



# The Indiana Legion

Department of Indiana  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Orange County Courthouse, Paoli Indiana. This is one of the 8-inch Rodman Guns that were presented by the Government to Williamson Post #364 of the G.A.R. and by the Post to Orange County:

IN MEMORY OF HER SOLDIERS OF  
1861 - 1865

These were cast at Fort Pitt, Pennsylvania in 1861 and weight over 8,000lbs. Over 200 of these cannons were made but today only 56 remain, many being melted during WW2, and Paoli has two of them!

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Camp and Memorial Day Activities

Who We Are & How to Join

Story: Killed on Duty in the  
Indiana Legion (Home Guard)

Story: The Battle of Wyse Fork and  
Hoosier Involvement

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) is a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving the history and legacy of veteran heroes who fought and worked to save the Union in the American Civil War. Organized in 1881 and chartered by Congress in 1954, SUVCW is the legal heir and successor to the Grand Army of the Republic.



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### Department Camps

Name	Location
Orlando A. Somers #1	Kokomo
John W. Foster #2	Evansville
John Auten #8	South Bend
Champion Hill #17	Huntington
William P. Benton #28	Centerville
William Bumgarner #33	Bluffton
David D. Porter #116	Valparaiso
John B. Anderson #223	Columbus
Ben Harrison #356	Indianapolis
New Camp forming in Orange County: Contact Taylin Allen	

You can email an officer to be put in contact with a local camp.

The Department of Indiana is made up of 9 Camps spread over the state. Our membership is comprised of history enthusiast, genealogist, and plain old patriotic Americans. We are an active Department that spends lot of time and effort to honor the men who fought for and saved the Union. Whether that is by erecting or repairing monuments, markers & headstones, researching & documenting local Civil War History or otherwise, we continuously strive to *"keep green the memory of the Boys in Blue."*

We would love to have you join our ranks. If you enjoy this newsletter then you must have some affinity for the history of the Civil War and the men who fought it. We need passionate and motivated individuals such as you to join us in preserving our shared history. You will not only gain a fulfilling purpose in preserving that history, but a unique brotherhood where you will find camaraderie and support. I implore you, if you have so much as an inkling of interest, to contact an officer and explore the possibility of membership. *Qualifications for membership are found on page 4.*

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty: Taylin Allen - Editor.

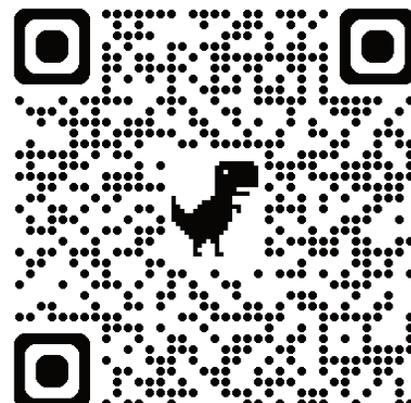


# UPCOMING Events

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>June</b></p> <p><b>21st: Dr. Almira Fifield Marker &amp; Grave Dedication</b>                  Marker at corner of Indiana &amp; Franklin Streets                  Grave at Old City Cemetery                  Valparaiso Indiana                  11:00 a.m. CDT</p> <p><b>28th: Headstone Dedication - John Boyer - 29<sup>th</sup> Indiana</b>                  Pleasant Lake Cemetery                  Angola Indiana                  1:00 p.m. CDT</p>	<p>Almira Fifield was a Doctor of Medicine during the war. She cared for wounded soldiers but fell ill to a disease she contracted from her service and died in 1863. Her grave is unmarked. Thanks to the efforts of Barbara Fifield Brandt, PhD, EdM, that is all set to change! A historical marker &amp; memorial headstone will be placed in her memory.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>July</b></p> <p><b>12th: Thraikill Monument Re-dedication</b>                  522 N 800 W 27, Converse Indiana                  3 miles north of Swayzee                  10:00 a.m. EDT</p>	<p>Orlando A. Somers Camp has labored for the past year to raise the \$12,000 needed to restore and clean this monument that was damaged in a storm decades ago and general erosion. Show your support by attending!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>September</b></p> <p><b>20th: 19<sup>th</sup> Ill. Train Wreck Monument Dedication</b>                  220 Capital Ave, Shoals Indiana 47581                  Grounds of the Martin County Museum                  2:00 p.m. EST</p>	<p>28 soldiers of the 19th Illinois were killed in a wreck in Martin County in 1861. There was previously no markers or monuments to memorialize these men, thanks to the efforts of brother Allen &amp; the Martin County Historical Society, this is finally being rectified.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>October</b></p> <p><b>18th: Last Union Soldier Dedication Pike County</b>                  Walnut Hill Cemetery, Petersburg Indiana                  Time: TBD</p>	<p>Winfield Scott Hunter 1848-1947 was the last Union veteran buried in Pike County, Indiana. He was in Company L, 13th Indiana Cavalry. Join us as we host a dedication ceremony in his honor.</p>

For more details you can contact us on Facebook! We can also direct you towards who to contact for each event if you wish to participate. If you are involved in a project and you would like for us to take part, contact an officer and we will see what we can muster.

A lot of events are set up and take place between issues of *The Indiana Legion*. Follow the Department of Indiana at [facebook.com/suvcwin](https://facebook.com/suvcwin) or by scanning the QR code to stay up to date!. You can also visit our webpage at [suvcwin.org](https://suvcwin.org) to learn more about us.





Brothers of the Department of Indiana

I want to thank the Ben Harrison Camp for their outstanding job of hosting the Annual Encampment and Brother Taylin Allen for the Special Edition of the Legion, that I feel captured the essence of that beautiful location.

I encourage each Brother to continue to make suggestions, get involved in local camp activities and make the Department stronger by your participation. This is your Department and I want to hear from you.

It's been a pleasure to see the great work that the camps are doing to keep the memories of the Boys in Blue alive through the events held over the Memorial Day holiday. Thank you for sharing your time and energy to make sure that these heroes are not forgotten.

There is much activity on the various committees of the Department, and I believe that our Civil War Nurses Project will keep us busy as a Department for quite some time.

Please continue to spread the word about our Order to those who share our love of preserving history so that we may continue to thrive as an organization.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Travis

## From the Editor

Brothers, a considerable amount of time was put into this issue of *The Indiana Legion*. Most of this came from a desire of mine to pull away from the more in house nature of our newsletter. To that end I have included things such as a directory, important contacts, who we are as an organization, requirements for membership, links to our social media and webpage among other things. It is my belief that this will make *The Indiana Legion* suitable for camps to print and distribute around their communities as a form of advertising for our department. I have included a square on the back of the issue that will serve as a place to put your contact information.

If you decide to print this newsletter, make sure that you print **double sided** with the option **"flip on long edge."** It is advised to print in color as I noticed black & white prints (at least on my printer) came out with bad contrast. A few staples right along the edge will work well enough - it may not look the best but it's a cheap way to bind the pages!

Apart from that I have been reaching out to find more guests to contribute articles. My feelings are that much of our active membership keeps up to date with the work of other camps and will appreciate the extra reading. We have a lengthy one from "Skip" Riddle who is an active member of Save Wyse Fork Battlefield that I believe you will enjoy.

Anyone can submit an article regardless of if you are a member or a casual reader. If you have a story that you would like to share, feel free to contact me. I will also accept brief biographies of an ancestor who served as a way to fill up empty space on the pages.

I encourage you to send me pictures for the next cover photo. Please take the photograph(s) yourself and have an eye for perspective. Send multiple images and try to find something for the back cover to tie it all together. See the cover and back on this issue to get an idea of what to send.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Taylin Allen

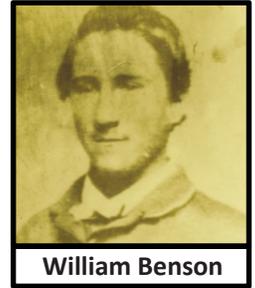
To support the good work of our Order, consider donating to the Department of Indiana Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War by contacting the Department Treasurer at [treasurer@suvwin.org](mailto:treasurer@suvwin.org)



**Prelude to the Battle of Wyse Work**

By "Skip" Riddle

Dedicated to William C. Benson, Private, Co. D, 120th Indiana Regiment.



**William Benson**

The Federal forces were under the command of General Schofield and General Cox. The Indiana elements belonging to the 23rd Corps, 1st Division, under the command of Brigadier General Thomas H. Ruger. The 1st Brigade, included the 120th, 124th, and 128th Indiana regiments while the 2nd Brigade included the 123rd, 129th, and 130th Indiana regiments. These regiments held important positions on the battlefield and played a key role.

General Sherman had determined on Goldsboro, N.C. as a point of rendezvous to rest, refit and resupply his weary but victorious forces coming out of South Carolina. To support that initiative Federal forces would be required to capture the key hub of Kinston to open the railroad so supplies could flow by rail from the port of Morehead City to General Sherman's forces once they arrived at Goldsboro.

Confederate forces were drawn from the retreating garrisons of Fort Fisher, the city of Wilmington and the surrounding area as they withdrew northward to merge with the local forces operating in and around Kinston and the no man's land between New Bern and Kinston. The Confederates were under the command of General Braxton Bragg, with troops commanded by Major General Robert F. Hoke and a contingent from the Army of Tennessee under Major General Daniel Harvey Hill. The estimated strength of the opposing forces has been noted as 12,000 Federals and 8,500 Confederates.

**Continued on page 15**

**MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS**

The Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War is a fraternal organization with over 6,500 members nationwide. Founded in 1881, we are the legal heirs of the Grand Army of the Republic, the chief veteran's organization made up of soldiers who served the Union during the Civil War. Our mission is to "Keep green the memory of the Boys in Blue."

**Full membership** is open to men aged 14 or older who are directly descended from or a "Soldier, Sailor, Marine or member of the Revenue Cutter Service *or* directly descended from a brother, sister, half-brother, or half-sister of such Soldier who served in the United States armed forces between April 12, 1861, and April 9, 1865." **Junior membership** is open to those aged 6-14.

**Associate membership** is open to any male who does not have the ancestry to qualify.

**Women may join one of the Allied Orders** - Sister organizations with the same purpose. These are the Women's Relief Corps, the Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War & The Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Active in Indiana are the Daughters of Union Veterans & Ladies of the GAR.

There is also the National Society Daughters of the Union, who are also active in Indiana.

Contact an officer for more information on how to join

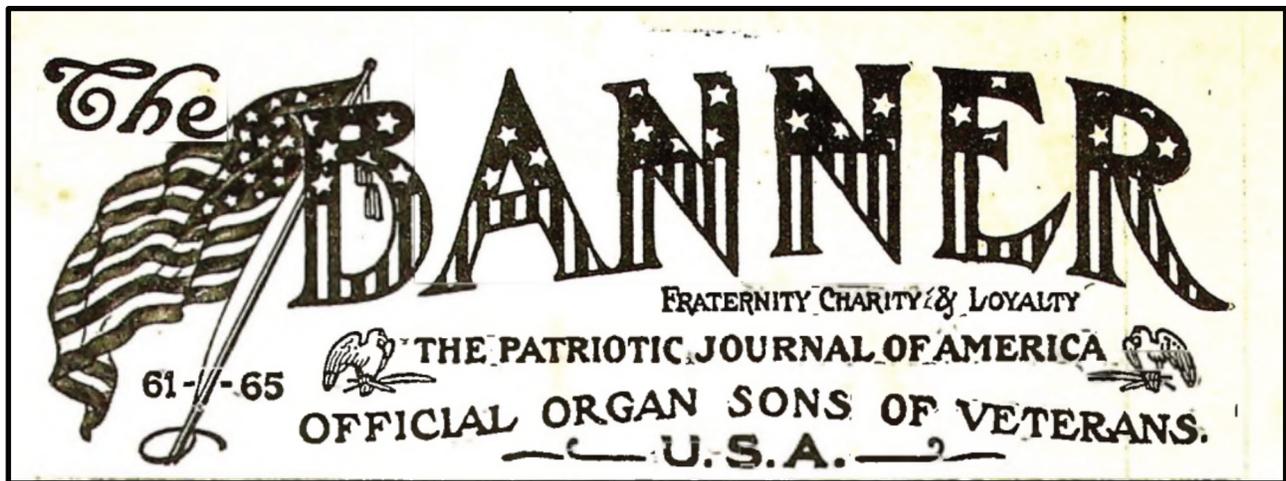




## Patriotic Instruction

Jonathan Swarts  
Patriotic Instructor

We Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War are keenly aware of the solemn duty we have to preserve the memory of our Boys in Blue. However, from time to time, it is also important to remind ourselves how important we as an organization were to the veterans themselves—how they very clearly saw the Sons of Veterans as the group that would carry on their legacy once they had gone. This letter from a GAR Post Commander, published in the Banner in October 1917, is a wonderful reminder of that legacy—and the duty to preserve the memory of our ancestors—that has been passed down to us.



Editor of The Banner.—Dear Sir:— I have just received a copy of your paper and have read it through and being deeply interested in the Sons of Veterans, I want to let the people know that the Organization in this state means a great deal. There is associated with Wm. H. Smart Post 30 of this city one of the best Camps; if ever there was a live wire, Camp 14 is it. They have proved it not only in their loyalty to "Old Glory" but also in their loyalty to the men who made it possible that this nation must and should be preserved. The boys are incessantly at work in their endeavors to lighten the burdens of the Post, and well are they succeeding. Ready at all times to give the comrades a helping hand both financially and otherwise, thus proving that the pledge taken by them at the altar is a sacred one, which they not only preach but practice. On Memorial Day, they are always early on deck, and with willing hearts and ready hands they gladly assume, under direction of the Post, the decorations of the graves at the cemeteries.

I am writing this in hopes that it may be published in order that other Post Commanders may read and be brought to realize that if good encouragement is given to the Sons of Veterans we can rest in the assurance that when we have crossed the wide river, the work that we have always performed on Memorial Day will still be continued and the graves of our comrades will never be neglected. I visit the Sons meetings as often as possible and encourage my comrades to accompany, and I find that the Sons appreciate it and always extend to us a hearty welcome. If we stand by the Sons their organization will grow, and we will feel that our efforts to have them properly recognized will not have been in vain.

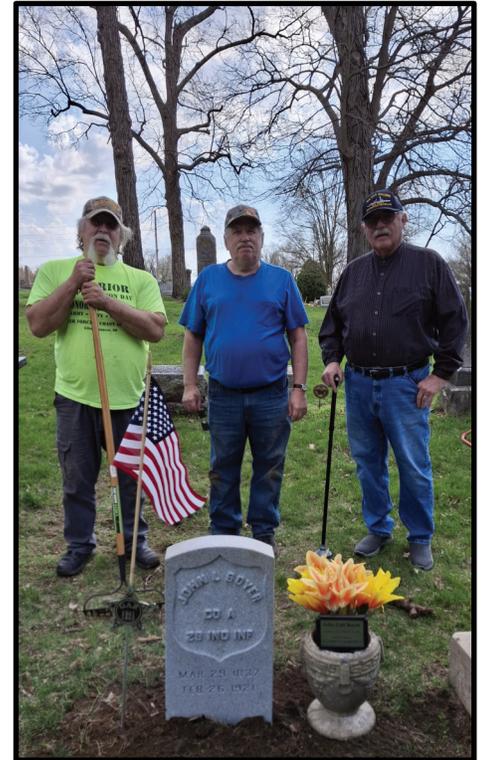
Pardon me for this long letter but I am writing unbeknown to the boys, in order to do justice to a Camp and one of which the Commander-In-Chief ought to be proud.—Yours truly, Eben W. Pike, Commander Post 30, G.A.R.



Members of the 27th Indiana SVR presented colors at the 70th Anniversary of the Indianapolis Civil War Roundtable or CWRT. The Roundtable was founded on February 8th 1955 by Harry Grube, Rudolf K. Haerle and Alan T. Nolan. Continuously run since that time, the Indianapolis CWRT is today one of the oldest in the country. You can find more information about the Roundtable at [www.indianapoliswrt.org](http://www.indianapoliswrt.org)

From left to right: Pastor Dave McKay and brothers Tim Beckman, Bruce Kolb and Mike Beck.

From Champion Hill Camp #17, Tom Schmitt, Phil Dyer and Gib Young install a headstone for John L. Boyer of Company A, 29th Indiana Infantry in April. The 29th Indiana Infantry saw action at the battles of Shiloh, Stone's River and Chickamauga. John was discharged on September 26th 1864 after his three year term of enlistment expired. John Boyer is also an ancestor of Past Commander-in-Chief Jim Paul, who on and off had tried to locate his grave. After a discussion with Tom Schmitt, information about John Boyer was forwarded to our Department Graves Registration Officer - David Hoesli. Hoesli quickly found the location of John's grave, unmarked since 1921 and an application was made for his headstone. **A dedication will take place on June 28th, see page 3.**



April 12th: Brothers Herbert Smith and Pat Cave of David D. Porter Camp #116 at Scout Troop 533's Eagle Court of Honor. Here they present Kenneth Blue, Herbert's grandson, with his SUVCW Eagle Scout certificate and patch. Kenneth also received the SAR certificate and patch at the same ceremony.

Brother Steve Rudzinski of the Porter Camp was active on May 3rd at the Lowell Memorial Cemetery where he cleaned headstones with other volunteers including a member of the Northwest Indiana CWRT and two Stars and Stripes Division Sea Cadets based out of Lowell, Indiana.

Did you know there was a second battle at Fort Donelson? On February 3rd 1863, nearly a year after being captured by the Union, a force of 2,500 rebels under Joseph Wheeler mounted an attempt to recapture the stronghold. Known as the Battle of Dover, they were repulsed with heavy losses by the 800 man Union garrison.

This failure caused a breakdown in relations between CSA Generals Joseph Wheeler and Nathan Bedford Forrest, who vowed to never serve under Wheeler again.





Members of John B. Anderson #223 at "Talking Tombstones" in Columbus City Cemetery. Note the G.A.R./W.R.C monument with eagle to right of flag.



Peter Dieterlen

Fred Leickly

Andy & J.R. Owen

Terry Furgason



Mike Ochs

At the request of the Bartholomew County Historical Society, members of John B. Anderson again represented many of the soldiers buried in Columbus City Cemetery for the third annual "Talking Tombstones." The event is very much what the name implies, as visitors can tour the cemetery and 'talk to the deceased' who are represented each year by volunteers. This has become a really popular event for the historical society and a source of fundraising, as tickets are sold for the tour. Brothers of the camp portray different soldiers each year which requires some research and rehearsal. Every year however someone is stationed at the monument (pictured behind Mike Ochs) which was erected by the Women's Relief Corps and the Grand Army of the Republic in 1895 and dedicated to the unknown dead of the civil war.



Brothers Owen and Leickly set up a table at the 25th annual Memorial Day Program hosted by the Columbus Indiana Philharmonic Orchestra on May 23rd. This was held indoors due to the weather at Columbus North High School. There was good attendance and it provided good opportunity to spread awareness about the Camp and Order.



Brother Allen has been hard at work since last fall working at Apple Chapel Cemetery down in Orange County, Indiana. Around Halloween the cemetery and church were vandalized and around two dozen stones were toppled, pushed over or broke. One such stone, among many, is pictured here broken into three pieces. It is the original headstone of Joseph Apple, who served in Company A, 38th Indiana Infantry. Joseph along with two of his brothers, George & David, would all serve and die during the Civil War in the same unit. Brother Allen repaired the headstone during the winter and finally set the stone back in place on Memorial Day. Also repaired was the headstone of Joseph's brother George which had been broken for several years. Finally, their brother David Apple's headstone is beyond repair. Due to severe erosion the stone practically falls apart in your hand and there is barely anything legible. Enough evidence exist though to prove who it belongs to and so an application has been made for a new military marker.



## Killed on Duty in the Indiana Legion

By Taylin Allen

George W. Vaughn was the son of Lewis A. Vaughn & Hannah Applegate, who were natives of Virginia and had moved to Indiana in search of better opportunities. He was born in Harrison County, Indiana in May of 1846, the third eldest son of a large family. By the time the war broke out he was just shy of turning 15 years, old likely not being permitted to enlist at this time, he had to stay home and watch as his older brothers, James and Richard, joined the army and headed off to war. Now the oldest son at home he undoubtedly bared many of the responsibilities taking care of the family farm.

Lewis A. Vaughn	51	M
Hannah "	41	F
Richard "	17	M
Catherine "	15	F
George "	13	M
Elizabeth "	12	F
Ann "	10	F
Houston "	6	M
Isaac "	4	F
Florence "	1	F

1860 Census of the Vaughn family

On June 17th of 1863, Confederates invaded the state under the command of Captain Thomas Hines in what is now known as Hines' Raid. They passed through Perry, Crawford, Orange, Washington and Harrison Counties over their three day raid disguised as Union home guard under the command of General Jeremiah Boyle, commander of the Military Department of Western Kentucky. On the 18th their ruse was discovered and the alarm was sounded through the whole of that portion of Indiana. George was now 17 years old and was likely influenced, as younger siblings tend to be, by his brothers' service. He did not hesitate to fall in line with the Scott Guards, a home guard company of the 6th Indiana Legion under the command of James Bracken Carnes. Mobilizing at Corydon, Harrison County, Captain Carnes then proceeded to take his men to Scott Township, namesake of the company he led. It was here, now on the 19th of June, that these home guard were put to the test. Captain Hines' and his band were racing towards the Ohio River with all manner of home guard and citizen militia hot on their heels from Perry, Crawford, Orange Counties, Washington and Harrison Counties.

the father of George W. Vaughn, who enlisted under the name  
of George W. Vaughn at Corydon Ind, on the  
18 day of June, 1863, in Capt. Carnes' Company  
Sixth Regt. Indiana Legion Vols. - being called  
(Here state rank, company, and regiment in Military service, or vessel, if Navy.)  
into U.S. service under emergency and placed on  
active duty same day

Hines came within sight of Leavenworth in neighboring Crawford County but dared not try and slip passed the town as the local home guard were out in force. He crossed east into Harrison County instead and impressed a local as a guide.



Bryant Breeden

This was Bryant Breeden and he was a true Union man, secretly having his son head to Leavenworth and tell the home guard there that he planned to lead Hines' men to Upper Blue River Island, about three miles up river from the town. Mr. Breeden took a very round about route to the island which gave all of the Hoosiers in pursuit time to catch up. Captain Carnes and the Scott Guards, catching wind of the rebel presence, headed for the river. Back in Leavenworth the home guard, armed with a cannon, pressed the steam ship Izzeta (Isetta) into service and started upstream to the island.

Now all the chaos of past days seemed to align. Just as the Confederates reached the Ohio and began fording the river, Hoosiers from all of the aforementioned counties started to pour out of the woods. At first the rebels thought they had made a great escape, prematurely celebrating their "victory" and jeering at the Union men on the Indiana shore. Mr. Breeden however was too cunning, as they found out, because while the river was fordable from Indiana to the island, that was very much so *not* the case from the island to Kentucky. Their cheering was quickly silenced by the sound of Union bullets. A skirmish ensued, lasting 15 minutes or so. Men from Indiana who had never fired a shot in anger were now pouring lead onto the veteran rebels trapped on the island with only trees for cover. Miraculously not a single Hoosier was hurt in the fight. The same could not be said for the enemy. Reports state that around three Confederates were killed or drowned in the river, with a few more being wounded. An attempt was made to hail a passing ship and escape to Kentucky when the Izzeta pulled within range and the Leavenworth men fired a few rounds from their cannon, promptly convincing not only the passing ship that to steer clear, but the Confederates that their situation was hopeless, forcing them to surrender. Somehow in the midst of this Captain Hines managed to swim across the river unnoticed and make his escape. In total, 52 Confederates were taken prisoner.



Upper Blue River Island. Photo taken in 1988 by Bill Allen, the island no longer exist.

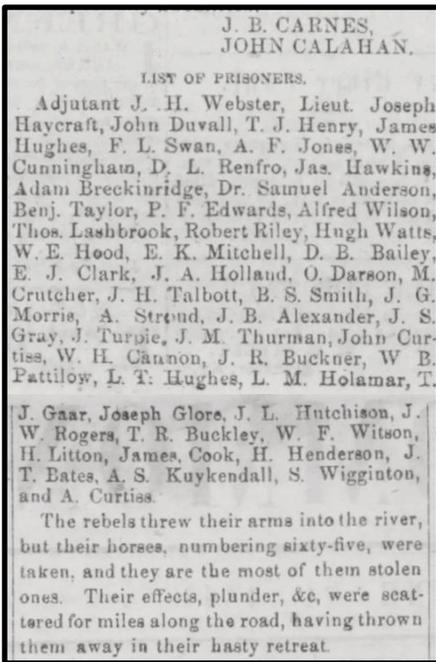
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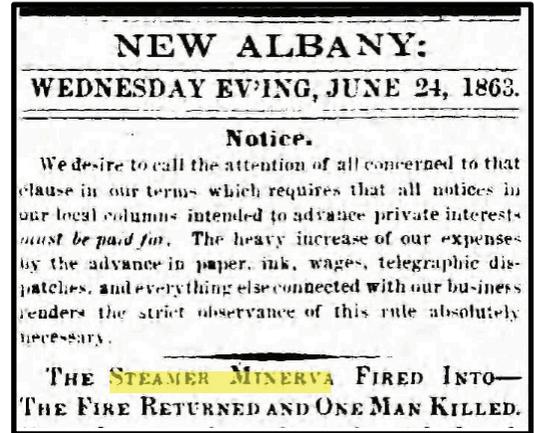
# Killed on Duty in Indiana the Legion

By Taylin Allen

Tensions and nerves were understandably high during this period. There was Hines' escapade on the 17th to 19th, but also false reports over the weekend of the 20-21st that a force of 900 Confederates invaded Indiana. On the 23rd, while patrolling the riverside about 6 O'clock in the morning, the Scott Guard tried to hail the Steamer Minerva to shore. This was routine for Carnes, as he liked to obtain information on possible Confederates on the Kentucky side of the river. They fired a volley over her and she stopped. When asked what Carnes wanted, he replied that he wanted the Minerva landed. Not liking the answer and supposing that the men under Captain Carnes were guerrillas given their lack of flag, uniforms, and owing to the recent headlines of rebels in Indiana, she put on full steam to get away. Here accounts differ, according to the Home Guard they were fired upon by the Minerva and at once put a volley into her Pilot House. The Minerva however, reported that they had no guns save for a hunting musket, and that when they were fired upon to halt, bullets actually hit the Pilot House. A man picked up the hunting gun and fired back. This shot hit and killed George Vaughn, the only casualty of the event. He had been on active duty in the Legion a mere 5 days before his tragic and needless death.



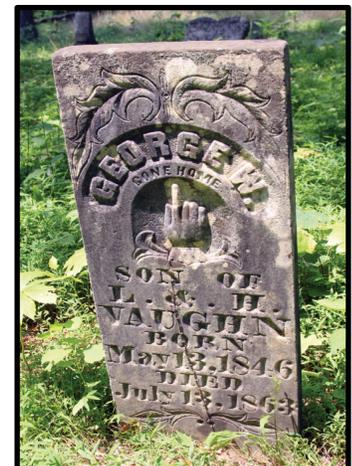
List of 52 prisoners captured at Upper Blue River Island as reported in the Frankfort Tri-Weekly Commonwealth June 24th 1863



Over 30 years later in 1896 Lewis Vaughn, now a widower living in Missouri, sought to get a pension for his son's death during the war. At age 87, a pension would have been potentially all the difference in Mr Vaughn's quality of life, it is unfortunate however that he was denied on the basis that George was never called into service under the United States Government, or died under the service of an officer of the United States. Lewis would go on to live until 1906, passing away at the age of 100. His application for a pension will forever record a part of George's life.

IMPORTANT DATES.	
Enlisted <i>June 18</i> , 1863	Invalid last paid to _____, 18
Mustered _____, 18	Death of <i>mother June 5</i> , 1886
Discharged _____, 18	Remarriage of mother _____, 18
Died <i>Killed in action June 20</i> , 1863	claim filed under former laws <i>None</i> , 18
Declaration filed <i>July 16</i> , 1896	Rejected _____, 18
Invalid application filed <i>None</i> , 18	Cause _____

Portion of Lewis Vaughn's Pension Application under George's death.



George's Headstone at Greenbrier Cemetery, Harrison County.

Some notes. There are three conflicting dates as to George's death in 1863. His headstone reads July 13th, his father's pension application claims June 20th and multiple newspapers report that the incident happened on June 23rd.



## MEMORIAL DAY Camp Activities

There is no day in the calendar year that better captures the essence of our Order than that of Memorial Day. Sacred to the Grand Army of the Republic and by extension the Sons & Allied Orders, this hallowed day has now been part of our national tradition nearly 160 years. It is such a simple gesture, to plant a small flag and some flowers on the graves of our honored dead, and yet who else is stricken with the sense of reverence after having done so? Who else, when after you have emptied your hands of flower and flags, have been caught by that long heavy silence that makes the world seem as if it were standing still?

When was the last time this soldier's grave decorated with the *choicest flowers of springtime*? When last did someone stop and inquire about his life? Think about his sacrifices and what he left behind? These are the thoughts that cross the mind each year as we perform rituals and ceremonies both large and small. When next Memorial Day comes around, I hope that the reader takes time to do the same.



Brothers of Benjamin Harrison Camp #356 held Memorial Day services at the Flatrock Cemetery in Shelby County, Indiana. John A. Logan's General Order #11 and the poem "The Unknown Dead" were read to those in attendance, including members of the Flatrock Christian Church & Cemetery Board and a Past National President of the DUVCW. Special tribute was paid to Corporal Francis M. Radcliff who's headstone is pictured here. Francis was in Company K. 18th Indiana Infantry, which fought at Pea Ridge, Vicksburg and the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864. After this a rifle salute was conducted by Co. D, 27th Indiana Infantry SVR and taps was played.



Group photo with DUVCW sisters in the foreground

The Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, or DUVCW for short, have three tents in Indiana. They are as follows: Rebecca Otis Tent #54 in Fort Wayne, Rachel Silliven Tent #55 in Montpelier and Catharine Merrill Tent #9 in Indianapolis. Together they make up the DUVCW Department of Indiana. You can find out more about the DUVCW and how to join at [duvcw.org](http://duvcw.org)



John B. Anderson Camp #223 held their annual Memorial Day services at the GRA/WRC monument in Columbus City Cemetery and at the grave of their namesake, John B. Anderson of the 6th Indiana Infantry. At the GRA/WRC monument the brothers managed to attract a small crowd of locals who were out on a stroll who were very impressed by the services and thanked the camp profusely for what they do to keep the memory of our ancestors alive. The Soldier's Prayer was read and three volleys fired in salute at both sites. Brother Furgason participated in parade with the Onsted American Legion in Michigan and paid respects to his ancestor, Benjamin Baughey of the 149th PA Infantry, who is buried nearby. Baughey's headstone is surrounded by purple irises.



Orlando A. Somers Camp #1 - Taps is played

Orlando A. Somers Camp #1 held their Memorial Day service at the Soldiers and Sailors monument in Crown Point Cemetery, Kokomo Indiana. The towering monument was dedicated in 1886 and measures fifty feet, six inches tall. There are three statues on it, two on either side at the base and a third with a furled flag at the top. Along the column at two points you will find the names of eight major battles, including Vicksburg, Shiloh, Appomattox, etc.

Near the base each side bears an inscription and on one side of the monument is inscribed a quote attributed to the Camp's namesake: **Stranger. Tell the American people that they, to whom this monument is dedicated, offered their lives so that our Government might live. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." - O.A. Somers.**



Read at the ceremony was a poem, originally written by long time reenactor Benjamin R. Gormley (1946 - 2005) sometime in the 1980s. It is titled The Reenactor and a few of the lines are interchangeable so that the poem can be used for either Union or Confederate readers. Here it is in full as read by the Somers Camp.



Members of Somers Camp gathers for a group photo

### THE UNION SOLDIER

For the time that I last, I shall live in the past  
And remember the world's fading glories  
The battles and heroes, and songs that were sun  
And the nearly forgotten old stories

Though I have earned not a cent  
for the time I have spent  
And to many that is surely a mystery...  
Recreate a time that was live  
In our country's turbulent history

Some call it a game.. and some say, for shame  
And to the unknowing, it is a useless vocation?  
But I have shouldered a gun in blustering sun  
And I have shivered at morning formation

In my jacket of blue I strive to prove true  
To the private Federal Soldier...  
And thought I taste not of death,  
Nor the cannon's fierce breath,  
I shall not his memory moulder.



John W. Foster Camp #2



John W. Foster Camp #2 participated in Memorial Day at the Princeton Indiana Courthouse, which host two impressive monuments. The Soldiers and Sailors monument, dedicated in 1912 to some 500 soldiers who perished in the Civil War, and the 58th Indiana Infantry monument which is the *oldest Civil War monument in Indiana*: The 58th Indiana monument was dedicated in **July 1865**. It is interesting to note that the monument features some common themes later seen in other column / obelisk style monuments, one such example being the names of battles halfway up the obelisk on each face. The names of all soldiers in the 58th who died while in the army were inscribed on the face of the column with a few names added later as the monument was made while the regiment ***was still in service at the time of its construction.***



John Auten Camp #8 along with some of our sisters from the Arisnoe Martin Circle #78 of the LGAR held their Memorial Day ceremony at the Bowman Cemetery in South Bend. They presented wreaths at the commemorative stone dedicated to the John Auten Post of the GAR and Auten Relief Corps of the WRC. Flowers and flags were planted at the adjacent graves of veterans near the stone as well. This year was especially memorable for the music that was played. Brothers Alan Hall and Rich Mrozinski on drums, Brother Sean Kubsch on trumpet, Judy Kubsch (mother of Brother Sean) on cello, Eric Fiechtner (son of Brother Rev. Greg Fiechtner) on violin, and longtime friend of the camp Lenny Sailor on bagpipes. Songs and tunes that were played included Battle Cry of Freedom, Battle Hymn of the Republic, Ashokan Farewell, When Johnny Comes Marching Home and, of course, taps.

### INDIANA BATTLE FLAGS

Naturally many of us are interested in seeing the flags that our ancestors fought under and on several occasions I have seen the question asked; “Where can I find X regiment’s flag?” So here is how you can find whichever battle flag you are interested in.

Nearly all of Indiana’s battle flags, from the Mexican, Civil, Spanish-American Wars and beyond are housed at the Indiana War Memorial (IWM) in Indianapolis. Fortunately we don’t have to travel to the IWM to view them, as you can request very high quality scanned images of the battle flags via email. To do this you have to fill out a small and easy contact form at <https://www.in.gov/iwm/contact-iwm/>

There is also an inventory of flags, both regimental and national that you can find at <https://www.in.gov/iwm/battle-flag-collection/>

This can sometimes take a few days but it is absolutely free of charge, so do be patient and appreciative.



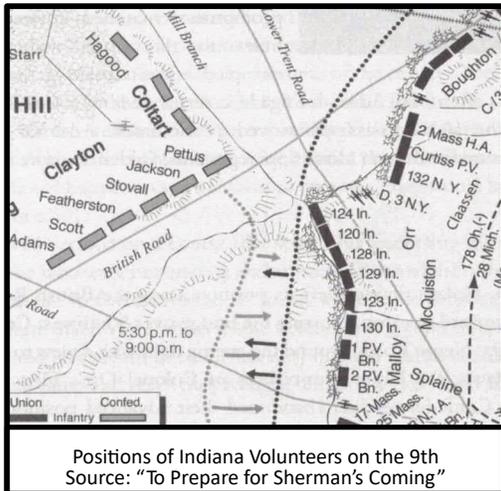
Regimental Flag of the 49th Indiana Infantry



## Battle of Wyse Fork

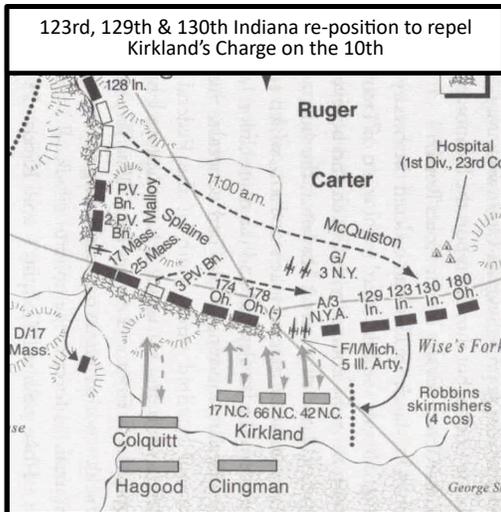
By "Skip Riddle"

The strategic battle was fought from March 7 through March 10, 1865, encompassing parts of both Lenoir and Jones counties, North Carolina. The Federal forces were under the command of General Jacob D. Cox, reporting to General Schofield. March 7th found Federal cavalry probing the area east of Southwest Creek and sporadic infantry skirmishing and artillery firing being exchanged. May 8th, the first full day of the battle was a federal disaster, losing the entire 15th CT and 27th MA regiments to the Confederate forces under Major General Hoke.



To stabilize the situation for the Federal forces we see that all 6 of the Indiana regiments were brought forward to create a main line of resistance and halting the confederate advance. The day of the 9th was spent with Federal forces digging and enhancing defensive earthworks and skirmishing. May 10th proved to be the decisive and bloodiest day of the battle. Confederate forces assaulted the left flank of the federal line – known as Kirkland's Charge – unsupported by artillery and were repulsed with heavy losses in killed, wounded and captured. The scene of action then shifted to the right flank of the federal line, where the 120th, 124th and 128th Indiana repulsed multiple confederate charges. The day ended with a federal defensive victory. and the withdraw of Confederate forces, who suffered an estimated 823 casualties.

Union losses were 65 killed, 319 wounded and 953 missing, owing in large part to the capture of the 15th CT and 27th MA regiments. This was the last mass capture of Union forces during the war.



Hoosier losses, tabulated below, were 13 killed and 61 wounded, or 20% of the non missing / captured battle casualties for the Union. One of those casualties was William C. Benson who was mortally wounded during the fighting on March 9th-10th. I submit to you, the reader, his final diary entries, published by the *Owensville New Echo* in 1908. He is buried at the Benson Cemetery south of Owensville, Indiana.

**Tues. 7.** Move at 9 o'clock a.m., to the advance camp in hearing of the cannon near Kingston, Rebs reported to be leaving Kingston.

**Wed. 8.** Receive orders and move to the front and build breastworks. Corporal W. C. Bryant of Co. D was wounded. I will have to quit writing and try and get some sleep.

**Thurs. 9.** Have been on our works all day. What is that! The rebs are charging our works I will get my gun and help to drive them back.

**Fri. 10.** Was mortally wounded and taken back to the field hospital.

**Sat. 11.** Suffered a hundred deaths on account of his wound but endured all like a soldier not afraid to die for his country. Died at 3o'clock p.m. and was buried at 6 p.m. - J. R. Thomas, Lieut. Co. D 120th Ind.



Losses	Killed	Wounded
Ind. Vols.		
120th	2	9
124th	5	11
128th	3	13
123rd	2	9
129th	1	12
130th	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>61</b>

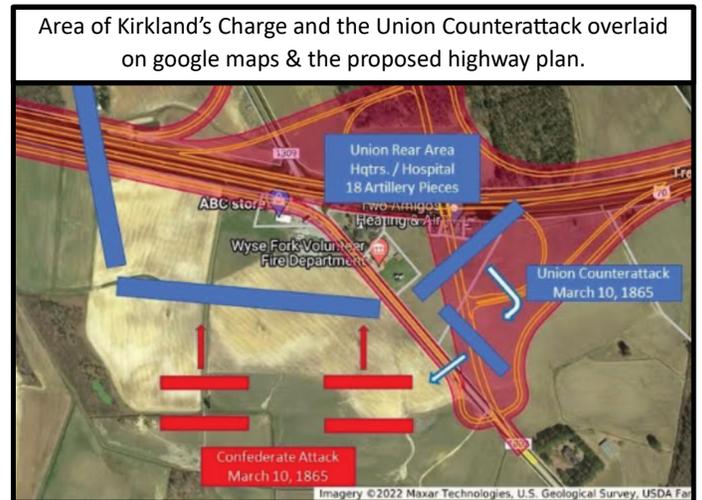
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## Preserving Wyse Fork Battlefield By “Skip Riddle”

The efforts to save the Wyse Fork battlefield evolved and developed as a result of placing the battlefield area on the National Register of Historic Places in 2017 by the U.S. Department of the Interior. This activity was taken under the direction of the Historic Preservation Group of Kinston, by Dr. Lyle Holland. The Civil War Sites Advisory Commission identified Wyse Fork as among the top 384 battles of national significance. Then in 2022 a direct and pending threat to the battlefield area arose and preservation efforts gained momentum in response to the North Carolina Highway Commissions’ plan to place an intersection off of Interstate Highway 70 (STIP Project R2553- 1SB) on the key 55 acres of the Wyse Fork battlefield that would encompass the historic area of the Confederate Kirkland Charge.

Although the battlefield property was placed under the National Register status there was a loop hole. For the specific portion of the interstate project that impacts the battlefield, the state of North Carolina would accept no Federal dollars, thus circumventing mandated mitigation actions required due to its historical significance. It was thought that this was an accomplished fact and the N.C. Department of Transportation, Army Corps of Engineers, and other agencies, held a mitigation meeting June 15, 2022 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Kinston Library. The results were unacceptable to the majority of non-agency private individuals who were referred to as consulting parties. This created a call to rally efforts to save the key 55 acres of the battlefield.



The Save Wyse Fork Battlefield Group, as part of the Historic Preservation Group of Kinston Lenoir County, a 501c3 organization, was created and stood up under the Chairmanship of Dennis Harper, local author and battlefield specialist. At the same time Wade Sokolosky, noted historian and co-author of the book dealing with the battle – “To Prepare for Sherman’s Coming”: The Battle of Wise’s Forks, March 1865; set up the Save Wyse Fork Battlefield Facebook page. The purpose being to provide for a public forum and focal point for news and historic content related to the battle and battlefield then and now. The public faces of our official efforts to save the Wyse Fork battlefield were Dennis Harper and Wade Sokolosky, and to a lesser extent Skip Riddle and a host of others working diligently in the background.

The scope, depth and breadth of our efforts to save the Wyse Fork battlefield are far ranging. We work closely with the American Battlefield Trust. To date these activities have yielded preliminary results, the direct threat of losing 55 key acres of the battlefield to an interchange has been potentially modified to shifting the interchange further east off of the majority of the area at risk. We, the consulting parties, are formally awaiting a revised “Memorandum of Agreement” to codify and document the actions of the highway project.



View from Kirkland's Attack facing north

Continued on next page



Kirkland's Attack monument with signs



## Preserving Wyse Fork Battlefield Continued

A published color brochure with multiple stops entitled “The Battle of Wyse Fork – History and Driving tour” is in print and available at the Kinston Visitor Center in conjunction with a corresponding audio track. For the remote viewer who is interested there are several YouTube videos ranging from four minutes to an inclusive one-hour video by Wade Sokolosky. An aggressive number of interpretive battlefield tours are held annually, conducted by Dennis Harper and Wade Sokolsky. We have an active and diverse public speaking program which are conducted upon request. Within the group we have an individual dedicated to writing grants, submitting and tracking their progress for funding, additional markers and panels to interpret events and individuals on the battlefield are in place and new ones being added as funding allows. Our diligent efforts have resulted in the awarding of the T. Harry Gatton Award for preservation and education efforts. Please visit our Facebook page to see photos of the various markers, interpretive panels and monuments currently on the battle. We also invite you to visit our webpage at [wyseforkbattlefield.org](http://wyseforkbattlefield.org)

To round out our educational efforts and reach further into various communities a board game for the battle of Wyse Fork has been developed by BMG, under the direction of Bill Molyneaux and is available for purchase.

To donate checks can be submitted to the following:

Wyse Fork Battlefield Commission c/o Stacey Jones, 234 Clemens Drive, Pikeville, NC 27863

Purchases of engraved Bricks to commemorate an individual soldier or regiment at the battle of Wyse Fork can be ordered for placement in the Honor Plaza. Size and prices are: 8x4 brick: \$100; 8x8 Red Brick: \$500; 8x8 Granite: \$1000 Proceeds will go to Wyse Fork battlefield interpretive panels, markers, signs and their site support requirements.

For further details and how to order, email Dennis Harper at: [dennisharper5355@gmail.com](mailto:dennisharper5355@gmail.com)

Thank you for featuring my article in your newsletter and for any support that your readers give to our cause. Sincerely, Skip Riddle.



Skip Riddle



Dennis Harper, Andrew Mizsak, and Skip Riddle make final preparations before meeting the NC Secretary of Transportation and Office of State Historic Preservation



Honor Plaza - Installed in November 2024

The Indiana regiments in this battle were all organized about the same time at the end of 1863. Many of them were brigaded together for their entire term of service, seeing action throughout the Atlanta & Franklin-Nashville Campaigns.



## Department Communications 2025-2026



**Department Order #1:** Acknowledgment and courtesies of the new Commander's election. Transfer of headquarters & contact information. Announcement of all Department elected and appointed officers.

**Circular #1:** Communicates the importance of growth in the Department and the need to adopt a strategy of Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation.

**Department Order #2:** In tandem with Circular #1 this General Order establishes the following awards for recruitment: The **Oliver P. Morton Award** for Camps & the **Lew Wallace Award** for Brothers that recruit the most members between our annual April encampment. Should there be a tie, both Camps and/or Brothers will receive the award.



To read the orders in full, visit [suvwin.org](http://suvwin.org) and navigate to "Department Orders



Greetings from the Battle of Corydon Chapter, NSDU and thank you very much for featuring our Chapter in your newsletter. We are a like minded hereditary society who, though not part of the Allied Orders of the GAR, likewise strive to honor our ancestors who preserved the Union.

Our Chapter is named after the Battle of Corydon and are a fairly new Chapter of the NSDU, having been chartered in 2022. Despite forming so recently, we already have about 32 members! We meet quarterly in Corydon, where we have short, interesting programs on topics relating to the Civil War that are of interest to women and conduct the business of our Chapter.

Our Chapter conducts a number of fundraising activities with our most successful being a wonderful partnership with the local Dairy Queen restaurant in Corydon. They allow us to come in one evening a month, talk to their guests about our group, we also clean tables and keep the floor clean. We then get 10% of the evenings sales from business. This was arranged through the parent company Fourteen Foods and has been very profitable for us. We use these funds to make annual contributions to the Battle of Corydon Park. We also make contributions to Lincoln Memorial University in Harrogate Tennessee, which was founded by Civil War General Oliver O. Howard in 1897 in part due to a conversation that he had with President Lincoln during the war about supporting the loyal citizenry of East Tennessee.

We are pleased to have met with a number of members of the SUVCW already and hope to become more acquainted in the future. If any of your readers are interested, we will be at the Battle of Corydon Park for their annual Civil War event on July 12th, 2025. Please stop by our booth and say hi! We would love to meet you.

You can find us on Facebook by searching for "Battle of Corydon Chapter NSDU 1861-1865"

"Let Us Have Peace"

Lynne Keasling Organizing Regent Battle of Corydon Chapter Daughters of the Union 1861 to 1865.



# GraveMarker Dedication

JAY COUNTY RETIREMENT CENTER

It was a cold, rainy, windy, raw day in May in Jay County. Four SVR members, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Larry Ebert, 1st Sgt. Alan Teller, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sgt. Randy McNally, and Pvt. Eric Fricke, braved the elements to participate in the ceremony for Pvt. John Jefferson Williams of Co. B, 34<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He is officially listed as the last soldier killed in the Civil War on May 13, 1865, at Palmito Ranch, Texas. As the U. S.A. Government prepared to move his body in 1890, the family had it moved to their farm in Jay County, where it rests today. No stone had ever been placed on his grave as Mike McBride of the Museum of the Soldier, discovered. It was his motivation and groundwork that allowed this ceremony to take place.

Boy Scout Troop 206 worked hard to prepare the cemetery, moving, painting and cleaning and resetting grave markers.

About 50 hearty souls withstood the weather to view the service. Sergeant Major Orville Uggan and Co. B, 34<sup>th</sup> Indiana re-enactors (the same regiment and company in which Williams served) were there in force.

First Lt. Larry Ebert took command of all the re-enactors and Sons of Veterans Reserve members, and the rites were practiced. Ebert then marched us in, turned the color guard over to 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Alan Teller, assembled the firing squad, and arranged the cemetery guard. He commanded the 21-gun salute. The color guard was marched into place with the 34<sup>th</sup>'s National and Regimental Colors. Also participating in the color guard was 2<sup>nd</sup> Sgt. Randy McNally and Travis and Erin Stephens.

Pvt. Eric Fricke fided in the assembly and played music for the memorial wreath presentations. Two other members of the SUVCW were also present, Archie Lintz and Steve Williams of the Champion Hill camp.

Judy VanCamp, Rita Morgan, Barbara Stone, Lee Ann Teller and Department President, Beverly Massey, were present to represent the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

In need of another page to end this edition of our newsletter with an even number (20) and lacking any more material for this edition, I submit to the reader a glimpse into the past. Here is page 7 of the Fall 2005 issue of *The Indiana Legion*. It is good to look into the past to remind ourselves of the good work we have done and how far we have come along over the last 20 years. For instance, in 2005 there were 6 Camps in Indiana, all of them located in the upper half of the state. Now there are 9 Camps, with two of the of them located in the southern half of the state.



Department Commander Gib Young takes charge at the Slack Park, Huntington

## A Monument at Last!

In a ceremony last July 18th, after several years in preparation, the Champion Hill Camp No. 17 dedicated a monument located at the General James Slack Park in Huntington in honor of Brevet Major General Slack, and Colonels Sam Zent, Robert Morrison, C. E. Briant and George Pride, Staff Engineer for U.S. Grant at Vicksburg as well as the 208 soldiers who died and the 1800 soldiers who served from the county, during the Rebellion.

After participating in the Huntington Heritage Day Parade, members of the Champion Hill Camp and the SUVCW, Sons of Veterans Reserve, and Daughters of the Veterans of the Civil War met at the park with some 220 spectators. A volley from the howitzers of the 18th and 21st Indiana batteries signaled the beginning of the event at 12:30.

Speakers included Department Commander Gib Young, and uniformed as colonels, Champion Hill Camp brothers Les Howey and Don Heitman of Indianapolis. Chaplain Don Morgan presented the benediction, and the Company

Singers provided music.

Among the distinguished guests were the Huntington mayor, Terry Abbett, and the Park Superintendent, Dick Murray, and Lee Ann Teller and Vickie Day of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

## Junior Vice Commanders

IT'S THAT TIME OF THE YEAR!

RECRUITMENT • RETENTION • REINSTATEMENT

It is a major responsibility of National, Department, and Camp Junior Vice Commanders to take the lead in recruiting new members, in retaining those that we have, and in urging brothers who have been dropped because of non-payment of dues to once again become active in our Order.

As this issue of *The Indiana Legion* makes abundantly clear, we have an active and growing Department, made up of energetic and thoughtful men. We identify, refurbish and decorate the graves of our Civil War ancestors, we take steps to educate ourselves, the public, and our youth about their struggle and sacrifice—without which there would now be no union, one and inseparable.

The time for renewing memberships draws near. It is not too soon to take a close look at our task. Department Commander Gib Young and the National Junior Vice Commander Charles E. Kuhn, Jr., have made suggestions, summed up here:

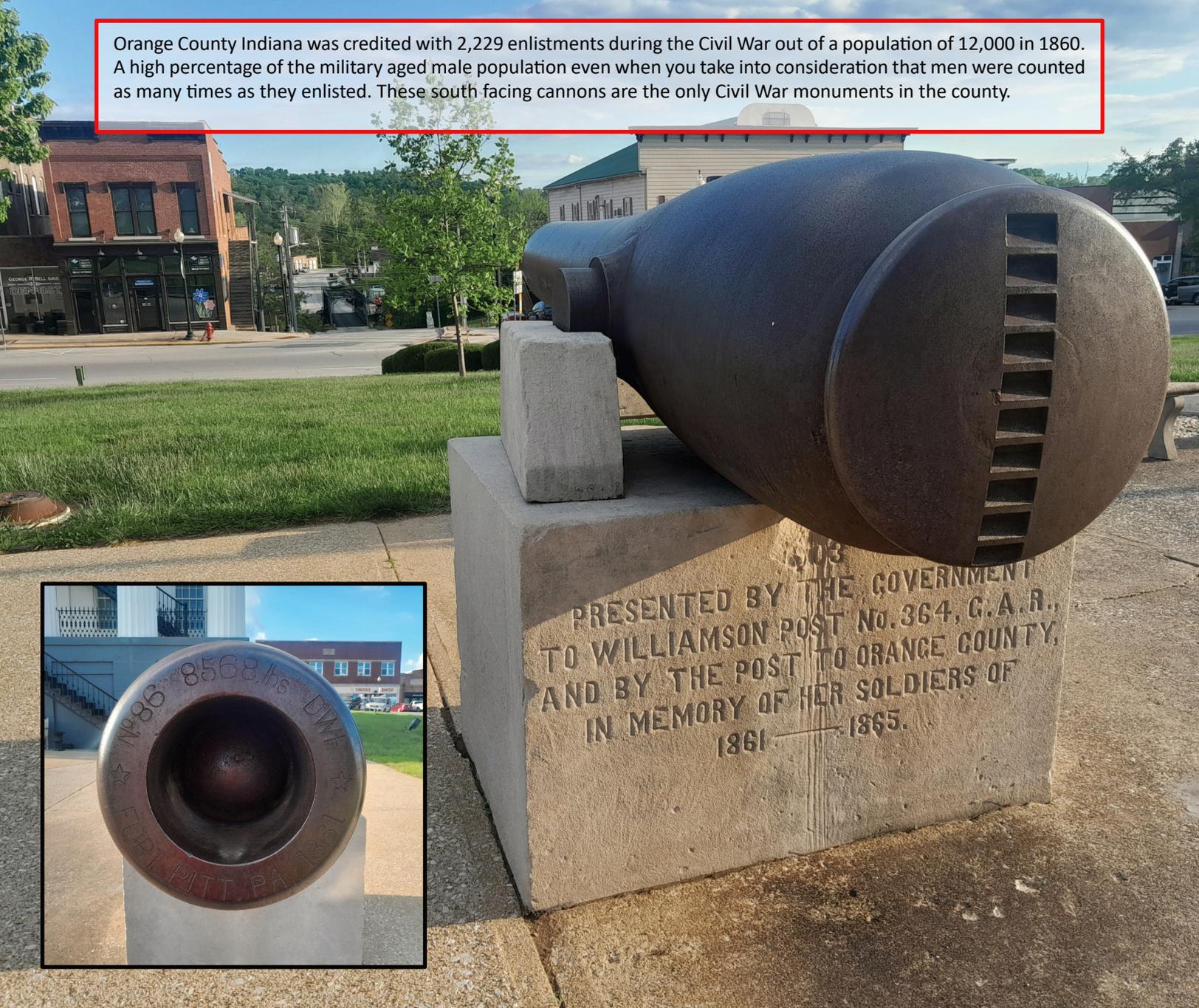
**RECRUITMENT:** JVCs SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD in setting up a camp program for identifying and guiding new members into our fold.

**RETENTION:** JVCs SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD in identifying those brothers who are drifting away from the camp's activity, make contact with them and remind them of how much their membership is of value.

**REINSTATEMENT:** JVCs SHOULD TAKE THE LEAD in listening to the concerns of no longer active members. It may take just a simple phone call to see that a brother is reinstated, for we know that some brothers are uncertain about how to return to active membership.

So, gentlemen, now is the time!

Orange County Indiana was credited with 2,229 enlistments during the Civil War out of a population of 12,000 in 1860. A high percentage of the military aged male population even when you take into consideration that men were counted as many times as they enlisted. These south facing cannons are the only Civil War monuments in the county.



The Indiana Legion is the official newsletter of the Department of Indiana, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Published every quarter. If you would like to contribute an article, column or some small filler content, contact the editor.

If the information is not filled out in the box to the right and you are curious about membership, contact information for officers who can assist you are on page two.

Camp: \_\_\_\_\_  
Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_