

*2025 Mid-Year Encampment*  
*November 1, 2025*

Department Officer, Camp, and  
Department Committee Reports



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

Travis J. LeMaster  
Department Commander

# Department Officer Reports



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

**Travis LeMaster  
506 Maple St  
Sweetser, Indiana 46987  
Phone: (765) 667-1940  
Email: [travis.lemaster@gmail.com](mailto:travis.lemaster@gmail.com)**



Brothers,

It is my pleasure and privilege to submit this report on the activities of the Department of Indiana Commander, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, for the period of April 26, 2025 to October 22, 2025.

The Department of Indiana has a membership of 221 brothers, divided among nine camps.

The Department continues work on the Last Soldier Project and the Civil War Nurses project.

- On April 26, 2025 I participated in the 139th Annual Encampment of the Department of Indiana held in West Lafayette, Indiana, where I was honored to be elected Department Commander.
- On April 27, 2025 issued Department Order 2025-1 :First Department Orders, Appointments, Committees, etc.
- On April 27, 2025 issued Department Circular 2025-1 : Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation
- On April 28, 2025 I sent an email to the Department Commander of the Department of Tennessee and Mississippi regarding the 26th Indiana Monument at Vicksburg
- On April 28, 2025 I sent out letters of introductions to historical and genealogical societies throughout the State of Indiana
- On April 29, 2025 issued Department Order 2025 -2 : Establishing Oliver P. Morton and Lew Wallace awards for brothers and camps with most recruitment during year
- On May 2, 2025 I requested that Brother Taylin Allen, Legion Editor, be given access to the Department Facebook account.
- On May 2, 2025 I was able to confirm with Department Signals Officer Beckman that we have control of the Department Twitter account.

- On May 13, 2025 I forwarded on a report from the inspection of the 26th Indiana monument at Vicksburg done by Brothers of the Department of Tennessee and Mississippi to our committee.
- On May 14, 2025 I sent out an email to the Department Records committee thanking them for their service and suggesting a Zoom meeting.
- On May 7, 2025 attended Zoom meeting of the Indiana 26th Monument at Vicksburg Committee
- On May 10, 2025 I sent an email to Brother Taylin Allen thanking him for the excellent work with the Indiana Legion and we exchanged ideas for future editions.
- On May 14, 2025 answered Brother Taylin Allen's question about using the Facebook boost feature to promote posts on the Department page.
- On May 14, 2025 I sent out an email to the Department Projects committee thanking them for their service and giving them a vision of the committee's role.
- On May 14, 2025 I received an email forwarded from National regarding the Annual Call for Nomination of Awards
- On May 17, 2025 I attended the Orlando A Somers Camp # 1 meeting.
- On May 17, 2025 issued Department Order 2025-3 : Establishing Committees on Bylaw Review and Civil War Nurses Project.
- On May 18, 2025 I asked all Brothers through our email list to submit photos of their Memorial Day events to the Legion and Banner.
- On May 19, 2025 I attended the Madison County, Indiana Civil War Roundtable
- On May 20, 2025 I attended the John W Foster Camp # 2 meeting via Zoom.
- On May 22, 2025 I received an email forwarded from National regarding possible destruction of a Civil War cemetery in our jurisdiction.
- On May 23, 2025 I began correspondence regarding preservation of a Civil War cemetery in Wheeler, Indiana, the Janes Cemetery. Received correspondence from SVC Hoesli that there are at least 8 Civil War veterans buried in this cemetery.
- On May 25, 2025 I participated in a Memorial Day ceremony at Crown Point Cemetery in Kokomo, Indiana with Orlando A Somers Camp # 1
- On May 25, 2025 I visited the gravesite of John C. Adams, the last Union Veteran of Indiana in Riverside Cemetery in Gas City, Indiana.
- On May 26, 2025 I participated in a Memorial Day ceremony in Marion, Indiana with the Mississinewa Battlefield Society.
- On May 26, 2025 I sent out an email to the ByLaw committee thanking them for their service and providing some thoughts on potential revisions to our Department ByLaws.
- On May 27, 2025 I sent out an email to Camp Commander of the Porter Camp regarding the preservation of the Janes Cemetery in Wheeler, Indiana and recommended we find out more about proposed plans for development in the area.
- On May 28, 2025 I attended the Zoom meeting of the Department Records Committee.
- On May 28, 2025 I sent an email concerning the background and history of Orlando A Somers to the Kokomo Parks Department
- On May 31, 2025 I attended the Indiana Commandery MOLLUS meeting at Vincennes, Indiana held at Grouseland, home of William Henry Harrison. Later toured George Rogers Clark National Military Park and the Indiana Military History Museum.

- On June 4, 2025 I began correspondence with the Boone County Historical Society regarding participation in their upcoming Lincoln's Lebanon celebration in September.
- On June 5, 2025 I submitted the Commander's Letter for publication in the latest edition of the Indiana Legion.
- On June 14, 2025 I shared the latest edition of the Indiana Legion with the mailing list of the Madison County Civil War Roundtable.
- On June 14, 2025 I attended a presentation on the 19th Indiana Infantry at the Continental Chapter SAR meeting in Muncie, Indiana.
- On June 28, 2025 I participated in the grave dedication ceremony for Pvt. John Boyer of Co. 29th Indiana at Pleasant Lake, Indiana with the 27th Indiana SVR and 14th Michigan SVR.
- On July 3, 2025 I corresponded with the Daughters of the Union Battle of Corydon Chapter about ways we can cooperate in the future.
- On July 11, 2025, I participated in a National Encampment Committee call via Zoom.
- On July 12, 2025, I participated in the Thrailkill G.A.R marker dedication ceremony with the Orlando A. Somers Camp in Swayzee, Indiana.
- On July 15, 2025 I attended the John W. Foster Camp # 2 meeting via Zoom.
- On August 7-10, 2025, I attended the National Encampment of the SUVCW in Houston, Texas, representing the Department of Indiana.
- On August 10, 2025 issued Department Order 2025-4 : Passing of Department Treasurer Drew Godby.
- On August 12, 2025, I attended a National Encampment Committee call via Zoom
- On August 12, 2025 I attended the Indiana Commandery of MOLLUS meeting via Zoom.
- On August 15, 2025, I issued Department Order 2025-5 : Passing of Brother Ernest Stone
- On August 16, 2025 issued Department Order 2025-6 : Appointment of Department Treasurer
- On August 16, 2025 issued Department Order 2025-7 : Appointment of Department Assistant Treasurer
- On August 18, 2025, I attended the John W. Foster Camp # 2 meeting via Zoom.
- On August 30, 2025, I participated in the Last Union Soldier Dedication in Jasper County, Indiana.
- On September 3, 2025, I participated in a Civil War Nurses Project meeting via Zoom.
- On September 9, 2025, I attended the Indiana Commandery of MOLLUS meeting via Zoom.
- On September 12, 2025, I toured the Benjamin Harrison home in Indianapolis as a member of the Society of Indiana Pioneers and was able to examine Civil War related items.
- On September 18, 2025, I spoke at the funeral of Department Treasurer Drew Godby
- On September 20, 2025, I attended the Orlando A. Somers Camp # 1 meeting.
- On September 21, 2025, I participated in the wreath laying ceremony for Constitution Week in Elkhart at Bicentennial Park as part of America 250 celebration
- On September 25, 2025, I attended CinC Tucker's Department Commander's Forum via Zoom

- On October, 1, 2025 issued Department Order 2025-8 : 2025 Mid-Year Encampment
- On October 7, 2025 issued Department Circular 2025-2 Camp Website/Social Media
- On October 12, 2025, hosted a Commander's Forum via Zoom for Camp Commanders within the Department of Indiana
- On October 13, 2025, I attended a Zoom meeting hosted by Ken Jacobsen, National ROTC/JROTC Coordinator regarding GO# 7 and the new Departmental ROTC Coordinator position
- On October 18, 2025, I attended the Orlando A. Somers Camp # 1 meeting

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Travis J. LeMaster, PCC

Department Commander

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



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA



Report of the

**Senior Vice Commander**

**Mid-Year Encampment**

November 1, 2025

To: Department of Indiana Secretary, Dennis Hutchinson, PDC

Brothers of the Department,

As part of my duties as the Department Sr. Vice Commander, I have attended the following events to promote the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. These events were in conjunction with my duties as Camp Commander of the John W. Foster Camp No. 2 and as Graves Registration Officer for the Department of Indiana. This is in addition to serving on the Committee for the 2028 National Encampment and the Committee for Civil War Nurses research.

Department of Indiana 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment April 26, 2025 – In attendance serving as Jr. Vice Commander. Promoted to Sr. Vice Commander of the Department.

Lincoln Spring Heritage Day, May 10, 2025 – This event was a living history event and presented an opportunity for me to recruit for new members.

St. Augustine Plaque Dedication, May 24, 2025 – I attended the plaque dedication for the historic St. Augustine Cemetery held by the National Society of the Daughters of the Union. The cemetery has several Civil War veterans including some that were held at the Andersonville, Georgia prison.

Princeton, Indiana Memorial Day, May 26, 2025 – I attended a Memorial Day event in Princeton, Indiana and spoke at the event as well.

Pleasant Lake Headstone Dedication, June 28, 2025 – I was present at the headstone dedication of Private Boyer at the Pleasant Lake Cemetery. The grave had never been marked due to the lack of documentation but was finally located in the WPA records. His headstone was ordered, and the grave was finally marked.

Lincoln Boyhood Naturalization, August 7, 2025 – I attended the Lincoln Boyhood Site which was the location of the naturalization of around 40 immigrants. During the event, the Department of Indiana SVR presented the colors.

Whitesville, Kentucky Headstone Dedication, September 27, 2025 – A headstone was dedicated for Pvt. Charles M. Ragsdale. His grave was unmarked and later determined the headstone had been sitting in storage since 1882.

These events are in addition to my continuous efforts in promoting the SUVCW through casual discussions and preservation efforts.

The 2025 Mid-Year Encampment Report of the Sr. Vice Commander is hereby submitted.

Yours in Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

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

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



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA



REPORT OF THE JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER

November 1, 2025

Frederick E. Leickly, MD, MPH, October 15, 2025

The Junior Vice Commander, according to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War By-Laws, is the next man up to fill the role of the Senior Vice Commander should the need arise. Thankfully, David Hoesli Senior Vice Commander, Department of Indiana has not needed me to do that. There is much more.

The remaining duties include.

Promoting membership

Serve as contact person for Camp Junior Vice Commanders and assist them in their roles.

Be the contact person for prospective applicants, help them with their applications.

Direct new applicants to local Camps

Provide welcome letters to those who apply via online services.

Follow-up on applicant status

Follow-up on applicant referrals

Since becoming Junior Vice Commander, I have not had the opportunity to perform these tasks except for one.

I have had no contact from the National Organization regarding applications.

I have had no contact from any of the Department of Indiana Camp Junior Vice Commanders – which can be interpreted that they are doing well.

I have had no referrals or new applicants access my services from any other Camp besides my own Camp.

Camp John B. Anderson #223 Columbus, Indiana had one Associate member finally provide the necessary birth certificate to become a full member. This Camp has also had one new member join since May 2025.

Promoting membership has included having a table at the Annual Memorial Day SALUTE program in Columbus, Indiana. Promotional materials were available at a major event in Shoals, Indiana and this Camp participates in a fund raiser for the local historical society – Talking Tombstones. From these events, I am aware of 2 who are in the process of applying. I have reached out to their sponsor and have made myself available.

I also had a book published (September 25, 2025) that included information on the SUVCW. The promotional video included testimony from a former Camp Commander and clearly noted our organization.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

*Frederick E. Leickly, MD, MPH*

Commander – John B. Anderson Camp #223 Columbus, Indiana

Thursday, October 16, 2025



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA

From the desk of  
Dennis Hutchinson, PDC

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY  
Fall 2025



I was elected as Secretary of the Department during the April 2025 Encampment in Lafayette, IN. I served as Department Treasurer for 2 years prior to this present position. Much has been learned from our prior Secretary, Bill Adams-PDC about this job.

I have put together a Database of Department membership that was formed from Camp Rosters and Form 30 information. At the time of this report the Department membership stood at 221 members. We have lost 2 members by death since April.

Since the tragic death of our new Treasurer, Drew Godby in August, I was able to piece together the up-to-date Treasurer information and will pass it on after the November Encampment.

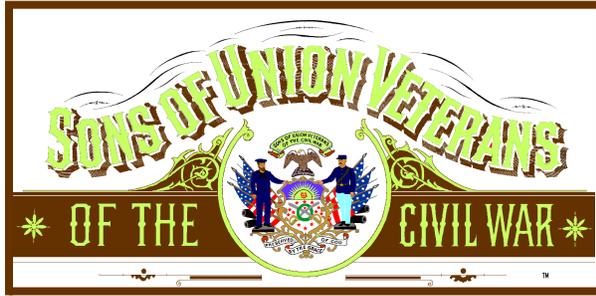
The frustrations for a Department Secretary are mainly due to incorrect filling out of Forms and or using out dated Forms, specially Form 3. I ask that each Commander and Secretary clearly read and fill in the required information on the Forms. If questions arise, please Email, text or call me and I will attempt to find the correct answer.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

*Dennis Hutchinson, PDC*

Secretary-John W. Foster Camp No. 2  
Secretary-Department of Indiana, SUVCW

Email: [31stind@gmail.com](mailto:31stind@gmail.com)  
812-660-2192



**SONS OF UNION VETERANS  
OF THE CIVIL WAR**

**DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA**

**Jonathan Swarts, Patriotic Instructor**

**2025 Mid-Year Encampment Report**

Following is a report of my activities from 14 April 2025 to 24 October 2025.

May 14: Sent out May National Patriotic Instruction

May 14: Wrote and sent out May Department Patriotic Instruction

May 26: Presided over John Auten Camp #8 Memorial Day ceremony, South Bend

June 13: Sent out June National Patriotic Instruction

June 13: Wrote and sent out June Department Patriotic Instruction

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

June 28: Co-presided over John L. Boyer Headstone Dedication, Pleasant Lake, Indiana

July 7: Sent out July National Patriotic Instruction

July 14: Filed Form 41 to National Patriotic Instructor

July 17: Wrote and sent out July Department Patriotic Instruction

August 8: Sent out August National Patriotic Instruction

September 1: Wrote and sent out September Department Patriotic Instruction

September 2: Wrote and contributed Patriotic Instruction to September issue of *The Indiana Legion*

October 23: Wrote and sent out October Department Patriotic Instruction

October 23: Sent out October National Patriotic Instruction

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Jonathan Swarts  
Patriotic Instructor  
Department of Indiana

## 2025 SUVCW Department of Indiana

### Midwinter Chaplain's Report

(To be read to the members and followed by a moment of silence for these former members)

Ernest Eugene Stone died 8/12/2025 at the age of 86. Better known as Ernie, was a long-time member of Harrison Camp #356 in Indianapolis. He resided in Columbus, IN with his wife of 68 years Barbara Waltz Stone. Barbara and their daughter Jan Ryerson are both Past National Presidents of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, DUVCW. Ernie was an IU graduate and a CPA. Interestingly Ernie and Barbara square danced. They had square danced in among other places Red Square in Moscow, Russia and in the opening ceremony for the 10<sup>th</sup> Pan American Games.

Drew Christopher Godby died unexpectedly 8/9/2025 at the age of 35. He had been the Camp Commander of Orlando Somers Camp #1 for the last 2 years. His membership was gained via Corporal William W. Godby, who served in Co. G 86<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry. Drew was involved in many Fraternal Organizations that all give back to the community. He was either treasurer or held an office in most all these groups. His family and religion were always upper most on his mind. He held 2 degrees from Ball State University, where he played a Tuba in the Marching Band, and one degree from IUK. Drew was an Eagle Scout and remained active in scouting until his death. Oddly he could speak, read and write Japanese.



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR  
DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA



Report of the

**GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER**

**Mid-Year Encampment**

November 1, 2025

To: Department of Indiana Secretary, Dennis Hutchinson, PDC

I have the honor to report on the status and activities of the Graves Registration Officer for the Department of Indiana from April 26, 2025, to November 1, 2025.

As of October 10, 2025, there were a total of 42,305 Civil War veterans buried in the state of Indiana who are registered on the National Graves Registration database. This total reflects an increase of 729 veterans that have been added to the Indiana total since the 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Department Encampment in April 2025. The largest increases were in Fountain County having added 306 new veterans followed by Putnam County 79, and Warren County 63.

As Department GRO, I have added 193 new names to the National database and made twenty-nine adjustments to existing graves data this year. My focus since April has been to research the veterans from Perry and Steuben County. Likewise, I have been scanning records of the Soldiers Home burials in Lafayette and the Marion National Cemetery to be sure all veteran burials have been added to the database. Several duplicate records still exist on the website which I will remove as I come across them. To date, I have contributed 4,433 names to the National Graves Registration database.

In addition to Steuben and Perry Counties, I continue to focus on identifying the Nurses that served during the Civil War and are buried in Indiana. The National GRO encourages the addition of Civil War Nurses to the Graves Registration database. There were several hundred nurses that served in Indiana hospitals during the Civil War and an untold amount that served in other hospitals around the country who were from Indiana. While a list of most of these Nurses can be easily obtained, identifying their married name if they were single at the time and then searching to see if they were buried in Indiana is challenging at best. Yet, challenging or not, this project is well worth the effort to recognize them for their service to their country, and I encourage all Brother's that know of a Civil War Nurse buried in Indiana to let their Camp or Department GRO know so that they can be entered into the database in addition to adding a medallion to their headstone. To date, there are only 237 Nurses added to the National Graves Registration database. This is up by twenty new entries. Of that number four are listed as buried in Indiana. Brother Fred Leickly has compiled an excellent work-in-progress list of 291 nurses

found so far and is available upon request from any Brother who may be interested in marking their headstones.

The number of veterans that fought for the state of Indiana that have been entered on the Graves Registration database total 56,860. This is an increase of 959 since the Annual Department Encampment in April 2025. Over a quarter of the estimated 200,000 veterans that served from Indiana have been entered on the database.

According to the National GRO Henry Duquette the new changes to the database are supposed to take place soon. He continues to focus on the changes that would reduce the mistakes that are common when entering the data in the online form. Safeguards such as additional drop-down lists that reduce misspellings, and the option to add additional regiments to the form for veterans that served in more than one regiment were just a few of the changes they are still making. While I have noticed subtle changes in memory entries, the Graves Registration database has not yet been entirely updated to the changes described, but I hope to see them by the end of 2025.

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

- |                  |                      |                     |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Floyd – 2,111 | 6. Lawrence – 1,329  | 11. Clinton – 1,018 |
| 2. Grant – 1,803 | 7. Cass – 1,316      |                     |
| 3. Marion 1,713  | 8. Howard – 1,149    |                     |
| 4. Allen – 1,547 | 9. Kosciusko – 1,091 |                     |
| 5. Wayne – 1,492 | 10. Hamilton – 1,068 |                     |

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

### ***Department of Indiana County Totals***

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

<b><i>County</i></b>	<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>Increase/Decrease</i></b>
Adams	358	0
Allen	1,547	+1
Bartholomew	634	0
Benton	204	+1
Blackford	406	0
Boone (Boon)	267	+6
Brown	292	+1
Carroll (Carrol)	603	0
Cass	1,316	+1

Clark	207	+8
Clay	57	+6
Clinton	1,018	0
Crawford	635	+1
Davies	252	0
Dearborn	873	- 1
Decatur	142	+2
DeKalb	258	+1
Delaware	939	+7
Dubois	186	+4
Elkhart	173	+2
Fayette	216	+1
Floyd	2,111	+6
Fountain	461	+306
Franklin	322	+1
Fulton	486	0
Gibson	202	+2
Grant	1,803	+16
Greene (Green)	127	+7
Hamilton	1,068	+2
Hancock	334	+13
Harrison	159	+1
Hendricks	148	+3
Henry	144	+3
Howard	1,149	+4
Huntington	747	0
Jackson	123	0
Jasper	46	+1
Jay	509	+1
Jefferson	181	+4
Jennings	62	0
Johnson	363	+1
Knox	184	+4
Kosciusko	1,091	+1
LaPorte (La Porte)	378	- 1

Lagrange	416	+2
Lake	150	+5
Lawrence	1,329	0
Madison	377	+6
Marion	1,713	+9
Marshall	521	+1
Martin	113	0
Miami	75	+3
Monroe	217	+4
Montgomery	326	+23
Morgan	121	+9
Newton	250	0
Noble	826	0
Ohio	87	0
Orange	211	+8
Owen	961	+6
Parke (Park)	516	+20
Perry	326	+12
Pike	183	+3
Porter	477	0
Posey	429	0
Pulaski	327	0
Putnam	129	+79
Randolph	248	+4
Ripley	222	0
Rush	35	0
St. Joseph	212	+8
Scott	38	+2
Shelby	282	+2
Spencer	513	+5
Starke (Stark)	341	+1
Steuben	409	+1
Sullivan	57	0
Switzerland	109	+2
Tippecanoe	981	+4

Tipton	583	+1
Union	24	0
Vanderburgh	669	+13
Vermillion	452	+1
Vigo	64	+5
Wabash	275	+1
Warren	343	+63
Warrick	196	+5
Washington	223	+2
Wayne	1,492	+8
Wells	434	0
White	406	0
Whitley	<u>472</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Subtotal</b>	41,941	+ 735
Unknown & Misspelled Counties	<u>364</u> (Reduced 7 from last encampment)	
<b>Total</b>	42,305	

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

\*\* Totals taken on 10/10/2025.

**Note: See Appendix 'A' for map of county totals.**

The total increases tallied by county continue to be slightly different than the total increases by an “Indiana” search only. Subsequent recounts resulted in the same scenario. The most probable cause is due to errors in data entry that can throw the count off when searching individual counties versus by state only. This equates to 1 in every 116 veterans on the database. These miniscule errors are difficult to find.

The effort to reduce the number of errors and duplicate entries is ongoing. A major issue that still exists is Indiana records that have no named county or incorrectly spelled county names. A clear example is the entry of the county La Porte. Most of the entries are entered as “LaPorte” and will not be included if searching “La Porte”. There have been great strides in reducing the number resulting in only 364 Indiana registrations with these issues. This is a considerable difference from the over two thousand errors just a few years ago. The 364 current errors are down 7 from the April Annual Encampment report. The accumulated total of 42,305 is inclusive of these 364 Indiana registrations. Reductions in duplicates and errors may offset any gains that a county may have uploaded to the database as well as any overall totals. For example, if a submitter has added ten names to the database for a specific county but had five removed from an administrator in the same county, their overall addition to the database will only reflect five new entries when counted. The database does not distinguish new additions and removals. Only a total number.

In all, sixty-five out of the ninety-two Indiana counties contributed to the increase of new veterans added to the National database. There were two counties that had a slight decrease due to the removal of errors or duplications. There were twenty-four counties that recorded at least

five or more new veteran registrations to the National database since April. Nine of those counties had ten or more.

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

## National Graves Registration

### *By State & District of Columbia*

<u>State</u>	<u>Apr. 2025</u>	<u>Nov. 2025</u>	<u>Change</u>
1. Ohio	91,420	91,714	294
2. New York	59,499	60,579	78
3. Michigan	54,733	54,714	(19)
4. Pennsylvania	54,156	55,535	1,379
5. Iowa	47,531	47,583	52
6. Illinois	46,488	46,616	128
<b>7. Indiana</b>	<b>41,576</b>	<b>42,305</b>	<b>729</b>
8. Missouri	34,689	36,266	1,577
9. Wisconsin	35,155	35,246	91
10. Massachusetts	33,491	33,537	46
11. Kansas	31,832	32,056	224
12. California	29,110	29,509	399
13. Tennessee	27,594	28,014	420
14. Virginia	24,662	25,550	888
15. New Jersey	21,954	21,998	44
16. Nebraska	19,215	19,238	23
17. Georgia	18,291	18,325	34
18. Maine	18,033	18,110	77
19. Minnesota	14,796	15,946	1,150
20. Vermont	13,916	13,820	(96)
21. Oklahoma	10,227	10,219	(28)
22. Connecticut	9,417	9,457	40
23. New Hampshire	9,203	9,196	(7)

24. Rhode Island	9,152	9,166	14
25. Kentucky	8,857	9,163	306
26. Colorado	7,763	7,786	23
27. Oregon	7,470	7,581	111
28. North Carolina	7,366	7,528	162
29. Louisiana	7,307	7,335	28
30. District of Columbia	6,744	6,761	17
31. Washington	6,494	6,563	69
32. Arkansas	6,316	6,376	60
33. Maryland	5,801	6,075	274
35. Mississippi	5,265	5,288	23
34. South Carolina	5,290	5,263	(27)
36. South Dakota	4,662	4,966	304
37. West Virginia	3,905	3,945	40
38. Texas	3,042	3,364	22
39. Florida	2,478	2,493	15
40. Montana	1,439	1,464	25
41. Alabama	1,352	1,370	18
42. Idaho	1,350	1,367	17
43. New Mexico	962	964	2
44. Arizona	904	904	0
45. Delaware	785	823	38
46. North Dakota	686	699	13
47. Utah	666	669	3
48. Nevada	485	487	2
49. Wyoming	483	455	28
50. Hawaii	77	77	0
51. Alaska	59	58	(1)

***Note: Totals as of 10/10/2025***

***By Department***

<b><u>State</u></b>	<b><u>Apr 2025</u></b>	<b><u>Nov. 2025</u></b>	<b><u>Change</u></b>
1. Ohio	91,420	91,714	294
2. New York	59,499	60,579	78
3. Michigan	54,733	54,714	(19)
4. Pennsylvania	54,156	55,535	1,379
5. Wisconsin & Minnesota	49,951	51,192	1,214
6. Iowa	47,531	47,583	52
7. Illinois	46,488	46,616	128
<b>8. Indiana</b>	<b>41,576</b>	<b>42,293</b>	<b>717</b>
9. Chesapeake (Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, & D.C.)	41,112	42,331	1,219
10. Missouri	34,689	36,266	1,577
11. Massachusetts	33,491	33,537	46
12. Tennessee (With Mississippi)	32,859	33,302	443
13. Kansas	31,839	32,056	224
14. California & Pacific (With Nevada, & Hawaii)	29,672	30,073	401
15. Nebraska (With North Dakota & South Dakota)	24,563	24,903	340
16. Georgia & South Carolina	23,581	23,588	7
17. New Jersey	21,954	21,998	44
18. Columbia (Alaska, Oregon & Washington)	14,023	20,963	6,940
19. Maine	18,033	18,110	77
20. Vermont	13,916	13,820	96
21. Colorado & Wyoming (With Idaho, Montana & Utah)	11,701	11,741	40
22. Texas (With Louisiana)	10,349	10,699	35
23. Oklahoma	10,227	10,219	(8)
24. Connecticut	9,417	9,457	40
25. New Hampshire	9,203	9,196	(7)
26. Rhode Island	9,152	9,166	14
27. Kentucky	8,857	9,163	306
28. North Carolina	7,366	7,528	162
29. Florida	2,478	2,493	15
30. Southwest (Arizona & New Mexico)	1,866	1,868	2

31. Alabama	1,352	1,370	18
32 Foreign Countries	665	695	30
33. Buried at Sea	299	296	(3)
34. MIA	108	107	(1)
35. Unknown	75	73	(2)

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

The compiled list above gives a clear picture where the Department of Indiana stands in comparison to the rest of the Departments. In the data you will see that Indiana ranks seventh in terms of state-by-state total entries. When the data is grouped into Departments, Indiana ranks eighth in total number of Graves Registration entries. A closer look at the total number of new veteran entries will show that Indiana is fifth in the number of entries to the Graves Registration database since last April.

### ***Headstone Replacement & Cemetery Restoration***

I have added this section to the Department of Indiana Graves Registration Report since the Graves Registration form questions the condition of the headstones when completing the form. All our Camps have at some point in time replaced a veteran's headstone and in most cases have been able to get the needed permission to do so. But as I have found out in the last few months, it may also be required by law to contact the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The IDNR requires that any individual that removes a grave memorial or other artifacts set upon a cemetery to get a permit to do so and in some cases a license. (See Appendix B) This also includes probing for headstones pieces below the surface. By not doing so, it could result in a fine and a Class C misdemeanor.

As members of the SUVCW, we must be careful when doing these projects that we follow the laws not only in Indiana, but other states as well. I would recommend in the future that the Department of Indiana contacts the IDNR prior to replacing a headstone to be sure that a permit is or is not required for the project you are working on. In Appendix B, you will find an email and contact information that your Camp can reach out to. In the future, I will also be including the number of headstones ordered and/or installed throughout the year. This is an important part of what we do as members of the SUVCW and holds true to the wishes of the Grand Army of the Republic. For further information on veteran headstones please see Appendix C.

### ***Conclusion***

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

Brother's for taking the time to make sure our Civil War veterans are remembered through the National Graves Registration.

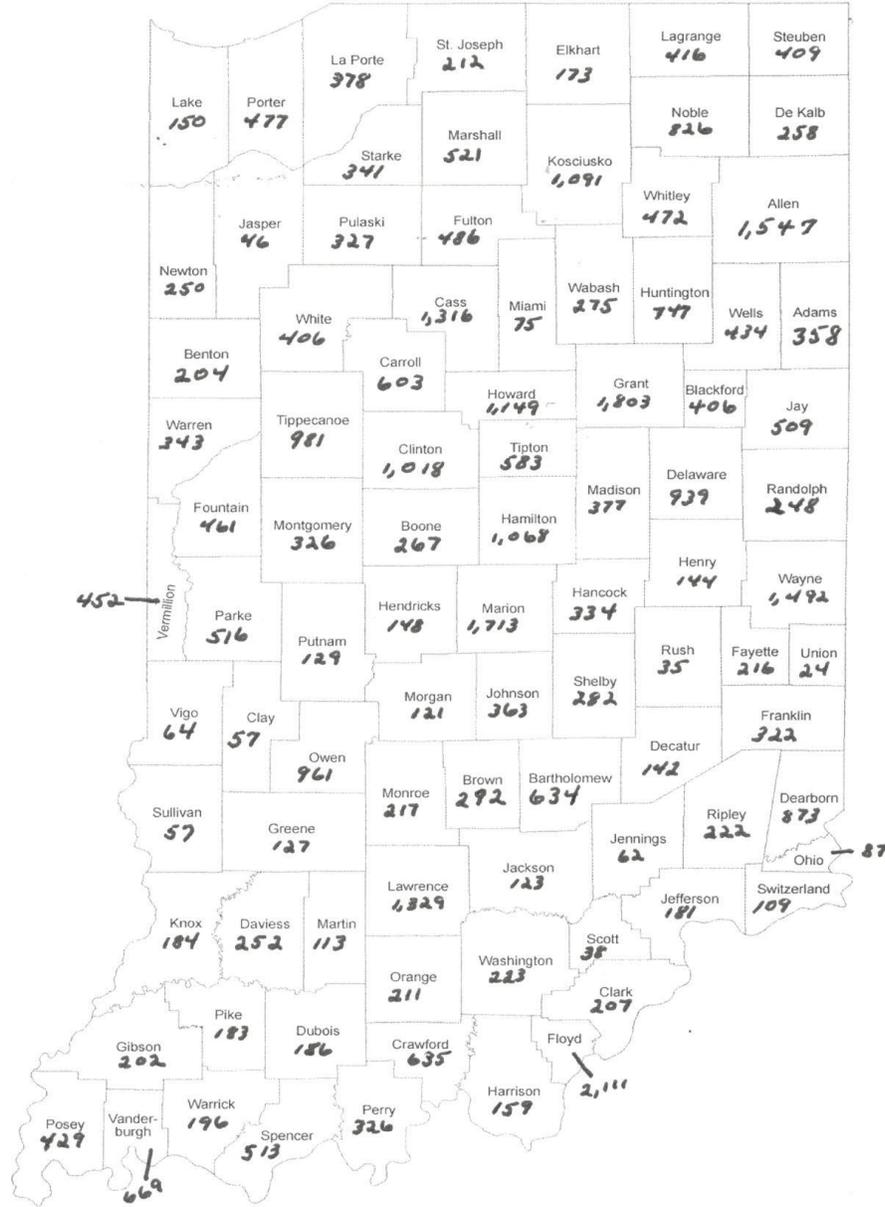
The Indiana Department Graves Registration Report for the 2025 Mid-Year Encampment is hereby submitted.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

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

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

# Appendix A



MID-YEAR GRO  
REPORT 2025

## Appendix B

### Title 312 Natural Resources Commission

#### Article 21 Chapter 2

(See also Article 22)

2025 | Title 14 | Art. 21 | Ch. 2 | Search Title 14... | Reference Materials

**IC 14-21-2-3 Filing required following lawful removal of grave memorial**

Sec. 3. (a) A person who lawfully removes a grave memorial must file the following with the county recorder of the county where the grave memorial was located before its removal:

- (1) A precise description of all text appearing on the grave memorial including:
  - (A) names;
  - (B) dates;
  - (C) references to other individuals; and
  - (D) mementos.
- (2) A photograph of the grave memorial.
- (3) A written description and photograph of the location of the site from which the grave memorial was removed.

(b) A county recorder may collect a filing fee under [IC 36-2-7-10](#) for filings under this section.

(c) A county recorder is:

- (1) not required to obtain special recording equipment for the purpose of recording the information listed in subsection (a); and
- (2) required to record only the information listed in subsection (a) that the recorder's current recording equipment can accommodate.

(d) The state board of accounts shall prescribe a form for recording the information listed in subsection (a). The form shall be available to the public at each local health department office.

*As added by P.L.100-1999, SEC.1.*

**IC 14-21-2-4 Purchase or sale of items removed from cemetery prohibited**

Sec. 4. A person may not buy or sell any of the following that have been removed from a cemetery:

- (1) Grave memorial.
- (2) Grave artifact.
- (3) Grave ornamentation.
- (4) Cemetery enclosure.
- (5) Other commemorative item.

*As added by P.L.100-1999, SEC.1.*

**IC 14-21-2-5 Violations**

Sec. 5. A person who knowingly violates section 3 or 4 of this chapter commits a Class C misdemeanor.

*As added by P.L.100-1999, SEC.1. Amended by P.L.195-2014, SEC.14.*

### Jamie Reeder

Preservation Specialist

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Division of Historic Preservation & Archaeology

402 W. Washington St. Rm w274, Indianapolis IN 46204

(O): 317.550.5875

## Appendix C

### Federal and state laws

- **Federal law:**

Under 18 U.S. Code § 1369, it is a federal felony to willfully destroy, damage, or injure veteran memorials on public property.

- **State laws:**

Many states have their own felony-level penalties for damaging or stealing grave markers. These laws often classify the act as cemetery mischief or felony theft and carry significant prison time and fines, reports ABC News.

- **Federal property:**

The U.S. government considers its headstones and markers to be government property in perpetuity, and their theft or damage can be prosecuted as a violation of federal law, specifically for converting government property to private use.

### Potential penalties

- ***Imprisonment:*** Penalties can include imprisonment for several years, with some federal and state laws allowing for up to 10 years in prison.
- ***Fines:*** Individuals may be required to pay significant fines, with some states mandating up to \$5,000.
- ***Restitution:*** Courts can order offenders to pay restitution to the victim or the cemetery to cover the costs of repairing or replacing the damaged property.

### Why it's taken so seriously

- ***Disrespect:*** Stealing or damaging a headstone is considered a profound act of disrespect to the veteran and their service.
- ***Symbolic value:*** Headstones are symbolic of a person's sacrifice and are a form of public memorial, making their destruction a violation against the community's shared history and values.



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

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

E-mail [fsgtcod11thindiana@att.net](mailto:fsgtcod11thindiana@att.net)  
Website  
<http://suvwin.org/>



**April 26, 2025 - November 1, 2025  
Monuments Officers Report**

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

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

1. Blackford
2. Cass
3. Clark - Mt. Zion Cemetery - Henryville, IN - Photograph (New)
4. Clinton
5. Dubois - New Monument placed in Shoals - Dubois County, IN October 2025
6. Fayette
7. Gibson - New Photographs of Civil War Monument in Princeton, IN
8. Grant
9. Hancock - GAR Stain Glass Window at the Fortville United Methodist Church
10. Henry
11. Howard
12. Huntington
13. Johnson
14. LaPorte
15. Madison
16. Marion
17. Monroe
18. Montgomery - Photographs & GPS Coordinates
19. Morgan
20. Newton
21. Orange
22. Owen
23. Putnam
24. Rush - Soldiers and Sailors Stain Glass Windows in Morton Hall Auditorium
25. Shelby
26. Tippecanoe
27. Vermillion

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

## Ongoing Indiana Monuments Projects

### Jennings County Civil War Monument (Revised) SUVCW



Front



Back

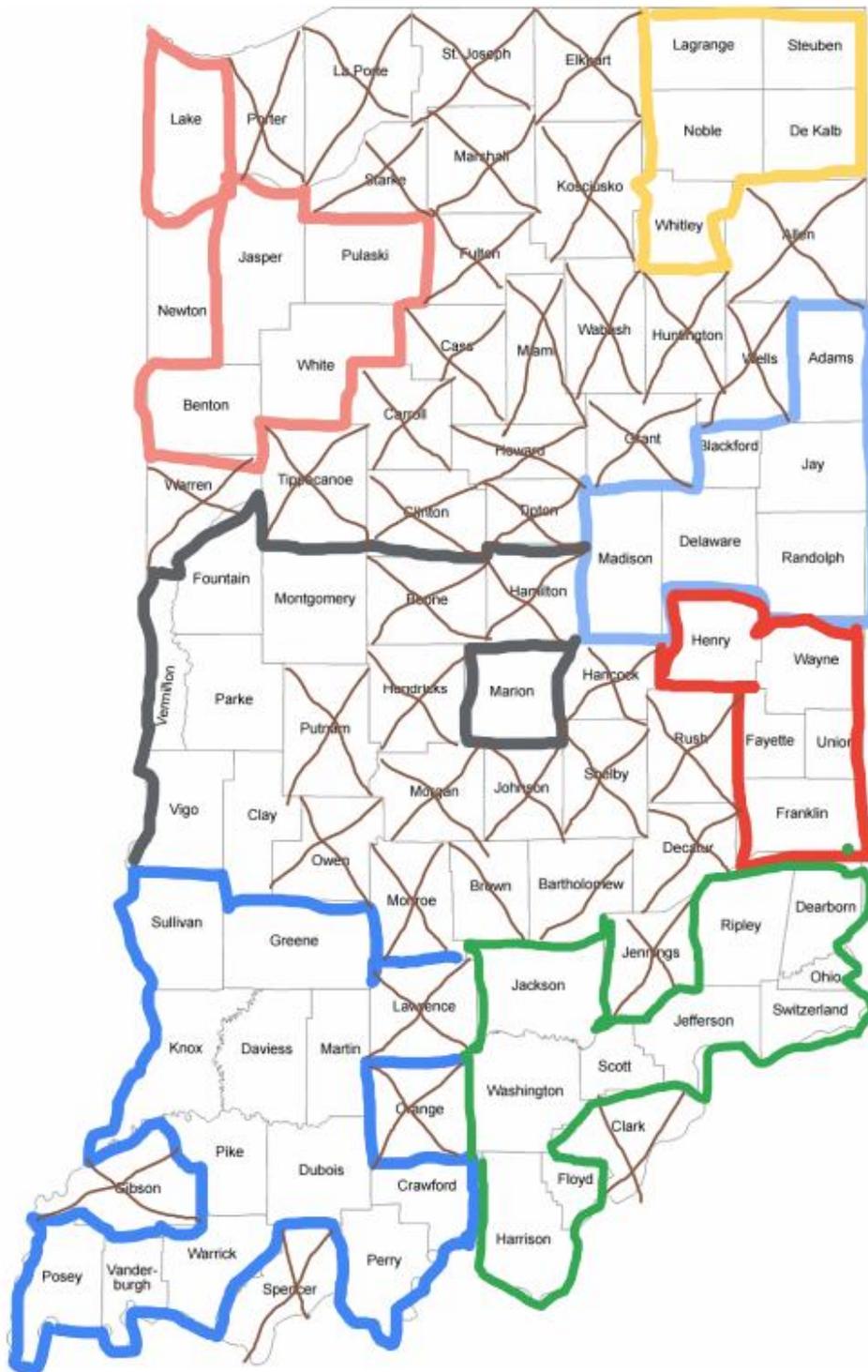
INDIANA REGIMENTS WITH JENNINGS COUNTY SOLDIERS: REGIMENT & COMPANY / COMPANIES
6TH INFANTRY - Co. G REORGANIZED Co. B & I
12TH INFANTRY - Co. K & REORGANIZED Co. A
22ND INFANTRY - Co. A
26TH INFANTRY - Co. H
27TH INFANTRY - Co. H
37TH INFANTRY - Co. C
52ND INFANTRY - Co. I & K
82ND INFANTRY - Co. B, E, & K
93RD INFANTRY - Co. I
120TH INFANTRY - Co. A & H
132ND INFANTRY - Co. D
137TH INFANTRY - Co. A
140TH INFANTRY - Co. I
144TH INFANTRY - Co. K
145TH INFANTRY - Co. F & H
7TH CAVALRY - Co. D
10TH CAVALRY - Co. C & L
28TH US COLORED TROOPS - Co. F

Left Side

THE 9TH REGIMENT (JENNINGS) INDIANA LEGION, LED BY COLONEL KENNEDY BROWN
VERNON GREYS
FREEDOM GUARDS (VERNON)
BUTLERVILLE GUARDS
BIGGER GUARDS (SAN JACINTO)
SCIPIO GUARDS
WESTON GUARDS
QUEENSVILLE GUARDS
MOUNT ZION GUARDS (SLATE)
PARIS GUARDS
JENNINGS RANGERS (SLATE)
MARION GUARDS (CANA)
GRAHAM GUARDS (HOPEWELL)
CANA CADETS
MORTON GUARDS (NORTH VERNON)
WOLF CREEK SCOUTS (ZENAS)

Right Side

Last Soldiers Project as of 10/27/2025



**Last Soldiers Project  
Assigned by Camps**

1. Light Red - David D. Porter Camp #116
2. Orange - Champion Hill Camp #17 & John Auten Camp #8
3. DONE - Orlando A. Somers Camp #1
4. Light Blue - William Baumgartner Camp #3
5. Red - William P. Benton Camp #28
6. Dark Blue - John W. Foster Camp #2
7. Green - John B. Anderson Camp #223
8. Grey - Benjamin Harrison Camp #356

**New Project  
Indiana Civil War Nurses  
Coin Placement**

**CC Fredrick Leickly  
leicklystory@gmail.com**



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

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

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



**Eagle Scout Coordinator’s Report for April 26, 2025- November 1, 2025  
Eagle Scout Certificates presented to the following:**

1. Corvin Michael Hoffman, Birdeye, IN. – Camp Assigned – John W. Foster
2. Samuel A. Tickman – Greenwood, IN – Camp Assigned – Ben Harrison

Number of Eagle Scout SUVCW Certificates sent out from each camp 2025		
1	Orlando A. Somers Camp #1 - Kokomo, IN	0
2	John W. Foster Camp # 2 – Evansville, IN	1
3	John Auten Camp # 8 – South Bend, IN	0
4	Champion Hill Camp #17 - Huntington, IN	0
5	William P. Benton Camp #28 - Centerville, IN	0
6	William Baumgarter Camp #33 – Bluffton, IN	0
7	David D. Porter Camp #116 - Valparaiso, IN	0
8	John B. Anderson Camp # 223 - Columbus, IN	0
9	Benjamin Harrison Camp #356 - Indianapolis, IN	1
	Total	2

**Camp Eagle Scout Coordinators:**

Orlando A. Somers Camp No. 1 (Kokomo, IN)

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

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

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

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

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

William Baumgarter Camp No. 33 (Bluffton, IN)

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

Benjamin Harrison Camp No. 356 (Indianapolis, IN): PDC Mike Beck – [fsgtcod11thindiana@att.net](mailto:fsgtcod11thindiana@att.net)

Department of Indiana – Eagle Scout Coordinator

*PDC Michael W. Beck*



## SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

INCORPORATED BY ACT OF CONGRESS

### Department of Indiana

OFFICE OF THE

GAR Highway Officer

William R. Adams PDC

2772 N. 150 East

La Porte, IN 46350

Home: (219) 575-8483

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



### Department of Indiana Mid-Year Encampment November 1, 2025

#### GAR Highway Officers Activity Report from April 26, 2025 to November 1, 2025

There is nothing new to report since the 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment of April 26, 2025.

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

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

In Fraternity, Charity, & Loyalty

*William R. Adams*

William R. Adams PDC

GAR Highway Officer

Department of Indiana, SUVCW

# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

## PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA

**TIMOTHY J. BECKMAN**

1135 N. LELAND AVE.

INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46219

PHONE: 317-410-1299

E-MAIL: [TIMBECKMAN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:TIMBECKMAN@GMAIL.COM)

<https://suvwin.org>

### Signals Officer Report

Here are my Department of Indiana Signal Officer's activities since the 2025 Annual Encampment:

Updated the following on the Department of Indiana website on May 20, 2025: Updated the main page with a new picture, updated the Leadership page with new camp offices and contact information for year 2025-26, updated the Past Department Commanders and Encampments page, and added the Department By-Laws.

Updated the following on the Department of Indiana website on May 21, 2025: Updated the Department Officer's Report for the 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment, added Department Order 2025-1, 2025-2, and 2025-3, Series 2025-2026, added Department Circular 2025-1, and added the May 2025 Special Edition of the Indiana Legion.

Updated the following on the Department of Indiana website on July 5, 2025: Updated the Last Union Veteran page, Updated the SVR 2025 Activity page, added all upcoming events to the Event calendar, and uploaded the Indiana Legion Newsletter, Issue 2-25.

Updated the Last Union Veteran page on the Department of Indiana website on July 15, 2025, July 28, 2025, August 12, 2025, August 21, 2025, September 10, 2025, September 18, 2025, October 7, 2025, and October 21, 2025.

Added Department Order 2025-4, 2025-5, 2025-6, and 2025-7, Series 2025-2026 to the Department of Indiana website on August 21, 2025.

Added the Indiana Legion Newsletter, Issue 3-25 and updated the Events calendar on the Department of Indiana website on September 17, 2025.

Added Department Order 2025-8, Series 2025-2026 to the Department of Indiana website on October 7, 2025 and Department Circular 2025-2 to the Department of Indiana website on October 9, 2025.

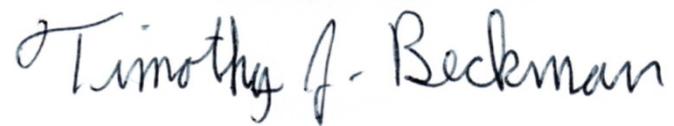
Will start working on getting all the Department Officer's reports onto the Department of Indiana website on or after October 24, 2025 for the Department of Indiana Mid-Year Encampment to take place on November 1, 2025.

The Department of Indiana Zoom Pro account was used by the following camps for their meetings during the period May 2025 through October 2025: John W. Foster Camp No. 2 and the Ben Harrison Camp No. 356. Additionally, it was also used by the Department of Indiana National Encampment Hosting Committee and the Indiana Civil War Nurses working committee during this time.

I continue in the role of moderator of the Department of Indiana Google Group e-mail list. There are currently 173 registered users in the group. I encourage all brothers to sign up for this if they have not already done so as this list has proven to be a very effective communication tool. Sign up is easy. Just send an email to me at [timbeckman@gmail.com](mailto:timbeckman@gmail.com) to request to be added to this group.

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty, this 1st day of November, 2025.

Timothy J. Beckman, PDC

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy J. Beckman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and 'B'.

Signals Officer

Department of Indiana

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War



Dear Brothers:

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

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

Respectfully submitted on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of November 2025.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

*BRK*

Bruce Kolb, PDC  
Department GAR Records Officer  
Department Historian



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



**2025 Midyear Encampment Activity Report**  
**27<sup>th</sup> Indiana SVR**  
**April 2025 - November 2025**

April 11, 2025

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

April 12, 2025

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

April 12, 2025

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

May 26, 2025

Members of Company D 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana SVR supported and participated with their individual camps as they remembered Memorial Day.

June 21, 2025

On this date 9 members of Company D 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana SVR participated in a ceremony to dedicate a Marker and headstone for Doctor Almira Fifield in Valparaiso, Indiana. Dr. Fifield was just one of 222 Formally educated female physicians in 1863. She served as a nurse and surgeon during the Civil War. The Ceremony was organized by the William Henry Harrison DAR Chapter. The 27<sup>th</sup> was invited to present colors and fire muskets. Present in uniform were Captain M. Beck, Lt. W. Adams, Cpl. F. Leickly, Sgt. T. Schmitt, Cpl. W. Radell, Pvt. R. Smurdon, and Pvt. T. Smurdon. Members present but not in full uniform were Pvt. H. Smith III, and Pvt. P. Cave.

### June 28, 2025

The 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana was joined by our brothers of the 14<sup>th</sup> Michigan SVR at a headstone dedication in Pleasant Lake Cemetery, Angola, IN. The new headstone was for John L. Boyer, ancestor of PC-in-C Jim Pahls of Michigan. Phil Dyer, Gib Young and Sgt. Tom Schmitt of Champion Hill Camp #17 placed the new headstone and John Auten Camp #8 hosted the ceremony that was presided over by Indiana Commander, Pvt. Travis LeMaster. 27<sup>th</sup> SVR in uniform were Lt. W. Adams, Sgt. T. Schmitt, Sgt. T. Furgason, and Cpl. R. McNally. 27<sup>th</sup> SVR present but not in uniform were Privates J. Swarts, T. LeMaster, and D. Hoesli.

### July 12, 2025

Members of Co. D. Indiana SVR participated in the Rededication of The Civil War Monument at Thrailkill Cemetery, Swayzee, Indiana. The refurbishment of the monument was a project of Orlando Somers Camp #1. The 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana presented the Colors, fired a three-volley musket salute and played taps. Members present in uniform were Lt. Col. Alan Teller, Sgt. S. Hagman, Sgt. T. Schmitt, Cpl. R. McNally, Pvt. T. Beckman, Pvt. A. Hagman, Pvt. T. LeMaster, and Pvt. D. Godby. Present not in uniform was Pvt. J. Beckman.

### August 7, 2025

Company D, 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana SVR Color Guard took part in a Naturalization Ceremony at the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. The following members of the 27<sup>th</sup> SVR presented the colors for the ceremony. Members present were Capt. M. Beck, Lt. B. Kolb, Sgt. G. Wall, Cpl. F. Leickly, and Pvt. T. Beckman. Also present not in uniform was Pvt. D. Hoesli.

### August 30, 2025

The Last Union Veteran of Jasper County, George L. Morgan was honored and his grave marked as such in a ceremony held in Rensselaer, Indiana at Weston cemetery. The 27<sup>th</sup> SVR presented the colors, fired a musket salute and played taps. Members present in uniform were Sgt. T. Schmitt, Cpl. W. Radell, and Pvt. R. Smurdon. 27<sup>th</sup> SVR members present but not in uniform were Lt. W. Adams, Pvt. T. LeMaster, Pvt. P. Cave, and Pvt. R. Mrozinski.

### September 20, 2025

Members of Co D 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana SVR participated in the Civil War Monument Dedication to the 19th Illinois Volunteer Infantry killed in a train wreck in Martin County, IN. Members present were Capt. M. Beck, Sgt. D. Hutchinson, Sgt. T. Furgason, Sgt. G. Wall, Pvt T. Beckman, Pvt J.R. Owen, Pvt. J. Maudlin, Pvt. T. Allen and Pvt J. Beckman.

\*\*\* Current Unit strength, as of November 1, 2025 stands at (70). We currently have (1) Capt. (1) 1st Lt. (1) 2nd Lt., (1) first sergeant, (4) sergeants (7) corporals and (55) privates. The treasury currently has \$401.71.

Respectfully Submitted

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

1st Lt. William Adams

Adjutant, Co. D 27th Indiana Infantry, SVR

Revised 11/9/2025 - Added The Rededication of The Civil War Monument at Thrailkill Cemetery.

# Report of the Editor of The Legion

Taylin Allen

Since being appointed and officially installed as Editor of *The Legion*, our Department Newsletter, three issues of *The Legion* have been released. This covers the Quarters 2 & 3 of the calendar year and a special edition on our Annual Encampment.

I believe that I have published everything submitted to me for the newsletter by our Brothers and Camps, with editorial liberties in some cases for the sake of page space.

As readers may have noticed, particularly in the June & September issues, there have been a lot of stories and articles that have been published which helped fill pages and flesh out the newsletter. I hope that these were enjoyable reads as a considerable amount of time was put into obtaining & editing those articles. This would not be possible without submissions from our Brothers and I encourage more to think about sending me material for publishing.

Earlier this summer I reached out to the Allied Orders in Indiana for content to place in our newsletter and while I did obtain a few contacts I sadly have to report that there were no follow ups. However the Corydon Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the Union (NSDU) did reach out to me and extended their greetings to our Department as well as some information about their activities, this was published in the June issue.

I hope to expand the Newsletter to include the Allied Orders & NSDU activities in the state.

Additionally I was made an admin on the Department Facebook Page and given permission to create a few ads at my own expense. These were recurring advertisements for the Monument Dedication in Shoals, Indiana which garnered over 600 interested persons. Total attendance at the event was an estimated 250 over the course of the day. It is hard to say how many of those people in attendance were aware of the event because of the Facebook Ad.

Secondly I had an advertisement for issues of *The Legion* & one to encourage people to follow / like the Department Page in June which resulted in nearly 150 people following the page. I believe this is probably the most effective use of any funds towards Facebook Ads as it grows our social media presence - though that does not always correlate with new membership.

Finally I answered various messages and directed prospective members to the nearest camps, most of the time offering a follow up to ensure those people got into contact.

So concludes my report. On the following page are some recommendations for the encampment to take up if so approved by our members.

Yours in F. C. & L,  
Taylin Allen

## Recommendations for the Mid-Winter Encampment.

**Recommendation 1:** I recommend the Department fund & distribute a physical copy of a special “year in review” newsletter to all Brothers in the Department; That a committee be appointed to facilitate this and that the Department pre-approve the amount of money said committee can spend, postage included in that amount.

This would cover the Department’s highlights for the year as well as an appeal to our membership to become more active with their camps and/or the Department.

Once Brothers are finished with the newsletter it could serve as a source of advertisement complete with activities, mission statements, current projects and future goals. It could also serve to drive donations for a particular project or the Department in general.

This could consist of a single (front and back) piece of paper (8.5 x 11) folded like a brochure or a larger piece of paper (17 x 11) with a right angle letter fold.

I have looked into this on and off since Spring and believe that this could be done at a cost of below \$450.

**Recommendation 2:** That a Fundraising committee be appointed in order to raise money to supplement the Department’s income.

At the 2024 Annual Encampment two substantial donations were made by the Department, \$750 (with an additional \$250 by the Camps) for the Commandant’s building and another for \$1000 for the Thraikill Cemetery Civil War monument restoration. Since the Department brings in roughly \$1200 in per capita dues, we dipped into our reserves to do so, something that we acknowledged as not feasible on a regular basis at the 2024 Mid-Winter Encampment.

However, the Thraikill monument project reached its goal with help from that donation and restoration work was completed earlier this Summer. It was great to see our Department dues go to such a noble goal, for that to pay off and to support one of our Camp’s projects.

I’m certain every Brother joins me in wishing that we could do so more often and for that reason I believe that a means of fundraising is necessary to help grow the Department treasury. Having more expendable money can only be a net positive for the Department *and the Camps*.

Naturally I would be willing to serve on each committee.

Yours in F. C. & L,  
Taylin Allen

# Camp Reports



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

Dennis Hutchson  
Secretary  
Department of Indiana  
SUVCW

Sir,

I have the honor to report the actives of the Somers Camp #1 since the annual encampment of the Department in March of 2025.

April 2024 – Jr. Vice Commander S. Hagman conducted the meeting this month due to commander McNally being out of town. Brother T. LeMasters presented a program on nis ancestor Pvt. Isaac S. Poe Co. E 12<sup>th</sup> IND INF. He fought and was captured at the Battle of Richmond, KY. He died in Humbolt NB in 1909.

The annual Department meeting was well attended by brothers of this camp at the end of the month.

May 2025 – The Thrailkill G.A.R. monument restoration has been scheduled with the company doing the work. A downpayment has been made and the work has been promise completed for a July 12<sup>th</sup> rededication. Somers Camp Memorial Day Services was held at Crown Point Cemetery in Kokomo at 3 PM, 1101 E. Sycamore Street.

June - August 2025 – although the Camp does not have business meeting during these months, the Camp was still very busy in a number of issue. We were notified by the Center Township trustee about an effort to rename the Somers Park. This park is named after the Camp's namesake, Orlando A. Somers. Mr. Somers not only donated the land for the park but his home over looked it. Members of the Camp wrote letter to inform the public about the contributions that Orlando A. Somers made to the community and his history as a soldier, educator, law enforcement, and businessman of Kokomo. The end result was the people wanting to make the change were educated and withdrew their request. The township also offered to name a street or pavilion after the person and all parties were happy with this.

Members of the Camp attended the Pleasant Lake event honoring Past Commander-in-Chief James Pahl's ancestor.

The Camp also saw the completion of the restoration work of the G.A.R. monument at the Thrailkill Cemetery north of Swayzee, IN and a rededication was held 12 July. There were over 50 in attendance at the rededication and an address was given by Sheriff Del Garcia. (Very appropriate as the sheriff in 1910 was fitting in the original dedication ceremony.) Members of the 27<sup>th</sup> Indiana SVR were in attendance as well as the Department commander, regional officials of the Odd Fellows, Town board members, the township trustee, local residents and a woman, who's Father and uncle reset the monument in 1948 after a tornado knocked it down doing the damage that was restored.

Articles were sent to both the Banner and the Legion.

Less than a month after this ceremony we have the sad news of our Brother Drew Godby's passing at age 35.

September 2025 – first meeting of the new season was held on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Orlando A. Sommers Camp #1 would like to host the Department Encampment at the Commandant's Home in Lafayette in April. (need a confirmation of the date in April)

A schedule for cleaning the Kokomo Cannon was set through the end of the year. A brief program on Lion's Club of Virginia Civil War enamel badges was given.

Meeting date through the end of 2025 are as follows:

Oct. 18 - Camp

Nov. 1 – Department

Nov. 15 – Camp & Remembrance Day

Dec. 13 - Camp

Randy D. McNally

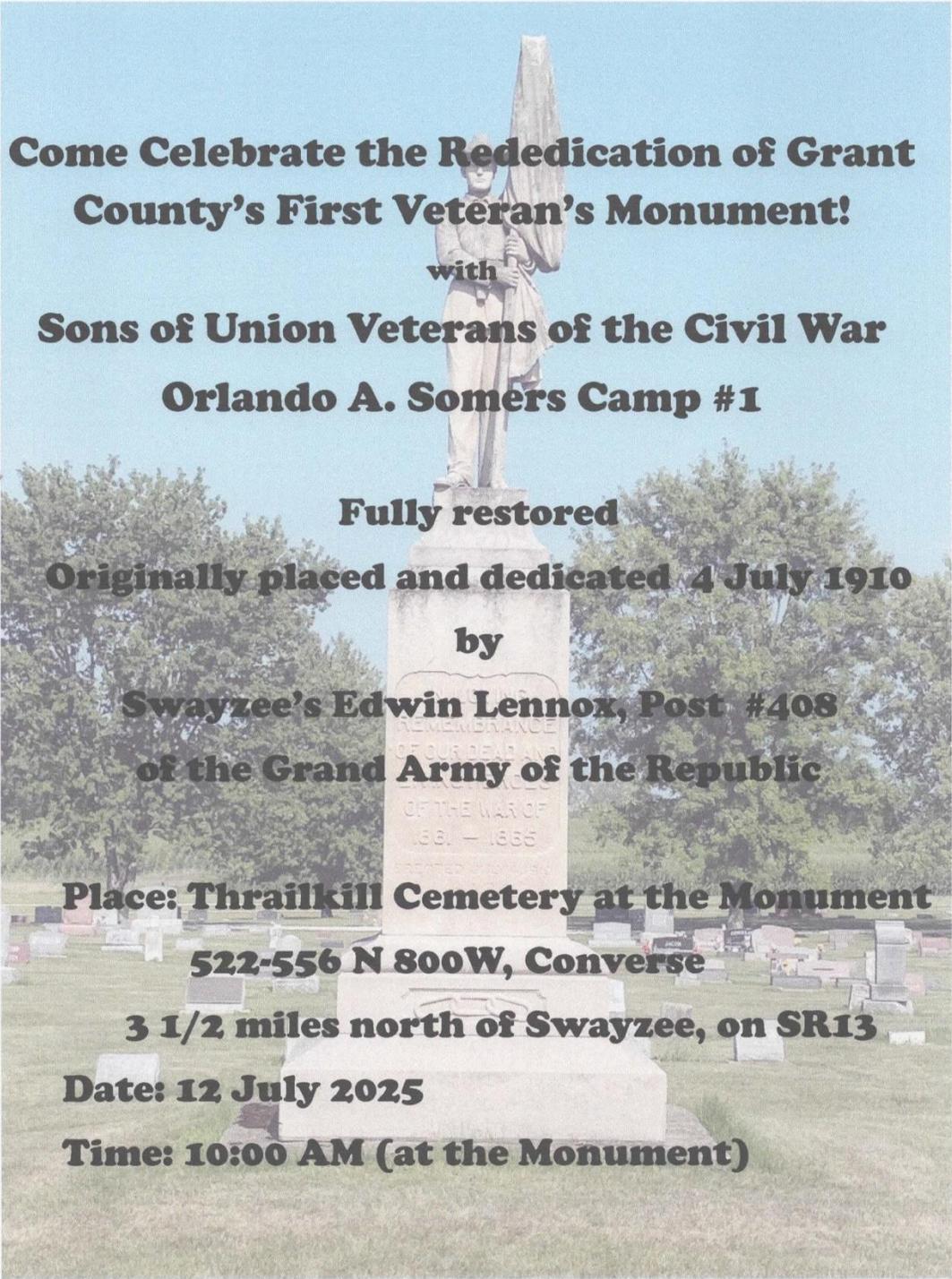
Camp Commander

Orlando A. Somers, Camp #1

Department of Indiana

SUVCW

Attachment:



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

**with**

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

**Fully restored**

**Originally placed and dedicated 4 July 1910**

**by**

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

**Place: Thrailkill Cemetery at the Monument**

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

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

**Date: 12 July 2025**

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

**Orlando A Somers Camp # 1  
Property / Inventory  
October 1, 2025**

- 1 Charter dated 08/05/1982**
- 1 Bible**
- 1 Lectern**
- 1 Orlando A. Somers Camp Flag**
- 1 Flag stand**
- 3 Large Ritual Books**
- 1 Small Ritual Books**
- 2 Framed Photos of Orlando A. Somers**
- 1 Mourning Cloth for draping charter**
- 1 Gavel**
- 1 Wreath w/tripod stand**
- 1 SUVCW Orlando A Somers Camp Banner**
- 1 SUVCW Banner from early 1900s Blue with Gold Lettering  
(Alan Teller has rolled up in a closet. (Confirmed 01/07/2021))**
- 1 GAR Banner "POST No 30 GAR KOKOMO, IND (very damaged, presented to the  
camp by Allen Moore 03/18/06, and framed by David Bastin.  
(01/07/21 Alan Teller's possession in metal cabinet in basement)  
Alan's guess this was carried by Harrison Post in parades**



## SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

JOHN W. FOSTER CAMP No. 2

DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA

Report of the

### Commander

**2025 Mid-Year Encampment**

November 1, 2025



To: Department of Indiana Secretary, Dennis Hutchinson, PDC

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

#### *Meetings Held*

The Camp held a total of six hybrid meetings from May to October 2025. All meetings to the exception of one were held at the Newburgh Public Library on Belle Road as well as being held via Zoom. The October meeting was held at the Chandler Public Library due to building repairs at the Newburgh Public Library. In addition, there was a special Zoom meeting of the Camp on August 12, 2025, to discuss the status change on the Oak Hill Cemetery cannon carriages that required a vote for expenditure of funds for the project. This meeting had all its members in attendance except two. On average, the meeting attendance is one half to two thirds of the Camp in participation. The meeting facilities at both libraries are at no cost to the Camp.

Camp meeting dates were:

May 20, 2025, Hybrid

August 18, 2025, Hybrid

June 17, 2025, Hybrid

September 16, 2025, Hybrid

July 15, 2025, Hybrid

October 21, 2025, Hybrid

August 12, 2025, Zoom

#### *Membership*

The John W. Foster Camp had, as of November 1, 2025, a total of 13 Brothers. The Camp has had steady activity from potential new members to join the Camp since April and are still considered to be active potential members. Attempts to recruit new members are ongoing

through our events and at other public events including Round Tables, Historical Societies as well as through person-to-person contact.

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

The John W. Foster Camp as of October 21, 2025, has an account balance of \$232.79. The Camp had raised additional funds for the cannon carriage project at Oak Hill Cemetery bringing the Camp account to nearly \$24,000. Of this amount, \$21,615.25 was dispersed to Clarksville Foundry in Clarksville, TN. for the ductile iron No. 1 gun carriage parts. Additional funds are being raised for the No. 1 gun carriage being built by the University of Southern Indiana.

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

Department of Indiana 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment April 26, 2025 – In attendance from the John W. Foster Camp were Camp Commander David Hoesli and Secretary Dennis Hutchinson PDC.

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

St. Augustine Plaque Dedication, May 24, 2025 – The Camp was represented at the plaque dedication for the historic St. Augustine Cemetery held by the National Society of the Daughters of the Union. The cemetery has several Civil War veterans including some that were held at the Andersonville, Georgia prison. Present was Camp Commander David Hoesli.

Princeton, Indiana Memorial Day, May 26, 2025 – Three members of the Camp were present for a wreath presentation at the Memorial Day event in Princeton, Indiana. Camp Commander David Hoesli spoke at the event and Brothers Dennis Hutchinson, PDC and Jr. Vice Commander Tim Speedy fired their muskets in honor of the Civil War veterans.

Pleasant Lake Headstone Dedication, June 28, 2025 – The Camp was represented at the headstone dedication of Private John Boyer at the Pleasant Lake Cemetery in Pleasant Lake, Indiana. The grave had never been marked due to the lack of documentation but was finally located in the WPA records. His headstone was ordered and his grave was finally marked. Camp Commander David Hoesli was present.

Presentation of the Battle of Hampton Roads, July 22, 2025. The presentation of the Battle of Hampton Roads was presented by the Camp Patriotic Instructor/Secretary Dennis Hutchinson PDC at the Grandview Civic Center.

Lincoln Boyhood Naturalization, August 7, 2025 – The Lincoln Boyhood Site was the location of the naturalization of around 40 immigrants. During the event, the Department of Indiana SVR presented the colors. Commander David Hoesli and Brother Tim Beckman from the Foster Camp were present. Brother Tim Beckmen is also a member of the Ben Harrison Camp No. 356.

Lincoln Pioneer Village for the "Glidden Auto Tour", September 10, 2025, Patriotic Instructor/Secretary Dennis Hutchinson PDC was the host for the "Grass" cabin and gave a Civil

War Musket demonstration at the Lincoln Pioneer Village for the "Glidden Auto Tour". This was a Nationwide tour for antique auto enthusiasts. There were over 150 antique autos and close to 250 people who attended the event at the Village.

Civil War Living History Lesson, September 12, 2025, Patriotic Instructor/Secretary Dennis Hutchinson PDC, gave a Civil War Living History lesson to 11 grade schoolers at the Lincoln Pioneer Village.

Headstone Dedication at Poseyville, Indiana, September 20, 2025. Camp Jr. Vice Commander Tim Speedy and Camp Treasurer Eric Sprouls were present and participated in the headstone dedication of Private Joseph McReynolds, a Revolutionary soldier, at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Posey County, Indiana.

Monument Dedication at Shoals, Indiana, September 20, 2025. A dedication of a monument to the 28 Illinois regiment soldiers killed in a train wreck at Shoals, Indiana was attended by and participated in by Camp Secretary Dennis Hutchinson PDC also of the Department of Indiana SVR.

Whitesville, Kentucky Headstone Dedication, September 27, 2025 – Camp Commander David Hoesli and Secretary Dennis Hutchinson PDC were participants in the headstone dedication for Charles Ragsdale of the 17th KY Volunteer Infantry at the Old Panther Creek Baptist Church near Whitesville, KY.

Civil War Living History Lesson, October 1, 2025, Camp Patriotic Instructor/Secretary Dennis Hutchinson PDC gave a Civil War Living History lesson to over 160 North Spencer County 5th grade students.

Lincoln Heritage Days, Lincoln Village, Rockport, Indiana, October 25, 2025. Patriotic Instructor/Secretary Dennis Hutchinson PDC will present a Civil War living history and recruiting station at the Lincoln Pioneer Village for the fall Heritage Day. Also present will be Jr. Vice Commander Tim Speedy.

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

John W. Foster Camp No 2 had scheduled another Last Union Veteran for October 18 for Civil War veteran private Winfield Scott Hunter who was a Saddler for Company L, 13<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteer Cavalry. He was born on December 22, 1848, and passed away on April 3, 1947. Although he died in Dubois County, he is buried at Walnut Hill Cemetery in Petersburg, Indiana thus having the distinction of him being the last veteran to die in Dubois County and the last veteran buried in Pike County. This event had to be postponed due to scheduling conflicts and is rescheduled for April 11, 2026.

### ***Cemetery Projects***

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

Oak Hill Cemetery, Evansville, Indiana: The John W. Foster Camp is currently working on the construction of two metal cannon carriages to replace the older wooden carriages that have fallen apart. The goal is to have at least one of the two cannons that have sat in Section 24 since 1882 back in Section 24 by Veterans Day November 11, 2025. The Camp has received the complete No. 1 cannon carriage for the first cannon and has begun the process of putting it together. We have also received the iron wheels for the second cannon carriage. Currently the University of Southern Indiana Engineering Department has completed the CAD digital copies of the original blueprints and has received the necessary materials to complete the second cannon carriage. They have also pressure cut all the pieces to weld together for the first carriage. In addition to the replacement carriages, the Camp will be cleaning and straightening all the headstones in Section 24 as well as painting the mounted 8” siege cannons, mortars, and the fence as needed later next year.

### ***Evansville Coliseum***

The Evansville Coliseum is in the process of complete renovation. Specifically, the Grand Army of the Republic Room and the Spanish American War Room. All relics from both rooms have been stored in the basement of the old courthouse in Evansville. The officers of John W. Foster Camp No. 2 have full access to view or inspect these items at any time. Furthermore, the Vanderburgh Coliseum Preservation Foundation (VCPF) has been set up to oversee the preservation of the rooms and artifacts. Brother Josh Clayborne serves on the VCPF Board. Currently the VCPF is working towards developing new branding and marketing materials including a new website to be active soon. This is part of a broader initiative to raise the funds needed for preservation goals, including a fundraising gala planned for November 1, 2025.

### ***Camp Inventory***

The Camp reports on the following articles in our inventory:

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

10. Indiana Department Commanders Citation award and flag streamer for work on the National Graves Registration database.
11. Four Last Union Veteran medallions for headstones.
12. Nine Civil War Nurse medallions for headstones.

### *Summary*

John W. Foster Camp No. 2 has been highly active in promoting the memory of the veterans of the Civil War through events, speaking engagements and cemetery projects. The Camp hopes to expand the effort by additional school related projects and media sourcing. The Foster Camp was also able to hold all monthly in-person and virtual meetings (Except December) as well as attend planned events all year.

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

The process of attaining new members is always an uphill climb, but efforts are always a work in process. There's much more work ahead to add additional members to the Camp. Without question the financial stability and strength of our membership within the Camp is great and the future is bright for the John W. Foster Camp No. 2.

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

The 2025 Mid-Year Encampment Camp report of John W. Foster Camp No. 2 is hereby submitted.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,



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

## **John W. Foster Camp No. 2 Membership**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**TOTAL MEMBERSHIP 13**



**SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR**  
**Department of Indiana**  
**John Auten Camp # 8**

**Camp Commander**  
Jonathan Swarts  
1231 Wayne St S  
South Bend, IN 46615  
jswarts82102@gmail.com

**Report to the Department of Indiana Mid-Year Encampment**  
November 1, 2025

The following reports the activities of John Auten Camp #8, South Bend, from April 27, 2025 to October 24, 2025.

**Meetings:** The camp in person meets every other month. Camp meetings are held in May, July, and September at St Paul's Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall, South Bend. Meetings in November, January, and March are held various branches of the St. Joseph County Public Library.

**Membership:** The membership of John Auten Camp #8 Bend currently stands at 17 members That represents a loss of one member (transferred to the Department of New York) since reporting to the 139th Annual Department of Indiana Encampment on April 26, 2025.

**Activities of the camp:**

May 6, 2025: A regular camp meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, South Bend.

May 26, 2025: The camp held a Memorial Day ceremony at Bowman Cemetery, South Bend. Musical accompaniment included camp brothers on the drum and trumpet and special guests on the violin and cello. Ladies of Arsinoe Martin Circle #78, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, also attended and participated.

June 21, 2025: Several brothers attended the ceremony commemorating Dr. Almira Fyfield, held at the Old City Cemetery, Valparaiso, Indiana.

June 28, 2025: John Auten Camp #8 co-sponsored a gravestone dedication ceremony for John Boyer, who is buried in Pleasant Lake Cemetery, Angola. This veteran is an ancestor to James Pahl PCinC, who attended and spoke at the ceremony.

July 12, 2025: A brother attended the rededication of Civil War Monument at Thrailkill Cemetery, Swayzee.

July 19, 2025: A regular camp meeting was held at the History Center, South Bend. Before the meeting brothers heard a historical talk by the St. Joseph County Historian and were able to tour the Civil War era galleries of the History Center where, among other items, an original banner from John Auten Post #8 of the GAR is on display.

August 7-10, 2025: A brother attended the 144th National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Houston, Texas.

August 30, 2025: The camp sponsored the Last Union Veteran of Jasper County ceremony at Weston Cemetery, Rensselaer.

September 2, 2025: A regular camp meeting was held in the Fellowship Hall, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, South Bend. Officers for 2026 were elected at the meeting.

September 6-7, 2025: Camp brothers participated in an outdoor SUVCW display including Civil War weapons and artefacts, as well as a Civil War era tent and fly, at the Door Village Harvest Festival, LaPorte, Indiana.

September 21, 2025: Several brothers participated in a Constitution Day ceremony sponsored by Arsinoe Martin Circle #78, Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic, Elkhart.

October 3-4, 2025: Several brothers attended the 85<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Central Region Association, held at the Veteran's National Memorial Shrine and Museum, Fort Wayne.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Jonathan Swarts  
Camp Commander

**Camp Inventory**  
**John Auten Camp #8, South Bend IN**  
**November 1, 2025**

1. (1) Camp charter for John Auten Camp #8, SUVCW
2. (1) 19" x 24" wooden frame (for charter)
3. (1) 22" x 27" picture frame carrying case
4. (1) King James Version Bible
5. (1) Blue 40" x 68" altar cloth
6. (1) Black 40" x 68" cloth
7. (1) Wooden gavel
8. (1) Large size SUVCW ritual book
9. (1) 30" x 48" John Auten Camp vinyl banner
10. (1) Black plastic portable file case
11. (1) 4' x 6' camp flag and 9' flagpole w/Army spear
12. (1) 4' x 6' American flag and 9' flagpole w/gold eagle
13. (2) 8 lb. Indoor flagpole stands
14. (2) Steel tripod outside flagpole holders
15. (2) Vinyl flag and flagpole set storage cases
16. (1) 20" grapevine wreath with red, white, and blue flowers w/stand
17. (1) 16" Blue ribbon wrapped wreath w/stand
18. (1) Set of three station banners
19. (3) 18" x 28" Black plastic folding tables (station tables)
20. (1) Bose S1 Pro Portable PA

21. (1) Xvive XL plug-in wireless mic system

22. (1) Shure 565SD cardioid microphone

23. (1) Aluminum speaker stand



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

Larry R. Hautzinger  
Camp Commander  
4250 E.104th Ave  
Crown Point, IN 46307  
E-Mail: [Larry\\_Hautzinger@hotmail.com](mailto:Larry_Hautzinger@hotmail.com)



**November 1, 2025**  
**In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,**

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

To: Department of Indiana Secretary,

The following is the report for the activities of the **David D. Porter Camp #116 in Valparaiso**, since the Department of Indiana's April 26, 2025 Annual Encampment.

Our camp meets every other month.

**Membership** of the David D. Porter Camp #116 currently stands at 30. (3 new members since the last Department Mid-Year Encampment)

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

**Memorial Day Celebration:** May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025: Participated in the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Valparaiso Memorial Day Concert. We had brothers read Historical narratives and provided a flag folding demonstration.

**Buckley Homestead: June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025.** The David D Porter camp participated in the Buckley Homestead

**Almira Fifield Recognition Event:** June 21. We, along with the SVR, provided a table, presented the colors, escorted guests and presented a nurse's medal to the family of Almira Fifield. The SVR guarded the colors and preformed a gun salute.

**Last Union Veteran of Jasper County:** – The David D Porter Camp of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW) hosted, in conjunction with the John Auten Camp, the dedication ceremony honoring George L. Morgan, recognized as the last Union Civil War Veteran to be laid to rest in Jasper County, Indiana. This event took place on Friday, August 30, 2025, at 11:00 AM CDT, at Weston Cemetery in Rensselaer, Indiana

Camp Meetings were held in March, July and September. An Informal meeting was held prior to the Memorial Day celebration.

**Treasures Report:** The camp as of July of 2025 has an account balance of \$2800.

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

**November 2025**

## **CAMP INVENTORY**

### **DAVID D. PORTER CAMP #116 VALPARAISO, IN**

One American Flag with gold fringe and metal pole.

**2--**One David D. Porter Camp flag with gold fringe and metal pole.

**3--**One David D. Porter Camp banner with poles

**4-** One ceremonial wreath. (Hautzinger)

**5-** One rosewood gavel with identifying plate one face (In alter box, Hautzinger)

**6--**Complete set of ritual books (old ones)

**7--** One small Bible, approximately 6"x9-1/2" (In alter box, Hautzinger)

**8--** One notebook with enlarged print for ritual

**9--** One set current By-laws for Camp, Department, & National

#### **Next 6 Items on Display at Memorial Opera House and Porter County Library**

**10--** One Camp Charter dated 1976 for Sons of Union Veterans (as original was not available when the present camp was established).

**11--** One Camp Charter for Sons of Union Veterans taken out when camp started in 1881.

**12--** One Charter for Sons of Union Veterans dated 1905 (a replacement for 1881 Charter?)

**13--** Memorial Plaque with names of deceased Camp members.

**14--** One set of papers from Chaplain Brown Post and previous Porter Camp. Currently at the Porter County Library for safekeeping

**15-** 2 Composite picture of original members of original Chaplain Brown post, and 1 picture of Abraham Lincoln on deathbed with many notables around the bed. On Display at the Memorial Opera House and Porter County Library.

**16--** Set of papers for operation of Porter Camp since 1976 in two boxes [**a-** membership badges, **b-** Membership applications, both active and inactive, **C-** Meeting notes, **d-** Copies of quarterly reports, **e-** Banking information, **f-** Floppy disks of GAR inventory. **g-** Current miscellaneous notes.] (Current Secy/Treas)

**17-** SUVCW ceremonial sword and scabbard.

**18--**One Civil War period reproduction wall tent with poles, ropes and stakes.

**19--** One Civil War period dining fly with poles, ropes and stakes.

**20--**Two steel flag holders for use on soft ground.

**21--** One Plaque Naming David D. Porter Camp as the La Porte County Historian of the year for 2013.

**22--** One 52X8' American Cotton Duck Flag

**23--** Framed picture of David D. Porter-Donated by Randy Eckley

**24--** Framed window advertisement of the 2014 rededication of the Memorial Opera House Donated by Randy Eckley

**25--**One (1) Donation Box on stand, Oak wood with brass hinges, supports, hasp and padlock (2017) Donated and Built by Stephen E and Stephen A Mockler

**26--**One (1) Oak Wood Box with Brass hinges and hasp, referred to as the Alter Box, to hold Bible, desk flags and gavel. (2017) Donated and Built by Stephen E and Stephen A Mockler (Hautzinger)

**27-** One (1) Solid Oak Rifle and Sword Presentation Stand (2017) Donated by Pat Doyle and Built by Stephen E and Stephen A Mockler

- 28- One (1) Civil War period tent cover with ropes and stakes. (2017) Donated by Pat Doyle
- 29--Materials to clean Gravestones-Buckets, Brushes, Spray Bottles and D2 Cleaning Solution (2017)
- 30--Set of Books Kept at Indiana University Northwest
- ~~31--Rifles Donated by Pat Doyle~~
- 32- Sword Donated by Pat Doyle (Hautzinger)
- 33—1 chemical sprayer
- 34-- 2 post hole diggers
- 35-- 4 shovels
- 36--Flag markers and Flags
- 37-- Second GAR Ceremonial Sword added 2018 (Hautzinger)
- 38- Two Brass flag holders
- 39- Blue Altar Cloth (In Alter Box, Hautzinger)
- 40- Black Charter Draping Cloth (In Alter box, Hautzinger)
- 41- Patriotism Banner
- 42- Indiana state banner

**Note:** Previous Camp Inventories have listed Item “**31- as Rifles Donated by Pat Doyle**”. This information is incorrect and was corrected at the March 11<sup>th</sup> 2023 David D. Porter Camp #116 meeting. The Doyle Family had only stated that the rifles might be used for display or possible use by the camp. (Herb Smith III March 11, 2023)

**SEPT. 26, 2023 UPDATE: Additional Camp Inventor received from Brother Bill Adams**

- 41- Framed “Porter County Civil War Roll of Honor” listing 146 death during the Civil War
- 42- Photo album of the David D. Porter Camp's 2015-2016 events & activities. This album also contains photos of the “G.A.R. Chaplin Brown Post's” members. The album's “pocket” contains a “1919 G.A.R. - Dept. Of Indiana Delegate's Medal”!



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

**Department of Indiana**

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

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Department of Indiana  
Encampment Meeting, November 1, 2025.

Greetings Brothers from John B Anderson Camp #223,

**Camp Activities and Events – May 13, 2025 to October 14, 2025:**

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

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

**Officers Appointed by the Camp Commander**

<b>Patriotic Instructor</b>	<b>Taylin Allen</b>
<b>Chaplin</b>	<b>Terry Furgason</b>
<b>Graves Registration Officer</b>	<b>Frederick Leickly, MD, MPH</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Phillip McClure</b>
<b>Civil War Memorials Officer</b>	<b>Phillip McClure</b>

**Eagle Scout Coordinator**

**Frederick Leickly, MD, MPH**

**Camp Counselor**

**Jeff Maudlin**

**Signals Officer**

**Terry Furgason**

**Keeper of the wreath**

**Jeff Maudlin**

## **Camp Activities**

**Camp meetings were held.**

**September 9, 2025 - attended by 12 Camp Brothers and 2 guests**

**October 14, 2025 - attended by 9 Camp Brothers and 2 guests.**

**With great pride, John B. Anderson Camp #223 has between 30 to almost 40% of its membership attending Camp meetings.**

## **Camp Membership**

**Over the interval, we added 1 new members and had an Associate member become a full member. We now have 29 Brothers in the Camp**

## **Projects**

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

- a. Orange County event – Brother Allen**
- b. Jennings County event – Brothers Ochs and Furgason**
- c. Bartholomew County events – Brothers McClure, Maudlin, and Leickly (Columbus City Cemetery – GAR/WRC Memorial and Springer Cemetery- grave of John Bierke Anderson Sr)**
- d. Columbus Philharmonic Orchestra SALUTE May 23 attended by Brothers Andrew, Carson, JR Owen and Fred Leickly.**

**4. Civil War Book Club – Bartholomew County Public Library May, July, and September 2025.**

**5. 2. ‘The Willow Valley Train Wreck’, event on September 20th was a huge success. Some 250 people attended it throughout the day, with an estimated 120 present at the actual dedication. Some 12 Brothers of the Department attended, with a Brother from Illinois, Larry Werline as General Grant. Another dozen or so reenactors showed up to help with the dedication, including 5 members of the 19<sup>th</sup> Illinois who portray the same men that were in the accident. Overall, we had great turnout and properly honored the 28 soldiers that were killed. Several posts were made on the event and it was published in multiple papers afterwards.**

**6. Talking Tombstones II. For the first time the Bartholomew County Historical Society hosted Talking Tombstones at the Morovian Cemetery in Hope. The Event was attended by Brothers Dieterlen and Furgason.**

**7. Jennings County Monument Project - Originally part of our “Committee Reports” for years until dropped from the minutes due to years of inactivity. This project is being resurrected, as Brother Terry had an update on it and the Camp does have some \$2300 or thereabouts in funds deposited in the Jennings County Community Foundation. The project has been amended, to limit the scope to a granite obelisk, 6 feet high and flat on the top at the cost of \$11,230. Flat on the top so that the Camp can make a decision to add a Soldier, Cannon Balls, Eagle or some other appropriate fixture.**

**8. Commander Leickly’s book was published on September 25, 2025. Recollections of the Civil War by William H. H. Polhamus, edited by Frederick E. Leickly (author’s great grandson).**

**Camp Property (Report attached at the end of this report)**

### **Camp Activities in Pictures**



**Columbus Philharmonic SALUTE program**



**Talking Tombstones II**



## Talking Tombstones II



## Willow Valley Train Wreck Dedication

3

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

Cordially Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

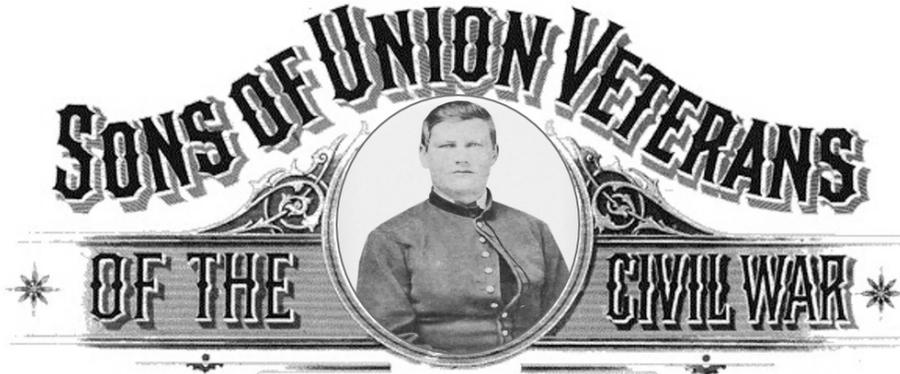
Frederick E. Leickly, MD, MPH  
 Camp Commander  
 John B Anderson Camp #223  
 Columbus, Indiana

4

More Camp Activities and pictures are posted on the websites.

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

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



**John B. Anderson Camp 223 - Columbus, IN**

**Camp Property Report**

**October 10, 2025**

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

**Property currently held by the Camp Commander – Frederick E. Leickly**

**Camp Charter**

**Stand for the Camp Charter**

**Black 'Mourning' Cloth**

**Wooden Gavel and gavel block**

**Camp Book – listing of each member**

**Card Business cards**

**Tubular instant easel frame**

**Two small American Flags – 11x73/4 and 9x7**

**Altar cloth, blue**

**SUVCW flag**

**Property held by the Camp Treasurer – Jeff Maudlin**

**Camp Check book, Statements, Checks and Deposit tickets from Old National Bank**

**Camp endorsement stamp from Old National Bank**

**IRS Approval documents for Camp's EIN (employer identification number)**

**IRS login password and account set up information**

**Past 990-n filings**

**Camp membership cards**

**4 SUVCW badges \$27.50 each,**

**2 SVR badges \$22.66 each**

**Camp post cards – several and of two styles**

**Camp booklets**

**Copies of the Home Guard of Jennings County 1861-1865**

**Camp Flags**

**National Flag**

**John B. Anderson Flag**

**2 heavy flag stands (gold base)**

**2 iron outdoor flag stands**

**Camp Wreath**

**Property held by the Camp Secretary – JR Owen**

**Numerous paper files since Camp inception held in a large notebook**

**Numerous file folders with past Camp materials, by-laws, correspondence**

**File folders with Camp applications**

**1 brown collapsible file folder with Camp documents**

**1 Copy of the Bartholomew County Civil War Deaths publication**

**Miscellaneous documents**

**Note – All these paper documents have been scanned and are digitalized. These files are on a laptop computer provided by the previous secretary (Frederick E. Leickly)**

**Camp Seal**

**Property held by the Camp Chaplin – Terry Furgason**

**Camp Bible**

**Property held by the Camp Graves Registration Officer – Frederick E. Leickly**

**1 large binder with Bartholomew County Military Gravesites noted (all wars) created by Brother Jim Jackson.**



Ben Harrison Camp No. 356  
Department of Indiana – Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Camp Activity Report – 4/12/2025 through 10/11/2025

Saturday, April 12, 2025: Nine brothers and one sister (ASUVCW) attended the in-person camp meeting at the Michigan Road Branch of the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library. Patriotic Instructor Lloyd Atterson told the story of the Reno Brothers of Southern Indiana who were criminals and enlistment bounty jumpers during the Civil War. He also led a discussion regarding recruiting and retention.

Monday, April 14, 2025: Three brothers from the camp (acting in their SVR capacity) presented the Colors at a meeting of the Indianapolis Civil War Roundtable, in celebration of that organization's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary. These brothers were joined by a prospective new member who was also in uniform.

Saturday, April 26, 2025: Five brothers from the camp attended the 139<sup>th</sup> Annual Encampment of the Department of Indiana, which was held at the Commandant's House at the Indiana Veterans Home in West Lafayette.

Saturday, May 10, 2025: Four brothers from the camp attended Cemetery Work Day at the Eagle Creek Cemetery, Westfield, Indiana.

Monday, May 26, 2025: Ben Harrison Camp No. 356 conducted its 2025 Memorial Day Service at Flat Rock Cemetery, Flat Rock, Shelby County, Indiana today beginning at 11:00 a.m. We were joined in the effort by members of Flat Rock Christian Church, the Flat Rock Cemetery Board, the general public and by a Past National President of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. Pastor Brian Ebersold of the Flat Rock Christian Church delivered both opening and closing prayers, as well as a reading of the 23rd Psalm. All in attendance sang a couple of verses of America the Beautiful. I read John A. Logan's General Order Number 11. Camp Patriotic Instructor Lloyd Atterson read the poem "The Unknown Dead" by Henry Timrod. I read a tribute to Corporal Francis Marion Radcliff, Company K, 18th Indiana Infantry, who is buried in this cemetery. An appropriate rifle salute was conducted by Company D, 27th Indiana Infantry, SVR (led by Bruce Kolb, PDC). Brother Garry Walls, PCC played Taps on the electronic bugle. There were at least 30 individuals in attendance.

Saturday, July 19, 2025: Six brothers attended a virtual camp meeting.

Saturday, August 16, 2025: Three brothers attended a celebration at Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis, honoring the birthday of our camp's namesake, President (and Colonel/Brevet Brigadier General) Benjamin Harrison.

Saturday, September 13, 2025: Nine brothers attended a camp meeting in person and one brother attended via zoom. Discussion of representation of the camp at Franklin Fall Festival (table at Johnson County History Museum). Initiated three brothers. Discussed 2026 officer nominations. Patriotic instruction on cigar box guitars.

Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>: Three brothers attended the dedication of a historical marker and monument to soldiers of the 19<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry who were part of a train wreck on September 17, 1861, just east of Shoals, Indiana.

Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>: Table at Johnson County History Museum as part of the Franklin Fall Festival.

Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>: Camp meeting at Michigan Road branch of the Marion County Public Library. Initiated one member and approved the application of another. Held nominations and election of 2026 camp officers: Bruce Kolb –

Commander, Brian Mexin – SVC, Mike Beck – JVC & Treasurer, Tim Beckman – Secretary, Garry Walls – Camp Council, Joe Beckman – Camp Council, and Michael Griffin – Camp Council.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

***Brian J. Mexin***

Camp Commander

# INVENTORY OF CAMP PROPERTY

October 11, 2025

## GRAY STORAGE TUB #1:

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

Copy of *Butler's Battlin' Blue Bastards* (The Story of the Men of the 3 Battalion - 395 Infantry in WWII Under the Leadership of Lt. Col. McClermand Butler) by Thor Romington

- KJV Bible (presented to Carter C. Keith and his wife, Aug. 22, 1975)
- Flag bunting
- 2 photo albums of camp and department activities, (photos donated by widow of David Wiley)
- Original SVR membership card (1972), donated by John Copeland
- *The Acme Haversack* (1890) songbook, donated by John Copeland
- Discharge paper for Corporal Henry Roberts, Co. D, 138\ Indiana Infantry

## GRAY STORAGE TUB #2 - HISTORICAL ARCHIVE:

- Former member records
- Correspondence
- Minutes
- Hayes Embezzlement file
- Old installation and quarterly reports
- Bank statements
- General Memorial Association information
- Unknown application papers

- 2007 National Encampment Souvenir Program
- 2 boxes of computer discs of camp files
- Bible presented to SUVCW Ben Harrison Camp #356 by Mrs. Dema Monson, March 21, 1944
- Computer CD -SUVCW Archives
- Photos from Camp Morton marker dedication (10-25-03)
- Photos taken at World War Memorial and Crown Hill
- Photos taken at Lincoln's Boyhood Memorial
- Computer SUVCW banner
- GAR Commemorative Badge
- Blue folder containing 2005 Department Encampment program and Monroe County Civil War Roundtable "The Sentinel" tribute to David Wiley

**BLACK STORAGE TUB (CURRENT RECORDS):**

- Copies of Form 10, 13, 22, 27 and 30 Reports
- Postage Permits
- Legion Costs
- 1991 Indiana House Concurrent Resolution 60 celebrating 125\ anniversary of 1<sup>st</sup> National Encampment of GAR in Indianapolis
- Job Description notebook
- Current member records
- Table display file
- SUVCW cannon and descendants project file
- Rosters
- Promotion and advertisement pamphlets
- Monument documents
- Department reports
- EIN Number information
- CWPT maps
- Current correspondence
- Constitution and regulations
- Certificate originally mailed to Smith Cornell Impressions for help with Camp Morton markers (was returned by the post office)
- Camp By-laws
- Action Items File
- Memorial Day programs

### **OTHER CAMP ITEMS**

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

### **OTHER CAMP ITEMS**

- Camp U.S. Flag (donated by Brother Beck)
- Camp flag & base (base was donated by Brother Walls)
- Camp Bible
- Camp Gavel
- Duplicate Camp Charter and stand
- Color Copy of Duplicate Camp Charter
- Charter black mourning drape
- Blue cloth altar square
- Ceremonial bugle
- Computer LCD Projector and case
- Portable projection screen
- 100 State of Indiana stick flags for Gettysburg Remembrance Day decoration
- 144 U.S. stick flags for Gettysburg Remembrance Day decoration
- 2 Medal of Honor stick flags for Gettysburg Remembrance Day decoration (donated by Brother Joe Beckman)
- Portable PA/sound system (donated by Brother & Sister Floyd)
- Camp banners
- Bible the camp presented to Commander in Chief Frank C. Huston in 1931.

### **OTHER CAMP ITEMS**

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

### **OTHER CAMP ITEMS**

- Financial books
- QuickBooks program

## **OTHER CAMP ITEMS**

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

## **GIFTS FROM BOB WINTERS**

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

# Committee Reports

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

## **Vicksburg, MS**

### **Report Presented to the 2025 Mid Year Department of Indiana Encampment**

September 25, 2025

Brothers, at our Annual Encampment April 26, 2025 I reported on the history and current state of the relocation of the 26<sup>th</sup> Indiana monument as well as the Missouri and Iowa monuments. All of these monuments are located outside of the boundaries of Vicksburg National Military Park in Vicksburg Mississippi. I remarked on the many improvements that were occurring within the park property. Those included repairs to the roads and work that had begun to repair the National cemetery ground that resides in the park. This included an update on the efforts to reinter the remains of the mainly USCT veterans whose graves were washed out at the National Cemetery.

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

I reviewed my attempts to contact different people of authority at VNMP and how all of these contacts resulted in no reply.

In an email (attached) dated April 2, 2025 to Park Superintendent Carrie Mardorf, I explained in detail the history of our efforts to relocate the 26<sup>th</sup> Indiana and the other monuments on to the parks land. I asked that she keep the project in view and consideration of its completion.

Shortly after the Annual Encampment, on April 29<sup>th</sup>, I received a reply from Superintendent Mardorf. (attached) To summarize, she said that she understood my perspective and that all park monuments are maintained in good condition.

She described a Monuments Preservation Plan which inventoried all monuments, markers, cannon, etc. and each monument and item are

placed in a Database called Cultural Resources Inventory System. (CRIS) This system allows the NPS to track the condition of each item and repair and do upkeep as needed. The database is updated every 3-5 years. She said in regards to moving the 26<sup>th</sup> Indiana monument, the NPS policy is to keep monuments in their original location to preserve the story and purpose. She also referred to a recent Presidential Executive Order to say that moving monuments is under additional scrutiny. She ended her message by saying she found very little in the files on any significant work done in the past to move the 26<sup>th</sup> Indiana monument. There was an environmental compliance record with a rough framework. Otherwise, there was nothing to show that we were ever close to moving the monuments.

I replied to her email on May 2<sup>nd</sup> (attached) telling her about the Indiana State Seal medallions were missing and assumed to be in a maintenance garage at the park. I told her how I was disappointed that both previous Park Superintendents had never reported to me about the NPS policy on relocating monuments. I also asked her to clarify if she was telling me that the 26<sup>th</sup> Indiana as well as the others from Iowa and Missouri would now be included in the maintenance program and would be restored back to original condition.

Superintendent Mardorf replied May 5<sup>th</sup> (attached) that these monuments would be restored to their original condition. In regards to the state Seal Medallions, they find it better to cast new since many times the old ones no longer fit properly or are damaged.

April 28<sup>th</sup> Commander LeMaster on the recommendation of our Encampment National Rep. Jr.-Vice Commander -in-Chief Brother Robert Payne contacted the department of Tennessee with Mississippi to ask if a local SUVCW member could visit VNMP and report back on the condition of these monuments. A Brother Ben Block Jones responded that he had visited the area and provided a report (attached) that, "The property is currently fenced, heavily wooded and overgrown, and under the control and ownership of the City of Vicksburg (circa 1953). There is currently no public access--and no visible roads, trails or foot paths." He was going to set up a meeting with the Vicksburg City Attorney since the monuments

are under the control of the city. We have not had a further update from Brother Jones.

Around May 22<sup>nd</sup> Brother Mike Beck contacted me and asked if I could put together a chronological listing of our contact with VNMP over the years. He had located a State Legislature's representative that wanted to try to help resolve this long-standing issue. I prepared a report sharing in chronological order each of our contacts and steps over the past 10 years.

The final Post Script to this report is that on June 23<sup>rd</sup> Carrie Mardorf left the NPS to accept a position with the city of Cedar Rapids Iowa. The new Acting Park Superintendent Ryan Groves has not responded to my email to him providing him with former Park Superintendent Carrie Mardorf's comments regarding the 26<sup>th</sup> Indiana Monument. The saga continues!

Respectively Submitted,

*William Adams*

William Adams, PDC

Department of Indiana

SUVCW

26th Indiana, (1) Iowa, and (2) Missouri Monuments

SUVCW/Vicksburg

**William Adams <adamswr949@gmail.com>**

Apr 2,  
2025,  
3:16 PM

to carrie\_mardorf, Thomas, bcc: me

Superintendent Mardorf, my name is William Adams, I am writing to you regarding concerns about several Vicksburg Monuments.

As the Secretary for the Department of Indiana, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War I write to you on behalf of the Department of Indiana. The monuments of concern are for the 26th Indiana as well as those of fellow Departments of Iowa and Missouri. These monuments have been cut off from the park property and sit on an easement between Interstate 20 and a Walmart parking lot we have been told. As such it is difficult for anyone to care for them, protect them, or visit the monuments. We fear they have or will become forgotten to many other than the National Park Service and as such does not do the intended honor to those veterans of those Regiments as other accessible monuments in the park do.

I began conversations in 2015 with then Park Superintendent Mike Madell. Mr. Madell had been involved previous to this time with the Iowa Department Commander. Superintendent Madell communicated to me that a plan (the Iowa Circle Project) for moving the monuments back onto park property had been developed and was awaiting funding. The project would place all of these monuments, currently in the easement, back onto the park property. However, before this could be completed Superintendent Madell was promoted to another National Park. I remained in contact with the park during this time through the Acting Superintendent Nancy Walther. She indicated that Mr. Madell had discussed the project with her and that the plans for the project were on file.

When New Superintendent Bill Justice arrived, he and I spoke about continuing on with the original project to relocate the monuments. We exchanged phone numbers and remained in contact. Once again, the project, after some delays due to scheduling and manpower shortages, moved forward. Bill Justice informed me that all compliance studies including safety and environmental were completed and found acceptable. After a number of years, we were back to the earlier point of waiting for funding and scheduling to be completed to proceed. Then, as you are most certainly aware, Mother Nature dealt the park a severe blow with torrential rain and

tornadoes. Superintendent Justice retired and once again the project must be moved to the back burner.

We, the Department of Indiana, SUVCW understand the importance of priorities and certainly repairing the damaged infrastructure throughout the park from the rains had priority. That's not to mention an even larger pressing issue of the National Cemetery damage and the washing out of the remains of those veterans buried there! Obviously, these projects had the most urgent need to be corrected. As a member of the "Friends of Vicksburg" I receive updates on those projects and I am pleased to see the progress you and your team have made on them. Knowing that progress is being made I felt it was time to again reach out to the NPS about our concern.

Our purpose is to make sure that the monuments located in the easement are not forgotten. That the project to relocate them where all may see them on present Vicksburg National Military Park property can be completed in the future. We ask for your consideration in keeping the project to relocate these monuments active for future consideration.

We would like to know what more we can or should do to support this project? At this time I will serve as the sole contact for the department of Indiana so there is one focus. my contact information:

William Adams, PDC

2772 N 150 East

La Porte, IN 46350

Phone 219-575-8483

Warmest Regards,

William Adams PDC

Secretary, Department of Indiana

SUVCW

**Mardorf, Carrie <Carrie\_Mardorf@nps.gov>**

Apr 29,  
2025,  
11:10 AM

to Bess, Christopher, me, Thomas

Hi William,

Thank you for reaching out to share your concerns about the condition and placement of the Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri regimental monuments between Walmart and I-20 in Vicksburg, Mississippi. I appreciate your engagement with the preservation and stewardship of our shared cultural heritage at Vicksburg National Military Park.

I understand your perspective and recognize the importance of ensuring that monuments are maintained in a condition that reflects their significance. Rest assured that the National Park Service is committed to preserving these structures in perpetuity, and we regularly evaluate their upkeep to address any maintenance needs. The Park has a number of monuments and markers outside the park boundary on private lands; however, we retain access to each through easements and retain the right to maintain them in their current locations.

Most recently, the park recently completed a Monuments Preservation Plan which inventoried all monuments, markers, tablets, busts, and cannons within the park and on private lands throughout the City. That plan serves as the foundation for all future projects to secure funding to clean, stabilize, and repair our monuments and markers in their current locations. The various markers referenced in your letter were included as part of that overarching plan, and conservation needs have been identified for each. In addition, we also hired a student intern to update all of our Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) records for each monument in the park. CRIS is a database that tracks the condition and repair needs for each historic building and structure (including monuments) within the National Park Service. This intern systematically surveyed each monument this Fall, verified the condition listed in the Monuments Preservation Plan, took GPS points of each, and updated all of the information in the database. This process of inventorying and updating the database takes place every 3-5 years. Because of this, the park staff know where each of our monuments is located, and we regularly monitor their condition.

Regarding your suggestion to relocate the monuments, it has been National Park Service policy to keep monuments in their original locations since 2006. Their placement often holds historical and contextual significance, which is integral to preserving their story and purpose. Moving them compromises the authenticity and historical value they represent. Moving monuments is

also under additional scrutiny on a federal level, as the President signed Executive Order 14253 in late March 2025. That said, we know these monuments are not in an ideal location, but we regularly coordinate with the City and private property owners when we need access, and as I noted previously, park staff regularly check on their condition.

As for your previous conversations with Mike Maddell and Bill Justice, I could not find any record of any specific project plans. I did find an environmental compliance record with a rough framework, but despite what previous Superintendents may have told you, the needed compliance was never completed. And as you mention, park staff are currently focusing on several critical needs related to landslide repairs, National Cemetery stabilization, and planning for a new park visitor center. Given our limited resources, staff, and funding, the Park does not have the capacity to move the monuments in the foreseeable future, nor could we take this on given current NPS policy and current Executive Orders.

That said, the Park is always open to volunteer groups who can assist in the maintenance of our monuments for the benefit of the community and visitors alike. If you or your group is interested in volunteering, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Thank you once again for your dedication to our shared history.

---

Carrie A. Mardorf

Superintendent

Vicksburg National Military Park

c: 318-652-0141

Mardorf, Carrie <Carrie\_Mardorf@nps.gov>

May 5,  
2025,  
9:11 AM

to Thomas, Bess, Christopher, me

Hi William,

Thanks for your response. Yes, the park's intent is to always restore our monuments to their original condition. That includes replacing metal seals and bronze plaques that may have been stripped or fallen off in previous decades. We do have some of these monument "parts and pieces" in our stockpile area, but we've found that sometimes it's easier to recast new ones to fit. Old ones have often been damaged and sometimes cannot be repaired. All of these actions are outlined in the Monuments Preservation Plan.

And yes, next time you are in Vicksburg, feel free to reach out. I'm more than happy to chat with you in person.

---

Carrie A. Mardorf

Superintendent

Vicksburg National Military Park

c: 318-652-0141

## **Civil War Nurse Project**

### **Progress Report October 2025**

**Purpose of the Project – To discover and honor women who served as nurses during the Civil War that had a connection to Indiana.**

**Defining our population – female, intent to be a nurse, volunteer, recognition – inclusion criteria, exclusion criteria. The label of ‘nurse’ was grey as nurse programs were just emerging. Interesting – Sisters of the Holy Cross were in the forefront benefiting from their training in France.**

**Estimated that 5,000 served as nurses.**

- 1. Define Connection-**
  - a. Born here**
  - b. Lived here**
  - c. Buried here- would be only way to recognize**
  - d. Worked here**
  - e. Married an Indiana man**
- 2. Recognition as a nurse**
  - a. Government headstone**
  - b. Testimony of others – ie Sisters**
- 3. Do we focus on those who were not given recognition**
- 4. What criteria for verification?**
  - a. Headstones**
  - b. Pension cards**
  - c. Obituaries**
  - d. Service records**
- 5. Role**
  - a. Administrator**
  - b. Matron**
  - c. Writer**
  - d. Advocates**

#### **Inclusion Criteria**

- 1. Female**
- 2. Intent to Nurse**
- 3. Buried in Indiana (those not are given mention)**
- 4. Validation**
  - a. By Government**

**b. By testimony – newspaper, diary, organization**

**Problems**

1. “For a war that was fought by over two-and-one-half million citizen soldiers for over four years, even to suggest the number of Indiana women who served as paid and volunteer nurses is folly.’ Peggy Seigel
2. Lack of documentation, noted as the obscurity of Indiana’s pioneer nurses
3. Cared for relatives – husbands, sons, brothers but stayed on to help others
4. Indiana Sanitary Commission – no records and minimal cooperation with the US Sanitary Commission
5. States tended to care only for their own
6. Women relatives of stricken soldiers were granted passes to travel to southern hospitals and camps as temporary nurses.
7. Spelling
8. Marriage

**Screening tricks**

1. If she had young children during the war years
2. Nurse, Civil War, Last name, first name,
3. 1835 +/- 25 years for birth

**Initial work –**

1. Dave Hoesli – 182 on Excel spreadsheet of which 67 did not have burial sites discovered

**Subsequent work**

1. Saint Mary-of-the-Woods Archivist Cassie Reddick  
[cassie.reddick@smwc.edu](mailto:cassie.reddick@smwc.edu)
  - a. Correspondence in May 2025
  - b. She has supplied the original request for headstone sent to the government.
  - c. Appeal for denying Sister St. Felix Buchanan (still no recognition)
2. Rachel Chaudion – Catholic Cemeteries Association – 317-574-8898  
[rchaudion@catholiccemeteries.cc](mailto:rchaudion@catholiccemeteries.cc)
  - a. Cemeteries in her database
    - i. Union Chapel Cemetery, Indianapolis
    - ii. Our Lady of Peace, Indianapolis

- iii. Calvary, Indianapolis and Terre Haute
  - iv. Holy Cross, Indianapolis
  - v. St. Joseph, Indianapolis
  - vi. St. Malachy, Brownsburg
  - vii. Washington Park East and North, Indianapolis
  - viii. Oaklawn Memorial Gardens, Indianapolis
  - ix. Hamilton Memorial Gardens, Westfield
  - x. Memorial Park, Indianapolis
  - xi. Westridge, Indianapolis
  - xii. Floral Park, Indianapolis
3. **Peggy B. Seigel – correspondence May 2025- COW nurses**
- a. **Resources**
    - i. Lincoln Library – Fort Wayne
    - ii. State Library
    - iii. Indiana Historical Society
  - b. **Suggestions**
    - i. Regimental histories – as women accompanied soldiers to help with practical everyday chores and to serve as nurses as needed.
    - ii. County histories
    - iii. Local libraries
    - iv. National Archives
    - v. Local historians
    - vi. Genealogists
    - vii. Local groups who interpret battle sites
    - viii. National Park Service Historians
    - ix. Student paper on the Indiana Sanitary Commission on the website of Bennett-Tinsley Writing Competition sponsored by the Association of Indiana Historians (prize winner)
4. **FOLD3**
- a. Union Army Nurses – 73 results – 2 were women

**Approach (comes back to defining the population)**

- 1. Use best reference on the topic – Peggy Segal’s work, *She went to War: Indiana Women Nurses in the Civil War*, published in *Indiana Magazine of History*, LXXXVI March 1990, Trustees of Indiana University. Use these names only plus those with added verification as a start.

## **Unique to Indiana**

- 1. Susan Haines Clayton – before she died in Talent, Oregon had become one of, and maybe the last, Union Civil War nurse still alive.**

**Keep track of their stories – don't lose the opportunity.**

- 1. Annie Laurie Newman – Nurse and Spy**
- 2. Emma Swain – African-American Nurse**
- 3. Physicians given role of nurse – Alimira Fifield**
- 4. Nurses who became physicians – Mary Frame Myers**
- 5. Women's rights – Amanda Wray**

**Request of Peggy Seigel – tracing Indiana Soldiers who were part of the Massachusetts 55<sup>th</sup>, African American soldiers**

## **Meeting September 8, 2025**

**114 names have limited or no information. These were divided almost equally amongst 6 committee members. We also have had a few medallions placed on markers by committee members.**

## **Plan**

**Find these women we have on the list.**

**Add any others – better to add rather than omit someone.**

**Decided, as a committee who qualifies as a Civil War Nurse**

**Make plans to honor them**

**Perhaps publish what we have done- names, and stories.**

## 2027 or 2028 National Encampment Dep. Of Indiana

**March 2025**

To: [encampsite@suvcw.org](mailto:encampsite@suvcw.org)

Department of Indiana, Letter of Intent to host a National Encampment  
 Brother Michael A. Paquette, PCinC,

The Department of Indiana established a committee to investigate the possibility of hosting a National Encampment that would be held in the State of Indiana. At our fall Department Encampment held November 2nd, 2024, that committee put forward information to the attendees about what we have learned of the effort required to possibly host a National Encampment. After much discussion a motion was made and approved to initiate a letter of intent to investigate the possibility of hosting a National Encampment in the State of Indiana. Therefore, please consider this email a Department approved "Letter of Intent" for that purpose. We are suggesting that the Encampment not be held prior to the year 2027.

Thank you, In Fraternity, Mike Beck, PDC Host Committee Chairperson

			2027	SUCVW - Host Committee	2028			
			PDC Mike Beck & PCinC Mike Paquette					
			DCT. LeMaster & DC D. Hoesti			Folder #1		
			PDC T. Schmitt, PDC T. Beckman, PDC B. Kolb, PDC D. Hutchinson			Folder #2		
			PDC B. Kolb - Folder #13					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
:OIC	:OIC	:OIC	:OIC	:OIC	:IC	:OIC	:OIC	:OIC
Transportation/Tours	Finance	Fund Raising & Door Prizes	Encampment program & Adversting	Ribbon, Flower & Memorial Services	Camp Fires & Banquets	Special Dinners	Registration	Media Coverage/Safety
Folder #10	Folder #3	Folder #4	Folder #5	Folder #7	Folder #11	Folder #14	Folder #16	Folder #19
		Folder #13	Folder #6	Folder #8	Folder #12		Folder #17	Folder #20
			Folder #9	Folder #15				

**March 3, 2025**

Brother Michael,

I really need to have a phone call or virtual meeting (Zoom or other) with you or your committee - so you know the specifics of what we're looking for. The Guide to Hosting a National Encampment (posted on the National website) is a good starting point, however the prices/costs listed in the guide need to be updated to reflect the changes in the hotel industry since the COVID-19 pandemic. Your host committee needs to have this current information before you start checking with hotels or you may end up wasting your time.

National will need a proposal from your Department (and endorsed by your Department) in order to lock you in for a specific year.

I'm retired, so I'm available pretty much any time except Friday evenings. Please call or email me so we can set something up.

In F, C, and L, Brother Mike P. (540) 850-8090

## 2027 or 2028 National Encampment Dep. Of Indiana

**August 19, 2025** Received

Mike P

On Aug 19, 2025, at 1:58 PM, Michael Beck <[fsgtcod11thindiana@att.net](mailto:fsgtcod11thindiana@att.net)> wrote:

Brother Paquette:

Here are my estimates for hotel rates on the three choices we have sent with our proposal to host a National Encampment:

1. Embassy Suites by Hilton Plainfield Indianapolis Airport  
Estimated Room Rate: \$160/night
2. Wyndham Indianapolis Airport  
Estimated Room Rate: \$140/night
3. Crowne Plaza Indianapolis Airport  
Estimated Room Rate: \$140/night

Please acknowledge this e-mail and if you have any questions, let me know.

PDC Indiana Mike Beck

Sent from my iPhone

**September 7, 2025**

Brothers,

Please review the attached guidebook and feel free to share with your host committees. Let me know if you have any questions.

In F, C, and L,

Mike Paquette

Chairman, National Encampment Site Committee

**October 10, 2025**

Brother Michael,

The National Encampment Site Committee met this week to look at the proposals from Michigan and Indiana. We believe that all three hotels noted in your proposal warrant a site visit.

Based on the committee's current personal schedules, we won't be able to set up site visits until after the Christmas / New Year's holidays. Weather may also be a factor at that point - so we'll take another look at the site visits in January. Ideally, we would like you and any other members of your host committee to accompany us.

In F, C, and L, Mike Paquette, Chairman National Encampment Site Committee