 2025

William Adams  
Secretary  
Department of Indiana  
SUVCW

Sir,

I have the honor to report the actives of the Somers Camp #1 since the mid-year encampment of the Department in November of 2024.

December 2024 – Elections were held and new officers elected for the 2025 campaign. Randy D. McNally was elected as Camp Commander as well as the slate of officers submitted in Form 22.

We held our annual “Show and Tell” program for 2024 where brothers brought and told of Civil War related items they have come into possession of.

January 2025 – The Camp resumed its monthly schedule of cleaning the Kokomo Cannon in Highland Park. This is the Civil War cannon that was

given to the city after the war and the Camp raised monies to purchase a new gun carriage in order for it to be displayed. The Park Department of the city constructed a display building for it in the 1990s. We maintain it by cleaning and noting any repairs needed.

Fund raising for the restoration of the Thrailkill G.A.R. monument north of Swayzee, IN, was completed with the township Trustee's budget promising \$3000.00.

An effort to update Camp member's contact information was started. In the process we found that 2 members had passed away and one moved out of state that we were unaware of. This will be an ongoing effort.

Program was given by Brother Lance Stevens on Wilder's Lighting Brigade, 17<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteer Infantry, of which Brother Steven's ancestor, Pvt. William Glass was a member.

February 2025 – Brothers R. McNally and A. Teller attended the Lincoln Day Program at the Lincoln Boyhood National Monument in Lincoln City, IN where they lead the color guard and laid a wreath.

Brother S. Hagman maned a recruitment both at the Conner Long Rifle show in Noblesville on 14-16 of the month. He was able to sell \$30.00 worth of posters for the Thrailkill G.A.R. monument.

Update of Camp member's contact information has neared completion. One out standing with bad email and no response to calls nor regular mail, but dues are current.

No program due to scheduling issue.

March 2025 – Contract with Wearly Monuments signed for work to be done this spring on the Thrailkill G.A.R. monument. Rededication Ceremony date set for 12 July at 10:00 AM at the Monument. (see attached invitation)

Memorial Day Ceremony for the Camp will be held At the G.A. R. monument in Kokomo, IN at 3:00 PM, 25 May, 2025. The Camp plans to rotate Memorial Day Ceremonies between the G.A.R. monuments in

our area; Swayzee (Grant Co.), Kokomo (Howard Co.), Marion (Grant Co.) and Galveston (Cass co.)

Camp is planning a "Metals Meeting" for May. Bring/wear any G.A.R. and Sons metals you have! Alan Teller will be doing a program on the metals and how to wear them properly.

Brother R. Clyde presented a great program on the 39<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry/ 8<sup>th</sup> Indiana Cavalry at Chickamauga.

Form 22 was duly submitted In January

Form 27 has been signed and is being submitted by the Camp Secretary.

This should bring all Camp documents up to current.

Randy D. McNally

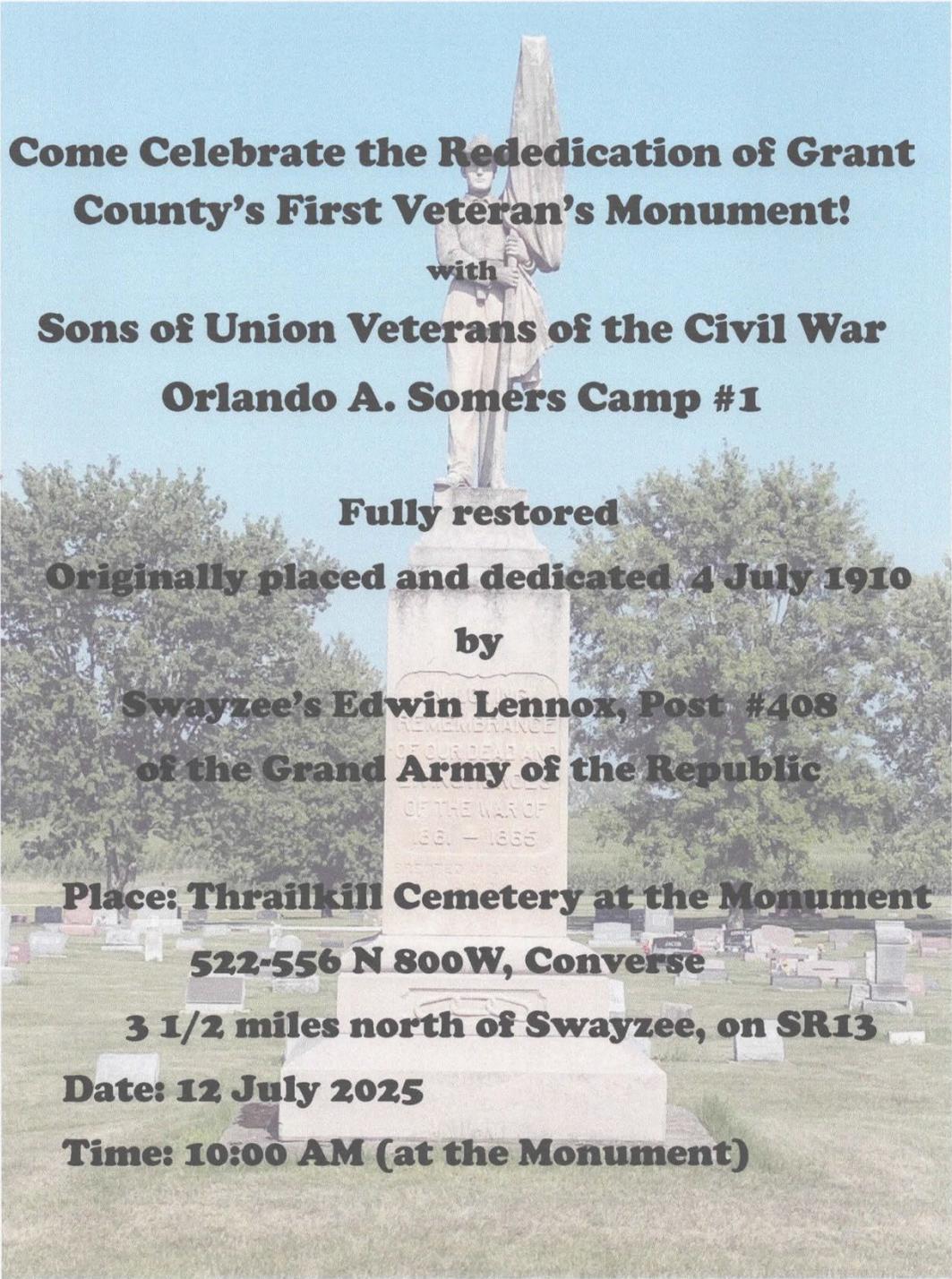
Camp Commander

Orlando A. Somers, Camp #1

Department of Indiana

SUVCW

Attachment:



**Come Celebrate the Rededication of Grant  
County's First Veteran's Monument!**

**with**

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Orlando A. Somers Camp #1**

**Fully restored**

**Originally placed and dedicated 4 July 1910**

**by**

**Swayzee's Edwin Lennox, Post #408  
of the Grand Army of the Republic**

**Place: Thrailkill Cemetery at the Monument**

**522-556 N 800W, Converse**

**3 1/2 miles north of Swayzee, on SR13**

**Date: 12 July 2025**

**Time: 10:00 AM (at the Monument)**



## SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

JOHN W. FOSTER CAMP No. 2

DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA

Report of the

**Commander**

**139<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment**

April 26, 2025



To: Department of Indiana Secretary, William Adams, PDC

I have the honor to report on the status and activities of John W. Foster Camp No. 2 from November 1, 2024, to April 26, 2025.

### *Meetings Held*

The Camp held a total of five hybrid meetings from November 2024 to April 2025. All meetings were held at the Newburgh Public Library on Belle Road as well as being held via Zoom. There was no meeting during December due to the holidays. The January meeting could not be held in person and had to be held by Zoom due to the weather. On average, the meeting attendance is one half to two thirds of the Camp in participation. The meeting facility is at no cost to the Camp.

Camp meeting dates were:

November 19, 2024, Hybrid	February 18, 2025, Hybrid
December 2024, No meeting.	March 18, 2025, Hybrid
January 21, 2025, Zoom only.	April 15, 2025, Hybrid

### *Membership*

The John W. Foster Camp had, as of April 2025, a total of 13 Brothers. 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. Attempts to recruit new members are ongoing through our events and at other public events including Round Tables, Historical Societies as well as through person-to-person contact.

### ***Treasurer's Report***

The John W. Foster Camp as of April 12, 2025, has an account balance of \$4,848.04. The Camp funds include donations for restoration of the cannon carriages at Oak Hill Cemetery in Evansville, Indiana. These funds will be used as the carriages are completed.

### ***Representation of the Camp and SUVCW in the Community***

Department of Indiana 138<sup>th</sup> Mid-Year Encampment November 2, 2024 – In attendance from the John W. Foster Camp were Camp Commander David Hoesli and Secretary Dennis Hutchinson PDC.

Bellefontaine Soldiers Row Dedication, November 9, 2024 – The dedication ceremony for the Bellefontaine Soldiers Row was one of the largest ever held by the John W. Foster Camp No. 2. The John W. Foster Camp No. 2, the Sons of Veterans Reserve and seven heritage groups participated in the event as well as the American Legion Color Guard from the Dunn Post at Mt. Vernon, Indiana. Also in attendance were seven members of the Mt. Vernon Fire Department with one ladder truck and an overhead drone to take pictures of the event.

Lincoln Day at the Lincoln Boyhood Site, February 9, 2025 – The John W. Foster Camp No. 2 was present for the Lincoln Day event at the National Lincoln Boyhood site. Present were Brothers Dennis Hutchinson, George Payne, Brian Lankford and David Hoesli. The guest speaker at the event was John W. Foster Camp's Josh Claybourne.

Lincoln Spring Heritage Day, May 10, 2025 – Secretary Dennis Hutchinson PDC will attend the event in full uniform to demonstrate the life of a soldier during the Civil War and to recruit new members to the John W. Foster Camp No. 2, SUVCW. Commander David Hoesli will be recruiting during the event.

### ***Last Union Veteran Project***

John W. Foster Camp No 2 will be holding another Last Union Veteran event sometime in late September for Civil War veteran Winfield Scott Hunter who was a Saddler for Company L, 13<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteer Cavalry. He was born on December 22, 1848, and passed away on April 3, 1947. Although he died in Dubois County, he is buried at Walnut Hill Cemetery in Petersburg, Indiana thus having the distinction of him being the last veteran to die in Dubois County and the last veteran buried in Pike County.

### ***Merchant Camp #185 Charter***

The Merchant Camp #185, Sons of Veterans Charter entrusted to John W. Foster Camp No. 2 at the Mid-Year Encampment 2024 was handed over to the University of Southern Indiana for digitizing and storage for safe keeping. The Charter is on a renewable 5-year contract loan.

### ***Cemetery Projects***

Bellefontaine Cemetery, Mt Vernon, Indiana: After three years of planning, applying and installing the military markers at Bellefontaine Cemetery, the project was finally completed. The “Soldiers Row” has now been restored and a fence now encloses these veteran’s final resting place.

Horace McCrary Headstone, The Camp continues to work 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.

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 Section 24 by spring of 2026. Currently the University of Southern Indiana Engineering Department has completed the CAD digital copies of the original blueprints and has received the necessary materials to complete the first cannon carriage. They have also pressure cut all the pieces to weld together for the first carriage. 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 later this 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 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2024, the records and artifacts of eight GAR Posts and one WRC Circle have been located and will be scanned and transferred to USI’s digital department. The records of the Warrick Post 262 and Morgan Post 15 are in the process of digitization and may be completed later this year.

### ***Evansville Coliseum***

The Evansville Coliseum is in the process of being restored. Specifically, the Grand Army of the Republic Room and the Spanish American War Room. All relics from both rooms are currently stored in the basement of the old courthouse in Evansville. The officers of John W. Foster Camp No. 2 have full access to view or inspect these items at any time. Furthermore, the Vanderburgh Coliseum Preservation Foundation (VCPF) has been set up to oversee the preservation of the rooms and artifacts. The John W. Foster Camp No. 2 was invited to have a member sit on the Board of this organization. The decision of which member should serve on this Board was brought before a regular meeting of the Camp on January 21, 2025, and by unanimous vote chose to have Brother Josh Clayborne serve on the VCPF Board. Currently the VCPF is working towards developing new branding and marketing materials including a new website to be active soon. This is part of a broader initiative to raise the funds needed for preservation goals, including a fundraising gala planned for this fall.

### *Camp Inventory*

The Camp reports on 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 banners 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.
10. Indiana Department Commanders Citation award and flag streamer for work on the National Graves Registration database.
11. Five Last Union Veteran Medallions for headstones.

### *Summary*

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 Foster Camp was also able to hold all monthly in-person and virtual meetings (Except December) as well as attend planned events all year.

The Camp continues to search for as many Grand Army of the Republic Post records as possible, documenting their location and accessibility. To date, the Camp has located records for nine G.A.R. Posts in southwest Indiana. In addition to locating these records, our goal is to be sure they have been digitized for future access.

The process of attaining new members is always an uphill climb, but efforts are always a work in process. There’s much more work ahead to add additional members to the Camp. Without question the financial stability and strength of our membership within 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.**

The 2025 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment Camp report of 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](mailto:tbeckman@indy.rr.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

George A. Payne, P.O. Box 743, Newburgh, IN 47629-0743 (812) 453-0385  
[gapayne@sigecom.net](mailto:gapayne@sigecom.net)

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

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

Eric P. Sprouls, 5225 Valeah Dr., Wadesville, IN 47638 (812) 622-0274  
[esprouls47@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:Adamswr949@gmail.com)



Department of Indiana 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment – April 26, 2025

The following reports the activities of John Auten Camp 8, South Bend from April 27, 2024 to April 26, 2025. Our camp meets every other month. We hold camp meetings in May, July, and September in person at St Paul's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, South Bend. Meetings in November, January, and March are held various branches of the SJ CPL Public Library.

The membership of John Auten Camp, 8 South Bend currently stands at 18 members That represents a loss of 2 members since reporting April 27<sup>th</sup> at the 138<sup>th</sup> Annual Department of Indiana Encampment.

April 27, 2024: Camp Commander William Adams, Sr.-Vice Commander Ron Hyer, Jr.- Vice Commander Rick Deutscher, Secretary/Treasurer Jonathan Swarts, and Tom Schmitt attended the 2024 138<sup>th</sup> Annual Department of Indiana Encampment at Lafayette, Indiana.

May 11, 2024: John Auten Camp sponsored an information table at the South Bend Area Genealogical Societies (SBAGS) 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Spring Conference. Commander Adams and Camp Patriotic Instructor Alan Hall manned the information table answering questions and passing out SUV CW pamphlets.

May 14, 2024: John Auten Camp #8 regularly scheduled business meeting was held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church on Auten Road, South Bend.

May 27, 2024: Brothers of John Auten Camp 8, South Bend, gathered under dark and rainy skies at Bowman Cemetery, South Bend for our Annual Memorial Day Program. We were joined by Elizabeth Thurston and Penny Bucks of Arsinoe Martin LGAR Circle #78. Music selections of "the Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "Vacant Chair" were provided by Eric Fiechtner, son of Camp Chaplain Rev. Greg Fiechtner. Taps were sounded by camp member Sean Kubsch a Senior this year at LaVille High School. Due to the wet conditions our community turnout was low however, we still had members of the public join us including some first-time visitors to the event.

June 15, 2024: Members of John Auten Camp #8, participated in the first Lake County Indiana Living History event, "History Speaks". The event was held at the Buckley Homestead, Lake County Park. We shared an information tent with David D. Porter Camp #116 answering

questions, passing out SUVCW pamphlets, and recruiting. Arsinoe Martin Circle #78 joined us with their tent nearby while Brothers Tom Schmitt and Will Radell gave demonstrations on musket loading and firing throughout the day.

July 9, 2024: John Auten camp's regularly scheduled July Camp meeting. This was a working meeting. We reviewed our Memorial Day Program and discussed what went well and how we might improve on it for 2025. The camp set the date of August 24th for the Last Union Veteran of St. Joseph County, Francis J. Barton dedication.

August 1-4, 2024: Commander Adams, Sr.-Vice Commander Ron Hyer, Secretary/Treasurer Jonathan Swarts, Tom Schmitt, and dual member Mike Downs attended the National Encampment at Lexington Ky.

August 24, 2024: Francis J. Barton was honored as "The last Union Veteran" of St. Joseph County, Indiana in a dedication ceremony at Highland Cemetery, South Bend. Brother Barton's grave was marked with the appropriate marker signifying him as the Last Union Veteran of that county by John Auten Camp 8, assisted by Arsinoe Martin Circle #78 LGAR. The Ceremony included bagpipe music provided by Auten Camp friend Lenny Sailor and Auten Camp Member Will Radell sang "The Battle Hymn of the Republic". Sgt. Thomas Schmitt, Cpl. Will Radell and Pvt. Jon Swarts, of Co D. 27th Indiana SVR presented Colors and Fired the Rifle Salute. John Auten camp Member Richard Mrozinski assisted the 27th Indiana SVR in the presentation of the Colors.

August 26, 2024: Commander Adams, Jr. -Vice Commander Rick Deutscher, and Patriotic Instructor Alan Hall attended a presentation on how to do research on Civil War Ancestors by using the "War of the Rebellion" record set. The presentation was presented by the South Bend Area Genealogical Society.

September 7-8, 2024: John Auten Camp #8 again this year participated in the Door Village Harvest Festival just outside of La Porte, Indiana. Our camp set up the tent and fly and presented information on the GAR, SUVCW, LGAR, Civil War memorabilia, and a weapons display of an Enfield and Springfield musket, a saber and Civil War sword. Brother Schmitt demonstrated the loading procedure of the muskets and gave background on each of the weapons. Commander Adams and Brother Schmitt also presented the life stories of two Civil War Veterans during a Cemetery Tour of the local cemetery.

September 10, 2024: John Auten camp's regularly scheduled September Camp meeting reviewed the most recent events and began planning for the Mother Angela Navy Nurse Ceremony in 2025.

September 21, 2024: While attending a local festival I visited the information tent of a new area Civil Air Patrol Command. I explained who the SUVCW was and about our Cadet awards program. I exchanged contact information with them and Camp Cadet Coordinator Terry Scherer will be contacting them arranging for the presentation of the SUVCW Cadet award.

October 4-5 2024: Commander Adams attended the Central Region Association Annual Conference in Jasper Indiana. We heard a presentation on "Lincoln's Wilderness Years" in Indiana presented by Foster Camp Brother Josh Claybourn, the author of a book by the same name. We toured Lincoln's Boyhood Home National Park grounds. There was a discussion

and workshop on why other Heritage Organizations like the SAR have larger membership than the Allied Orders. A business meeting was then held. The 2025 CRA Conference will be held at the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana

October 19, 2024: Members of John Auten Camp traveled to the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana for the dedication of a memorial to Army Nurse Mother George. Sr.-Vice Commander Ron Hyer presented the camp wreath and Camp Patriotic Instructor Alan Hall provided Civil War drum cadence during the proceedings. Brother Hall and Department of Michigan Brother Bill Brennan teamed up to provide fife and drum music for the dedication. Camp Commander Adams joined the joint rifle company comprised of the 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana and 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan SVR to fire the rifle salute.

November 2, 2024: Camp Commander William Adams, Sr.-Vice Commander Thomas Schmitt, and Camp member Ron Hyer attended the 2024 Mid-year Encampment at the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana

December 7, 2024: John Auten Camp regularly scheduled November Camp meeting was moved to December 7<sup>th</sup> to ensure a quorum would be available. A new Camp Commander, Jonnathan Swarts was elected as well as all other Camp officers at this meeting.

January 18, 2025: John Auten Camp's regularly scheduled Camp meeting was held this day. Newly elected Officers were installed by Indiana Department Commander Tom Schmitt. Brother Jonathan Swarts being duly elected and installed assumed the position of commander. His first act was to propose changing our Annual meeting from November to September. This will allow the camp to install officers earlier and avoid possible weather delays in January.

March 8, 2025: 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 plans for a major event on March 29<sup>th</sup>. The Camp will present a program honoring Army Nurse, Mother Angela Gillespie, CSC of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

March 29, 2025: A Ceremony of Remembrance was held on the campus of Saint Mary's College in South Bend to honor Mother Angela Gillespie, CSC and the Civil War Nurses of the Holy Cross for their service during the Civil War. The ceremony included wreath-laying by John Auten Camp #8, Orlando Somers Camp #1, the Department of Indiana, the National LGAR, and Arsinoe Martin Circle #78, LGAR, as well as music from bagpiper Lenny Sailor. The Department's commemorative Civil War Nurses medallion was presented to Sister Sharlet Ann Wagner on behalf of the SUVCW in recognition of the sisters' service.

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty,

*William R. Adams*

William R. Adams PDC  
Camp Commander, SUVCW

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

WILLIAM P. BENTON CAMP #28

ACTIVITY REPORTY NOV. 2024 THRU APRIL 2025

CAMP #28 PARTICIPATED IN THE DEDICATION OF THE OLIVER P. MORTON HOUSE LOCATED IN CENTERVILLE. THE HOUSE WAS RECENTLY REFURBISHED AND THE DEDICATION WAS HELD BY THE INDIANAPOLIS CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE UNION. CAMP 28 WAS HONOR GUARD, COLOR POSTING AND PLAYING OF TAPS.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas Ashley", written in black ink.

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](mailto:Larry_Hautzinger@hotmail.com)



**April 4, 2025**  
**In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,**

**140<sup>th</sup> Annual Department of Indiana Annual Encampment – April 26, 2025**

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 Nov 2, 2024 Annual Encampment. (Apr. 27, 2024 to April 26, 2025)

Our camp meets every other month.

**Membership:** of the David D. Porter Camp #116 currently stands at 27. (1 new members since the last Department Mid-Year Encampment)

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

**November 11, 2024-** We held a camp meeting at the Memorial Opera House and then helped the MOH celebrate Memorial Day by advancing and retreating with the Colors during their Memorial Day Concert.

**January 11, 2025-** We had a meeting at the Valparaiso Public Library. Discussion was held on our helping with the Dr. Almira Fifield Program on June 21, 2025. Our camp leadership was also inducted at this meeting.

**February 8, 2025–** We attended the Civil War Program held by the Porter County Historical Society. We had a table with a display. Some members attended in uniform. Commander Tom Schmitt attended and did a presentation on the union civil war marine.

March 8, 2025- We met at the Valparaiso Public Library. Discussion on the Dr. Almira Fifield program occurred. We also talked about a grave marker cleaning to happen in May.

**Treasures Report:** The camp as of April 4, 2025 has an account balance of \$2,674.80.

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



**John B. Anderson Camp #223 - Columbus, Indiana**

**Department of Indiana**

**Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Department of Indiana  
Encampment Meeting, April 26, 2025.

Greetings Brothers from John B Anderson Camp #223,

**Camp Activities and Events – May 14, 2024, to April 12, 2025:**

**John B. Anderson Camp #223 Officers 2025:**

<b>Camp Office</b>	<b>Officer 2025</b>
<b>Commander</b>	<b>Frederick Leickly, MD, MPH</b>
<b>Senior Vice Commander</b>	<b>Peter Dieterlen</b>
<b>Junior Vice Commander</b>	<b>Phillip McClure</b>
<b>Council Member #1</b>	<b>T. Rex Legler</b>
<b>Council Member #2`</b>	<b>Taylin Allen</b>
<b>Council Member #3</b>	<b>Thomas Williams</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>John R. Owen</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jeff Maudlin</b>

**Officers Appointed by the Camp Commander**

<b>Patriotic Instructor</b>	<b>Taylin Allen</b>
<b>Chaplin</b>	<b>Terry Furgason</b>
<b>Graves Registration Officer</b>	<b>Frederick Leickly, MD, MPH</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Phillip McClure</b>
<b>Civil War Memorials Officer</b>	<b>Phillip McClure</b>
<b>Eagle Scout Coordinator</b>	<b>Frederick Leickly, MD, MPH</b>
<b>Camp Counselor</b>	<b>Jeff Maudlin</b>

**Signals Officer**

**Terry Furgason**

**Keeper of the wreath**

**Jeff Maudlin**

## **Camp Activities**

**Camp meetings were held.**

**September 10, 2024 - attended by 8 Camp Brothers**

**October 8, 2024 - attended by 10 Camp Brothers and 3 guests.**

**November 12, 2024 - attended by 10 Camp Brothers and 3 guests.**

**December 10, 2024 - attended by 10 Camp Brothers and 1 guest.**

**January 14, 2025 - attended by 8 Camp Brothers and 1 guest.**

**February 11, 2025 - attended by 10 Camp Brothers**

**March 11, 2025 - attended by 13 Camp Brothers and 1 guest.**

**April 8, 2025 - Canceled due to flooding.**

**With great pride, John B. Anderson Camp #223 has had between 33-to almost 50% of its membership attending Camp meetings.**

## **Camp Membership**

**Over the year, we added 5 new members, 1 Associate member, and 1 Junior member. Two brothers were honorably discharged from the Camp. Our membership has grown by 5 to a total of 28 members.**

## **Projects**

### **1. Memorial Day 2025**

- a. Orange County event - Brother Allen**
- b. Jennings County event - Brothers Ochs and Furgason**
- c. Bartholomew County events - Brothers McClure, Maudlin, and Leickly (Columbus City Cemetery - GAR/WRC Memorial and Springer Cemetery- grave of John Bierke Anderson Sr)**

**2. National Encampment August 1-4, 2024, attended by Brothers Allen, Maudlin, and Leickly.**

**3. Bartholomew County Emily Seward Lectureship, October 10, 2024;**

**Bartholomew County and the Civil War' given to an audience of 75 by Brother Leickly. The entire lecture can be accessed via the following link-**

**<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1wAk7Ix82n49dI-WtZm57Wj71QMbGALE4/edit?usp=sharing&oid=117440264229291921853&rtfOf=true&sd=true>**

**4. Civil War Book Club – Bartholomew County Public Library**

**5. Headstone project by Brother Allen – obtained for Anthony Chance (1839-1913) 8th Kentucky Infantry Company A. Buried in Sulphur Creek Cemetery, Orange County, Indiana.**

**6. Liberty-Hawpatch Cemetery re-dedication Ceremony- hosted by the Joseph Hart Chapter-Indiana Society DAR, Clifty Creek Chapter- Indiana Society SAR. Phillip Schoff Chapter-Indiana Society US Daughters of 1812, and The General Society of the War of 1812 in Indiana. Two Revolutionary War, three War of 1812, two Mexican War, and twenty-two Civil War soldiers were honored. Brothers A. Owen, C. Owen, JR Owen, Gill, Maudlin, Dieterlen, Womack, Legler (as 1812 Commander) and Leickly were in attendance. Brother Leickly read the list of the Civil War veterans.**

**7. Involvement in the Downtown Columbus Entry way redesign project- lobbying for some recognition of the Civil War soldiers from the county who died during the Civil War.**

**8. Attendance at the 160th anniversary of the Battle of Cedar Creek by Brothers Leickly and Maudlin who sat with Brothers from the Department of the Chesapeake.**

**9. Brother Allen has been working on a memorial for the Willow Valley Train Wreck – 28 soldiers from the 19th Illinois Volunteer Infantry were killed when bridge #28 collapsed in Orange County Indiana. He has received just over \$2,000 for this project.**

**10. Working with the Bartholomew County Historical Society on the 3rd annual Talking Tombstone event. A Brother will talk about the GAR/WRC memorial and Brothers will portray Private Pancake, Pvt Matthew Patterson (survivor of Andersonville and the Sultana), Pvt Rubrecht, and Lt. Col Squire Isham Keith.**

**11. Lincoln's Boyhood Home event, February 2025 was attended by Brothers Ochs, Maudlin, Furgason, and Leickly.**

**12. Beginning in January 2025, 2 Brothers give a short presentation of their Civil War ancestor(s) at the Camp meeting.**

**13. Juneteenth Day – June 22, 2024, Brother Furgason portrayed General Granger, attended by Brothers Maudlin and Leickly.**

**14. Jennings County High School US History Presentation – Brother Furgason.**

**15. Veterans Day – Hillcrest Cemetery, North Vernon, Indiana – Brothers Ochs, Dieterlen, and Furgason in attendance.**

**16. Jennings County Ohio Valley Opportunities Head Start program (March 6, 2025) given by Brother Furgason.**

**17. Governor Oliver P. Morton Chapter, National Society Daughters of the Union presentation by Brother Furgason (March 8. 2025)**

### **Camp Property (newly acquired)**

- 1. Iron flag stands #2**
- 2. Camp Book (formation of the Camp, pages containing each member)**
- 3. Camp seal**

### **Camp Activities in Pictures**



**Talking Tombstones May 2024**



**Memorial Day- City Cemetery**



**Memorial Day – Grave of John B. Anderson**



**Juneteenth Ceremony**



**Anthony J Chance Headstone**



**Emily Seward Lectureship  
Bartholomew County during the Civil War**



**Veterans Day Ceremony**



**Opportunities Head Start**

3

This concludes the John B. Anderson Camp #223 activities and events report to the Department of Indiana members attending the 2024 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of Indiana Meeting.

Cordially Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Frederick E. Leickly, MD, MPH  
Camp Commander  
John B Anderson Camp #223  
Columbus, Indiana

More Camp Activities and pictures are posted on the websites.

<https://suvcw223.yolasite.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/707759264436158>



Ben Harrison Camp No. 356  
Department of Indiana – Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Camp Activity Report – 10/26/2024 through 3/23/2025

October 26, 2024: One brother from the camp attended a Patriot Grave Dedication at Hawpatch-Liberty Cemetery in Columbus, Indiana, and fell in with brothers from the John B Anderson Camp. This ceremony was sponsored by the daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, US Daughters of 1812 and the Society of the War of 1812 in the State of Indiana. This ceremony honored Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Mexican-American War, and Civil War veterans.

November 2, 2024: Six brothers from the camp attended the Department Mid-Year Encampment.

November 9, 2024: Six brothers attended Camp meeting in person (Wayne Township Public Library) and three brothers attended virtually. Department Commander Tom Schmitt installed 2025 Camp Officers. The Camp voted to donate \$100 to the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Scholarship, in the name and memory of Sister Jenny Thompson.

November 16, 2024: Three brothers from the camp participated in the Remembrance Day Parade in Gettysburg, PA.

November 18, 2024: Camp Marketing Letter (with enclosure about our Order) mailed to Charles Hyde, President of the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site, Indianapolis, IN.

December 14, 2024: Five brothers from the camp participated in the Wreaths Across Ceremony at Williams Creek Cemetery, Indianapolis, Indiana, by firing three volleys at the conclusion of the ceremony – just before an American Legion bugler played Taps.

December 18, 2024: Camp marketing letter (with enclosure about our Order) mailed to Marion County Historical Society to the attention of the county historian.

January 11, 2025: Virtual camp meeting held via zoom with 9 brothers in attendance. Brother Tim Beckman gave a presentation entitled “Civil War Resources at the National Archives.” This came from [civilwarrecords.com](http://civilwarrecords.com), which is a website from a company that will research the national archives in person on a client’s behalf.

February 9, 2025: Six brothers from the camp participated in the annual Lincoln Day Program held at the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial in Spencer County, Indiana.

March 8, 2025: Seven brothers attended the zoom-only camp meeting. Brother Lloyd Atterson gave a presentation about Civil War veteran (and his second cousin) Wyatt Earp.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

**Brian J. Mexin**

Camp Commander

# Committee Reports

## **Committee On Department Record Storage**

**Presented to the 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Encampment 2025**

**West LaFayette, Indiana**

At the 138<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment April 27, 2024, 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.

As a result, the Records Storage Committee comprised of Alan Teller, Travis LeMaster and myself met via Zoom on July 15, 2024 to discuss how to proceed. We decided that we would continue by arranging a meeting and review of a sample of Department records with Dr. Calloway. July 31, 2024, I called the Center and left a message asking Dr. Calloway to contact me. I told her we wished to further explore the opportunities of the Center preserving and storing our SUVCW records. I did not receive a reply to this message. I did not find additional time then to follow-up to contact her again. I still have not had time to establish contact with Dr. Galloway.

*I would recommend that the new incoming Department Commander review the present committee, due to position changes, and once satisfied with the membership of the Committee, the committee meet to determine the next steps and direction to follow.*

### **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

# **26<sup>th</sup> Indiana Monument – Vicksburg National Military Park**

## **Vicksburg, MS**

### **Report Presented to the 139th Annual Department of Indiana Encampment**

April 26, 2025

Brothers, at our Midyear Encampment November 3, 2024 I reported on the history and current state of the relocation of the 26<sup>th</sup> Indiana monument as well as the Missouri and Iowa monuments. All of these monuments are located outside of the boundaries of Vicksburg National Military Park in Vicksburg Mississippi. I remarked on the many improvements that were occurring within the park property. Those included repairs to the roads and work that had begun to repair the National cemetery ground that resides in the park. This included an update on the efforts to reinter the remains of the mainly USCT veterans whose graves were washed out at the National Cemetery.

The last change I noted was that VNMP announced on July 21<sup>st</sup> 2023 the selection of a new Park Superintendent, Carrie Mardorf. She had been serving as the interim Superintendent since September of 2021.

At the direction of the Department of Tennessee with Mississippi Commander Geroge Huttick, I contacted 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. I did not receive a reply.

I then called the phone number that is provided on all Friends of Vicksburg communications but received no one answers. On October 8, 2024 I was able to obtain Bess Averett's cell phone number. I called her cell phone which rang to voice mail. I left a message about the issue and my need to discuss it with her. Again, no reply. I called again on October 15, 2024 and October 21, 2024 but no answer. I then called Sean Simpson, Development Coordinator for Friends of Vicksburg and was able to speak with him. He asked me to send the email that I had sent to Bess to him. Sean said he

would be sure that she saw it and read it. To date I have heard nothing from Bess Averett even though I called and left a message again March 6, 2025.

In an email April 2, 2025 to Park Superintendent Carrie Mardorf, I explained in detail the history of our efforts to relocate the 26<sup>th</sup> Indiana and the other monuments on to the parks land. I asked that she keep the project in view and consideration of its completion. Again, sadly no reply as of the date of this report.

There are still a number of things we can do. I and the Committee need to meet and revisit our next steps.

More updates once I receive information from Bess Averett.

Respectively Submitted,

*William Adams*

William Adams, PDC

Department of Indiana

SUVCW