



THE INDIANA LEGION

• June 2026 •

Dept. Encampment

The Department gathered on the 18th of April for our 140th Annual Encampment in Lafayette, at the Indiana Veterans Home (IVH). We met inside of the Commandant's Home, one of three historic buildings at the IVH that were built by the GAR.

The Commandant's home has been undergoing restoration in a piecemeal fashion over the past several years and I can gladly report that there were noticeable improvements since our last encampment, particularly in the first room on the left as you enter. The grounds are as beautiful as ever and it is highly encouraged that you walk them, especially the cemetery, should you decide to attend the next Annual Encampment or happen to be in town.

Our representative from National, Sr. Vice CinC Daniel Murray of the Department of Massachusetts, was our installing officer. For a summary of the proceedings, see page 5.



The Commandant's Home at the IVH

Department Awards

Per Department Order 2025-2, Issued by Commander LeMaster on April 29th of last year, there were two awards created to recognize the efforts of the Camp and Brother for the most recruits between each encampment. These are the Oliver P. Morton and Lew Wallace awards respectively.

Brother Nathan Williams (left) accepts the Oliver P. Morton Award on behalf of the Porter Camp. Porter Camp recruited a total of five members since last April, four of which were recruited by Brother Herbert Smith (right), for which he received the Lew Wallace award. The Morton award took the shape of a trophy and the Lew Wallace award the shape of a miniature bust of the man himself! Huzzah for Porter Camp and Brother Smith!

All Camps and Brothers are encouraged to get in the running for next years awards.



Gettysburg

The National Encampment will be in Gettysburg this year from July 30th to August 2nd. Presently, at least three Hoosier Brothers are planning to attend and were elected as delegates at our Department Encampment.

You are strongly encouraged to attend. Not every Encampment is so near to a battlefield of the Civil War, let alone *on the battlefield itself*, why not make a vacation of it and get the best of both worlds? There will likely

be upwards of two-hundred Brothers of the Order from across the country, presenting ample opportunity for you to make friends and connections with like minded people, it's worth it.

At the 2024 National Encampment in Kentucky, I befriended the PDC of Kansas, Conrad Fisher, who invited me to dinner with the Kansas Delegation. There I met another Brother whose ancestor served in the 53rd Indiana and lived a stones throw away from where I grew up! Small world! - Taylin Allen

FRATERNITY - CHARITY - LOYALTY



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Recruiting!

The Department of Indiana, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War was chartered on June 12th, 1885 making it among some of the oldest fraternal organizations in the state and is comprised of nine community based Camps, with two more on the way!

Our membership comes from all walks of life but we all have one thing in common: We are dedicated to preserving the memory of the *Boys in Blue*, who from 1861-1865 fought to preserve the Union.

Indiana alone would contribute some 210,000 men for the Union cause, of which an estimated 25,000 would die and a further 48,568 were wounded on the battlefield.

There is no better way to honor their sacrifices. If you have a Union Civil War ancestor and are curious about membership, contact one of our officers in the email list below. Your ancestor does not have to be from Indiana to be a member.

What We Do

Here are but a few examples of our activities and projects.

Headstones

Each year several headstones are cleaned, repaired or obtained for Civil War veterans. This includes setting stones for previously unmarked graves.

Monuments

Over the years we have erected several monuments and markers across the state to preserve the history and honor the memory of Union soldiers. We have also spearheaded the repair of several monuments and cannons.

Research

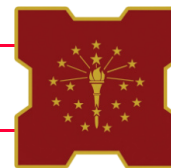
We constantly strive to research, locate and preserve the records and stories of our ancestors so that they may be available to future generations.

Projects

Two of our current and larger projects involves identifying, locating and marking the graves of women who served as nurses and the last Union Veteran to be buried in *each county*.

Department Officer Contacts		
Commander	Travis LeMaster	commander@suvwin.org
Sr. Vice Commander	David Hoesli	svcommander@suvwin.org
Jr. Vice Commander	Fred Leickly	jvcommander@suvwin.org
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Signals Officer	Timothy Beckman	signals@suvwin.org
Legion Editor	Taylin Allen	legion@suvwin.org

Department Camps	
Name	Location
Orlando A. Somers #1	Kokomo
John W. Foster #2	Evansville
John Auten #8	South Bend
Champion Hill #17	Huntington
William P. Benton #28	Centerville
William Bumgarner #33	Bluffton
David D. Porter #116	Valparaiso
John B. Anderson #223	Columbus
Spicely #252	Paoli
Ben Harrison #356	Indianapolis
New Camp forming in Lafayette	



UPCOMING Events

June 15th

History Speaks; America 250
Buckley Homestead County Park
3606 Belshaw Rd, Lowell, IN 46356
Time: 10:00am - 4:00pm **CST**

July 25th

Dedication for 3 Civil War Nurses
Pine Lake Cemetery
1367 Pine Lak Ave, La Porte, IN 46350
Time: 11:00am **CST**

November 9th

Department Midwinter Encampment
Valparaiso
Exact address TBD
Time: 9:00am **CST**

July 11th

Battle of Corydon Chapter, NSDU
Corydon Battlefield Park
100 Old Hwy 135, Corydon, IN 47112
Starts at around 9:00am **EST**

July 30th - August 2nd

National Encampment
Aspire Hotel & Suites: Gettysburg
2632 Emmitsburg Rd, Gettysburg, PA 17325
Register at <https://suvchw.org/national-encampment>

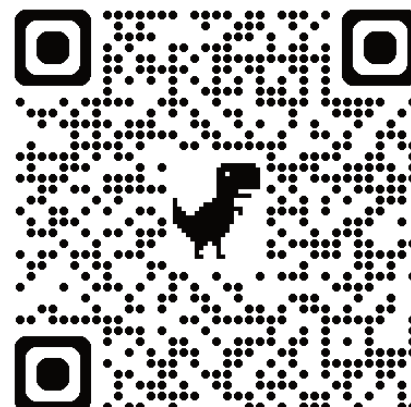
November 16th

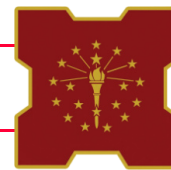
70th Annual Remembrance Day Parade
Gettysburg
East Middle, Baltimore & Steinwehr Streets
Time: 1:00pm **EST**

Keep an eye on our Facebook Page for more pop-up events between issues of *The Indiana Legion*. If you have an event you would like the Department of Indiana to attend and or participate in, don't hesitate to message us!

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

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





Message from the Commander

Brothers – Thank you for making our Annual Encampment a success. It was great to gather again to further the work of the Order and share fellowship. For those of you who were unable to attend, I hope to see you at the Mid-Winter Encampment.

I'm excited to announce that the Department of Indiana will host the 2028 National Encampment. This is a great honor for us and will require a lot of preparation and participation from all of the camps. Stay tuned for more after this years National Encampment. Thank you again to Brother Beck and the host Committee who worked hard to present the best case forward for Indiana.

I am very encouraged that recruitment efforts are underway to expand two new Camps into the Paoli and Lafayette areas. Recruitment and retention of Brothers into the Order will be critical to ensuring that we are able to continue to Remember the Boys in Blue. Continue to share your activities of your Camps on social media, in the press and with the Legion and Banner.

In F. C. & L,
Travis LeMaster

Recruitment, Retention & Reactivation

One of Commander LeMaster's first communications after he was elected in 2025 was about the three R's: Recruitment, Retention & Reactivation and should be priorities for our Camps. It was discussed at the Annual Encampment this year and it was discussed at many Encampments years ago, we need to not only recruit but retain those Brothers in order to grow. As far as we should be concerned, a Brother retained is a Brother gained.

Every effort should be made to ascertain why a Brother has elected not to renew his membership, so that our Camps can better navigate how to conduct their activities in a way that promotes active participation and growth.

It is my strong opinion, that each Camp should contact those formerly active Brothers from whom they have not heard from in some time *by phone call or physical mail* and check in on them, give them a fresh update on what our various Camps have been up to and invite them to attend a meeting and share about their Union ancestor.

I was recently at an American Legion meeting for a project and took note of how they had cards ready to be signed and mailed to their members who were sick or distressed. I thought myself, have *we* been doing that? - Your Editor



From the Editor

If I may be so bold, I would like to dedicate this issue of *The Indiana Legion* to a man that I never had the fortune of meeting, and who had long since passed away before I joined the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

That man is Brother David Wiley (1928 - 2010), who was the esteemed editor of the newsletter from about 1999 to early 2006. In my opinion, having read about half or more of the available issues of our newsletter online, *The Indiana Legion* was at its best under his editorship. There is a clear quality and appealing aesthetic in the design of the newsletter while he was editor that I have taken inspiration from.

Something you will notice are features on the Allied Orders, our friends in MOLLUS and the ladies of the National Society Daughters of the Union. I have put considerable effort into corresponding with these groups and strongly feel that they ought to be included.

If you haven't already, you should check out older editions of the newsletter at <https://suvwin.org> - just navigate to "Department Newsletters."

New Release Schedule

The Indiana Legion was, historically speaking, published three times a year. There was a Winter, Spring and Fall edition and it's my intention to get back to that by the beginning of next year. This will mean more material on average to help fill up each release, while giving me a bit of a longer break between. With that being said, I am looking forward to another year as your editor.

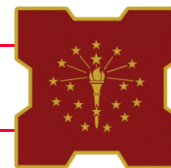
New Camp in Paoli

Spicely Camp #252 was notified in the first week of June that National has signed off on their application forms and is now official! The Camp is named after William T. Spicely of Orleans Indiana, who was the Colonel of the 24th Indiana Infantry. He was promoted to Brigadier General of Volunteers by brevet, retro dated to March 26, 1865 for his meritorious service in the Mobile Campaign.

I will have much more to write about him in the next issue of the newsletter, so look forward to that.

Spicely Camp will be holding their first meeting at 6pm on June 22nd at the Paoli Public Library and will even be initiating a new Brother to the Order! Yours truly was the Camp Organizer and will be serving as the first Camp Commander. At the National Encampment in Gettysburg, Spicely Camp #252 will be receiving our Charter.

Your editor in F. C. & L,
Taylin Allen.



Encampment

Some 28 Brothers met for our 140th Department Encampment to conduct the business of the order and elect our Department Officers on April 18th at the Indiana Veterans Home (IVH) in West Lafayette. Here is a summary of the Encampment.

The Encampment opened with the Department Officer, Camp & Committee reports. Some mentions will be given to those reports that the editor feels the need to share or that had recommendations attached to them. Otherwise if you are so inclined you can read them on our Department webpage at suvwin.org.



Membership Numbers

Secretary Dennis Hutchinson reported that membership in the Department stood at 214 members. There were several new members recruited over the past year but the Department ended up with slightly less than last year at this time. This is almost entirely due to voluntary drops in membership. The duty of retaining membership within the Order falls squarely on the shoulders of every Camp and Brother.

Signals Officer Tim Beckman urged for more Brothers to join the Department email group, you can join by sending a request to signals@suvwin.org.

Legion Editor Taylin Allen was given a budget of \$225 to create and mail a physical newsletter, consisting of a single page front and back, to each member of the Department at the end of 2026.

National Encampment in Indiana!

The Department of Indiana has been selected to host the 2028 National Encampment at the Wyndham Indianapolis Airport hotel. The dates will be Aug 9-13 and will require as many hands on deck as possible. To volunteer or for more information, get in contact with Mike Beck. This will be a serious undertaking and the first National Encampment in Indiana in 29 years, the last being in 1999.

Fundraising Committee

Per recommendations by the Fundraising Committee, the Department has reinstated the registration fee for both the Annual & Mid-Winter Encampments to the tune of \$5. This is well below the average cost of other Department registration fees and matches what the registration fee was years ago.

The Department also approved for Brother Allen, who is now the Chair for the committee, to pursue getting the Department qualified with the Indiana Gaming Commission (IGC), so that the Department can legally conduct Charity Gaming (i.e raffles) as a means of fundraising. Once off the ground, the intention is to use this method of fundraising on two or three occasions a year.

By-Laws

There were a number of changes in the By-Laws that were approved. Most were to simplify some of the language and to add language about email being acceptable where-ever “in writing” was found. The largest change came with the standing committee of visitation to the Indiana Veterans Home, which was removed entirely in lieu of the fact that the Department elected to hold our Annual Encampments at the IVH three years ago.

John B. Anderson Camp #223 gave a presentation on their monument project in Jennings County, afterward requesting and receiving \$1000 from Department for that purpose. An anonymous brother of Anderson Camp has pledged to match the \$1000 donation.

Recognition of Brothers

Several Brothers were recognized for their efforts with certificates of commendation. This, as with the Wallace and Morton awards, is part of Commander LeMaster’s push to have the Department recognize in an official capacity the efforts of those Brothers so deserving. Recipients were: *Bill Adams, Taylin Allen, David Hoesli, Dennis Hutchinson, Fred Leickly, Mike Beck, Tom Schmitt, Randy McNally* and *Phil Dyer* for their work in the Order on a variety of projects and committees over the past year or so.

No new officers were elected, nor were there any new officers or committees appointed, however there is now a vacancy for the position of Patriotic Instructor. If any brother is so inclined, they can message Travis LeMaster.



Brother Randy McNally receives his certificate of commendation for spearheading the restoration of the Thraikill Cemetery Monument near Swayzee, Indiana, a \$12,000 project.



MOLLUS Activity

Our friends over in the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, Indiana Commandery, put in the work to honor one of their Original Companions with a new headstone.

On March 28th, the headstone of Louis Darragh was dedicated by the Indiana Commandery with help from the 27th Indiana SVR and Department of Indiana SUVCW at the Newark Cemetery located in Greene County.

Lieutenant Darragh enlisted as First Sergeant of Company I in the 140th Pennsylvania on August 15th 1862, with his father and Captain of the Company - James Darragh. Louis was promoted 2nd Lieutenant on April 20th 1863 and then to 1st Lieutenant on January 2nd 1864, remaining at that rank until his regiment was mustered out in May of 1865.

The 140th PA saw heavy and active service, being engaged in the famous battles of Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Overland Campaign, Siege of Petersburg and more. After the war he moved to Colorado, where he joined MOLLUS, being issued insignia #08188. A few years later Louis moved to Montana with his brother for a short time before both ended up migrating to Greene County, Indiana.

Louis would spend the rest of his life in Newark Indiana, passing away on August 14th, 1900 at the age of 64. His grave was previously unmarked.

Last Soldier

George W. Halstead, a private in Company E, 43rd Indiana Infantry, was the last Union soldier to be buried in Greene County, Indiana. On March 28th, after the MOLLUS dedication of Louis Darragh in Newark Cemetery, participating members of the Department of Indiana, 27th Indiana SVR and MOLLUS traveled about a half-hour southwest to Prairie Chapel Cemetery in order to hold a ceremony honoring George Halstead as part of the Sons of Union Veteran's Last Union Soldier Project.

George was born on November 20th 1847 in Ohio, and moved to Linton Indiana with his family when he was a

small boy. Just before his 17th birthday he enlisted as a recruit in the 43rd Indiana on November 16th, 1864. The regiment had seen extensive action and service in Arkansas in the Spring and early Summer of 1864 before his enlistment. By the time November came around the regiment had been assigned to guarding prisoners at Camp Morton, Indianapolis and would remain there for the duration of the their service.

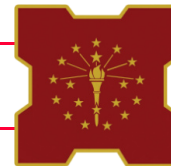
In December of 1864, when CSA General Hood was threatening Nashville, the regiment pleaded to be sent south so that they could fight again, but their request was never granted. Halstead mustered out with his regiment on June 14th, 1865 after about 6 months of service.

Private Halstead passed away on January 16th, 1942 at 94 years of age. That very same week, news of Hoosier casualties in the attack on Pearl Harbor by the Empire of Japan on December 7th, 1941, were still being printed in the local papers.

Photos courtesy of Patti Danny Greene County Daily World - Clipping of George Halstead from The Indianapolis Star, date -01/18/42



Veteran, 94, Dies
Greene county is without a surviving Civil War veteran following the death Friday of George W. Halstead, 94 years old, at the home of his nephew, George Rollison, four miles southwest of Bloomfield.



Talking Tombstones

On May 8th members of John B. Anderson Camp participated in the 4th annual Talking Tombstones program hosted by the Bartholomew County Historical Society.

This has become a regular program for the Anderson Camp over the years, with the organizers and many attendees looking forward to meeting soldiers of the past and learning their stories.

From left to right; Terry Ferguson portrayed private Oscar Bond of the 6th Indiana Infantry (3 months) and later 10th Indiana Cavalry. Bond was a member of the GAR and passed away in 1920 at the age of 83.

T. Rex Legler portrayed Henry Bryant of Captain Masons Company, Colonel Ball's regiment of Virginia Militia during the War of 1812. Henry was born in 1790 and lived a long 83 years, passing away 1873.

Camp Commander Fred Leickly presided over the GAR / WRC monument in the cemetery which is dedicated to the unknown dead. Attendees learned the history of the monument, GAR and SUVCW.

Peter Dieterlan portrayed James Brown, born in 1844 and a native of Scotland, whose family immigrated to the United States when he was a child. James served in the 6th Indiana Infantry from 1861 to 1864, was a Mason and member of the GAR. He passed away in 1905.

Tales from Springdale

Brothers Ferguson and Leickly of Anderson Camp readily enlisted to help inaugurate a new program in Madison, Indiana: Tales from Springdale.

This program is exactly like that of Talking Tombstones and in fact got its roots from that event when one of the original planners moved to Jefferson County. This was held on May 15th and was a big success for a first time event and great publicity for the Camp.



Terry portrayed Philemon Baldwin, Colonel of the 6th Indiana Infantry and eventually a brigade commander. He was killed while trying to rally his brigade at the Battle of Chickamauga on September 19th, 1863. His last action and words were to grab the colors of the 6th Indiana and yell "Follow me!" - before being cut down by a volley of bullets immediately after.

His body was never recovered and it is believed he was buried among the unknown at Chickamauga. A cenotaph stands at Springdale Cemetery, it was erected by the students of Madison Consolidated High School and the Civil War Roundtable of Jefferson County.

Fred portrayed Dr. William A Collins, the "boy surgeon". William was from a young age a very gifted individual. Born in 1842, he was only 18 years old when he graduated Hanover College in 1860, entering the field of medicine soon after. Barely into his career when the war broke out, Collins offered his service to the Union cause.



He enlisted on August 26 1861 as a hospital steward in the 6th Indiana Infantry. His gentle care, skill and dedication won then affection of the regiment and he was often referred to by the field & staff officers as "young Collins". Just over a year later in the summer of 1862, he was promoted to Assistant Surgeon, which is a commissioned rank among the officers of the regiment.

Collins served his full three years with the regiment, rendering conspicuous service in his role. He was present through all of its engagements and was honorably discharge on September 22 1864.

He used the skills acquired during his service to launch a successful career in medicine and education. Tragically, Collins died young in 1883 of "paralysis of the brain" - he was only 41 years old.



Sassafras Tea Festival

Hosted on the last full weekend of April every year in Vernon, Indiana, the Sassafras Tea Festival has hosted Civil War re-enactments and camps for decades. It also happens to be in the backyard of John B. Anderson Camp.

The Camp had a strong showing this year with nearly half of the membership attending at one time or another over the weekend.

Brothers set up a table near the Historical Society Museum which displayed information about the Camp and relics related to the Civil War. In total they raised over \$700 for their Jennings County monument project which will be put on the grounds of the County Courthouse, also in Vernon.



MEMORIAL DAY



“Let us, then, at the time appointed, gather around their sacred remains and garland the passionless mounds above them with choicest flowers of springtime; let us raise above them the dear old flag they saved from dishonor; let us in this solemn presence renew our pledges to aid and assist those whom they have left among us as sacred charges upon the nation's gratitude the soldier's and sailor's widow and orphan.” - John A. Logan: G. O. #11



Members of Anderson Camp at the grave of their namesake (left) and at the Vernon Cemetery (right).

Every Memorial Day, Brothers of the Anderson Camp have payed their respects at the grave of John B. Anderson but this year was different. A descendant of Anderson, Don McDonald, got in contact with the camp and expressed his gratitude that his ancestor, a humble private in the 6th Indiana, was the namesake of the Camp.

He was overjoyed that the Camp honors Anderson at his grave every year and offered a free copy of the book he just published, loosely based on Anderson's life, titled *“The Line Uncrossed, A Novel of a Civil War Soldier”*. Needless to say, the Camp feels a renewed sense that their work in the Order can make an impact on people.



Champion Hill Camp had a cook out at Huntington Memorial Park on May 30. Following the meal they held a ceremony at the Veterans Memorial honoring the Boys in Blue and all other veterans for their sacrifices. Songs were sung. Wreaths were placed and speeches were made. It was a satisfying end to a great day.



Ben Harrison Camp hosted their Memorial Day ceremony at the grave of Henry C. Messick in Flat Rock Cemetery. Henry was a member of Company D, 33rd Indiana Infantry and passed away from disease on December 19th, 1861. He was barely over 17 years old.



This year marks the return of the Somers Camp to the Marion IOOF Cemetery for Memorial Day. The Camp held ceremonies there for many years in the 90s and into the new century, but neglect on the part of its private owner caused the cemetery to fall into disrepair. The name of the cemetery was for a time also changed to Estates of Serenity.

Somers Camp had actually gotten started after the underhanded sale of the two Civil War cannons in 1996 that complimented the WRC / GAR monument in the cemetery. Sadly, like in many cases at that time, the cannons were never returned to their rightful home.

In good news however, the Township Trustee was able gain control of the cemetery just this year! They promptly returned the original name of Marion IOOF and created a board to manage it. Somers Camp member and our own Department Commander, Travis LeMaster has is now a member of the board. Repairs and maintenance is underway.



Honoring A Brother

On a bright but cool Saturday morning, 2 May 2026, the brothers of John Auten Camp #8 gathered at Beatty's Corners Cemetery in LaPorte County to commemorate their departed and respected member, Brother Rick L. Deutscher, who passed away on 21 October 2024.

The commemoration ceremony was a combination of the SUVCW's traditional funeral and memorial services. Brother Alan Hall provided musical accompaniment on the drum, and Brother Will Radel sang beautifully.

To honor Brother Deutscher's memory, his grave was marked with an official SUVCW marker, and the camp wreath was placed in his honor.

The presence of several members from the local community underscored the respect held for Brother Deutscher within the Camp and beyond. - Jonathan Swarts

Memorial Day

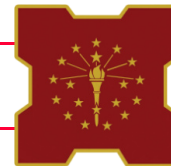
On May 25, 2026, John Auten Camp #8 gathered at historic Bowman Cemetery in South Bend to hold its annual Memorial Day program. The ceremony was held at the group's traditional site—a stone marker placed in 1926 to honor Auten Post #8 of the GAR and the Auten Relief Corps #14. Members of Auten Camp and the local community assembled to pay tribute to Civil War ancestors and reaffirm their commitment to preserving the memory of those who served.

The program featured solemn reflections on the history of Memorial Day, including readings from Major Sullivan Ballou's final letter home, excerpts from President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg and Second Inaugural Addresses, and the recitation of the poem "The Unknown Dead"



Musical performances were a highlight of the event: Brothers Alan Hall and Rich Mrozinski provided percussion with a steady cadence and a somber dirge, Judy Kubsch (cello) and Eric Fiechtner (violin) performed Civil War-related pieces, and Brother Sean Kubsch sounded Taps.





National Genealogy Conference

Dept. Commander Travis LeMaster, PDC Thomas Schmitt and PDC William Adams manned a recruitment and educational booth at the 48th Annual National Genealogical Society Conference held in Fort Wayne, Indiana at the Grand Wayne Center on May 27-30, 2026.

Up to a thousand genealogists and family researchers from around the country gathered for this conference to gain insights and techniques for researching. It was such a big opportunity that the National Organization, SUVCW, asked the Department to participate.

The National Organization supplied recruitment brochures and the Department supplied eye-catching photographs, books, documents and badges of the Order.

In addition to spreading the word about the work of our Order to genealogists from around the country, we were able to give suggestions on how Brothers in other Departments could help people with research projects such as G.A.R. records or ordering tombstones for Civil War veterans.

Additionally, we made contact with several local Fort Wayne individuals who may be interested in joining and forming a local camp here for the Department!

Promoting the Order

The Ben Harrison Camp set up a promotional table for the SUVCW staffed by two brothers at the Artcraft Theatre in Franklin, Indiana.

The Brothers promoted the Order the evening before, during, and after a free showing of the movie "Glory". Brother Al Strait is to be greatly commended for identifying this opportunity and for coordinating with the theatre to make this event happen!

Thanks to the Brothers who kindly provided some SUVCW promotional brochures and to Mrs. Strait for designing the wonderful tabletop promotional sign for the table. Many brochures were distributed to theatre goers and a business card to a Johnson County Public Library manager who is interested in potentially getting the Sons involved in a future military history event to be held at the library.

Gaining Recognition

By Jonathan Swarts

I wanted to share something with you to let you know how our events and efforts can have an impact that we might not even realize.

Yesterday, I gave a short talk at a Memorial Day ceremony held in a community theater in Bloomfield, an invitation that grew out of our joint MOLLUS/SUVCW ceremonies in Greene County in March that many of you participated in.

On the printed program, at the end, was "Video Presentation: Black Powder Ceremony — Taps." I had no idea what this was at first. I knew they wouldn't be firing a volley indoors!

It turns out that they were so impressed by the rifle volley fired by Co. D, 27th Indiana at the Greene County Last Union Veteran Ceremony in March that they played a video of it at the ceremony yesterday—as their own rifle volley for their indoor ceremony. They then followed it with a video of Brother Garry Walls playing Taps. As you can imagine, I was so proud of our

Department. It really hit home to me how we should never take for granted the ceremonies we do, the rifle volleys, the playing of Taps, and so on, no matter how many ceremonies we do and how used to them we might get.

For others, it makes a great impression and they really respect and value what we do.

Hope you all had a great Memorial Day!

David D. Porter Camp

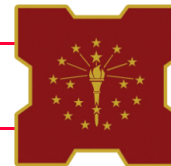
On May 25th, the 20th Annual Memorial Day Program was held at the Valparaiso Opera House featuring the Valparaiso Community / University concert band under the direction of Dr. Jeff Dobler. The band played a selection of patriotic music.

The Opera House was built in 1893 by the Grand Army of the Republic. Porter Camp participated in the program by offering the opening prayer and 7 historical readings of personal letters written by soldiers from the Revolutionary War, Civil War, WWI, WWII, the Korean War, the Vietnam War and Operation Desert Storm.

Brothers Wayne Carr and Patrick Cave demonstrated the folding of the flag at the front of the auditorium. Also in attendance were Brothers Bob Westfall, Herb Smith and Commander Steve Rudzinski.



Left to right, Brothers Pat Cave, Wayne Carr, Bob Westfall, Steve Rudzinski, and Larry Hautzinger



IVH Cemetery

Buried at the Indiana Soldiers Home is Jack Willis, a Sergeant in the 12th United States Colored Heavy Artillery. According to his Obituary he was born a slave, and census records tend to show that his date of birth was likely 1844 or 1845, however his death record states that he was born on November 16th, 1840 in Kentucky.

He enlisted on September 20th 1864 in Lebanon Kentucky as a paid substitute for a man named Ben P. Doom. Jack stood 5ft 9inches tall, worked as a farmer and claimed to be 19 years old at the time of his enlistment. The regiment served mostly at Bowling Green and Camp Nelson, Kentucky. They did not see any engagements during the war. He mustered out on September 29th, 1865 at the expiration of his 1 year term of service, the rest of the regiment mustered out in April of 1866.

Very soon after the war he moved near Sellersburg, Indiana where he lived until about 1879 before moving to Lafayette. Here he would spend the rest of his life as a very prominent citizen and is mentioned several times in the local paper over the next 57 years. Jack would make his living as a skilled laborer, contractor & carpenter, having a relatively successful career in those fields.

He was married several times, first to Amanda Buster (1870), second to Mary Campbell (1891) and lastly to Carrie Wilson (1900), who is also buried at the Veterans' Home..

Late into his life during the 1920s and 30s, Jack was subject to bouts of illness which would intermittently land him at the Soldiers Home for care and even an auto accident! He never became a permanent resident however, and lived at his home on Kossuth street until the final few weeks of his life. He passed away at the Soldiers Home Hospital on October 6th, 1936.



Eagle Scout Program

On April 24, 2026, Mike Beck was invited to attend Samuel A. Tickham's Eagle Scout Court of Honor. Samuel, age 18, is a member of Troop #245 of the Pathfinder District and is graduating from Center Grove High School. Sam will be attending Indiana University (Bloomington) in the fall.

Sam's Eagle Scout Project consisted of building and placing six (6) interactive benches at Independent Park in Johnson County. These benches have QR codes attached to them and can be scanned by use of a cell phone to learn about some of Sam's passions in his local community.

These benches are known as "Lounge and Learn" seats and the QR code will take you to different websites such as Indiana Department of Natural Resources and the Wounded Warrior Project. What a great project!

-PDC Michael W. Beck & Dept. of Indiana Eagle Scout Coordinator.

New Headstone

Private David Apple of Company A, 38th Indiana Volunteer Infantry finally has a proper marker above his grave.

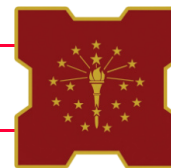
David was one of *five brothers* who were carried away by the spirit of 1861. David, Joseph, George & Moses Apple enlisted in the 38th Indiana, while Patterson Apple enlisted in the 1st Indiana Cavalry.

By the end of 1862, only Moses and Patterson survived. David and Joseph died of disease, George of wounds received at the Battle of Perryville. In 1863 their sister, Elvira, died as well.

All four deceased siblings were buried next to each other and all of their stones had been broken.

Brother Allen repaired three of them but David's had practically withered into dust in a process known as "sugaring." Thanks to his efforts, a headstone was received from the VA and properly installed this April.





More MOLLUS Activity

On traditional Memorial Day, May 30th, members of MOLLUS and the Sons of Union Veterans dedicated the new grave marker for John G. Shryer, a 1st Lieutenant in Company F of the 97th Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

Lieut. Shryer's grave was left unmarked since his death in 1904 at the age of 58 or 59. Thanks to the concerted efforts of Jeff Lilly with assistance of Andy Chandler, he has now been properly honored.

Jeff's search for Shryer's grave began in 2024 and was the impetus for a new national project for MOLLUS. Finding Lieut. Shryer proved to be an elusive task as there were two possible locations of his final resting place. Finally though, after six weeks of searching through the registries, plat & grid maps of the Woodlawn Cemetery in Terre Hauge, he was found.

The headstone was ordered and planned to be set in time for Memorial Day, which almost didn't happen until Andy went to visit the grave to get a photograph and it wasn't there!

Turns out that due to a small miscommunication, the stone hadn't been set. This was quickly remedied by Andy just in time for Memorial Day.

The ceremony was led and conducted by the Indiana Commandery, MOLLUS with the support of Brothers from the Department of Indiana, SUVCW.

From left to right are Walter Brennan, Dennis Hutchinson, Bill Brennan, David Hoesli, Garry Walls and Jeff Lilly.

Photos Courtesy of Andy Chandler, avid history enthusiast and reporter.



Andy Chandler poses with Shryer's newly installed headstone after helping to set it into place on May 21st.

Learn more about Lieut. Shryer at findagrave.com/memorial/132847123



Indiana Commandery MOLLUS

Are you the proud descendant of a commissioned officer of the Union army during the Civil War? Consider becoming a Companion of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States (MOLLUS) and join the Indiana Commandery.

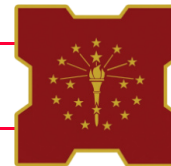
As you have seen in this issue of *The Indiana Legion*, our Commandery has been actively honoring these officers with ceremonies and by marking their graves as part of a larger project on the national level.

This project was brought about and spearheaded by our own Jeff Lilly, who is now Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief of MOLLUS. Jeff's original project was simply to digitize the list of all 14,000 Original Companions of the Loyal Legion back in 2023, but this soon blossomed into a nobler goal.

In locating the burial sites of these Original Companions, a shocking discover was made; dozens and dozens of these men appeared to have no headstone or marker at all! To date, 152 Original Companions have been verified to lie in unmarked graves.

Thanks to this, a renewed energy has invigorated us and the Indiana Commandery is determined to honor all those that can be found in the state.

Contact:
mollus.indiana@gmail.com



Ladies of the Arsinoe Martin Circle at the grave of their namesake in Elkhart, Indiana on the day of their chartering, March 11, 2018.

LGAR Arsinoe Martin Circle #78

The Arsinoe Martin Circle was chartered in Elkhart, Indiana on March 11th, 2018 and is the only Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic (LGAR) Circle in the Hoosier State. The Circle is closely associated with John Auten Camp SUVCW of nearby South Bend.

The Circle takes its name from Arsinoe Martin, a native Hoosier and Civil War nurse who tragically caught typhoid fever and passed away in the service of her country. Her story is truly inspiring and warrants a full page in a future edition of this newsletter.

With about 15 members, the Circle regularly supports and participates in Wreathes Across America, donates to veterans organizations and conducts ceremonies to honor the men and women of the Civil War who helped to preserve the Union. The ladies have attended the Lincoln Tomb Ceremony in Springfield Illinois several times and participate in the annual Bristol Homecoming Parade.

As mentioned the Circle is closely associated with John Auten Camp, which was also chartered in 2018. The two coordinate events and ceremonies in their portion of the state, you might even say that they are *Allied Orders*.

Puns aside, these ladies are doing great work keep green the memory of the boys in blue.



The ladies meet on the last Wednesday of each month over Zoom and if you are interested in becoming a member you can contact Circle President Beth Thurston at: lgarcircle78@gmail.com

Membership Requirements

All female blood relatives, ten (10) years of age or over, of honorably discharged Union Soldiers, Sailors and Marines of the Civil War, 1861 to 1865, also ex-army nurses of that War, are eligible for membership. What is most important, however, is the desire to honor the past through education and preservation. For more information on the LGAR, please visit their webpage: <https://www.lgarnational.org/>



The grave of Arsinoe Martin was decorated on Memorial Day with a patriotic wreath adorned with flowers and flags by the Circle and has been every year since they were chartered.

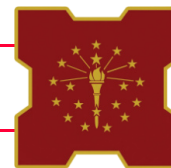
Back in December the Arsinoe Martin Circle joined the Colfax Chapter DAR in the City Cemetery, South Bend, for Wreathes Across America.

Cold and snowy as it was, that didn't deter the ladies one bit from participating in this nearly 20 year old tradition of laying wreaths at the graves of veterans across the nation.



For the Bristol Homecoming Parade, the Circle has made a rather impressive and patriotic float which features American flags, bunting, a large banner bearing their name and photo of Arsinoe Martin - but most impressive is the near life size cardboard cutout of Arsinoe herself!





Ladies of Silliven Tent #55, courtesy of Mark Miller

Our DUVCW Sisters

Rachel Silliven Tent #55, Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War (DUVCW) was chartered in Montpelier, currently has 7 members and holds 10 meetings a year. Our members love to travel during the summer to historic sites, reenactments and our National Conventions. Our Tent has produced 10 Cemetery Walks, averaging about 50 - 80 attendees each time. We also mark veteran's graves with flags and clean their headstones. We are one of three DUVCW Tents in the Department of Indiana. The other two being the Rebecca Otis Tent in Fort Wayne and the Catharine Merrill Tent in Indianapolis.

This past summer, the Bluffton News-Banner had asked to feature members of our Tent and our activities in their *Senior Living Magazine*. This provided a great opportunity for us to talk to the community about the DUVCW and what we do .

In October, our Tent was asked by the Bluffton Parks Department to participate in "*Senior Snippets*", one of their several programs that offers free

presentations on a wide variety of topics. We were invited to talk about History and, of course, the DUVCW. This was a successful program for us, as we had several ladies who showed interest in joining our Tent.

To our great surprise, we were approached for another article, this time in *Women of Wells*. This article, titled "*Keeping the memories alive*", focused on stories about our members & ancestors.

Their Ancestors

Lynne Elliott's great grandfather, Pierson Lambert served in the 138th Indiana Infantry, a 100 days regiment that mustered into service in 1864. His regiment was one of many that were raised for the purpose of guarding railroads, supply and communication lines for the 1864 campaigns, to free up veteran fighting regiments.

Alice Curry's great grandfather was Simeon Sales, a soldier in the 48th Ohio Infantry. He had enlisted with his brother, Aaron Sales, in December of 1861 and was soon sent to the front lines in Tennessee under General Grant. At the battle of Shiloh he was severely wounded and later discharged due to his injuries, Aaron however was killed in action.

Connie Brubaker's ancestor was William T. Worster, who was a private in both the 34th and 101st Indiana Infantry Regiments. He has an



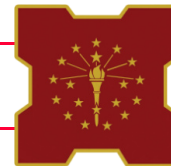
Four members of the local chapter of the Daughters of Union Veterans made a memorable road trip in 2022 to Gettysburg for the national association's annual convention. From left, Connie Brubaker, Lynn Elliott, Alice Curry and Jan Moser. (Photo provided)

interesting record, joining the 34th regiment on Sep. 21 1861 and then being dropped from the rolls on Aug. 11 1862. Four days later on Aug. 15 he enlisted in the 101st Indiana Infantry and participated in the defense of Cincinnati Ohio, shortly afterward being discharged on Sep. 30 1862. He is then "returned to duty" to the 34th Indiana per "Special Orders #26, Headquarters, Defense, New Orleans" and remains with that regiment until his discharge on May 20, 1865 on disability, shortly after his regiment fought at Palmetto Ranch, the last pitched battle of the war.

Joan Nathan, our newest member, moved here from New York and, already being a member of the DUVCW, transferred into our tent. Her ancestor Daniel Arnold is actually buried in the same cemetery as Lynn's (Pierson Lambert) and they even served in the same regiment - the 138th Indiana! According to Joan, her ancestor contracted dysentery during his service and suffered for the rest of his life.

Jan Moser and her great-granddaughter, Jaina Moser, trace their ancestry to private David Banks of the 12th Ohio Light Artillery. He served from February 1864 to July 1865. Before his enlistment the regiment saw heavy action in Virginia in 1862 & 63. By the time he joined the regiment they were on garrison duty in Nashville Tennessee. In December of 1864 he would see action at the defense of Murfreesboro.

If you or anyone you know would be interested in joining the DUVCW, feel free to reach out to Lynn Elliott at **260-827-0117**



National Society Daughters of the Union 1861 - 1865

The National Society Daughters of the Union (NSDU) was founded in 1912 and is a hereditary society formed to honor the soldiers and patriots who were dedicated to preserving the Union during the Civil War.

The NSDU has a long history of supporting Lincoln Memorial University in Tennessee & Hindman Settlement School in Kentucky. More recently, the Society has been involved with Wreaths Across America, ensuring that every soldier at Andersonville National Cemetery is honored with a wreath every December.

Functioning through local Chapters in organization, the NSDU is growing in Indiana, having three chapters with two being chartered as recently as 2022 and 2025.

Membership is open to any woman 18 or over who is descended, either directly or co-laterally, from a man or woman who rendered military or civil service to the Union during the years 12 April 1861-26 May 1865. This includes state militia, and/or anyone who rendered material aid to the Union cause such as nurses, civilian employees of the army, federal employees & etc., Junior membership is available for minors.

Gov. Oliver P. Morton Chapter gov.mortonchapter@gmail.com

Chartered all the way back in 1917, the Morton Chapter in Indianapolis holds the distinguished honor of being the oldest active Chapter in the entire nation and is of course named after our famous war Governor.

If you have ever visited the grave of Governor Morton then you have surely noticed the large urn in front of the plot. This was placed by the Morton Chapter and every year they plant flowers in it, as tribute to the man who guided Hoosiers through the war.

The Chapter has also sponsored many markers and plaques over their 100+ years of dedicated work to honor the men and women of the Civil War.

Most recently the Morton Chapter installed a bronze plaque affixed to the house of Brigadier General William Grose, who commanded the 36th Indiana, in Newcastle in 2023.

Another plaque was installed in 2025 on the house of their namesake; Oliver P. Morton in Centreville.

Battle of Corydon Chapter keasling1987@portative.net



The Battle of Corydon Chapter was chartered in 2022 in Corydon and named after the famed 1863 battle that took place there.

Despite only being four years old, the Corydon Chapter boast over 30 members and the ladies are very active in fundraising, donating regularly to the Battle of Corydon Park and Lincoln Memorial University. Many of them are also members of the DAR and National Society Daughters of 1812.

Recently the Chapter has been interested in starting a new tradition of having a ceremony to commemorate the Battle of Corydon each year and honor the men who defended their homes.

The Chapter meets quarterly and can be found setting up a recruiting booth and promoting local Civil War history at the the Battle of Corydon Park. The living history event there will be on July 11th this year, you are invited to come by and say hello!

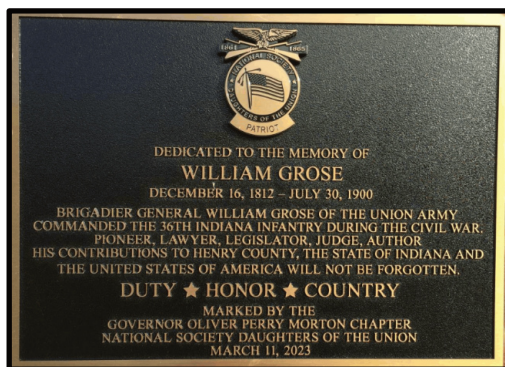
Eliza Callis Scott Chapter dlbjeb@comcast.net

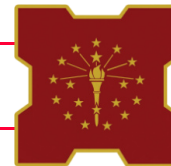
Located in Martinsville and chartered in 2025, the Chapter is the newest addition of the NSDU in the state.

The name of the chapter was chosen in honor of Eliza Callis Scott, a Martinsville native, who served two terms as Indiana's State Librarian. It was during the time of her service that she was charged with preserving regimental flags of the Civil War.

Only having been chartered for about eight months, the chapter now has a membership of over 30. To date, they have awarded 11 JROTC medals, supported a student to attend Hoosier Girls State, sent garden seeds to Hindman, decorated graves for Memorial Day and participated in the Wreaths Across America program.

The Chapter is shaping up to be quite active, so keep an eye out!





Who Stole the Beer?

On Halloween during the Spanish-American War in October of 1898, well after the fighting had ended but before a peace had been signed, one of the most amusing episodes took place.

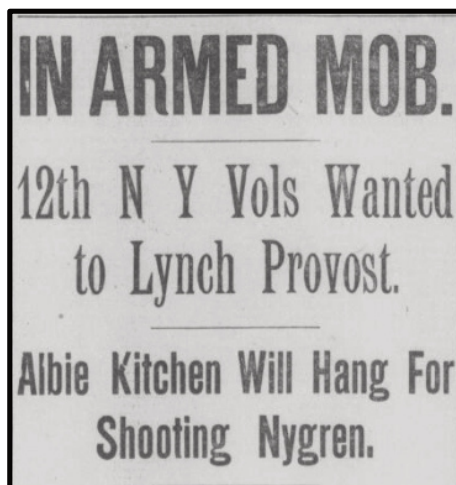
The 160th Indiana Infantry found themselves engaged in a raid on a supply train. The only thing is, this train was not supplying Spanish troops in Cuba, Puerto Rico or the Philippines, but the 12th New York Volunteer Infantry in Lexington, Kentucky!



Reg. Colors of the 2nd Indiana Legion (National Guard). The 160th was formed from the 4th Reg., and their colors would have looked much the same. Courtesy of Indiana War Memorials Commission

Our story starts earlier that month on the night of October 9th, when Private Albie Kitchen of the 3rd Kentucky shot and killed Private Henry Nygren of the 12th New York. Private Kitchen was on Provost duty that night and it was his job to make sure that any soldier wondering about the streets of Lexington had his pass from Camp Hamilton some 5 miles east of the City. He mistakenly believed he was under orders to shoot any man who would not halt when ordered and that exact scenario played out when he came upon 5-6 soldiers socializing at the corner of Dewees and Corral streets.

Kitchen requested to see their passes and as one soldier was handing over his pass, Private Nygren took off in a sprint. Kitchen ordered him to halt twice before firing a warning shot in the air but it had no effect. That's when he aimed his rifle and fired low, aiming to only wound Nygren and prevent his



escape, but the shot was fatal. The bullet hit his left hip, traveling through his body in a straight line and out of his leg, producing so much blood that it must have tore through his femoral artery and he died near instantly. When Private Nygren's body was inspected, it was discovered that he was using another soldier's pass and tried to flee to avoid being reprimanded.

Albie Kitchen was quickly arrested and placed in jail while an investigation took place. The men of the 12th New York though weren't as patient and plotted to break him out of jail and kill him the next night.

When word of this made it back to Camp Hamilton, General Wiley promptly ordered the 160th Indiana and a portion of the 3rd Kentucky to proceed at once to Lexington and arrest every soldier they could find. It would be long after midnight when the two regiments returned to camp with some 400 prisoners, most of which were from the 12th New York.

During the roundup, most of the "casualties" were cases of men being battered and bruised, owing in no small part to the butts of the rifles seeing more action than the barrels.

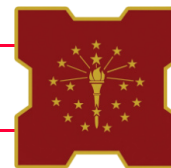
Unsurprisingly the relationship between the 12th New York and the 160th Indiana & 3rd Kentucky soured over this whole event. The Hoosiers & Kentuckians got along despite the controversy however and later that month their camaraderie would come at

the expense of the New Yorkers. On the night of October 31st outside of Lexington, the 160th Indiana & 3rd Kentucky raided a couple of train cars full of beer from the famous Pabst and Schlitz breweries that was meant for the 12th New York. It totaled some 250 cases of bottled beer and a good portion of kegs, all of which was hidden around camp in holes, tents, creeks and every nook and cranny imaginable.

The next morning the New Yorkers were surprised to find their cars empty and to add insult to injury they were even found liable for the loss. Pabst and Schlitz breweries were furious, from their perspective it might have seemed more probable that the 12th NY drank it all and were trying to get another delivery scott free. So serious were the two companies that they even brought a case against the regiment! It was eventually dropped after some public outcry.

This memorable event was prominently displayed by the 160th Indiana during their 12th reunion in the form of the reunion badge seen here.





Soldier Highlight

By Mike Beck

Edmund P. Thayer was born on June 2nd, 1839, in Hampden County, Massachusetts, where he would spend the first decade or more of his life with his family, who had resided in the New England area for generations. Then sometime in the 1850s, perhaps owing to new opportunities provided by the westward expansion of the country, the Thayers packed up and moved to Indiana, around Greenfield.

Not long after having made the move, Edmund's father, Carlton, passed away in 1859. In 1860, Edmund along with his sisters and mother appeared on the census living in the 7th Ward of Indianapolis.

Edmund came from a patriotic lineage, his paternal grandfather, Daniel, was a patriot of the Revolution, having volunteered in April of 1775 shortly after the battle of Lexington and Concord. Daniel would serve in Captain Ichabod Dexter's Company, which was part of Colonel Doolittle's Massachusetts regiment at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Perhaps owing to this he was among the first volunteers to answer Lincoln's call.

On 19th of April 1861, Edmond was mustered into Company A, 11th Indiana Volunteer Zouaves (a 3-month unit) as a private and re-enlisted with the same regiment in September of 1861. Private Thayer's qualities for leadership were taken notice of and he was promoted to Sergeant, then to 2nd Lieutenant on June 8, 1864, then to 1st Lieutenant on April 22, 1865, and finally to Captain.

Sometime after the war, Edmund moved to California where he lived a long life before passing away at the age of 94 on the 2nd of June 1933. He is buried in the GAR plot of Angelus Rosedale Cemetery in Los Angeles, California.

Younger Brother Also Served

Captain Thayer had a younger brother, Private Carlton Levi "Lee" Thayer, who also joined Company A of the 11th Indiana as a musician. He was wounded at the Battles of Fort Donelson and Shiloh which caused him to be discharged at Crump's Landing, Tennessee, in March 1862 for disability. Levi died in Greenfield, Indiana, on June 24th, 1923, and is buried in the Park Cemetery.

Past Editor David Wiley

David was born in Massachusetts to Pearl Wiley and Elinor Guptill in 1928. He drew his Civil War lineage from his grandfather, Ephraim Wiley, a Captain in Co. H, 8th Maine Volunteer Infantry.

Growing up in Westborough, Mass, he took a heavy interest in acting and theatre, performing at *The Red Barn Theatre* in that town during the mid 1940s. He carried this passion all of his life. At age 22 he graduated Emerson College with a bachelor's degree in Literary Interpretation in 1950. In 1951 he was drafted into the Army during the Korean War and served in West Germany with the Army of Occupation. In 1959 he was married to Anna Applegate, a native Hoosier and in 1966 moved his family to Indiana and made the city of Bloomington their home.

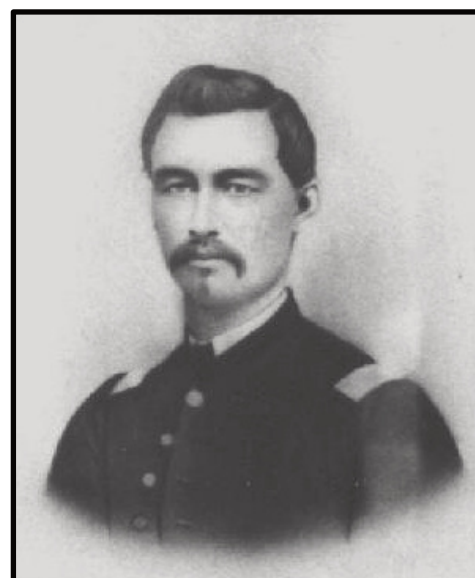


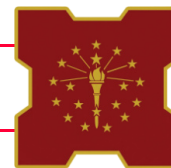
He had a very successful career in education and theatre from the mid 1950s to the 1990s, holding positions at a number of prestigious institutions such as Longwood College and the Universities of Indiana and Tennessee

Retiring in 1996, David turned his attention towards another passion: The Civil War, publishing a project his about his grandfather Ephraim titled *The Paper Trail*. He joined the Monroe County Civil War Roundtable where he became president and enjoyed giving lectures. About this time he also joined Ben Harrison Camp, where he held several roles. Quite active in the Order, he was Jr. Vice Commmander of the Department in 2002 and Editor of our newsletter from about 1999 to 2006. David passed away on July 17, 2010.

Ephraim Wiley

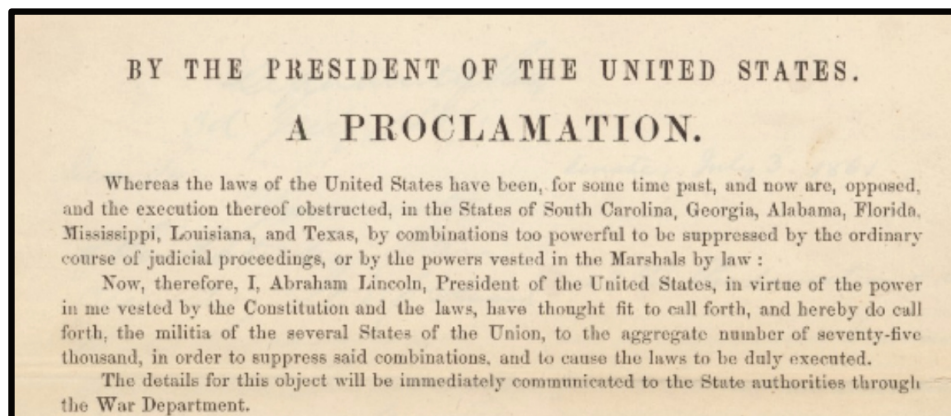
Enlisted as a corporal in Company H. of the 8th Maine Volunteers in September 1861 and was mustered out as Captain in February 1866. He was present at the Port Royal attack in 1861, the Jacksonville, Florida incursion in 1863, the battle of Cold Harbor and the Petersburg assaults in 1864. He and his Regiment were in the front at Appomattox on 9 April 1865. Was a Member of Thomas H. Marshall Post, GAR. Died in 1919, buried in the Hillcrest Cemetery, Waldo County Maine.





Events That Shaped Their Lives

Citation of a Union veteran's vital statistics typically includes dates of enrollment, mustering in and mustering out of service. The motivations behind the enlistments are certainly varied and complex. This treatise serves as a reminder that time and place in our ancestor's lives also shaped their destinies. The series of official calls to service from President Lincoln were factors that helped shape the paths to military service for many men in blue.



Soon after the surrender of Fort Sumter, on April 15, 1861, the President issued a proclamation calling into Federal service "... the militia of the several States of the Union, ..." 75,000 men to serve for ninety days, "to repossess the forts, places, and property which have been seized from the Union." The 75,000 men and three months of federal service were limits established by the Militia Act of 1795. At the time, there were sixteen thousand regular soldiers, the majority of which were assigned to posts west of the Mississippi river; this force was considered to be insufficient to defend Washington, D.C. and retake federal property. However, the proclamation triggered the secession of four more southern states, Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas, all of which soon thereafter joined the seven states already comprising the Confederacy.



In the North, the proclamation was enthusiastically received with the number of men seeking enlistment exceeding the quotas that were established. Regiments were to consist of 780 men, combined officers and enlisted men. Quotas were established at the state level, for example, six from Indiana and Illinois, thirteen from Ohio, fifteen from Pennsylvania, and one from Minnesota. Indiana offered twice as many volunteers as were requested. So, our ancestors may have been among those who heeded the first call to service and were successful. Their mustering dates probably would have fallen in the latter part of April 1861.

Those who decided to serve but did not enroll in time and those who enrolled but then found no openings available in sanctioned regiments had to await another opportunity. On May 3, 1861, when Confederacy states failed to re-establish the federal rule of law during the President's grace period, Lincoln issued another call. This time for a total of 83,000 troops and sailors, with 42,000 volunteer troops to be raised by state quotas, another 22,000 to join the regular army, and 18,000 to join the navy.

Once again, the response was overwhelming, and the War Department was flustered in its efforts to receive and equip the men in the following weeks. By the spring of 1862, the US had ceased recruitment of volunteer troops, confident that the Confederacy's fate was sealed.

However, following the tremendous casualties at the Battle of Shiloh, the failed Peninsula Campaign to take Richmond, and the Confederacy's conscription of all free white men of military age, President Lincoln, in July of 1862, called for 300,000 more volunteers for three years of military service. Through the continuation of the war, calls for additional servicemen and militias were issued, including the unpopular, riot-inciting conscription in the event that states failed to meet their quotas.

A Call To Research

So, have you given thought lately to those factors of time and place that might have shaped your ancestor's path to military service? And what about those thoughts and feelings that each individual wrestled with while the country was being torn apart. I humbly suggest that if it's been a while, set aside a few quiet moments for contemplation of the world around your Civil War Veteran ancestor as the nation faced that terrible crisis.

Book Recommendations

To help with those contemplations, my personal favorite is: *For Cause & Comrades – Why Men Fought in the Civil War* by James M. McPherson.

Also a worthwhile read: *Civil War Soldiers – Their Expectations and Their Experiences* by Reid Mitchell.

And finally: *Soldiers Blue and Gray* by James I. Robertson.

Article by Brother Bradley Brill.

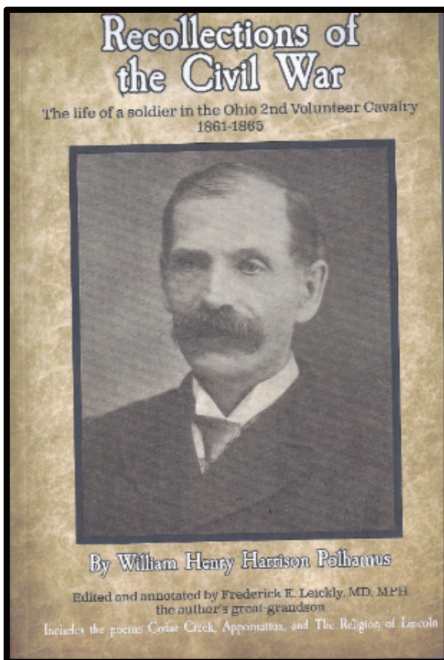


Dept. Advertisements

This page is dedicated for ads by the Department, Camps or Brothers. If you or your camp has something they would like to sell, feel free to contact the editor in order to get it listed.

Brother Leickly's Book

Edited and annotated by Brother Fred Leickly, *Recollections of the Civil War: The life of a soldier in the Ohio 2nd Volunteer Cavalry 1861-1865* is the long over-due publishing of Sergeant William H. H. Polhamus' manuscript detailing his experiences during the Civil War.



Polhamus, who is Fred Leickly's Great Grandfather, had written this manuscript in and around the 1890s. In the preface Polhamus makes it clear, these are the recollections of a soldier in the War of the Rebellion nearly 1/3rd of a century after the fact. It makes no attempt to create a history of the war or even of his own regiment, but rather to try and summarize, from memory, his own experiences and should be read with that in mind.

The book is available on Amazon & Barnes and Noble by searching the title. Proceeds go to John B. Anderson Camp.



Last Soldier Medallion

The Ben Harrison Camp now has a sufficient stock of these "Last Union Veteran" coins and they are now available to anyone who would like to purchase them at a cost of \$10.00 each, plus shipping if not purchased in person. The coins are inscribed with "LAST UNION VETERAN BURIED IN THIS COUNTY 1861-1865" and the colors are rated to last through about three years of sun exposure.

To attach the coin to the stone it is recommended to use either a 2 part epoxy or heavy duty double sided tape. Ben Harrison Camp prefers to use 3M VHB Double Sided Tape, available on amazon, and it has held up very well through all the weather that you are familiar with here in Indiana.

If your camp is looking mark the headstone of the last Union veteran in a county, consider ordering a medallion from the Harrison Camp.

Contact Mike Beck via email at: fsgtcod11thindiana@att.net

Department Corps Badge

You have probably noticed this emblem and thought; "What is that?" - That would be the Indiana Sons of Veterans Corps Badge, dating back to the 1880's when the Sons resembled more of a militia. Most states had their own corps badges in the Sons and this one is unique to Indiana, although the modern pin seen here has the added imagery of our State Flag.

These pins are double clutched, 1.25 inches square and available for \$5.00, plus shipping unless purchased in person. They are of good quality and look great on your lapel or hat of choice

For order information you can contact Brother Tim Beckman at: timbeckman@gmail.com



Oliver P. Morton Sticker

Brother Taylin Allen has created a sticker of the great war governor.

On November 22nd 1860, on the eve of the secession crisis, Morton made the prophetic declaration; "If it is worth a bloody struggle to establish this nation, it is worth one to preserve it." And a bloody struggle it was.

Stickers are three inches tall and available for just \$3, or \$2 if you order more than one. Shipping is free. Contact Taylin Allen via email at: legion@suvwin.org



**IF IT IS WORTH A BLOODY STRUGGLE
TO ESTABLISH THIS NATION
IT IS WORTH ONE TO PRESERVE IT**
- OLIVER P. MORTON -



Allied Orders & Friends Active in Indiana



MOLLUS

Membership is open to Male descendants, either directly or collaterally, of Civil War Officers who honorably served in the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, or Revenue Cutter Service.

Contact: mollus.indiana@gmail.com



National Society Daughters of the Union 1861 - 1865

Membership is open to any woman who is descended, either directly or collaterally, from a man or woman who rendered military or civil service to the Union during the Civil War. There is no age requirement.

Gov. Oliver P. Morton Chapter

Location: Indianapolis, Marion County
Contact gov.mortonchapter@gmail.com

Battle of Corydon Chapter

Location: Corydon, Harrison County
Contact keasling1987@portative.net

Eliza Callis Scott Chapter

Location: Martinsville, Morgan County
Contact dlbjeb@comcast.net



Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Membership in the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861–1865 is limited to daughters, granddaughters, and great-granddaughters etc, through direct lineal descent only. The minimum age for membership is eight (8) years old.

Catharine Merrill Tent #9

Location: Indianapolis, Marion County
Contact duvcwnational@comcast.net

Rebecca Otis Tent #54

Location: Fort Wayne, Allen County
Contact duvcwnational@comcast.net

Rachel Silliven Tent #55

Location: Montpelier, Blackford County
Contact duvcwnational@comcast.net



Ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic

Membership is open to all female blood relatives, ten (10) years of age or over, of honorably discharged Union Soldiers, Sailors and Marines of the Civil War, 1861 to 1865 and also ex-army nurses of that War, Most importantly, however, is the desire to honor the past through education and preservation.

Arsinoe Martin Circle #78

Location: Elkhart, Elkhart County
Contact: lgarcircle78@gmail.com

