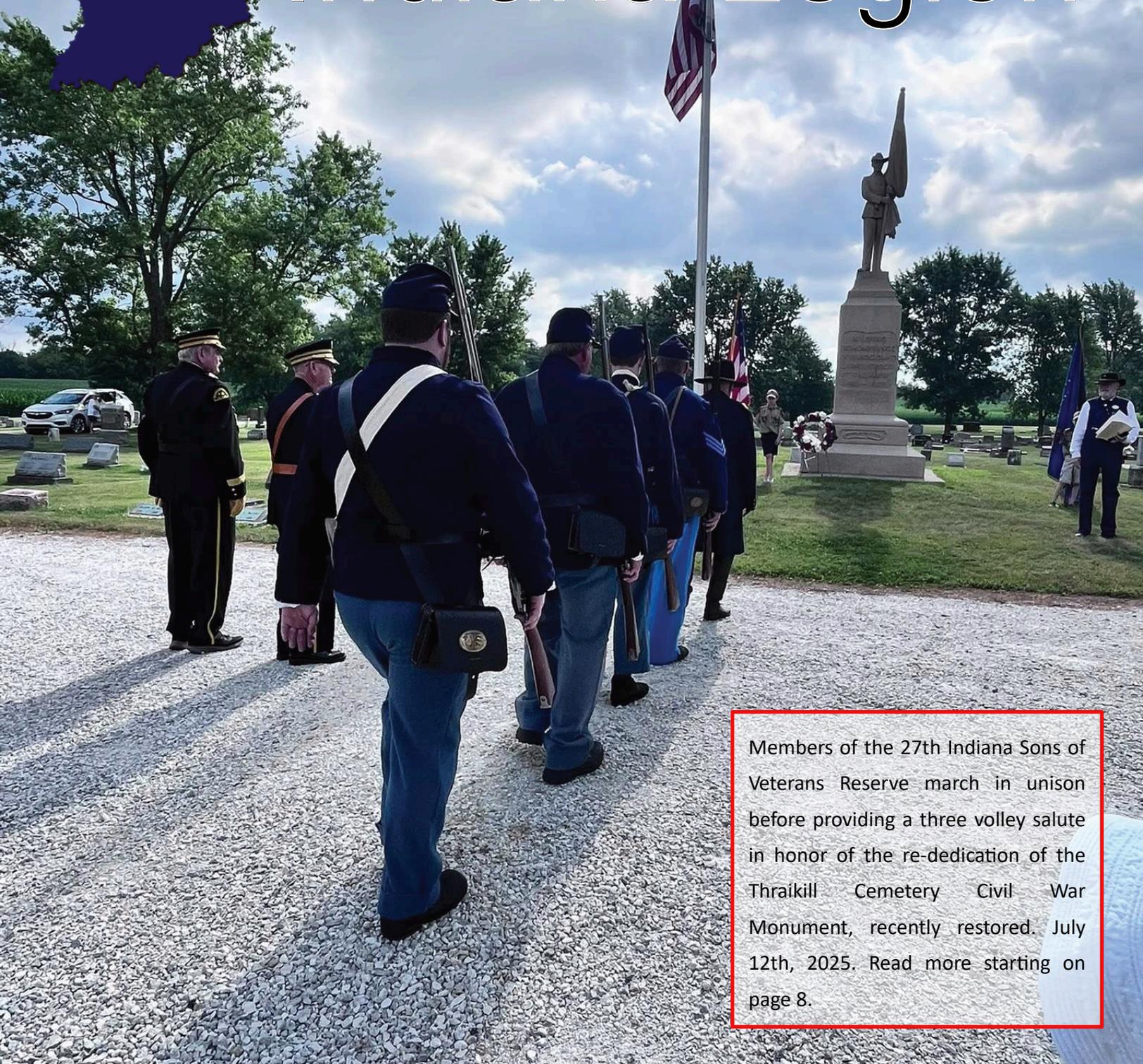


The Indiana Legion



Members of the 27th Indiana Sons of Veterans Reserve march in unison before providing a three volley salute in honor of the re-dedication of the Thraikill Cemetery Civil War Monument, recently restored. July 12th, 2025. Read more starting on page 8.

Department of Indiana Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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.



| Department Officer Contacts | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|--|
| Commander | Travis LeMaster | commander@suvcwin.org |
| Sr. Vice Commander | David Hoesli | svcommander@suvcwin.org |
| Jr. Vice Commander | Fred Leickly | jvcommander@suvcwin.org |
| Secretary | Dennis Hutchinson | secretary@suvcwin.org |
| Treasurer | Ronald Hyer | treasurer@suvcwin.org |
| Eagle Scout Coord. | Michael Beck | eagle@suvcwin.org |
| Signals Officer | Timothy Beckman | signals@suvcwin.org |
| Legion Editor | Taylin Allen | legion@suvcwin.org |

| 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 5.*

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



UPCOMING Events

| | |
|--|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">September 20th 19th Ill. Train Wreck Monument Dedication 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 & the Martin County Historical Society, this is finally being rectified.</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">October 3rd & 4th Central Region Association Meeting Veteran's National Memorial Shrine & Museum, 2122 O Day Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46818,</p> | <p>The Central Region Association (CRA) will be holding their 85th annual meeting in Fort Wayne this October. This meeting is for the Allied Orders of the GAR, so not exclusive to SUVCW membership. More info on page: 5</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">October 18th Last Union Soldier Dedication Pike County Walnut Hill Cemetery, Petersburg Indiana Time: 12:00 p.m. CST</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> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">November 1st Department Midwinter Encampment 4090 South "A" Street, Richmond, Indiana Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.</p> | <p>Brothers are encouraged to attend and participate in the business of the Order. This will be at the Richmond Masonic Center, directly behind the Richmond Mall. William P. Benton Camp #28 is the hosting Camp.</p> |
| <p>Any events hosted by or in collaboration with the Department of Indiana or Camps therein can be submitted to the editor and will be placed in the newsletter. Bear in mind that that the newsletter is released quarterly.</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 or by scanning the QR code to stay up to date!. You can also visit our webpage at suvcwin.org to learn more about us.





Brothers of the Department of Indiana,

I wish to report of a successful National Encampment held in Houston, Texas and the business of the Order was conducted once again. Your Department of Indiana was represented by a small, but determined delegation.

I can report that the Department has submitted a proposal to host a National Encampment in the future, and the members of the committee who have done the preliminary work have done an excellent job in putting together a good case as to why Indiana should be chosen.

I am pleased to hear reports of the work of keeping alive the memories of the Boys in Blue through Last Union Veteran projects and other ceremonies over the summer by the Camps. These activities are the lifeblood of our organization and allow us to interact with the community to spread the word about who we are and what we do. In closing, I want to encourage everyone to read the C&R to better understand how our organization should operate. Oftentimes, the questions you have about what should be done can be found within those regulations. Likewise, please familiarize yourself with the General Orders of the new CinC which can be found on the National website.

Yours in F, C & L

Travis

A big thank you to everyone who has sent material for this and the past few editions of The Legion since I took over earlier this year. Keeping up with Camp activities isn't so hard, but finding other noteworthy topics to write on or present is a challenge and so I really do appreciate those Brothers and readers who have taken the time to write me. From stories, trivia, projects and related topics to our Order, it has been a great help to fill in those gaps in each issue of *our* newsletter.

I would like to in turn however challenge a few readers. If you haven't yet submitted something for an article or page, I encourage you to do so. I promise that it isn't as intimidating as it may seem and you might find some joy in seeing your story or topic that you are interested in getting a spotlight.

Now for a pat on the back for the recent work done by our Brothers in Orlando A. Somers Camp. See the cover and pages 8-9.

This Thraikill Monument project of theirs cost something to the tune of \$12,000. Raising that amount of money is no small feat for any Camp, let alone Department, yet Somers Camp has done just that in the span of two years. I think it just goes to show that with enough commitment and determination, if we as a Brothers or Camps set large goals and meet in earnest the challenges therein, we can punch well above our weight class. As Brothers of the Department of Indiana we should continue to challenge ourselves, to use these projects as a tool to grow ourselves and our Order. I look forward to publishing more such projects in many editions of The Legion to come.

Yours in F, C & L

Taylin Allen - Editor of The Legion

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@sucvwin.org



Allied Orders of the Grand Army of the Republic Central Region Association 85th Annual Meeting

The Central Regional Association, or CRA, will hold their 85th annual meeting on October 3rd & 4th at the Veteran's National Memorial Shrine & Museum in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Brothers *and Sisters* are encouraged to attend if able, as this is for all of the Allied Orders. The CRA is one of only two remaining regional associations within the Allied Orders, the purpose of which is to bring the Departments in said regions together, share ideas and information on how to better organize ourselves, recruit & retain members, and encourage renewed efforts of our Orders.

Regional associations were strong in the first half of the 1900s as they were practically the only means for multiple Departments to gather and associate and share information outside of the National Encampment. While the advent of better communications, especially that of the internet, have made sharing information easy and convenient between the Departments, it is still important to meet in person and strengthen our bonds of fellowship with one another. You are strongly encouraged to attend if able.

The itinerary, contact information and submission form are on the next page for you to print out if you are interested.

For more information, you may visit <https://alliedcra.org/>

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.

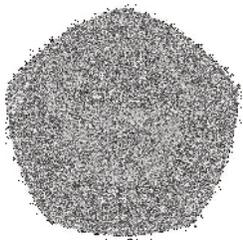
Associate membership is open to any male who does not have the ancestry to qualify.

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





**Central Region Association of the Allied Orders of the Grand
Army of the Republic**

85th Conference Registration Form

October 3 & 4, Fort Wayne, IN

Please Return by September 23, 2025

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

E-MAIL OR CELL # _____

____ SUCVW ____ DUVCW ____ WRC ____ LGAR ____ A-SUCVW ____ MOLLUS/DOLLUS
LOGANS BRIGADE _____ Other Org _____

Highest Rank in Your Organization: _____

I plan to attend ____ Friday Night Dinner ____ CRA Meeting ____ Saturday Night Dinner

SPOUSE (IF ATTENDING): _____

____ SUCVW ____ DUVCW ____ WRC ____ LGAR ____ A-SUCVW ____ MOLLUS/DOLLUS
LOGANS BRIGADE _____ Other Org _____

Highest Rank in Spouse's Organization: _____

They plan to attend ____ Friday Night Dinner ____ CRA Meeting ____ Saturday Night Dinner

Conference Registration Fee \$7.00 (will be \$10 at the door)

\$7.00 per Attendee x ____ = \$ _____

Donation to Support Organization \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO "GAR – CENTRAL REGION"

MAIL TO: Walt Busch, 1240 Konert Valley Dr, Fenton, MO 63026

email: wbusch@sucvwm.org PAYPAL possible - email for info

[please do not reference Central Region on the Envelope Address – Post may not deliver!]

If you want to pay by credit card, e-mail Walt and he will send you a link for Paypal paying.

_____ Name of Hotel Staying At (in case we need to get you)



Patriotic Instruction

Jonathan Swarts
Patriotic Instructor

PRIDE IN OUR ORDER



This photo, as the inscription shows, is of President Rutherford B. Hayes, photographed in 1891, ten years after he left office and just two years before his death. Hayes's choice to be photographed with his GAR badge prominently displayed was surely no accident. It reflected his deep pride in his wartime service and his fellowship with the men who fought to preserve the Union.

Before he became the 19th President of the United States, Hayes had distinguished himself as a soldier in the Union Army. Commissioned as a major in the 23rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry, he quickly proved his courage and leadership. Hayes was wounded multiple times during the war, most notably at the Battle of South Mountain in 1862, where he was shot through the left arm. Despite the pain of the fractured arm and consequent loss of blood, he refused to leave the field until the fighting subsided. He would rise to the rank of brevet major general by the end of the war, respected for his bravery and devotion to his men. During his presidency and beyond, Hayes made it a point to speak to GAR and other veterans groups often, honoring his fellow servicemen for their sacrifices.

The quiet pride so evident in this photograph should inspire us to both a pride in the heroism of our forefathers as well as a humility in the knowledge that we have the duty to keep alive the Order, traditions, and rituals they created through our activities as Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. We have a tremendous heritage to preserve and pass on to future generations, as President Hayes and all his fellow Boys in Blue passed on to us.

On August 7, 2025, members of Company D, 27th Indiana SVR Color Guard took part in a Naturalization Ceremony at the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. Serving as the Color Guard Detail for the National Park Service, the 27th opened the event by posting the colors.

The Honorable Matthew P. Brookman from the United States District Court for the Southern District of



Indiana, assisted by Immigration Services Officer Susan Bales, presided over the ceremony that welcomed about 50 individuals from 10 counties as new U.S. citizens. Following the event, members of the 27th Indiana SVR greeted the new citizens, celebrating their significant achievement.



Orlando A. Somers Camp #1 hosted a re-dedication Cemetery north of Swayzee Indiana. This was the spearheaded a movement to restore the monument, than century-long watch over the cemetery. A short

On July 4th, 1910, the Edwin Lennox, Post #408 of the town of Swayzee. After the parade, the G.A.R. proceeded to the Thraikill Cemetery a couple miles *soldier's monument in Grant County now stands* speeches, a picnic dinner and even a race around

ceremony on July 12th for the G.A.R. monument in Thraikill culmination of a two year project where brothers of Camp #1 which had been damaged and weathered over it's more history of the monument is here-by submitted.

Grand Army of The Republic lead off the parade through the members and most of the locals loaded up in vehicles and north of town. Here according The Swayzee Press, "*..the first unveiled..*" on a plot donated by the local Odd Fellows. Music, the cemetery (challenging the local sheriff) filled the day.



Members of the Department of Indiana pose with Grant County Sheriff, Del Garcia in front of the Thraikill monument

Through the years following the monument served as a gathering place for patriotic gatherings. The Edwin Lennox Post of the G.A.R. was named after the regimental flag bearer of the 12th Indiana Infantry, Edwin Lennox. He was killed in 1862 leading the regiment into the Battle of Richmond, Kentucky. He was born in 1845 and would have been 16-17 at the time of his death. The same flag he carried into battle was present at his funeral and the Grant County Republican, the local paper, reported that it had been "*pierced to the heart by the bullets of the enemy.*" Being the flag bearer, it is believed this is why the Post chose the design of the monument.

In 1948 a tornado knocked the Veteran's memorial over, damaging the flag topper and back hat brim. Fortunately, a local father and son took it upon themselves to set the monument back up, a tall task needless to say. The damage however was not addressed until this year, thanks to the efforts of Orlando A. Somers Camp #1.

Here you can see several clamps holding in place repairs made to the hat while it sets. The top of the flag is likewise discolored in this image due to the repairs. The entire monument was professionally cleaned and finished, making the repairs blend in more subtly.





Work on restoration was completed on July 10th. The morning of the re-dedication was 80 degrees, high humidity and a good breeze. Over 50 people turned out for the ceremony. As well as members of the sons also in attendance was the County Sheriff Del Garcia, top state commander of the International Order of the Odd Fellows, local town board members, the Township Trustee, the daughter of the man who reset the statue after the 1948 tornado, neighbors, Boys of Trail Life Troop IN-2717 and even a Veteran motorcycle group.

Services commenced with the 27th Indiana SVR presenting colors, opening remarks by the Somers Camp Commander, Randy McNally. After the Camp Chaplin offered a prayer, the Trail Life Boys led those gathered in the Pledge of Allegiance. Department Commander Travis LeMaster read a short history of the Monument. Grant County Sheriff Del



Garcia gave an address followed by the Crowd being led in singing the "Battle Hymn of The Republic". The 27th Indiana SVR offered a three volley salute and "Taps" closed out the ceremony.

In concert with our Civil War Nurses Project, the Department of Indiana was invited to participate in the dedication of a new State Historical Marker & Gravestone for Dr. Almira Fifield in Valparaiso on June 24th. The 27th Indiana SVR provided a three volley salute to cap off the ceremonies that day near to where her memorial stone was installed, there was a sizable crowd.



Almira was a Doctor of Medicine, having graduated from the New England Female Medical College, later absorbed by Boston University, in 1859. Answering the nation's call to service she volunteered to care for wounded soldiers in 1862 and was assigned to Paducah Kentucky, where her knowledge and skill saw her placed in charge of the Surgical Ward of the Union Hospital there. After a year of service she succumbed to illness, likely tuberculosis or typhus fever, dying on March 8th 1863, she was only 29 years old.

A Hoosier native, her body was returned and buried at the Old City Cemetery in Valparaiso where she lay in an unmarked grave some 162 years. Thanks to the efforts of her descendant, Barbara Fifield Brandt, PhD, EdM, that all changed this year and she has been properly honored. You can read more about the Civil War Nurses Project on page 12



A headstone dedication was held for John Boyer, a private in Company A, 29th Indiana Infantry. This has been a long time in the making, as Past Commander-in-Chief Jim Pahl, Boyer's great, great grandson pictured in yellow, has worked on and off over the past 20 years to locate his grave. Per a chance discussion with Past Department Commander of Indiana, Tom Schmitt, the issue of locating his grave was forwarded to Dave Hoesli, Senior Vice Commander & Graves Registration Officer, who was able to solve the mystery shortly after.

Private Boyer had enlisted at the age of 24 in September of 1861 and served his three year term, during that time saw all of the 29th's major engagements, including Shiloh, Stone's River and Chickamauga. His regiment's last was engagement was the Second Battle of Dalton in August of 1864, just a month before his term expired.

The new headstone was secured and placed by members of Champion Hill Camp #17 Gib Young PDC, Tom Schmitt PDC, and Phil Dyer. The ceremony presided over by Department Commander Travis LeMaster and John Auten Camp #8 Commander Jonathan Swarts, with representation from Arsinoe Martin Circle #78, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, Elizabeth Thurston, President. PCinC Jim Pahl attended and spoke of the significance of the day to him and his family. Members of the 14th Michigan and 27th Indiana SVR formed the Honor Guard and fired volleys.



Brothers of Benjamin Harrison Camp #356 attended the annual birthday celebration of the Camp's namesake: President Benjamin Harrison on August 16th. Every year a representative of the current President of the United States leads a celebration for each deceased President on or around their birthday, in this case the Saturday (16th) before Benjamin Harrison's, August 20th.

President Harrison was born in 1833, served in the Civil War from 1862 - 1865 and attained the rank of Brevet Brig. General of Volunteers. Served as the Nation's chief executive from 1889-1893.

Pictured left to right are Joe Beckman, Tim Beckman & Garry Walls.





A monument and marker to 28 soldiers of the 19th Illinois Infantry has been installed on the grounds of the Martin County Museum in Shoals, Indiana. These men were killed or mortally wounded about 3.5 miles east of Shoals on September 17th, 1861 in a horrific train accident.

Having started and spearheaded this project for over a year I have quite a lot to say but I think I will save the bulk of that for after the dedication and for the next issue of The Legion.

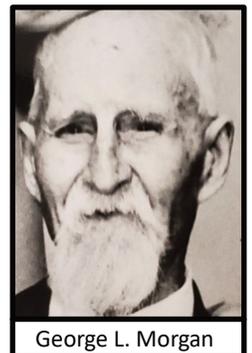
I will however not neglect to mention the following: I couldn't have asked for better help or encouragement from not only my Camp, but with the Martin County Historical Society in particular. These people, especially Bill Greene, Lisa Hendrixson & Patrick Todd, have been gun ho from the beginning of the project, have given me anything I have asked for and have had my back the whole way through. In particular Bill, the president of the historical society, who has been just as invested as myself and has had to endure the sounds of his phone going off at all hours of the day with every little update that I sent his way. I'm sure he'll rest a little easier after the dedication event, I know I will. - Taylin Allen



Saturday, August 30, 2025, John Auten Camp #8 of South Bend and David D. Porter Camp #116 of Valparaiso conducted a joint dedication ceremony to honor and to mark the final resting place of the Last Union Veteran of Jasper County, Indiana, George L. Morgan.

George L. Morgan, a man whose life spanned from the antebellum period to the final days of World War II, was remembered as a dedicated Civil War veteran and a cherished community member. Born on February 14, 1848, he passed away on April 15, 1945, at the age of 97. His life was marked by his youthful enlistment in the Union Army, his active participation in the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), and his long-standing presence as a respected local figure.

At the age of 14 and one half he enlisted in Company A of the 87th Indiana Regiment. He returned at the end of the war to Rensselaer where he became a Blacksmith and later used his talents in woodworking, carriage making, and carpentry. George was a member of McPherson GAR Post 84 where records show he served as an officer of the post. In his later years, he was affectionately known as "Grandpa" Morgan, a beloved figure of every Rensselaer resident. Photo of George L. Morgan to the right, courtesy of Eric Lowman.



- Continued -



Tom Schmitt, PDC, Will Radell and Rick Smurdon, members of Co. D 27th Indiana SVR served as the color guard and fired muskets. Lenny Sailor of Mishawaka, Indiana played “Going Home” and “Amazing Grace” on the bagpipes for the solemn occasion. Jasper County Historian Judy Kanee led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Program Organizer Bill Adams, PDC introduced Department Commander Travis LeMaster who spoke on the history of the GAR, SUVCW and the Last Veteran Project. John Auten Camp Monuments Officer Richard Mrozinski read the words of dedication. David D. Porter Jr.-Vice -Commander Ken Pearman placed the marker to forever mark the grave of Jasper Counties “Last Union Veteran”.



Civil War Nurses Project

This project follows the ‘Last Soldier’ effort with Brother Beck at the Department Encampment. Brother Leickly has taken a lead role in this effort. Committee members include Brothers Adams, Beck, Hoesli, and Schmitt. The tasks set before the committee are to identify women who served as nurses, verify their service, and locate their burial site. The endpoint is to honor these women for their dedication to life, devotion to country, and service to wounded and dying soldiers.

The committee has found 290 names with just over half having their final resting place identified.

Their stories are fascinating. More than 70 were Sisters from a variety of Catholic Orders. Some women followed their husbands to war. Others went to help a relative. There were women physicians who were only allowed to help in the role of nurse. There were African American women who served as nurses. There was a woman who served as a line soldier with her husband but was later discovered when she was assigned to hospital work. One of our Indiana nurses also was a spy for the Army. Some of these women were also prisoners of war. Sadly, a few died during their time of service due to disease. These ‘Angels of Mercy’ were also shot at.

Our task is daunting; records were not kept on these women and with no records, there has been no recognition. Many were identified only as ‘Miss’ or ‘Mrs’ (surname).

We are working hard to find them and pay homage to them for their sacrifice.

Respectfully submitted.

Brother Frederick E. Leickly, MD, MPH
Camp Commander – John B. Anderson Camp #223
Junior Vice Commander – Department of Indiana

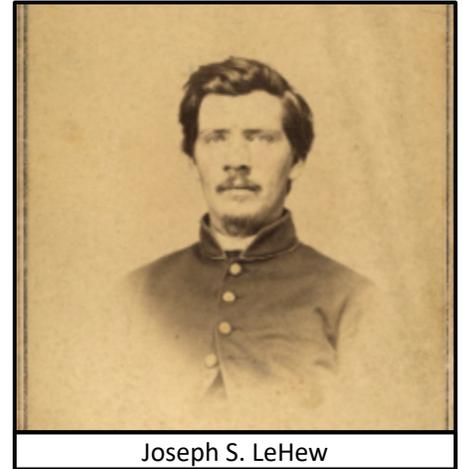


The Long Shadow of War

A look at Mike Beck's ancestor, Joseph S. LeHew of Company H, 15th Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

Wounds and diseases obtained during the war often had devastating consequences years, sometimes decades later when they reared their ugly heads in a veteran's old age. So much so that untold thousands of men found themselves unable to perform menial task, find work, or just simply care for themselves. While reading the pension affidavits for Joseph LeHew, the thought crossed my mind that it would make for a good example that, even though the war ended in 1865, the suffering of the men often went on well into the 1900's.

Joseph S. LeHew enlisted in the 15th Ohio on September 7th, 1861 at the age of 20. Serving his Country for just over four years, he saw the bulk of major engagements of his regiment, including Shiloh, Stone's River, the Tullahoma Campaign, Chickamauga, Chattanooga and part of the Atlanta Campaign. During his term of service he was captured at the Battle of Stone's River and made a prisoner for a few months before being paroled in the early part of 1863, wounded slightly during the battle of Missionary Ridge and wounded severely in the left shoulder at the Battle of Pickett's Mill on May 27th 1864.



Joseph S. LeHew

A blacksmith before the war, his shoulder injury caused him to pursue lighter work, in which he found good success. He had several business ventures and eventually practiced law, even becoming a judge. It was something different from a wound however that would bring him much suffering in his later life.

In December of 1861, just a few months into his life as a soldier, Joseph contracted a severe outbreak of measles, the effects of which lingered with him for the rest of his life. From this, he had some throat trouble, though it was only acute at times for the better part of 40 years. That was until around 1900 he was "attacked with the grip" (the common cold, or flu), which agitated his throat trouble from the war. So much so that he suffered continuously from this point on when he finally was compelled to apply for pension in 1904. At this point, it was so severe that he had to sit upright in a chair to avoid smothering in his sleep, his pension file recording that: "The effect this disease has had upon affiant is to cause a wasting away of the chest, neck and throat, and greatly debilitate him, because of his constant retching, coughing and expectorating (coughing up spit or phlegm from the throat or lungs)." Joseph lived with this until 1923, when he passed away at the age of 82.



Most people with a basic understanding of the Civil War know that disease claimed the lives of more soldiers than bullets. We should strive to remember that untold thousands of veterans suffered much the same as Joseph LeHew in their later years from disease contracted during the war.



Recollections of the Civil War

William Henry Harrison Polhamus, Late of the Ohio Second Volunteer Cavalry

Article by Fred Leickly

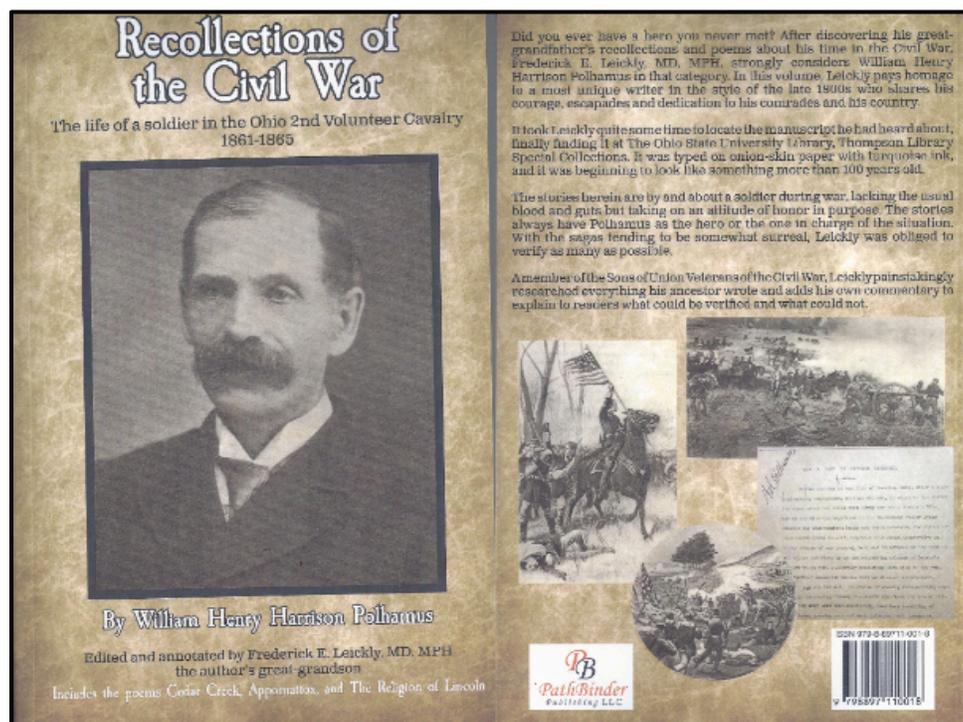
Over the years I have been a member of the John B. Anderson Camp I have been sharing stories that my Civil War ancestor wrote. This met with great interest since many of our ancestors did not share their experiences on paper. At Camp meetings we found the stories replete with patriotism, heroics, comedy, reflection, dedication and purpose. There was genuine interest in hearing about what a soldier, albeit one on horse and from an Ohio regiment, had to say about his life from being a 'Wideawake' (Lincoln political activist) in the prewar days to his time as a prisoner of war at Pemberton Prison. In between the reader will experience life on the frontier, chasing John Hunt Morgan, typhoid fever, a cattle drive, espionage, cavalry raids, capture, and life in a Confederate prison. Over the past two years, I have been researching his work, trying to validate people, places, and events. That task was arduous, but also a labor of love. Neither I nor my father ever met great-grandfather. We never had the opportunity to listen to these tales. This work was never published. He wrote this upon the insistence of friends with 'no other motive than to amuse the reader and perchance assist in some small measure of awakening and stimulating a spirit of patriotism in the breast of the rising generation,'

This book includes his 'Recollections' and three poems: Appomattox, The Religion of Lincoln, and Cedar Creek. Cedar Creek was written for and read at the Grand Army of the Republic Encampment in Cleveland, Ohio September 12-13, 1901, where 30,000 attended.

The release date is September 25, 2025. Orders can be made through the following links.

Amazon: <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0FH64SZVM>

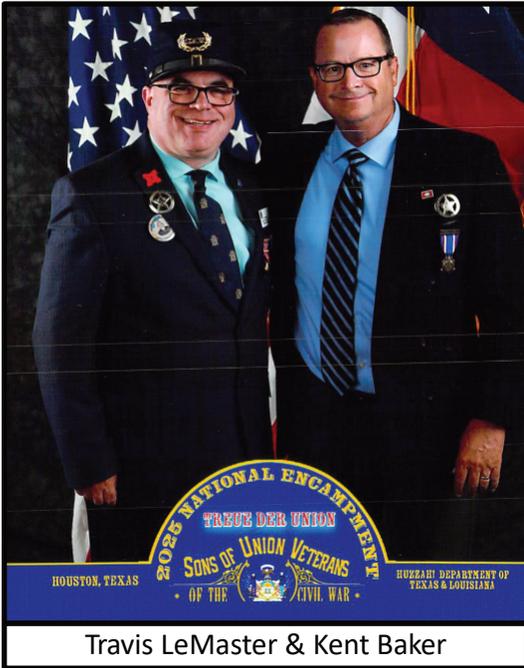
Barnes and Noble: <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/1147808220?ean=9798897110018>





Genealogical Serendipity at the National Encampment

By Travis LeMaster



A chance encounter at lunch during a break at the National Encampment in Houston, Texas led to a moment of genealogical serendipity and a new friendship. As we grabbed our lunch, a gentleman named Kent Baker from the newly-formed Department of Arkansas sat down and introduced himself. After some small talk about the Encampment and the formation of his new Department, he mentioned that his ancestor had served in an Indiana unit, somewhere north of the Indianapolis area.

As we continued talking, it became apparent that his ancestor, Enos Cloud, was from Hamilton County, Indiana and had served in the 101st Indiana Infantry – the same regiment as one of my ancestors – John T. Beals. We wondered if perhaps our ancestors knew each other and here we were in Texas sharing a meal at the SUVCW National Encampment. As Kent and I continued to talk about his ancestor, I began to look his ancestor up on Find-A-Grave, and found out that not only had they served in the same regiment – but they were both in the same company –

Company A of the 101st. Now we had positive evidence that they knew each other.

My ancestor, John T. Beals, mustered in Aug 11, 1862 as Sergeant of Company A and was later promoted to First Lieutenant. Kent's ancestor, Enos Cloud, mustered in August 11, 1862 as a Private of Company A, 101st Indiana Infantry. Two men who knew each other during the war, and likely before the war in the Westfield, Hamilton County, Indiana area.

Kent's ancestor, Enos, also had two brothers in the regiment, Eli and Jonathan. Jonathan died of wounds during the war. My ancestor, John, also had a brother, Daniel in the regiment who died during the war.

Ever being the genealogist, I was convinced that there had to be a genealogical connection between our two families. Quickly searching online trees, I was able to determine that at a minimum, Enos Cloud was my 3rd cousin 6 times removed through the Baldwin line – and there are probably more family connections to discover. So many of these Hamilton County families have a North Carolina Quaker origin connection.

Kent and I promised to stay in touch and cemented our newly re-connected family with a photo at the Encampment. It is moments like this and connections made that make going to the National Encampment worth the effort.

In a similar story from the 2024 National Encampment in Lexington, I roomed with Conrad M. Fisher, then Commander of the Dept. Of Kansas. In doing so I made friends with the delegation from Kansas and was invited to dinner. At that dinner, I learned that one of the Brother's ancestors was from an Indiana regiment and upon further investigation found that said ancestor was from Orangeville, Orange County, the same county that I call home. His ancestor lived 13 miles from where I grew up. Coincidence? I believe that we open the door to moments like this when we pursue what we are passionate about. - Taylin Allen



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.



Department Order #3: Establishment of two Department Committees, one for the Department's Civil War Nurses Project and the other to review the Department By-laws.

Department Order #4: Announcing the passing of Department Treasurer and Brother Drew Godby

Department Order #5: Announcing the passing of Brother Ernest Eugene Stone

Department Order #6: Appointment of Brother Ronald L. Hyer as Department Treasurer

Department Order #7: Appointment of Brother Brian Mexin as Assistant Department Treasurer

To read the orders in full, visit suvwin.org and navigate to "Department Orders and Communications"



Camp Hughes, the training grounds for the 59th Indiana Volunteer Infantry was located about 1.5 miles southwest of Gosport, Indiana on the White River. This regiment was organized through the winter of 1861-62 and as such was subjected to rather unsavory weather as you could imagine. This, combined with the ideal conditions that camp life provided for disease, took the lives of 12 soldiers.

In 1923, a granite marker was erected by a man named L. R. Gray to pay tribute to those men that had died. The stone was inscribed "IN MEMORIAM Died in Camp Hughes -1861-2." As for the names of the men, Gray evidently planned to come back and place a plaque of some kind on the monument but this failed to materialize for a full 85 years.

In 2008, Benjamin Harrison Camp #356 obtained a bronze plaque to affix to the marker. This capped off two years of research into Camp Hughes and the men who died. The plaque was then dedicated by them along with the 11th Indiana (re-enactors) and the John Brighton Post 7850 of the local VFW to a crowd of nearly 100 spectators.



In Memory

By Travis Lemaster



I first met Brother Drew Godby during COVID-19, an interesting time for our Order. In November 2020, he submitted his application for membership to the Orlando A. Somers Camp # 1 in Kokomo along with his father and grandfather. We initiated them all into the order at our December meeting, which, incidentally, was when I was elected Camp Commander for the 2021 term. Drew became involved right away with the SUVCW by becoming our Eagle Scout Coordinator. This was a natural fit, as he was heavily involved in Scouting and was a former Eagle Scout. One thing that quickly became apparent about Drew was that he was always willing to lend a hand and get involved. He was active in our Last Soldier Projects and helped our Camp get involved in events such as First Fridays in Kokomo to reach out to the community.

A natural leader, Drew succeeded me as Camp Commander in 2023 and led the Camp through additional Last Soldier Projects, the digitization and preservation of Camp Charter and other projects. A lover of all things history, he was also a member of the Mississinewa Battlefield Society and participated in Mississinewa 1812 as a member of the 2nd U.S. Light Artillery at the main event and Memorial Day services and parades. Drew was also a member of the Society of the War of 1812, Sons of the American Revolution and Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS), where he served as Senior Vice Commander of the Indiana Commandery..

Most recently in the SUVCW, he had stepped up and taken on the role of Department Treasurer. If there was a role or a project that needed tackling, Brother Drew was someone who could be counted on to be involved.

Outside of the Order, Drew was someone who was involved in many civic and fraternal organizations, as well as being a former teacher and was currently serving as Program Manager of Youth Education at the American Legion. If it involved education and history, he was there. Only 36 years old, Drew suffered a massive stroke and passed away on August 9th, 2025. The loss of Brother Drew will be felt for a long time in the Department of Indiana.



Ernest Eugene Stone of Benjamin Harrison Camp #356 on August 12, 2025. He was born in Columbus, Indiana on January 6, 1939, and graduated from Hope High School in 1956. Professionally he was a Certified Public Accountant with his own tax & accountig service that he opened in 1986. Ernest also worked for 30 years at Cummins Engine Company before retiring. He was a long-time member of the Hope Masonic Lodge 150.

The Thraikill monument a few years ago before its restoration on the cover and page 8.



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: _____
