

140th Annual Encampment

April 18, 2026

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
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Sweetser, Indiana 46987
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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 November 1, 2025 to April 18, 2026.

The Department of Indiana has a membership of 228 brothers, divided among nine camps.

The Department continues to work on identifying and recognizing those Indiana Nurses in the Civil War Nurses project. The Department is working to expand its reach in the state by adding Camps in under represented areas.

- On November 1, 2025, I led the Department Mid-Year Encampment in Richmond, Indiana, hosted by the William P. Benton Camp.
- On November 8, 2025, I attended the Ben Harrison Camp # 356 meeting where I installed their Camp Officers.
- On November 11, 2025, hosted a Camp Organization Meeting with Camp Organizer Bill Adams and several Camp Commanders
- On November 15, 2025, I attended the Orlando A. Somers Camp # 1 meeting.
- On November 16, 2025, I sent out communication to prospective members of a new camp formation in the Lafayette, Indiana area.
- On November 19, 2025, I attended the John W. Foster Camp # 2 meeting via Google Meet where installed their Camp Officers.
- On November 20, 2025, hosted a Camp Organization Meeting with Camp Organizer Bill Adams and Camp Commander Leickly.
- On November 21, 2025, I issued Department Order 2025-11, creating the Department Fundraising Committee.

- On November 22, 2025, I attended the John Auten Camp # 8 meeting where I installed their Camp Officers.
- On December 9, 2026, I attended the John B. Anderson Camp # 223 meeting where I installed their officers.
- On January 11, 2026, I attended the David D. Porter Camp # 116 meeting where I installed their Camp Officers.
- On January 13, 2026, I attended a joint meeting of the Champion Hill Camp # 17 and William Baumgartner Camp # 33 where I installed their Camp Officers.
- On January 14, 2026, I corresponded with Brother Fred Leickly about registration for a recruitment booth at Billie Creek.
- On January 17, 2026, I attended the Orlando A Somers Camp # 1 meeting.
- On January 22, 2026, I attended the Indiana Commandery of MOLLUS virtual meeting via Zoom
- On February 13, 2006, I hosted a Commander's Forum via Zoom
- On February 16, 2026, I attended a Civil War Nurses Committee virtual meeting via Zoom
- On February 17, 2026, I attended the John W Foster Camp # 2 meeting via FreeConference Call.
- On February 22, 2026, I issued Department Order 2026-1, suspending the William Baumgartner Camp # 33.
- On March 7, 2026, I issued Department Order 2026-2, re-instating the William Baumgartner Camp # 33.
- On March 14, 2026, I submitted a report to the Council of Administration of the Department's activities.
- On March 18, 2026, I approved orders for Department Awards for the Lew Wallace and Oliver P. Morton Awards
- On March 18, 2026, I authorized a letter of support from the John W. Foster Camp # 2 in regards to renovation of the Evansville Coliseum
- On March 28, 2026, I attended a lineage workshop hosted by Orlando A. Somers Camp # 1 at the Kokomo-Howard County Public Library
- On April 2, 2026, I completed Form 51 for the new Camp 252 Spicely in Paoli

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

140th Annual Encampment

April 18, 2026

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 as well as the Committee on Department Fundraising.

Department of Indiana Mid-Year Encampment November 1, 2026 – In attendance serving as Sr. Vice Commander.

Lincoln Boyhood National Site Lincoln Day, February 8, 2026 – The event is in recognition for President Lincoln who grew up on a farm at this location. Represented the Department of Indiana, John W. Foster Camp No. 2 and the Sons of Veterans Reserve.

Headstone Dedication, March 28, 2026 – The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States located and ordered a headstone for MULLOS original member Louis R. Darragh at Newark Cemetery in Greene County, Indiana. Not only represented the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, but also as a member of the Department of Indiana and the Sons of Veteran Reserve.

Last Union Veteran Event, March 28, 2026 – The Last Union Veteran event for Private George Halstead. He enlisted as a recruit in Company E, 43rd Indiana Infantry. He was born on November 20, 1847, and passed away January 16, 1942.

Last Union Veteran Event, April 11, 2026 - The Last Union Veteran event for Winfield Scott Hunter. He was a Saddler for Company L, 13th Indiana Volunteer Cavalry. He was born on December 22, 1848, and passed away on April 3, 1947.

Civil War Nurse Recognition, April 11, 2026 – The John W. Foster Camp No. 2 recognized Civil War Nurse Malinda Hawkins who was a nurse at Evansville during the Civil War. The event was held just after the Last Union Veteran event held the same day.

Babytown Cemetery Civil War veteran remains transfer to St. Joseph Cemetery, April 25, 2026 – This is scheduled for the weekend after the Department of Indiana Encampment. The cemetery once had four Civil War veterans but only one is assured to have been moved during these last excavations. They will be laid to rest on April 25, 2026.

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

The 2026 140th Annual 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

Department Encampment Report 2026
Frederick E. Leickly, MD, MPH, April 1, 2026

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 continued to be in excellent health and there has been no 'need' for me to do that. There is much more to add to the job description.

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 performed the following-

Promoting membership – two talks were given to non-SUVCW groups. The talks were promotional for the book I had published in September 2025, *Recollections of the Civil War, the life of a soldier in the Ohio 2nd Volunteer Cavalry 1861-1865*, by William Henry Harrison Polhamus, Edited and annotated by Frederick E. Leickly, MD, MPH (the author's great-grandson). The Sertoma Club of Broad Ripple and the Hamilton County Civil War Roundtable were the audiences – attended by 30-50. For each presentation, the uniform of the order (and SVR) was worn, and information was shared during the talk regarding our Order. I also stressed that the author was very active in the GAR and part of his writing was done for GAR presentations.

I have had contact from the National Organization regarding one application. A note was sent to Brother Hutchinson regarding contact from the booth that the National Order had at the RootsTech 2025 meeting in March 2024. Interestingly, the contact with Brother Hutchinson was W. Faron Taylor, National Aide de Camp. Brother Hutchinson forwarded the message to me. We both sent notes to a Patti Morris (Patti.morris12@yahoo.com) who I believe lives in Brown County, Indiana. Two messages have been sent. So far nothing has been returned.

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 new member join and we have had a transfer to our Camp from North Carolina.

Promoting membership has included the two talks that were mentioned previously. Members of the John B. Anderson Camp will participate in the 4th annual Talking Tombstones event sponsored by the Bartholomew County Historical Society in May 2026 and Brothers are participating in a similar event in Jefferson County for the Jefferson County Historical Society, Springdale Cemetery Talking Tombstones. At these events, our Camp for the Order purchases an advertisement in the brochure and when the opportunity arises, for those spectators who show interest, we talk about the SUVCW. It has been a great way to be in the public eye.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Frederick E. Leickly, MD, MPH

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

Thursday, April 02, 2026



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA



From the desk of
Dennis Hutchinson, PDC

SECRETARY REPORT
For the 140th Annual Encampment, April 18, 2026

April 8, 2026

Department Commander, Travis LeMaster,

I have served nearly a year as the Department of Indiana’s Secretary. As we approach a full annual cycle, please note that two Department forms remain to be completed.

I continue to revise the Department of Indiana Membership database to reflect changes in Camp membership. At the end of December 2025, Department membership stood at 219. Since January 1, 2026, we have gained eight new members—the latest being a Junior—as well as one transfer from the Department of North Carolina. These additions bring our total membership to 228.

However, we have also reported 14 losses to date: two deaths, six Members, and six Associates due to "General Discharges." This brings our current membership down to 214. Please note that there may be further losses, as I have not yet received all Form 27s from the Camps. For comparison, the total membership submitted on Form 35 was 215 members for 2025 and 218 members for 2024. I will report the final Form 35 figures once all Form 27s are tabulated.

I share these numbers as a reminder that we must work diligently to retain our current members while continuing to recruit new ones.

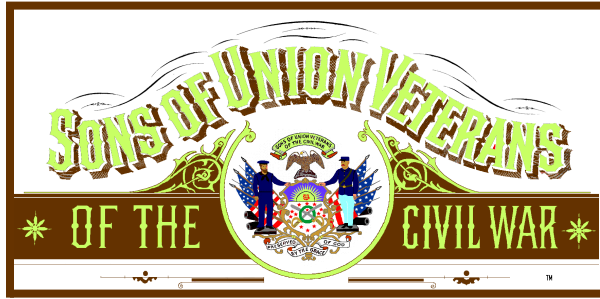
Finally, I ask that each Camp uses the latest edition of all forms found on the National website’s “Governance and Forms” page. Please ensure forms are filled out accurately and submitted to the Department Secretary in a timely manner.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,

Dennis Hutchinson, PDC

Secretary-Department of Indiana, SUVCW





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

DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA

Jonathan Swarts, Patriotic Instructor

2026 Annual Encampment Report

Following is a report of my activities from 1 November 2025 to 2 April 2026.

2025

November 28: Wrote and sent out November Department Patriotic Instruction

November 28: Sent out November National Patriotic Instruction

December 16: Wrote and contributed Patriotic Instruction to December issue of *The Indiana Legion*

December 31: Wrote and sent out December Department Patriotic Instruction

December 31: Sent out December National Patriotic Instruction

2026

January 28: Sent out January National Patriotic Instruction

January 28: Wrote and sent out January Department Patriotic Instruction

February 27: Sent out February National Patriotic Instruction

February 28: Wrote and sent out February Department Patriotic Instruction

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

March 28: Presided (as Indiana Commander, MOLLUS) at headstone dedication at Newark Cemetery, Greene County; Attended Last Union Veteran of Greene County ceremony, Prairie Chapel Cemetery.

March 31: Wrote and sent out March Department Patriotic Instruction

March 31: Sent out March National Patriotic Instruction

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Jonathan Swarts
Patriotic Instructor
Department of Indiana

2026 Chaplain's Report

Department of Indiana 2026 Annual Encampment

Steven J. Williams was born 3/1/1940 and died 12/15/2025 in Roanoke, IN. He was an active member of Champion Hill Camp #17. He was among other things a lawyer and student of Abraham Lincoln. He owes his membership in the SUVCW to a great great-grandfather Private John Johnson Co. D 7th Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

William E. (Bill) Truss was born July 16, 1940, in Wabash County, IN and died Feb. 18, 2026, at the age of 85. Bill was a member of John A. Logan Camp #1 of Grand Rapids, MI and had served as Camp Commander for 8 years. The last 10 years he was a member of Champion Hill Cam #17. Bill retired as a Major from the Air Force after serving 26 and a half years including Vietnam. History was his favorite pastime, especially family genealogy and old cemeteries. Although just sitting and talking over a cup of coffee was nearly as important. Funeral services and burial were in Howard City, MI.

I respectfully request that we observe a moment of silence to pay tribute to this former member.



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA



Report of the
GRAVES REGISTRATION OFFICER

140th Annual Encampment

April 18, 2026

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 November 1, 2025, to April 18, 2026.

As of April 7, 2026, there were a total of 43,685 Civil War veterans buried in the state of Indiana who are registered on the National Graves Registration database. This total reflects an increase of 1,380 veterans that have been added to the Indiana total since the Mid-year Department Encampment in November 2025. The largest increases were in Parke County having added 337 new veterans followed by Warren County 194, Vanderburgh County 179 and Grant 148.

As Department GRO, I have added 174 new names to the National database and made 69 adjustments to existing graves data this year. My focus since November has been to research the veterans from Vanderburgh 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 4,607 names to the National Graves Registration database.

In addition to Vanderburgh County, 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. This is an ongoing project and coincides with the Department's Indiana Civil War Nurse project headed by Brother Fred Leickly. 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 Brothers that know of a Civil War nurse buried in Indiana to let Brother Leickly or the 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 334 Nurses added to the National Graves Registration database. Ten of these are from Indiana. Brother Fred Leickly

has compiled an excellent work-in-progress list of over 300 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 58,845. This is an increase of 1,985 since the Mid-year Department Encampment in November 2025. Nearly a third of the estimated 200,000 veterans that served from Indiana have been entered in 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. The Graves Registration database has not yet been updated to the changes described, but I hope to see them by the end of 2026.

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

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Floyd – 2,124 | 6. Lawrence – 1,331 | 11. Clinton – 1,018 |
| 2. Grant – 1,951 | 7. Cass – 1,318 | |
| 3. Marion 1,727 | 8. Howard – 1,151 | |
| 4. Allen – 1,550 | 9. Kosciusko – 1,092 | |
| 5. Wayne – 1,499 | 10. Hamilton – 1,070 | |

In addition to this, there are seven more counties just under the one thousand veteran mark. They are Dearborn, Delaware, Noble, Owen, Parke, Tippecanoe and Vanderburgh. Parke and Vanderburgh are new to the list and are approaching the one-thousand mark quickly.

Department of Indiana County Totals

The following is a breakdown of the contribution to the Graves Registration project by county since the November 2025 Mid-Year Encampment report:

<i>County</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Increase/Decrease</i>
Adams	359	+1
Allen	1,550	+3
Bartholomew	634	0
Benton	205	+1
Blackford	406	0
Boone (Boon)	273	+6
Brown	293	+1
Carroll (Carrol)	603	0

Cass	1,318	+2
Clark	207	+19
Clay	70	+13
Clinton	1,018	0
Crawford	634	- 1
Davies	255	+3
Dearborn	872	- 1
Decatur	145	+3
DeKalb	267	+9
Delaware	949	+10
Dubois	188	+2
Elkhart	239	+66
Fayette	217	+1
Floyd	2,124	+13
Fountain	462	+1
Franklin	325	+3
Fulton	487	+1
Gibson	206	+4
Grant	1,951	+148
Greene (Green)	134	+7
Hamilton	1,070	+2
Hancock	335	+1
Harrison	163	+4
Hendricks	150	+2
Henry	156	+12
Howard	1,151	+2
Huntington	748	+1
Jackson	128	+5
Jasper	51	+5
Jay	514	+5
Jefferson	189	+8
Jennings	63	+1
Johnson	368	+5
Knox	188	+4
Kosciusko	1,092	+1

LaPorte (La Porte)	383	+5
Lagrange	422	+6
Lake	151	+1
Lawrence	1,331	+2
Madison	384	+7
Marion	1,727	+14
Marshall	526	+5
Martin	115	+2
Miami	91	+16
Monroe	231	+14
Montgomery	347	+21
Morgan	130	+9
Newton	250	0
Noble	826	0
Ohio	88	+1
Orange	216	+5
Owen	934	- 27
Parke (Park)	853	+337
Perry	340	+14
Pike	187	+4
Porter	481	+4
Posey	429	0
Pulaski	327	0
Putnam	200	+71
Randolph	255	+7
Ripley	223	+1
Rush	39	+4
St. Joseph	288	+76
Scott	42	+4
Shelby	284	+2
Spencer	528	+15
Starke (Stark)	341	0
Steuben	414	+5
Sullivan	62	+5
Switzerland	114	+5

Tippecanoe	983	+2
Tipton	584	+1
Union	24	0
Vanderburgh	848	+179
Vermillion	454	+2
Vigo	75	+11
Wabash	285	+10
Warren	537	+194
Warrick	202	+6
Washington	232	+9
Wayne	1,499	+7
Wells	436	+2
White	408	+2
Whitley	<u>472</u>	0
Subtotal	43,355	
Unknown & Misspelled Counties	<u>330</u> (Reduced 34 from last encampment)	
Total	43,685	

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

** Totals taken on 4/7/2026.

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. This holds true for the individual county increase/decrease totals as well. 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 132 veterans on the database. These miniscule errors are difficult to find.

The effort to reduce the number of errors and duplicate entries is still 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 has been great stride in reducing the number resulting in only 330 Indiana registrations with these issues. This is a considerable difference from the over two thousand errors just a few years ago. The 330 current errors are down 34 from the November Encampment report. The accumulated total of 46,685 is inclusive of these 330 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, seventy-eight out of the ninety-two Indiana counties contributed to the increase of new veterans added to the National database. There were three counties that had a decrease due to the removal of errors or duplications. There were forty-two counties that recorded at least five or more new veteran registrations to the National database since November. Twenty of those counties had ten or more.

The following list is a compilation of states and their respective total entries to the National Graves Registration database. Following that I have added the combined totals 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>Nov. 2025</u>	<u>Apr. 2026</u>	<u>Change</u>
1. Ohio	91,714	93,289	1,575
2. New York	60,579	61,001	422
3. Pennsylvania	55,535	57,802	2,267
4. Michigan	54,714	54,755	41
5. Iowa	47,583	47,726	143
6. Illinois	46,616	47,004	388
7. Indiana	42,305	43,685	1,380
8. Missouri	36,266	39,888	3,622
9. Wisconsin	35,246	35,322	76
10. Massachusetts	33,537	33,659	122
11. Kansas	32,056	32,469	413
12. California	29,509	29,746	237
13. Tennessee	28,014	28,450	436
14. Virginia	25,550	25,802	252
15. New Jersey	21,998	22,091	93
16. Nebraska	19,238	19,258	20
17. Georgia	18,325	18,619	294
18. Maine	18,110	18,214	104
19. Minnesota	15,946	17,635	1,689
20. Vermont	13,820	13,721	(99)
21. Oklahoma	10,219	10,242	23

22. Connecticut	9,457	9,517	60
23. New Hampshire	9,196	8,947	(249)
24. Kentucky	9,163	9,370	207
25. Rhode Island	9,166	9,156	(10)
26. Colorado	7,786	7,804	18
27. Oregon	7,581	7,629	48
28. North Carolina	7,528	7,495	(33)
29. Louisiana	7,335	7,356	21
30. District of Columbia	6,761	6,780	19
31. Washington	6,563	6,646	83
32. Arkansas	6,376	6,431	55
33. Maryland	6,075	6,172	97
34. Mississippi	5,288	5,404	116
35. South Dakota	4,966	5,383	417
36. South Carolina	5,263	5,268	5
37. Texas	3,364	4,119	755
38. West Virginia	3,945	3,964	19
39. Florida	2,493	2,505	12
40. Montana	1,464	1,481	17
41. Alabama	1,370	1,394	24
42. Idaho	1,367	1,385	18
43. North Dakota	699	1,059	360
44. New Mexico	964	969	5
45. Arizona	904	909	5
46. Delaware	823	826	3
47. Utah	669	671	2
48. Nevada	487	491	4
49. Wyoming	455	455	0
50. Hawaii	77	77	0
51. Alaska	58	59	1

Note: Totals as of 4/7/2026

By Department

<u>State</u>	<u>Nov. 2025</u>	<u>Apr. 2026</u>	<u>Change</u>
1. Ohio	91,714	91,289	1,575
2. New York	60,579	61,001	422
3. Pennsylvania	55,535	57,802	2,267
4. Michigan	54,714	54,755	41
5. Wisconsin & Minnesota	51,192	52,957	1,765
6. Iowa	47,583	47,726	143
7. Illinois	46,616	47,004	388
8. Indiana	42,293	43,685	1,380
9. Chesapeake (Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, & D.C.)	42,331	42,718	387
10. Missouri	36,266	39,888	3,622
11. Tennessee (With Mississippi)	33,302	33,854	552
12. Massachusetts	33,537	33,659	122
13. Kansas	32,056	32,469	413
14. California & Pacific (With Nevada, & Hawaii)	30,073	30,314	241
15. Nebraska (With North Dakota & South Dakota)	24,903	25,700	797
16. Georgia & South Carolina	23,588	23,887	299
17. New Jersey	21,998	22,091	93
18. Maine	18,110	18,214	104
19. Columbia (Alaska, Oregon & Washington)	14,023	14,334	311
20. Vermont	13,820	13,721	(99)
21. Colorado & Wyoming (With Idaho, Montana & Utah)	11,741	11,796	55
22. Texas (With Louisiana)	10,699	11,475	776
23. Oklahoma	10,219	10,242	23
24. Connecticut	9,457	9,517	60
25. Kentucky	9,163	9,370	207
26. Rhode Island	9,166	9,156	(10)
27. New Hampshire	9,196	8,947	(249)
28. North Carolina	7,528	7,495	(33)

29. Florida	2,493	2,505	12
30. Southwest (Arizona & New Mexico)	1,868	1,878	10
31. Alabama	1,370	1,394	24
32 Foreign Countries	695	706	11
33. Buried at Sea	296	295	(1)
34. MIA	107	107	0
35. Unknown	73	75	2
36. U.S. Federal	40	40	0

* 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 November.

Conclusion

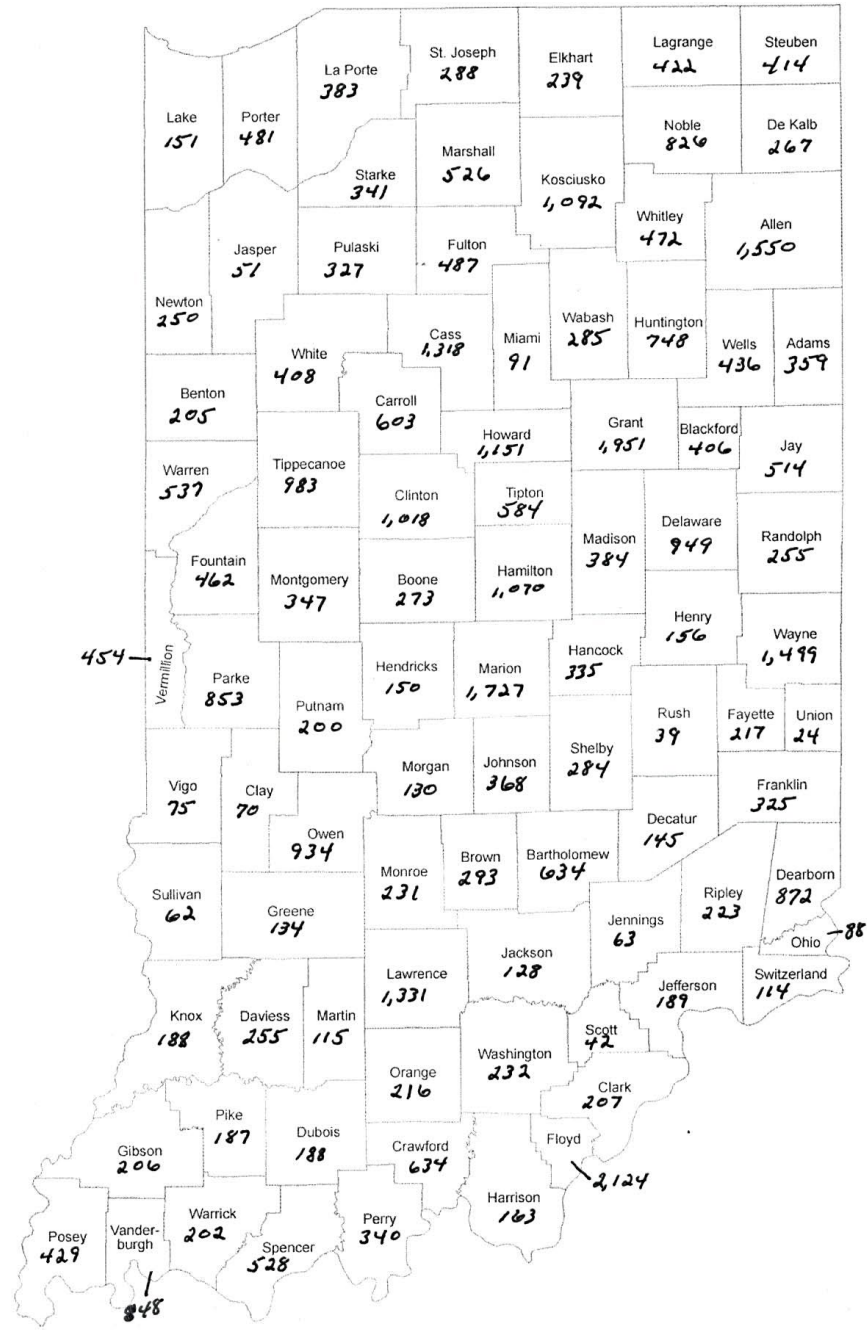
Finding and researching Civil War veterans can be time consuming but must be done in a respectful manner. Please keep in mind as you enter data to the website, the effort here is to not only register as many Civil War veterans as possible on the National Registry, but to do it in a manner befitting the 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 2026 140th Annual Encampment is hereby submitted.

In Fraternity, Charity & Loyalty,



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



April 18, 2026
 140th Department of Indiana
 Annual Encampment



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

Michael W. Beck

322 Yorktown Rd.

Greenwood, IN 46142

(317) 364-6064 Cell

E-mail fsgtcod11thindiana@att.net

Website

<http://suvwin.org/>



**November 1, 2025 - April 18, 2026
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
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 Baumgarter 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
Website <http://suvwin.org/>**



**Eagle Scout Coordinator’s Report for November 1, 2025 -April 18, 2026
Eagle Scout Certificates presented to the following:**

1. Elizah Dowell – Carmel, IN – assigned to - Benjamin Harrison Camp #356

Number of Eagle Scout SUVCW Certificates sent out from each camp 2026	
1	Orlando A. Somers Camp #1 - Kokomo, IN 0
2	John W. Foster Camp # 2 – Evansville, IN 0
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 1

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

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

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

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

William Baumgarter Camp No. 33 (Bluffton, IN)

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

Benjamin Harrison Camp No. 356 (Indianapolis, IN): PDC Mike Beck – 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



Department of Indiana Annual Encampment April 18, 2026

GAR Highway Officers Activity Report from November 1, 2025 to April 18, 2026

There is nothing new to report since the Midyear Encampment November 1, 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



Signals Officer Report

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

Added Department Order 2025-9, Series 2025-2026 to the Department of Indiana website on November 4, 2025 and on November 18, 2025 added Department Order 2025-10, Series 2025-2026 and updated the 2025 Mid-Year Encampment Reports on the Department of Indiana website.

Updated the Contacts Information on the Department of Indiana website on November 19, 2025.

Added Department Order 2025-11, Series 2025-2026 to the Department of Indiana website on November 25, 2025.

Added Indiana Legion Newsletter, Issue 4-25 to the Department of Indiana website on December 17, 2025.

Added information concerning the 140th Dept. of Indiana Annual Encampment to the Department of Indiana website on February 4, 2026.

Added Department Order 2026-1 and 2026-2, Series 2025-2026 to the Department of Indiana website on March 10, 2026.

Added Indiana Legion Newsletter, Issue 1-26 to the Department of Indiana website on March 25, 2026 and updated the Last Union Veteran Project Page on April 1, 2026.

Due to issues with sharing our Department of Indiana Zoom Pro account, the Department has decided not to renew our Zoom account. Zoom is still available for free personal use, but is limited to 40 minutes per meeting. Both the John W. Foster Camp No. 2 and the Ben Harrison Camp No. 356 have starting using a free service, Free Conference Call, to host hybrid camp meetings. So far, it seems to be working well for both camps.

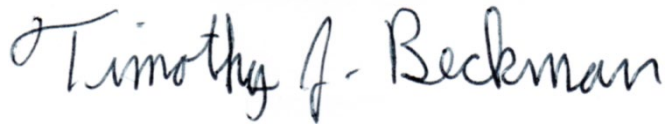
Will start working on getting all the Department Officer's reports onto the Department of Indiana website after April 12, 2026 for the Department of Indiana Annual Encampment to take place on April 18, 2026.

I continue in the role of moderator of the Department of Indiana Google Group e-mail list. There are currently

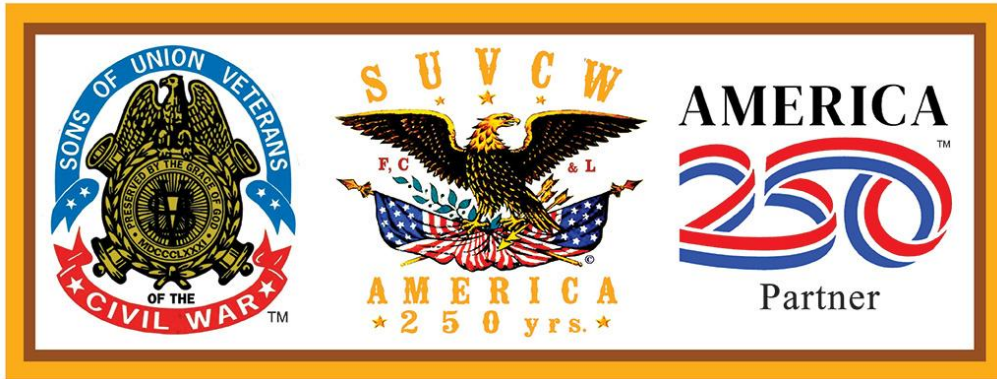
171 registered users in the group. I encourage all brothers to sign up for this if they have not already done so as this list has proven to be a very effective communication tool. Sign up is easy. Just send an email to me at timbeckman@gmail.com to request to be added to this group.

Respectfully submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty, this 18th day of April, 2026.

Timothy J. Beckman, PDC

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Timothy J. Beckman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

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 pertains to the sale and purchase of GAR grave markers in Indiana, which currently is still illegal.

As Department Counselor I have worked on the amended by-laws and developed a PowerPoint presentation for the Department Encampment.

Respectfully submitted on this 18th day of April 2026.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Bruce Kolb, PDC
Department GAR Records Officer
Department Historian
Department Counselor



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



2026 Annual Encampment Activity Report
27th Indiana SVR
November 2025 – April 2026

November 1, 2025

The 27th Indiana SVR presented & retired the Colors at the Department of Indiana Midyear Encampment, Richmond, IN; Present in uniform were: Cpt. M. Beck, 2nd Lt. B. Kolb, 1st Sgt. D. Hutchinson, 2nd Sgt. G. Walls, 2nd Sgt. S. Hagman, Cpl. R. McNally, Cpl. F. Leickly, Pvt. A. Teller (Lt. Col. 3rd Military District) and Pvt. A. Hagman. Present not in uniform were T. LeMaster, B. Adams, J. Swarts, T. Beckman, J. Beckman, T. Scmitt, D. Hoesli, T. Allen, and D. Rigsby.

November 15, 2025

On this day the Brothers of Co. D 27th Indiana SVR who marched in the 69th Remembrance Day Parade at Gettysburg were, Capt. M. Beck, 2nd LT. B. Kolb, Pvt. B. Caldwell and new recruit Skylar Brock.

December 20, 2025

Three 27th Indiana SVR members joined the Ben Harrison Camp #356 for the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Williams Creek Cemetery. In uniform and firing a rifle salute were Capt. M. Beck, 2nd Lt. B. Kolb and Pvt. T. Beckman. They were joined by Ben Harrison Camp members B. Mexin, and new camp member Randy Moulder.

February 8, 2026

Co D 27th Indiana SVR once again was honored to be invited as the Official Color Guard for the National Park Service at the 102nd Annual Lincoln Day Ceremony. 27th Indiana SVR and Ben Harrison Camp #356, member Brother Bruce Kolb

was one of the featured speakers for the event. The 27th Indiana opened the ceremony by presenting the Colors. After the indoor service, they retired the Colors and led the annual processional to Nancy Lincoln's grave site where they stood guard during the remainder of the ceremony. Those Brothers serving in uniform were: Lt. Col. Alan Teller, Captain M. Beck, 2nd Lt. Bruce Kolb, 1st Sgt. D. Hutchinson, 2nd Sgt. T. Schmitt, 2nd Sgt. Garry Walls, and 2nd Sgt. T. Furgason. Also in uniform were Cpl. R. McNally, Cpl. F. Leickly, Pvt. T. Beckman, Pvt. M. Ochs, and Pvt. J. Maudlin. Not in uniform were privates D. Hoesli, J. Beckman, A. Kolb, and J. Claybourn.

March 28, 2026

The 27th Indiana Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) proudly served as the honor guard for two significant dedication ceremonies held this day in Greene County. Six uniformed members of Company D, 27th Indiana, provided full military honors, including rifle volleys and the sounding of *Taps* at both locations. The day's first event was sponsored and conducted by the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (**MOLLUS**). The ceremony focused on the dedication and marking of the grave of 1st Lieutenant Louis Darragh. Honoring the leadership and sacrifice of a commissioned officer of the Civil War. Lt. Darragh served in Company I, 140th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. The second event honored the memory of Pvt. George W. Halstead. This ceremony was conducted by the Ben Harrison Camp as part of the "Last Union Veteran" initiative. Pvt. Halstead served in Company E, 43rd Indiana Infantry. Those present in uniform were Capt. M. Beck, 2nd Lt. B. Kolb, 1st Sgt. D. Hutchinson, Cpl. G. Walls, Pvt. T. Beckman, and Pvt. F. Leickly. Those present not in uniform were Pvt. J. Swarts, and Pvt. D. Hoesli.

*** Current Unit strength, as of April 1, 2026 stands at (77). We currently have (1) Capt. (1) 1st Lt. (1) 2nd Lt., (1) first sergeant, (4) sergeants (7) corporals and (62) privates. The treasury currently has \$412.75 after paying all required fees and dues to the National SVR and the Third Military District.

Respectfully Submitted

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

1st Lt. William Adams

Adjutant, Co. D 27th Indiana Infantry, SVR

Department New Camp Organizer

140th Department of Indiana Annual Encampment April 18, 2026

Since being appointed to this position last April I am pleased to report that currently there are (2) new camps forming in Indiana. Brother George Frantz is the Camp Organizer for the new camp in LaFayette and Taylin Allen is the Camp Organizer for the Paoli camp.

Both have been actively involved recruiting new members and preparing the initial forms required for a new camp.

Brother Frantz has recruited 5 current members who are interested in being part of the new LaFayette camp and has three other current members to contact. Based on the current number of members he is now able to begin the process of becoming a new camp.

Brother Allen has recruited 4 current Brothers and 1 new member to the new Paoli camp. Both are adding dual members as well to ensure that they have more than the minimum required number of members to carry them until the number of camp members increase well above the minimum.

Watch for updates about each camp as the year progresses for news about chartering ceremonies.

I am also currently working with PDC Tom Schmitt to pursue another possible camp in the Angola area in Northeast Indiana.

Respectively Submitted,

William R. Adams PDC

Department Camp Organizer

Department of Indiana, SUVCW



REPORT
of the
Department Editor

Since my installment as the Department Editor at the 2025 Department Encampment I have worked on and published 5 issues of our newsletter; *The Indiana Legion*. This includes the four quarterly issues and a special issue covering the 2025 Department Encampment.

So concludes my report.

In F, C & L.
Taylin Allen

I don't believe there is much more that could be added to any such report made by the Editor than the above, which seems quite short and almost not worth including. In lieu of anything else to report, I leave you with my opinions below.

It is still my position, per my Mid-Winter Report, that a "year in review" recap on our activities be printed in the form of a 1 page, front and back newsletter and mailed to our entire membership. This should also include an invitation to and/or a registration form for the Annual Encampment and could be mailed out in January or February.

Lastly, the USPS does offer a marketing mail rate that is discounted for Non-Profits. There are a lot of variables for the price, but it would be significantly cheaper than stamps. The Department should take advantage of this if we ever decide to pursue the above. From everything that I have researched, I believe that this could be done for less than \$250 and perhaps lower than \$200 depending on formatting, etc.

In F, C & L.
Taylin Allen

Camp Reports



Semi- Annual Report
Orlando A. Somers, Camp #1
Department of Indiana
SUVCW
April, 2026

Dennis Hutchson
Secretary
Department of Indiana
SUVCW

Sir,

I have the honor to report the actives of the Somers Camp #1 since the Mid-year Encampment of the Department in November of 2025.

November 2025 – A ballot of officers for the 2026 Campaign Season was voted on (to be installed in December). Plans are being laid for surveying the Thrialkill Cemetery for Repair and/or replacement of head stores of Civil War Veterans. Reviewed items from the Mid-year Department Encampment. Program was given on the Battle of Rich Mountain.

December 2025 – 2026 Camp Officers were installed by Department Commander, Travis LeMaster. Camp Officers: Commander

Randy McNally, SVC L. Myer, JVC Stephon Hagman, Secretary. Alan Teller, Treas. Matt Elkin, Council Merrell Kenworthy, Travis LeMaster, Chris Godby, Pat Ins. Travis LeMaster. Chaplin Chris Godby, GRO George Frantz, Historian Chris Godby, CWMO Randy McNally, ESC Travis LeMaster, Signals Officer Andrew Hagman.

Kokomo Cannon continues to be cleaned monthly by a Camp member. Spread sheets were created for Thrailkill head stones (outdoor activities are suspended till better weather).

Camp will be sponsoring a Linage Workshop at the Main branch of the Kokomo-Howard Library March 28, 2026. We also began plans to host the Department Encampment in April 2026.

January 2026 – A committee was formed to review the contents of a box of items left to the Camp by Former member and past Commander in Chief Alan Moore. Committee consists of Stephon Hagman and Alan Teller. A Civil War Nurse has been found in Riverside Cemetery in Gas City; Susannah D. Clark. Travis and others are working on this. Brother Merrell Kenworthy gave a presentation on cursive writing and the importance of correctly interpreting it for genealogy research. Other upcoming event, recruiting booth Feb 21 & 22 at Long Rifle Show in Noblesville.

February 2026 – Camp meeting held 21st, program on the Veteran Reserve Corps

March 2026 – Camp Meeting held 21st. Hosted a Linage Day with the Koko-Howard co. Library 28 March.

April 2026 – Survey of Thrailkill Cemetery for headstone cleaning and repair. Hosted the Department Encampment at the Commandant's Home in Lafayette, IN. Camp meeting 25th.

Meeting date through May of 2026 are as follows:

April 18 Department Encampment

April 25

May 9

Camp will be dark June thru August and resume meetings in September.

Randy D. McNally

Camp Commander

Orlando A. Somers, Camp #1

Department of Indiana

SUVCW



SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

JOHN W. FOSTER CAMP No. 2

DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA

Report of the

Commander

2026 140th Annual Encampment

April 18, 2026



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 November 1, 2025, to April 18, 2026.

Meetings Held

The Camp held a total of five hybrid meetings from November 2025, through April 2026. All meetings were held at the Chandler Public Library due to building repairs at the Newburgh Public Library. Our meetings will remain at the Chandler Library throughout the remainder of the year. On average, the meeting attendance is two-thirds of the Camp in participation. The meeting facilities at the library are at no cost to the Camp.

Camp meeting dates were:

November 18, 2025, Hybrid	March 17, 2026, Hybrid
January 20, 2026, Hybrid	April 21, 2026, Hybrid (Scheduled)
February 17, 2026, Hybrid	

Membership

The John W. Foster Camp has, as of April 18, 2026, a total of 16 Brothers. The Camp has had steady activity from potential new members to join the Camp since November and are still considered to be active potential members. To date we have added two full members and one Associate member. Attempts to recruit new members are ongoing through our events and at other public events including Round Tables, Historical Societies as well as through person-to-person contact.

Treasurer's Report

The John W. Foster Camp as of April 18, 2026, has an account balance of \$821.79. The Camp had raised additional funds for the cannon carriage project at Oak Hill Cemetery. The

fundraising for the No. 1 gun carriage being built by the University of Southern Indiana is ongoing and is expected to be complete by the end of summer, 2026.

Representation of the Camp and SUVCW in the Community

Department of Indiana 139th Mid-Year Encampment November 1, 2025 – In attendance from the John W. Foster Camp were Camp Commander David Hoesli, Secretary Dennis Hutchinson PDC, and Brother Tim Beckman PDC.

Lincoln Boyhood National Site Lincoln Day, February 8, 2026 – The annual Lincoln Day event was attended by five Brothers of the John W. Foster Camp No. 2 including David Hoesli, Camp Commander; Dennis Hutchinson PDC, Camp Secretary; George Payne, Camp Chaplain; Tim Beckman PDC and Brother Richard Hallock.

Headstone Dedication, March 28, 2026 – The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States located and ordered a headstone for MULLOS original member Louis R. Darragh at Newark Cemetery in Greene County, Indiana. Commander David Hoesli and Camp Secretary Dennis Hutchinson PDC and Brother Tim Beckman PDC were present for the dedication.

Last Union Veteran Event, March 28, 2026 – The Last Union Veteran event for Private George Halstead. He enlisted as a recruit in Company E, 43rd Indiana Infantry. He was born on November 20, 1847, and passed away January 16, 1942. Commander David Hoesli and Camp Secretary Dennis Hutchinson PDC and Brother Tim Beckman PDC were present.

Last Union Veteran Event, April 11, 2026 – The Last Union Veteran event for Winfield Scott Hunter. He was a Saddler for Company L, 13th Indiana Volunteer Cavalry. He was born on December 22, 1848, and passed away on April 3, 1947. The event was held at Walnut Hill Cemetery, Petersburg, Indiana. Commander David Hoesli and Camp Secretary Dennis Hutchinson PDC, Jr. Vice Commander Tim Speedy and Camp Treasurer Eric Sprouls were present.

Civil War Nurse Recognition, April 11, 2026 – The John W. Foster Camp No. 2 recognized Civil War Nurse Malinda Hawkins who was a nurse at Evansville during the Civil War. The event was held just after the Last Union Veteran event held the same day. Commander David Hoesli and Camp Secretary Dennis Hutchinson PDC, Jr. Vice Commander Tim Speedy and Camp Treasurer Eric Sprouls were present.

Last Union Veteran Project

John W. Foster Camp No 2 is actively planning our next Last Union Veteran event to be held either in the fall of 2026 or spring of 2027. Having just completed an event this month, the Camp still has several possibilities to look at including Posey, Warrick, Perry and Dubois Counties. To date, we have honored the Last Union Veteran in Vanderburgh, Pike, Gibson and Spencer County, Indiana.

Civil War Nurse Project

John W. Foster Camp No. 2 scheduled a Civil War Nurse recognition event to be held just after our Last Union Veteran event on April 11, 2026. Civil War Nurse Malinda Hawkins was a nurse at Hospital No. 5 at Evansville, Indiana working alongside her husband, Acting Assistant Surgeon, John Hawkins. She was an active nurse from April 1862 to August 1862.

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 a second metal cannon carriage to replace the older wooden carriage that has fallen apart. The goal was to have the first of two cannons that have sat in Section 24 since 1882 back in Section 24 by Veterans Day November 11, 2025. Unfortunately, the first cannon was not delivered until the day after due to bad weather. 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 second carriage. Completion of the second gun carriage is expected sometime prior to Memorial Day, 2026. 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.

Newark Cemetery, Newark, Indiana: The John W. Foster Camp worked in conjunction with the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) to mark the grave of Lieutenant Louis Darragh that had never been marked before. A new headstone was ordered and installed by Commander David Hoesli and Camp Secretary Dennis Hutchinson PDC at the cemetery and an event to dedicate the headstone was completed on March 28, 2026.

I.O.O.F. Cemetery, Mount Vernon, Indiana: The John W. Foster Camp researched and located the graves of three Civil War veterans who were members of Colored Troops during the war. New headstones have been ordered for these veterans as well as a replacement headstone for a WW 2 veteran whose headstone was damaged due to a storm.

Warnock Cemetery Gibson County, Indiana: The effort to locate and possibly repair a Civil War veterans' headstone was done by Jr. Vice Commander Tim Speedy for a relative who lives in Honoraville, Alabama. The Reverend John L. Craig's headstone was damaged in a storm, is currently being considered for replacement.

Olde Pioneer Cemetery, Rockport, Indiana: This project was initiated by Brother Tim Beckman PDC to replace a lost headstone for Private Samuel D. Smith of the 25th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. His original headstone was lost over time, and a new headstone has been ordered to replace it.

Greene County, Indiana Headstones: Camp Commander David Hoesli has ordered eight military headstones to be installed at four separate cemeteries in Greene County for Joe Flynn of the American Legion Post #450. Seven of these headstones were installed at Bohley, Mt. Zion and Philpot Cemeteries by Commander David Hoesli with assistance of Joe Flynn of the American Legion Post 450. These headstones were for veterans of the Civil War, War of 1812 and the Revolutionary War. Half of the graves were never marked by a headstone.

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 currently 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 2026.

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. Two SUVCW membership medals. (Two issued to new members)
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.

13. Trophy/Award given by the American Legion Post 450 for holding two events on March 28, 2026, honoring two veterans of the Civil War.

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 remains 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 2026 140th Annual Encampment 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

Jace David Antelek, 7011 N. State Rd, 161, Gentryville, IN. 47537 (518)-573-2388
nettie825@yahoo.com

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

Thomas Jackson Carson Jr., P.O. Box 1023, Little Compton, RI 02837 (401) 635-2924
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Joshua A. Claybourn, 1 Lincolnwood Drive, Evansville, IN 47715 (812) 480-6224
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Richard W. Hallock, 7011 N. State Rd, 161, Gentryville, IN. 47537 (518) 312-3846
judger@aol.com

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

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clay.hoffman@gmail.com

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

Ronald D. Patton, 110 Bordeaux Way, Braselton, GA. 30517-2416 (540) 290-5999
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George A. Payne, P.O. Box 743, Newburgh, IN 47629-0743 (812) 453-0385
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Harold Michael Robinson, 5521 Mulberry Pl., Owensboro, KY 42301 (812) 660-0563
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timspeedy22@gmail.com

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

Steve A. Taylor, 3036 Wayside Dr., Evansville, IN. 47711 (812) 430-7160
hogss@stound.net

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP 16



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 Annual Encampment
April 18, 2026

The following reports the activities of John Auten Camp #8, South Bend, from November 1, 2025 to April 2, 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 at various branches of the St. Joseph County Public Library.

Membership: The membership of John Auten Camp #8 Bend currently stands at 17 members. There has been no change since reporting to the Department of Indiana Mid-Year Encampment on November 1, 2025.

Activities of the camp:

November 22, 2025: A regular camp meeting was held at the German Township branch of the St. Joseph Public Library, South Bend.

January 17, 2026: A regular camp meeting was held at the Centre Township branch of the St. Joseph Public Library, South Bend.

March 14, 2026: A regular camp meeting was held at the German Township branch of the St. Joseph Public Library, South Bend.

March 28, 2026: Commander Swarts in his role as Commander of the Indiana Commandery of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) presided over a headstone dedication for Lt. Louis R. Darragh at Newark Cemetery, Greene County, Indiana, at which members of Co. D, 27th Indiana, SVR provided a rifle volley and played Taps. He then participated in the Last Union Veteran of Greene County ceremony for Pvt. George W. Halstead by the Department of Indiana, SUVCW, at Prairie Chapel Cemetery.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Jonathan Swarts
Camp Commander

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

1. (1) Camp Charter for John Auten Camp, 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" Alter 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 Telescoping Flag pole w/ Army Spear
12. (1) 4' x 6' American Flag and Telescoping Flag pole w/ Gold Eagle
13. (2) 8 Lb. Indoor Flag pole stands
14. (2) Steel tripod outside Flag pole holders
15. (2) Vinyl flag & flag pole 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
24. (2) 9' Aluminum Flag Poles



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 Report, April 18, 2026**

Camp Activities and Events – November 2025-April 2026

John B. Anderson Camp #223 Officers 2026

Elected Camp Officers

Camp Office	Camp Officer 2026
Commander	Frederick E. Leickly, MD, MPH
Senior Vice Commander	Peter Dieterlen
Junior Vice Commander	Phillip McClure
Council Member #1	Taylin Allen
Council Member #2	Andrew Owen
Council Member #3	Justin Posey
Secretary	John R. Owen
Treasurer	Jeffery Maudlin

Appointed Camp Positions

Camp Position	Camp Officer 2026
Patriotic Instructor	Taylin Allen
Chaplin	Terry Furgason
Graves Registration Officer	Frederick Leickly
Historian	Phillip McClure
Civil War Monument Officer	Phillip McClure
Eagle Scout Coordinator	Frederick Leickly
Camp Counselor	Jeffery Maudlin
Signals Officer	Terry Furgason
Keeper of the Wreath	Jeffery Maudlin

Camp Activities

Camp Meetings -

November 11, 2025 – attended by 11 Brothers and 3 guests.

December 9, 2025 – attended by 10 Brothers and 3 guests.

January 13, 2026 – attended by 7 Brothers and 6 guests.

February 10, 2026 – attended by 11 Brothers and 3 guests.

March 10, 2026 – attended by 9 Brothers and 5 guests.

It is with great pride that 25-38% of our Camp members attend our meetings.

Camp Membership

Since the last Commander Report of November 2025, we added 1 new member, 1

associate member, and have had one transfer into the Camp. We now have 32 Brothers in the Camp.

Projects

1. Camp Brothers have participated in the Bartholomew County Public Library Civil War Book Club. This group meets on the 3rd Wednesday of the odd months.

2. Talking Tombstones – we continue our partnership with the Bartholomew County Historical Society in the planning of the 4th edition of this program. This program is scheduled for May 8th at the City Cemetery in Columbus Indiana.

3. Springdale Cemetery Talking Tombstones – the inaugural event is scheduled for May 15. The Camp has been involved in the planning of this project. It will be held in Madison, Indiana.

4. Jennings County Memorial Project- the plans for a New Monument are moving forward. Brother Furgason gave an update on the project to the Jennings County Planning Commission. This meeting was attended in force by uniformed Brothers from the Camp. Funding has increased with personal donations and proceeds from the sales of 'Recollections of the Civil War' (book published by Camp Commander Leickly in September 2025- proceeds from sale are returned to the Camp). To pursue additional funding, Brothers Furgason, Maudlin, and Leickly submitted a grant to REMC Southeastern Indiana, Operation Round Up. A raffle for night's stay at West Baden (obtained by Brother Allen) will be held at the Sassafras Tea Festival April 25-26, Vernon, Indiana.

5. The Camp has plans to help complete the Last Union Veteran Project in counties where we have members and contiguous counties for which no SUVCW Camp is nearby.

6. Camp members are involved with the repair of the John Hunt Morgan Trail in Indiana. They are part of the 'Friends of the John Hunt Morgan Trail' project.

7. The Camp is looking into having a booth for recruiting at the local county fairs.

8. Book sales help the coffers of the Camp – Commander Leickly gave a book presentation at-

Hamilton County Civil War Roundtable – February 11th, Carmel Indiana

Annual Lincoln Dinner, hosted by the Sherman Camp, Department of Ohio
February 12th in Dayton, Ohio.

Camp Property (see attached sheet at the end of this report)

Camp Activities in Pictures – All Camp activities can be viewed on the Camp website <https://www.facebook.com/groups/707759264436158>



Brother Furgason presenting the Jennings County Civil War Monument to the Jennings County Council – accompanied by support troops.



Camp Officer Installation – December 2025 (note, we have rather cramped quarters and do the best we can with the space allowed.)



102 Lincoln Day – Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial – Attended by Jeff Maudlin, Terry Furgason, and Fred Leickly February 9, 2026



Camp Commander Leickly speaker at the 24th SW Ohio Lincoln dinner.



Talk on Recollections of the Civil War given at the Hamilton County Civil War Roundtable.

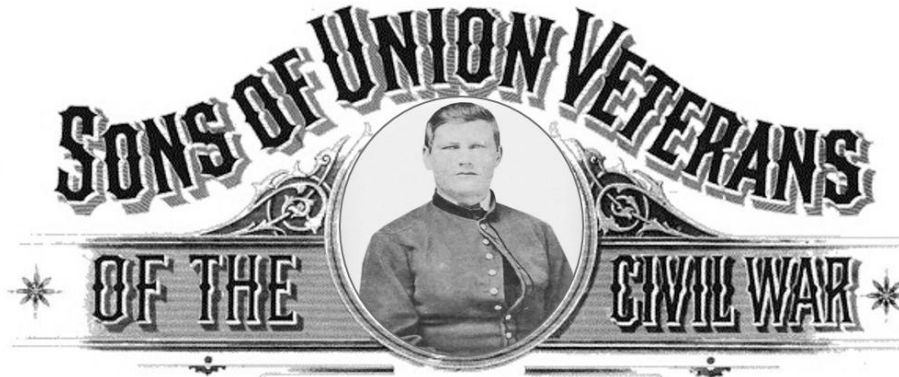
This concludes the John B. Anderson Camp #223, Department of Indiana SUCVW report on activities and events from November 2025 through April 2026. Prepared for the 140th Annual Encampment – Department of Indiana

Cordially Yours in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Frederick E. Leickly, MD, MPH

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

Junior Vice Commander Department of Indiana SUCVW.



John B. Anderson Camp 223 - Columbus, IN

Camp Property Report

April 1, 2026

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)

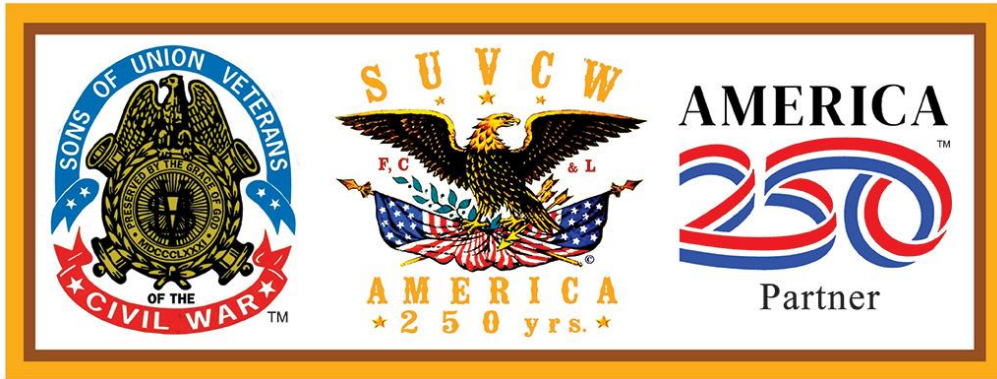
Camp Seal

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.



Dear Brothers:

As Camp Commander of Ben Harrison Camp #356 I have done the following:

Participated in the Remembrance Day activities and march in the SUVCW parade in Gettysburg as a member of the 27th Indiana SVR. November 2025.

Participated in Wreaths Across America at William Creek Cemetery in Indianapolis, Indiana as a member of the 27th Indiana SVR. December 2025.

Spoke at the Hamilton County Indiana Civil War roundtable on the History of the GAR. Indiana. January 2026.

Keynote speaker at the 102nd Annual Lincoln Day at the Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial. February 2026.

Participated in the joint SUVCW/MOLLUS events in Greene County, Indiana on Saturday, March 28, 2026, for Pvt. George W. Halstead of Company E of the 43rd Ind. Vol. Inf. who was the last living soldier in Greene County, Indiana, and the dedication of a headstone for Louis R. Darragh 1st. Lt. 140th Pa. Vol. Inf.

Presided over Camp meetings in January, March, and April.

Respectfully submitted on this 18th day of April 2026.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Bruce Kolb, PDC
Department GAR Records Officer
Department Historian
Department Counselor

BEN HARRISON CAMP #356

INVENTORY OF CAMP PROPERTY

April 18, 2026

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" 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
- Last Civil War Soldier Buried in This County Medallions
- Civil War Nurse Medallions
- 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 (2) 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

140th Annual Encampment 26th Indiana Monument Update

Not much has changed since the last report at our November 2025 Midyear Encampment.

I'd like to give you a summary of the ongoing situation with the **26th Indiana Monument** in Vicksburg, along with the Missouri and Iowa monuments that sit alongside it. As many of you know, all three monuments remain **outside** the boundaries of Vicksburg National Military Park, on land controlled by the **City of Vicksburg**, not the National Park Service.

For years, we've been trying to work with VNMP leadership to relocate these monuments onto park property where they belong. Until recently, we received **no meaningful response**.

That changed this past April, when Superintendent **Carrie Mardorf** finally replied to our inquiries. She explained that the National Park Service maintains all monuments through the **Cultural Resources Inventory System**, and that their policy is to keep monuments in their **original locations** to preserve historical context. She also noted that a recent Presidential Executive Order has made any relocation efforts even more difficult. In her words, there was "very little in the files on any significant work done in the past to move the 26th Indiana monument."

I followed up with her about the missing Indiana State Seal medallions and asked whether these monuments would at least be included in the NPS maintenance program. She confirmed that they **will be restored** to their original condition, and that the medallions would likely be **recast**, since older ones often no longer fit properly.

Around the same time, we asked for help from the Department of Tennessee with Mississippi. Brother Ben Block Jones visited the site and reported that the property is **fenced, heavily wooded, overgrown, and inaccessible**, with "no visible roads, trails, or foot paths." He planned to meet with the Vicksburg City Attorney, but we have not yet received an update.

I also prepared a **10-year chronological record** of all our contacts with VNMP, after a state legislator expressed interest in helping us move this issue forward.

Unfortunately, just as we were gaining momentum, Superintendent Mardorf left the National Park Service on June 23rd. The new Acting Superintendent, **Ryan Groves**, has not responded to our outreach. In fact, to date I cannot be sure if **Ryan Groves** is still the Acting Superintendent? So, at this point, progress has stalled once again.

As recently as 1 month ago I asked **Commander LeMaster** to introduce me to the Department of Tennessee as the Vicksburg Monument contact for Indiana so I may work with them directly. They replied that they had a brother who was on a research internship at Vicksburg National Military Park. **Brother Burnheimer** responded that he would investigate in the capacity as a brother to learn more. He said most of the land south of the park that was part of the land swap is either city owned or now private. We await his update. More at our Midyear encampment in November.

And that brings us to where we are today. As my last report concludes—quite accurately — **“The saga continues.”**

Thank you,

William Adams

William Adams PDC

SUVCW



REPORT

of the

Department Fundraising Committee

1. After some discussion the Department Fundraising Committee would like to pursue getting the Department of Indiana registered with the Indiana Gaming Commission (IGC) to conduct Charity Gaming. This would likely be in the form of raffles.

This paperwork will require a number of signatures at the Department level, as well as some paperwork furnished by the Secretary & Treasurer should some of the information not be available online. This paperwork would include our Membership totals, EIN Number, IRS Letter of Determination and Department By-Laws among other documents.

The idea is that once the Department is qualified for Charity Gaming, the Department can then serve as an umbrella for our Camps.

An example would be as follows:

The Department obtains a raffle prize and would request that a Camp volunteer to host the raffle on behalf of the Department at some local event. Then the Department fills out the necessary paperwork to be legally compliant with the IGC for each raffle event. As thanks to the Camp, the Department could then cut a check for a proportion of the funds raised to the Camp which hosted the raffle for their various Camp projects.

The Department Fundraising Committee seeks a motion at the Department Encampment, if required, that the above be pursued. Brother Allen has volunteered to head that pursuit as he has recently done much of the same paperwork for John B. Anderson Camp #223

2. Half or more Departments have registration fees for their Encampments. These fees vary wildly, most fees just cover the registration however some Departments include the cost of lunch or the Encampment's medal for that year, such as Florida and Tennessee respectively.

Examples include the Departments of Pennsylvania (\$7), New York (\$15), Missouri (\$7), Michigan (\$5), Florida (\$30), Iowa (\$15), Maine (\$2), Massachusetts (\$20), Wisconsin (\$7), Ohio (\$5), Rhode Island (\$10), Tennessee (\$40), Southwest (\$40) and California (\$20).

The Department Fundraising Committee seeks discussion and a motion on charging a registration fee of \$5 for both the Annual & Mid-Winter Department Encampments, beginning with the 2026 Mid-Winter Encampment.

3. The Department Fundraising Committee, seeks discussion on creation of an annual budget for the Department as a means of better projecting our expenses and allocating funds for Encampments, reimbursals, projects, etc. While this does not fall under fundraising by any means, the Committee feels that a proper budget going forward would pair hand in hand with all of the above.
4. Other ideas for fundraising included selling merchandise such as Department themed calendars, shirts, mugs etc., but this would require an investment of Department funds and turning a profit - which would hinge very much on the interest of our membership for those items.

-Taylin Allen
-David Hoesli
-Tom Schmitt