



The Indiana Legion



Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA * BRUCE KOLB, COMMANDER

SPRING 2008 EDITION

NATIONAL INFORMATION:

FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL LINCOLN TOMB CEREMONY

All are invited to participate in the 52nd Annual Lincoln Tomb Ceremony, commemorating the 143rd anniversary of President Lincoln's death. It will be held at the Lincoln Tomb in Springfield, Illinois' Oak Ridge Cemetery at 10 AM on Saturday April 12, 2008.

Wreaths may be ordered from local Springfield florists. Instruct the florist to have the wreath delivered c/o The Lincoln Tomb, Oak Ridge Cemetery, Springfield, by 9 AM on Saturday, April 12th.

The Luncheon will be held in **The Inn at 835** at 12 noon. The Inn, located at 835 S. Second St. is about four blocks south of Adams St. The luncheon program will feature author, teacher and attorney Bruce Alardice, who is President of the Chicago Civil War Round Table. Luncheon cost is \$23 per person. Send registration form below to:

Lincoln Tomb Observance Committee

P.O. Box 65

Valparaiso, Indiana 46384

Make check payable to "National Organization, SUVCW" Cancellation of lunch reservations must be made no later than April 1st.

The **Dr. Benjamin Stephenson Memorial Service**, hosted by the Dept. of Illinois, will take place at his grave in Rose Hill Cemetery, Petersburg, Ill., at 3 PM. The cemetery is located on Illinois Hwy. 123 on the east side of town. Traveling to Petersburg from Springfield, use highways 29 and 123 or 97. Additional information will be available at the hotel and luncheon.

For event info, go to the SUVCW (suvvw.org) or the MOLLUS websites (suvvw.org/mollus.htm) or contact Edward J. Krieser at EJKSUV@comcast.net.

DEPARTMENT INFORMATION:

NATIONAL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS CONCERNING JUNIORS:

A vote for ratification of the following two amendments will be held at the June Encampment, June 7, 2008:

ARTICLE VII.

Membership

Section 1. Membership classes. There shall be ~~three (3)~~ **four (4)** classes of membership.

(a) Members. Males at least fourteen (14) years of age who meet the qualifications stipulated in Article III of this Constitution and *Section 200303 of the Articles of Incorporation as amended in 1998*. Members enjoy all the rights, privileges and responsibilities of membership.

(d) Junior Members. Males less than fourteen (14) years of age who meet the qualifications stipulated in Article III of this Constitution and Section 200303 of the Articles of Incorporation as amended in 1998. The minimum age for Junior Members shall be specified in the Regulations of the Order.

Section 4. A ~~Member~~**Brother** in good standing upon written application to his Camp shall be entitled to receive a Transfer Card or ~~Honorable~~ Discharge *of the appropriate type* and, if his Camp be disbanded or suspended shall be entitled to receive a Transfer Card from the Commander of the Department.

Section 5. Restrictions on Junior Members and Junior Associates.

(a) Neither Junior Members nor Junior Associates may be elected to any National, Department or Camp office.

(b) The National Organization may further provide for the regulations of Junior Members and/or Junior Associates in the Regulations provided they are not inconsistent with the provisions of this section.

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Section 2. Associates. There shall be ~~one~~ *two* classes of Associates.

(a) Associates are males at least fourteen (14) years of age who do not meet the qualifications stipulated in Article III of this Constitution and Section ~~5~~ *200303* of the Articles of Incorporation *as amended in 1998* but otherwise meet the requirements for membership established by the National Organization.

(b) Junior Associates are males less than fourteen (14) years of age who do not meet the qualifications stipulated in Article III of this Constitution and Section 200303 of the Articles of Incorporation as amended in 1998 but otherwise meet the requirements for membership established by the National Organization. The minimum age for Junior Associates shall be specified in the Regulations of the Order.

(c) The *combined* number of Associates *and Junior Associates* in any Camp shall not exceed one-third (1/3) of the total roster of the Camp at the time of election. At no time during a meeting of a Camp, a Department, or the National Organization shall business be transacted if the number of Associates in attendance exceeds forty-nine per cent (49%) of the total attendance then present at said meeting.

(d) Associates may not be elected, appointed, or otherwise assume the offices of Commander-in-Chief, Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief, National Secretary, National Treasurer or be appointed Commanding Officer of the Sons of Veterans Reserve.

(e) Associates *and Junior Associates* shall not be counted toward the required number of members to establish a new Camp. The names of Associates *and Junior Associates* may not appear on the Camp Charter nor may Associates *or Junior Associates* be designated as Charter Members of the Camp. Associates otherwise enjoy all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of membership

Section 3. Establishment of Associates *and Junior Associates* by Departments and Camps. Departments, at their own discretion, may establish Associates *and/or Junior Associates provided that no Department may establish Junior Associates without previously or concurrently establishing Associates.* Departments may impose further restrictions on Associates *and Junior Associates*, provided that the rights established in Chapter V, Article VI of the National Regulations may not be altered, reduced, or vacated. If a Department specifically establishes Associates *and/or Junior Associates* by amending its By-Laws, Camps within said Department may amend the Camp By-Laws and establish Associates *and/or Junior Associates provided that no Camp shall establish Junior Associates without previously or concurrently establishing Associates.* Camps may impose further restrictions in accordance with the provisions of the Department By-Laws and provided that the rights established in Chapter V, Article VI of the National Regulations may not be altered, reduced, or vacated. If a Department does not establish Associates *and/or Junior Associates*, Camps within the Department's jurisdiction may not establish Associates *and/or Junior Associates.*

SIGNALS OFFICER REPORT

The Department of Indiana web site continues to be updated on a routine basis. Recent updates include the addition of five more Last Soldiers of Indiana, since the June 2007 encampment, along with linkable informational pages on the veteran, if additional data was submitted. To date we have 20 counties with known Last Soldiers. In addition, a new page containing all known Civil War Medal of Honor recipients from and/or buried in Indiana was uploaded this week to the web site. Special thanks to Past Department Commander Alan Teller for all his hard work on this project. The Department of Indiana Newsletter, The Indiana Legion, continues to be uploaded to our web page whenever a new edition is published. Archived copies of the Legion are also available for viewing and downloading. In July 2007, at the request of Department Commander Kolb, I helped organize pictures for the Department of Indiana Picture Board Project for the National Encampment in St. Louis, Missouri, which took place in August 2007. I also attended the National Encampment as a delegate for the department.

The Department of Indiana web site currently contains a total of 49 web pages. Four camps within the department maintain their own web sites: the Champion Hill Camp No. 17, the Ben Harrison Camp No. 356, the David D. Porter Camp No. 116, and the Orlando A. Somers Camp No. 1. All camps of the department are encouraged to develop and maintain a web site, if they have not already done so.

Since the June 2007 Encampment, I have responded to 11 e-mail requests for information. A few were requests for information concerning specific Civil War veterans, and some were GAR record requests which I answered accordingly, usually sending what I could find from on-line rosters and the like.

I continue in the role of Co-Moderator of the Department of Indiana Yahoo E-mail List with Brother David Wiley. Currently, there are 103 registered users in this list, although as many as 17 of these e-mail addresses appear to be old and no longer functioning. I encourage all brothers to sign up for this e-mail list, if they have not already done so, as this list has proven to be a very effective communication tool. A sign up link is available from the Department's main web page.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve the Department of Indiana as the Signals Officer and hope that it brings honor to our Civil War ancestors and to our Indiana Department, Sons of Union Veterans.

Respectfully Submitted in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty, this 26th day of January 2008.

Timothy J. Beckman

Signals Officer

Department of Indiana, SUVCW

YAHOO EMAIL LIST LINK

We encourage those with email addresses to join, if you have not done so already. This is an excellent way to stay informed on what is happening in our Department. To sign up, send an e-mail to: IndianaSUVCW-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

NEXT LEGION DEADLINE

The anticipated publication for the date of the Summer issue is June 15, 2008. **To contact the editor**, please email her at jkt60@att.net or send articles to Mrs. Jennifer Thompson, 6019 Allendale Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46224. **The editorial deadline is May 31. Publication dates for 2008 will be March, June, September and December.**

CAMP INFORMATION: ORLANDO A. SOMERS CAMP, NO. 1

FALL SCHEDULE

Mid-winter Encampment report

In the Fall Schedule, the Camp began its research into finding the Last Civil War Soldiers for Carroll and Cass Counties. We believe we have located Carroll County's Last Veteran and plans are being made to place a memorial for this soldier. Many members of the Somers Camp participated in the G.A.R. Allied Orders Central Region Association Conference in Crawfordsville, Indiana. Plans are being finalized to move a Civil War era cannon from temporary storage at the Kokomo Parks Department to an enclosed shelter in Highland Park in Kokomo, Indiana.

25TH ANNIVERSARY

Submitted by Allen W. Moore, PC-in-C

On Saturday, December 15, 2007, the Orlando A. Somers Camp No. 1 met at Richard's Restaurant in Kokomo for its annual "Show-and-Tell" meeting. This event also commemorated the 25th Anniversary of the camp, which was organized in 1982. Present were four Charter Members: R. Colin Craig, Gayle A. Eikenberry, Jonathan E. Ellers, and Gary L. Sipes, along with organizer of the camp, Allen W. Moore, PC-in-C.



left to right: Gary Sipes; Jon Ellers;, Matt Elkin, Camp Commander; Allen Moore, PC-in-C, camp organizer; Colin Craig; and Gayle Eikenberry

A gift was presented to Camp Commander Matt Elkin by Allen Moore in appreciation for his service during our anniversary year. A new member, Todd Dwigans, was initiated by PC-in-C Moore, and the 2008 officers were installed by PDC J. Alan Teller.

The sixteen in attendance enjoyed an anniversary cake after the noon meal.

COL. WILLIAM H. LINK CAMP #12

NEW GRAVE MARKER

Mid-winter Encampment report

On October 21, Commander McCann attended and spoke at the ceremony to mark the new grave marker of Pvt. Gideon Brothers, Co. F, 162 Regiment, Ohio Infantry, at Gar Creek Union Cemetery, Allen County, Indiana. The ceremony was conducted by Rebecca Otis Tent 54, DUVCW, who also secured and placed the new grave marker.

CHAMPION HILL CAMP #17

LINCOLN MUSEUM TOUR

Mid-winter Encampment report

The September trip to Springfield, Illinois, was very successful. We had over fifty go on the trip and we even were able to give some money back on the cost of the trip.

MEMORIAL DAY 2008

Submitted by Steve Williams

Champion Hill Camp #17, Huntington, is partnering with the Roanoke Area Heritage Center for this year's presentation. The event is scheduled for 2:00 p.m., Saturday, May 31 and will occur at the Old Roanoke Cemetery located at the intersection of Roanoke Road and CR 850N.

The event will include first person presentations. One of those portrayed will be the mother of Wm. Henry Corkins, Co. G, 34th Indiana Infantry. Henry was about 3 months shy of his 16th birthday when he enlisted on July 1, 1862. He was mortally wounded at Champion Hill (or in the aftermath at the crossing of the Big Black River). Restoration of the family monument occurred late last year and was funded by the Heritage Center. Henry's inscription lists the date of death as May 20 – some 4 days after the battle, indicating that he died in a field hospital of wounds received on the 16th.

The May 16th entry in the diary of Pvt. Charles E. Comstock, a fellow soldier of Co. G, notes that the unit “lost one mortally wounded, Henry Corkins”. The nature of the wound apparently left little doubt as to the outcome.

The list of burials in the Vicksburg National Cemetery, reported on the website of the Vicksburg National Military Park [<http://www.nps.gov/vic/natcem>] says that Henry’s dust is mingled in the Mississippi clay located at grave 3556, Section O. His father, William, was a prosperous farmer who operated a saw mill and had earlier been a builder of boats that plied the Wabash & Erie Canal. William likely had the wherewithal to have his son’s body returned to Indiana for burial. But, while the identity of many of the fallen buried at Vicksburg is questionable, that is most likely the spot where Henry’s mortal remains repose.

In addition to the popular “Company Singers”, the sponsors are inviting re-enactors to round out the celebration and highlight the significance of the traditional Decoration Day. Others portrayed in the presentation will include Horace Rockwell, whose renown as a portrait and landscape artist extended to New York and other parts of 19th century America. Travel on the Wabash & Erie Canal will be recounted by the mother of a young girl whose grave is marked by an iron fence located within the burial ground and overlooking the nearby course of the former waterway.

The camp has, during each year since being chartered, conducted a public Memorial Day observance that has focused on personalities who rallied to the Union cause. Although this year’s presentation is a “day late”, the event is anticipated to play to an expanded audience. Based on prior presentations, the camp has learned that our patriotic mission is better achieved by scheduling the observance on a weekend and accommodating participation by other like minded groups.

The camp is also planning a time of fraternization, to which all attending are invited. Additional details will be provided in forthcoming publications of the *Indiana Legion*.

WILLIAM A. BENTON CAMP #28

HISTORICAL UPDATES

Mid-winter Encampment report

In September, the combined Wayne County Veterans Council contacted our camp about building a Civil War Memorial in Veterans’ Park in the Richmond Gorge. Brothers Rigsby, Frost and Moak were appointed to work on the Civil War Monument. We are presently working on grants for the Civil War Memorial from the National Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the Wayne County Foundation and donations from the community. In October, we received a ¾ scale, 3-inch cast iron Parrot Rifle barrel from Hearn Iron Works in Idaho, five feet long, over 500 pounds. This was paid for by contributions of camp members.

DAVID A. PORTER CAMP #116

LAST CIVIL WAR VETERAN IN MARSHALL COUNTY HONORED

Mid-winter Encampment report

On Memorial Day 2007, our camp honored Private John F. Cromley, recognizing him as being the last Civil War Veteran to die in Marshall County. The Project was completed in

October as the Memorial Plaque denoting Cromley as the Last Soldier was placed on his resting place at the Culver Masonic Cemetery.

BEN HARRISON CAMP #356

FINAL MUSTER

The final muster of Robert Ermer Burton occurred on December 15, 2007. Robert joined the Ben Harrison Camp #356 in October 1992. His ancestor was Private John Milton Bray, who served in Co. B of the 136th Indiana Volunteer Infantry and in Co. B of the 26th Indiana Volunteer Infantry.

CIVIL WAR CANNON TO BE REDEDICATED IN NEWBURGH, INDIANA

Submitted by Tim Beckman

Rose Hill Cemetery in cooperation with the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and



the American Legion will be rededicating a Civil War era cannon on April 5th, 2008 at 1:30 PM CDT. The cannon has been an occupant of this Newburgh, Indiana cemetery for over a century. On April 13, 1904, the Newburgh Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) Post No. 262 was granted permission to place a cannon and a flagpole on a previously purchased lot in this cemetery as a memorial to their fallen comrades. The cannon is a Smooth Bore Flank Howitzer. It was cast in 1846 by the Cyrus Alger & Co. in Boston, Massachusetts. These cannons were also known as 24-pounder siege guns with a total weight of 1480 pounds, a length of 69 inches,

and a bore of 5.82 inches. It would fire a ball orientated at 5 degrees a maximum of 1322 yards. Total production of these model 1844 iron flank howitzers was 577 from 1846 to 1864; known survivors, 269. These howitzers were essentially an iron copy of the 24-pounder model 1841 bronze field howitzer, without handles (source:

<http://www.cwartillery.org/ve/howsiege.html>). The cemetery tentatively plans to construct and install a new stone base for the cannon along with a memorial plaque detailing the history of the cannon and the G.A.R. post. I would like to encourage all members to attend this event, especially those members who live in the Evansville area. This will be a great event to attend and to show your support of our great Civil War veterans! Rose Hill Cemetery is located on State Road 261 in Newburgh. For more information please contact Tim Beckman of the Ben Harrison Camp at the following e-mail address: timbeckman@gmail.com or call 317-353-6322.

LIST OF 2008 SCHEDULED MEETINGS:

- April 12 – camp meeting at American Legion Post #500
- May 10 – Cemetery cleaning and plaque installation at Gosport
- May 26 – Memorial Day ceremony at Gosport cemetery

BEN HARRISON CAMP TO INSTALL AND DEDICATE PLAQUE AT GOSPORT CEMETERY

Submitted by Tim Beckman



left to right: Tim Beckman (SVC), Garry Walls (JVC), Mike Beck (CC), Jerry Thompson (Secretary), Graham Morey (Treasurer), and Mike Tomey (Chaplain)

For over two years the Ben Harrison Camp has embarked on a project to appropriately mark the final resting place of soldiers who died while at Camp Hughes located in Gosport, Indiana. Camp Hughes was a Civil War training camp for the 59th Indiana and was located one-half mile southwest of Gosport on the White River and named for former Indiana Congressman James Hughes. Camp Hughes was in existence from September 1861 to February 13, 1862 when the 59th left Camp Hughes bound for New Albany, Indiana and active duty. Camp Hughes was the only known Civil War camp ever established in Owen County.



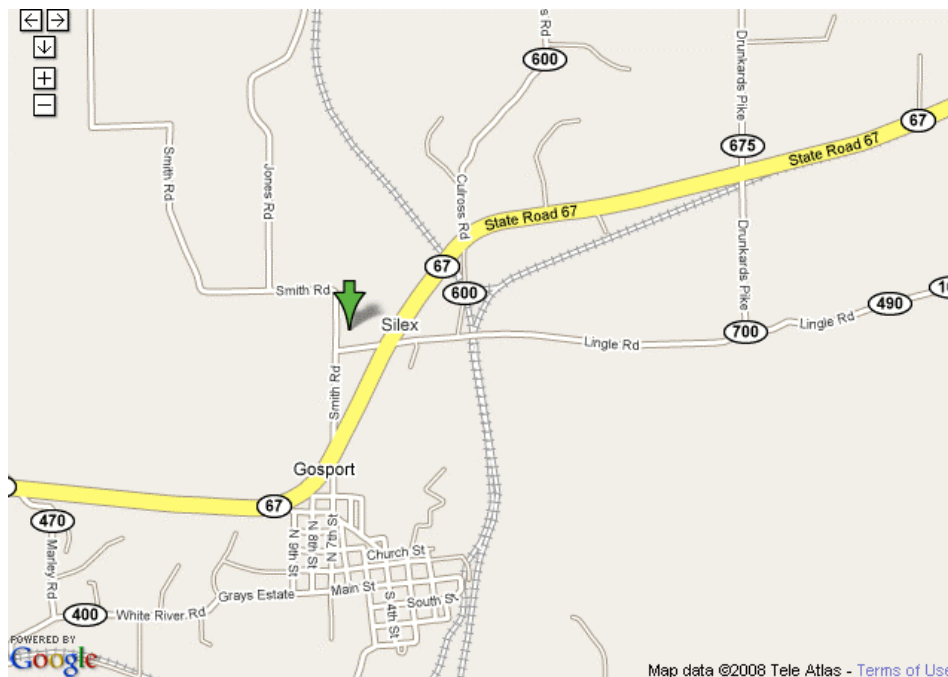
Research indicated that 12 men died while at Camp Hughes and that at least 8 men were buried in graves marked “unknown” at the Gosport Cemetery. The 59th Indiana soldiers who died while at Camp Hughes apparently contracted measles and died between late January and February 1862. It is unclear today why these men were buried in graves marked “UNKNOWN 59th IND INF,” as the microfilmed 59th Indiana Correspondence

File at the Indiana State Archives lists 8 names that were reported to have been “buried by their regiment in the Gosport Cemetery.” The Ben Harrison Camp made arrangements for a plaque to be struck with the names of all 12 men who died while at Camp Hughes. The plaque will be attached to a large granite marker already in place over the 8 “unknown” graves. This block of rough grey granite was placed over the graves in October 1923. According to an article in the *Gosport Reporter* of October 25, 1923, L. R. Gray placed the large granite stone there with the intention of having the marker either lettered or a bronze tablet attached. The granite stone is currently lettered with the following: IN MEMORIAM Died in Camp Hughes –1861-2. It is unclear whether they ever intended to list on this marker the individual names of the 59th soldiers who died while in camp.

On Saturday, May 10th, starting at 9:00 AM, the Ben Harrison Camp will be installing the new plaque on front of the granite marker and will also be cleaning and resetting the surrounding military stones. The official dedication will take place on Monday, May 26th, 2008. The time is still to be determined. The camp would like to extend an invitation to all to attend the dedication on May 26th. The Ben Harrison Camp would like to thank the Department of Indiana for their kind monetary donation to this project. Additional information will be sent via e-mail when a time is set. For more information please contact Tim Beckman of the Ben Harrison Camp at the following e-mail address: timbeckman@gmail.com or call 317-353-6322.

Location of Gosport Cemetery:

The Gosport Cemetery is in Owen County and is located just north of Gosport and is visible and accessible from State Road 67.



OTHER INFORMATION:

CEMETERY SYMBOLS (Part 2 of 3)

From Advanced Cemetery Restoration Workshop, Indiana Historical Society
Submitted by Garry Walls, Ben Harrison Camp

Eye – divine wisdom; may also be fraternal symbol

Father Time – old man with beard and scythe

Finger – pointing heavenward; may be encircled with clouds or pointing downward to grave

Flowers – impermanence of life; used to mask odors of death; common flowers:

Calla lily – majestic beauty

Daisy – youth

Morning glory – resurrection

Lily – purity; chastity; flower of the Virgin Mary

Pansy – humility

Rose – love

Shamrock – Holy Trinity of Ireland

Thistle – fall of man; Scottish symbol

Fruit – fertility and abundance

Furniture – empty, most often chair; someone gone; discarding of earthly goods

Gates – passageway to heaven, to the unknown; portal for soul to pass into immortality

Gourd – deliverance from grief

Grapes – fertility; blood of Christ

Hands – clasped; usually cuff of man and woman; friendship and farewell

Heart – soul triumphant over death; symbol of Trinity; often with wings or flown to heaven with cupid figures; common on contemporary husband/wife markers showing wedding date

Hourglass – often winged; sands of time running out

Ivy – immortality

Lamb – symbol of Christ; often death of child

(To be continued in the June 2008 Indiana Legion)

The Indiana Legion

Remembering the sacrifices made by the soldiers and sailors of the Civil War who fought to preserve the Union, we are dedicated to continuing the patriotic work begun by our parent organization, The Grand Army of the Republic.

(Jefferson Davis, from his last public speech, in Mississippi City in March 1888, quoted in *The Oxford Dictionary of Civil War Quotations*, edited by John D. Wright)
“The past is dead; let it bury its dead, its hopes and its aspirations. Before you lies the future – a future full of golden promise; a future of expanding national glory, before which all the world shall stand amazed. Let me beseech you to lay aside all rancor, all bitter sectional feeling, and to take your places in the ranks of those who will bring about a consummation devoutly to be wished – a reunited country.”

The Indiana Legion

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Department of Indiana
6019 Allendale Drive
Indianapolis, IN 46224