

The INDIANA LEGION

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA • ALAN TELLER, COMMANDER



Volume 20

General Orders No. 2

Series 2002-2003

1 The 117th Annual Encampment of the Department of Indiana Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and the 55th Memorial Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic will be held at Indiana University Kokomo (IUK) in Kokomo, IN on June 7, 2003.

2 This Encampment with the Allied Orders will not feature the usual evening banquet. The Encampment will be concluded at the end of our business meeting.

3 Directions to IUK and registration form for the Encampment will be found on page 3 of this issue of *The Indiana Legion*.

4 The Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War are making arrangements for this year's Encampment. Please be sure and thank them at the Encampment.

5 Please get your reservations in early. The deadline is 26 May 2003, the day we must tell the University our head count for the luncheon. *All luncheons, including guests, must be paid for by May 26.* See page 3.

6 Come and enjoy the fellowship of your brothers for a day. Let us all endeavor to join ranks, on 7 June, for a great Encampment.

7 I want every member of the Department of Indiana to support his local Camp's Memorial Day services. Use this special day to honor our ancestor's heroic efforts in the Civil War 1861-1865.



Alan Teller
Commander

— Alan Teller
Department Commander

Program

117TH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT OF THE Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

& THE 55TH MEMORIAL ENCAMPMENT OF THE
GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC
DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA
INDIANA UNIVERSITY AT KOKOMO

Saturday, 7 June 2003

8:30-9:00 AM

Registration
coffee & muffins

9:00

Opening of Encampment — Commander
Roll call of officers — Secretary
Presentation of colors — SVR
Recognition of guests
Secretary/Treasurer Reports

10:00

Joint opening with the
DAUGHTERS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

10:15

Resume meeting
Department officer's reports
Camp officer's reports

12:00 Noon

Luncheon and speaker
Marshall Brinkman "Logistics (Troop Movement)"

1:30

Resume meeting
Finish reports
Old business
New business
Election of officers

Selection of National Encampment Delegates
Closing ceremonies & adjournment by

4:00

Allied Orders Meeting

*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*

Indiana Internet Group is Organized

To date, seventy-two men have signed up for the new Indiana Department e-mail list known as "IndianaSUVCW."

A news and information group for members and friends of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Indiana and elsewhere, the group can also exchange ideas and opinions on Civil War topics of interest.

Last month, for example, a question of the authenticity and value of badges from the last encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic was explored by several knowledgeable brothers, and there has been a lively discussion of the film, *Gods and Generals*.

All that members and friends need to participate is an Internet connection and an e-mail address. Contact the group moderator, David Wiley, at dwiley@earthlink.net to sign on.

By the way, if you are already a member of the group and have changed your e-mail address, let Brother Wiley know.

Ben Harrison Camp Plans Crown Hill Ceremony

Brothers are cordially invited to attend the SUVCW Ben Harrison Camp #356 Memorial, in honor of former Indiana Department Commander, Colonel Ivan N. Walker.

The ceremony is to be held at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis, on the real Memorial Day, Friday, May 30, 5:00 PM. The ceremony will be conducted at Walker's grave, which is located at Crown Hill Cemetery, Section 13, Lot 31. His grave is just forward of Colonel Eli Lilly's monument and just northwest of President Ben Harrison's. We plan on meeting at the 34th Street entrance to Crown Hill and then all driving to the site.

Passing of Ancestral Lines:

Benson Jewell

by Harold D. Vail, Benton Camp

Benson Jewell was born in 1843 in Spencer County, Kentucky. In 1850, he moved with his family to Sullivan County, Indiana. On 11 August 1862 he enlisted as a private in Co. I, 71st Regiment, Indiana Volunteers at Terre Haute and was mustered in on 18 August in Indianapolis.

Confusion Rampant!

ABOUT DUES & ADDRESSES

All SUVCW dues are due by 1 January of each new year. Some members drag on and on until — finally— they write that check. As a result, camp secretaries and treasurers spend untold time and expense sending out dues notices.

It makes no difference what date you pay, your dues year is always January 1 to December 31.

This year, dues went up because of changes at the national level and that has caused some confusion. The various camps in Indiana now have annual dues that range from \$30.00 to \$35.00. But whatever the amount, each camp must pay an annual tax to the National Organization and the Department for each member who remains on the roster, so camps must drop members who have not paid their dues by March 31, 2003.

If brothers wait to pay after that, and some will, a vote of the camp will have to be called to reinstate them. National Organization and Department dues for the entire year will have to be paid for each reinstated member—still more paperwork for the secretary and treasurer. In the meantime, the unpaid member loses

his subscription to *The Indiana Legion* and *The Banner*.

I implore you to pay your dues on time each year. On time, by the way, should really mean in December prior to January 1.

Address changes are also a problem. In many cases the secretary and treasurer fail to learn of a change until the post office returns a mailing as undeliverable. It is your responsibility to notify the secretary of your camp of any address change. Once those yellow stickers the post office uses to forward mail stop being used for your new address, mailings are returned, and, depending on what you ask the post office to forward, some items may even bounce back immediately. If you receive mail with a yellow forwarding sticker, send the camp secretary your new address.

Secretaries and treasurers do not have ESP. They do not know your new address unless you tell them. If you are in doubt, check the address the secretary has for you.

Help your treasurer and secretary. Pay your dues on time, and notify your secretary of an address change.

— Alan Teller
Department Commander

The 71st was immediately sent to Kentucky to assist in repelling the invasion of Kirby Smith. Just twelve days later they took part in the battle of Richmond, Kentucky. Their losses were 215 men killed or wounded and 347 men captured. Benson was among the wounded, having his left index finger shot off. The captured were paroled, and the 71st returned to Terre Haute.

In December 1862 the regiment was sent to guard a trestle near Muldaugh's Hill, Kentucky, and were once again captured, this time by troops of John Hunt Morgan. Once again they were paroled and returned home.

The 71st was mounted and designated as the 6th Cavalry in February 1863, remaining in Indiana until August, at which time they were assigned to the 23rd Army Corps until November 1864, during which time they took part in the Knoxville campaign and the siege of Knoxville and in many skirmishes around Atlanta and during the siege of Atlanta.

After the fall of Atlanta, the 6th was assigned to Wilson's Cavalry Corps in Nashville, taking part in the pursuit of General Wheeler into north Alabama and in the battle of Nashville.

The 6th was mustered out on 15 Septem-

ber 1865 in Pulaski, Tennessee, whereupon Benson returned to his Sullivan County, Indiana, home.

In 1876 Benson and family left Indiana for Kansas in a covered wagon, traveling alone the "Old National Trail." They got as far as Effingham County, Illinois, when their two year old daughter died. Benson's wife refused to leave the place of their daughter's burial, so they settled on a 20 acre farm, about one-half mile from where I now live.

My grandmother, Benson's daughter, told me several stories about the war that her father told her. Most of them dealt with a lack of provisions. He told of marching five hundred miles. All they had to eat were the

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Camps should send news items, photographs, and ancestor accounts, and so on, to the editor by E-mail or regular mail on or about 31 August 2003

Camp Restores Flagpole

Early in September, several brothers of the William P. Benton Camp No. 28 of Centerville gathered in section five of the Earlham Cemetery in Richmond known as Soldier's Hill.

Their task was to restore a flagpole that had been installed by the camp many years ago, but had since fallen into disrepair.

Just how long ago may be judged from the wording on the plaque at its base, which reads, "Erected by members of the Wm. P. Benton Camp, Sons of Veterans, in honor of Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865."

Since the name of our organization was changed from Sons of Veterans to Sons of Veterans of the Civil War in 1925, the fifty-foot flagpole and its plaque must have been dedicated on or before that year.

With the help of a local company and its big boom truck, the brothers replaced the fifty-foot high flagpole's worn rope and rusted pulleys and painted the ball on top bright gold. They also repaired the concrete



The flag at Soldier's Hill. At half-staff because the picture was taken on 9/11/2002 in remembrance.

base, which was cracked and chipped, and painted it white.

Every year on Memorial Day the Benton Camp holds a commemorative ceremony on Soldier's Hill. General Logan's order of 1868 is read, a prayer is said, and a salute is fired in honor of the Civil War veterans.

This year they will raise the flag to a Civil War version of the National Anthem, and conclude the ceremony with Taps.

It should be a great day.

— Ray Moak

D. D. Porter Camp plans for May & June

The D. D. Camp Monitor reports that Brother Ed Kreiser is planning an event for the *de jure* Memorial Day on 26 May at Graceland Cemetery in Valparaiso, paying deep respect for Louise LaDauer, an ancestor of Brother Randall Eckley, followed by a service at the Porter County Courthouse.

In June the Camp plans a field trip to South Bend and a visit South Bend Replicas to see how a cannon is constructed.



Passing of Ancestral Lines

continued from page 2

blackberries they found along the road. In another story, he told of the night the troops set up camp and tore down a rail fence to make mangers for their horses and mules and filled them up with foraged hay. The horses and mules were so hungry that, when the troops awoke in the morning, they saw that the animals had not only eaten the hay, but the rails as well. Far fetched, of course, but the story points out a common theme of the Civil War — lack of provisions.

Benson had two brothers and eleven known cousins from Indiana who served in the Civil War. Since the family had roots in north central Kentucky, I have often wondered if their motivation for serving was more for saving Kentucky from the Confederacy rather than for loyalty to the Union. A question that will never be answered.

A Trip and a New Organization for Champion Hill

With energies that are characteristic of the Champion Hill Camp, plans are being formed for an Auxiliary group, and so far thirteen ladies have expressed interest. It is thought that this will be the first such effort in Indiana in some time.

Also in the works are plans for a memorials tour of Indianapolis. Such a trip may well include a visit to the Soldiers and Sailors Monument and Eli Lilly Civil War Museum, the Indiana War Memorial, and Crown Hill, the third largest cemetery in the nation.

This Way to the Encampment

From any direction, take US 31 to Lincoln St. in Kokomo. Lincoln is North of IN 26 and South of US 35 & IN 22. Turn West on Lincoln to Washington. Turn North on Washington: just past Cossells Landscaping on right; turn right. You are on IUK property (2300 S. Washington). Stay right at first stop sign. At second stop sign turn left. Park in lot on right. Enter the Kelly Student Center. If you keep turning right within the building, you will find us. We will look for you near the cafeteria.



117th Annual Encampment Department of Indiana

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

Indiana University Kokomo, Saturday 7 June, 2003

Registration Deadline: 26 May !

Pre-Registration \$5.00 _____ Lunch \$12.00 _____ : Total _____

Name: _____ Camp # _____

Guest: _____

Wives & guests are welcome at the luncheon.

Make checks payable to **Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW)**

Send checks to Lee Ann Teller, 3003 Lamplighter Lane, Kokomo, IN 46902-8125

The Story of Richard Teller

On a rose-colored tombstone in Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, Kentucky, is engraved "Richard Teller, Born September 10, 1844, Died October 22, 1938. Mysteriously it also says G.A.R. G.A.R. in a real sense held the meaning of his life of 94 years. . . . The following account continues his story from the Winter issue. After having been in battle and taken prisoner young Richard is now with his reorganized regiment . . .

The 108th Ohio Volunteer Infantry (OVI) began railroad guard duty in May of 1863. They were moved from Central Kentucky to Nashville, Tennessee. From Nashville they guarded the railroad running to Chattanooga. Life was hard and monotonous. But it would get harder, as guard duty changed to repairing road duty.

This duty continued through Stevenson, Alabama, Anderson's Cross Roads, Battle Creek, and Waldon's Ridge, Tennessee. All of this road repair duty was necessitated by General Rosecrans's threatening of Bragg's Confederate army in Chattanooga, the subsequent Battle of Chickamauga, and Rosecrans becoming "bottled-up" in Chattanooga. The last road to Waldon's Ridge, became the only open road for Rosecrans to obtain supplies. It was a narrow mountainous trail through the Sequatchie Valley. Keeping this mountain trail open in the mid-fall of 1863 had to be strenuous work.

U. S. Grant would enter the picture in Chattanooga about this time. The 108th OVI camp was on the extreme slope of Moccasin Point at the foot of Lookout Mountain, as support for the 18th Ohio Battery. They were under Confederate artillery fire for 10 days at this location. The Union army would fight its way out of Chattanooga, crossing the Tennessee River November 22, 1863, with two days cooked rations in their haversacks. The One Hundred and Eighth engaged the enemy at Graysville, Georgia. The Rebels continued their retreat. This was the first real fighting Richard and the 108th had taken part in since the disaster at Hartsville, Tennessee, and it was their only engagement of the Chattanooga Campaign.

General Burnside needed reinforcements against Longstreet at Knoxville. The One Hundred and Eighth, with other regiments, was ordered to Knoxville. On this march Richard said he marched three days without shoes on frozen ground. Somewhere around Morgantown, Tennessee, they were ordered back to Chattanooga. They had been marching nearly four solid weeks.

Next for this German Regiment would be the Atlanta Campaign of May-September 1864. At Resaca for four hours, they stood their ground in a continuous hailstorm of bullets. In this battle they felt they more than redeemed themselves of the unfortunate "Hartsville Affair." They fought next at Rome, Georgia, at Acworth, at Big Shanty, and at Kenesaw.

After the Kenesaw Mountain Battle, they were assigned to railroad guard duty. Their supply lines were long, extending from Nashville through Chattanooga to Atlanta. The railroads and bridges were vulnerable to Confederate raids and destruction.



One of the highlights of the Mid-Winter Encampment was the return to the Department of Indiana of the long-lost banner of the Huntington G.A.R. Apparently, as the G.A.R. members passed on, their families kept mementos of the post. The banner was undiscovered until the early 1970s, when it was purchased by a collector. Telling the story were Gib Young, right, and Jim Wertenberger, whose forethought, interest, and generosity made possible the return.

Guard duty would not end until November 1864. Most of this time their camp was at Dalton, Georgia. They were not present when the Union troops took Atlanta on Sep-



The color guard at the annual Lincoln Day Ceremony in Springfield, Illinois, on 15 April. Pictured in the center is Brother Ed Kreiser, PCinC, representing the 27th Indiana Regiment of the SVR.

tember 1, 1864. The 108th OVI was in the 2nd Division of the 14 Corps. A white acorn was the corps emblem. The Corps Commander was Jefferson C. Davis, of Indiana fame.

General James D. Morgan commanded the 2nd Division.

When notified of the "March to the Sea" Campaign they immediately broke camp in Dalton and advanced to Atlanta. The "March to the Sea" was uneventful as far as opposition/battles were concerned. The regiment destroyed its part of a sixty-mile swath on the way to Savannah, tearing up, burning, and wasting all that came before it. Savannah was taken December 20, 1864.

On February 1, 1865, Sherman turned his army toward South Carolina. At that time, the 14th Corps reported its strength at 14,420 infantry and artillery. It contained 47 regiments of infantry and 4 batteries of light artillery. The One Hundred and Eight was one of these regiments.

The Battle of Bentonville, North Carolina, March 19-21, 1865, was to be perhaps the 108th's finest stand. Six rebel attacks were repulsed. From there they would occupy Goldsboro, and advance to Raleigh, North Carolina. The regiment's last battle was near Smithfield, North Carolina. Co. H lost a Captain in this battle. Confederate General Joseph E. Johnson's final surrender was at the Bennett House near Durham Station, North Carolina, April 26, 1865. U. S. Grant approved the terms of surrender at Raleigh, North Carolina, the same day.

It was 192 miles from Raleigh to Richmond. They marched this in six and a half days. The march on to Washington, D.C., was at a much slower pace, and they arrived May 19, 1865. On this march, Richard went through six pairs of shoes, he said were cheaply made. The Grand Review was May 24, 1865.

Richard Teller was mustered out the 9th day of June 1865 with 412 other men, the balance of his regiment. They returned to Camp Dennison, Ohio, where it had all begun. During its service, the 108th lost 3 officers, 22 enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 42 enlisted men by disease for a total of 67 men.

Richard's final train ride into camp and home, West Harrison, Indiana, was on the Little Miami Columbus & Xenia Railroad (LMC & XRR). His discharge papers were so stamped. The Civil War was over for Private Richard Teller and thousands of other Americans.

He would later join the Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.). He obtained the rank of Jr. Vice Commander of the Department of Kentucky in 1937 and represented the Department at two National Encampments in 1934 and 1938.

— Alan Teller



Monument Officer, Phil McClure, at the G.A.R. Monument in the East Hill Cemetery, Rushville. The base for the copper figure can just be seen at the top.

Saga of a monument

Back in May of 1884, the Joel Wolfe Post of the G. A. R. in Rushville held a drive to raise money for a soldier's monument in Indianapolis. That plan never quite materialized, so the money was invested at eight percent, and, by 1889, the total reached \$1054. One Tony Schrichte was commissioned to create a design, which came in at a cost of \$1350, including a copper figure on the top.

The Post made up the balance from its general fund, and the new monument was dedicated on 16 October 1900.

Unfortunately, on 19 August 1987, apparently in broad daylight, the six foot figure of the soldier at the top was stolen. So far, no trace of it has been found.

There has been talk of finding a replacement, but one estimate of \$51,000 seems daunting.

— Phil McClure

An opinion column

Prejudice is Rampant

One of the most deadly maladies that confront mankind is the prejudicial feeling they grow up with, live, and die for because their fellow man does not think or feel the same way. The tragedy of the whole affair is war, and what is more amazing is the fact that the prejudice clings on to future generations like a moldy wet blanket and never goes away. Why is that?

Abraham Lincoln was the epitome of "brotherhood" of man, not the hugging and clinging kind, but one of respect for one another whether he or she was a garbage collector or a doctor. His one famous utterance was about the defeated southerners when

asked how the northerners should treat them was, "let them up easy, let them up easy."

His last trip away from Washington, D.C. was to the city of Richmond, Virginia to see where the rulers from the South operated. He was accompanied by his young son, Tad. When the black citizens bowed down before him, he firmly told them that they were to bow to God, not him. He was just a participant in the great conflict and a part of humankind striving for equality between all mankind. We all know that he was to be another casualty of that great conflict.

The legislative body of the United States has seen to it that a complete description be made for all the battlefield sites, covering not just the battles between armies, but the political ramifications of each one of them. A part of this has to do with erecting a statue, in Richmond, of Abraham Lincoln and his son Tad. A loud cry has come out of the mass of humanity demanding that this NOT be done.

How many of these people are there—a few, a lot, thousands, or what? Our "sister" organization, the Sons of Confederate Veterans, has supported this move to NOT allow this statue to be placed in Richmond. If this is actually true, it is a cause of shame for an organization that strives to perpetuate the memory of those who sacrificed so much, but also apparently needs to perpetuate the prejudices that have existed for over 140 years since the war was closed in 1865.

The Civil War was fought, the battle closed, and the principles fought for still exist today because of that element that won't rest until they fight the war over again. You know what, God won't let that happen again because enough blood has been spilled, and because enough people still believe that all mankind is equal under the laws of the land. Lincoln talked about brotherhood of man through the whole country, even the world, so why can't those guys see the light and get with it?

— Ron Gill



Model of the Statue of Lincoln and his son Tad, which was dedicated on 5 April at the Richmond National Battlefield Park Visitor Center. In attendance were two former governors of Virginia, the mayor of Richmond, and other dignitaries. The statue is thought to be the first dedicated to Lincoln ever erected in the South. The event was broadcast over C-SPAN.

Without comment...

- "Let's have in Richmond something far more appropriate—a statue of Jefferson Davis . . ." said Dr. Clyde Wilson, professor of history at The University of South Carolina, quoted in the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* 23 March.

- "The signers below publicly acknowledge our strong and eternal opposition to this supreme insult to Richmond, the State of Virginia and all of Dixie. Brag Bowling, the SCV [Sons of Confederate Veterans] Virginia Commander described it best as a 'slap in the face of brave men and women who went through four years of unbelievable hell fighting an invasion of Virginia led by President Lincoln.'" From a petition to The Richmond City Government, the National Park Service & the U.S. Historical Society sponsored by *The Dixie Daily News* [n.d].

- "If I had my way, I'd erect a statue of Lincoln every day," said Harold Holzer, co-chairman of the U.S. Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, see "Richmond fights Civil War Anew," Associated Press, 30 March 2003.

Somers Camp Schedules Memorial Day Observance

Orlando A. Somers Camp #1 plans Memorial Day Services for Sunday, 25 May, at 2:00 PM at the Estates of Serenity Cemetery (old I.O.O.F. Cemetery), 1101 S. Lincoln Blvd., in Marion, near a Civil War Monument, east and a little north of the Lincoln Boulevard entrance.

After the service, the camp will go to the Riverside Cemetery in Gas City. The cemetery is just South of US 35 on the West side of the city behind the Dairy Queen. Services will be held there at the grave of John C. Adams—the last member of the GAR to die in Indiana. Everyone is welcome to attend these services.

Saving Civil War Gravestones

Mark Davis, friend, and hopefully a future member, of the SUVCW has been doing valuable work this year restoring headstones of Civil War veterans. He restored some 55 such markers last year and has worked on 10 so far this year.

Just recently he has refurbished the military and family stone of Andre Jacobus, 87th Indiana Infantry at the Sharp Cemetery in LaPorte County. There will more about Mark's efforts in a future issue.

Dispatches . . .

- S. 70: a bill introduced by Senator Inouye of Hawaii on 7 January 2003 to restore the traditional day of observance of Memorial Day. It would amend Section 6103(a) of title 5, United States Code by striking “the last Monday in May,” and inserting “May 30.” The bill was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, where it languishes.

- Six years of lead time to celebrate Abraham Lincoln’s 200th birthday! Fifty preeminent Lincoln scholars met at the Library of Congress a week before Lincoln’s birthday as the advisory committee for the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission.

They are thinking of such things as a new design for the penny, commemorative stamps, fireworks, traveling exhibits, re-enacted Lincoln-Douglas debates, newly designed educational curricula, and lots of new publications.

Indeed, the commission wants to look beyond the “Lincoln Halloween Costume” to see a man to be respected, “[A] model of self-made success; a statesman with a remarkably reliable moral compass; a thinker who rarely settled for an easy answer; a man who continued to grow as a person even after achieving prominence; the individual they believe had more to do with ending slavery than anyone else.” (*The Washington Post*, February 12, 2003: B1)

- In the Fall issue: Don Heitman writes about the 32nd Indiana Volunteer Infantry.



Rail fence becoming firewood. A period drawing by A. W. Waud

The **INDIANA LEGION**
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War,
Department of Indiana
3800 W. Woodmere Way
Bloomington, IN 47403-4123

Notes for Brothers in Cyberspace:

As of this transmission, fifty-six actual members of camps in the Department of Indiana are signed up for this electronic edition—out of a total list of eighty-five, which also includes e-mail friends and brothers from out of state. One hundred and seventy-six copies have been mailed via the USPS.

We have twenty-four men whose e-mail addresses no longer function. Please ask your fellow camp members to notify me when they make an e-mail change.

It had been my hope to expand *The Indiana Legion* in the printed edition to eight pages from the present six; but to do so would require additional income from advertising. Will someone step forward to take over that responsibility? Generate just twenty-five dollars per issue and we will have paid for two more pages; generate a hundred and fifty and we can look at offset printing and some spot color and better photos; generate two-hundred — but I dream . . .

This issue is optimized for the screen and for quick download; it will not look its best when printed.

Faithfully in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

David Wiley