



# The Indiana Legion



*Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War*  
DEPARTMENT OF INDIANA \* JACK SHAW, COMMANDER  
JANUARY 2010

## **MID-WINTER ENCAMPMENT DRAWS NEAR**

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
Department of Indiana, Midwinter Encampment  
La Porte County Historical Society Museum  
2405 Indiana Avenue, U.S. 35, La Porte, Indiana  
Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:15 am, C.S.T. (La Porte)

### Pre-registration / RSVP

All attending members will be required to send a registration fee of \$12.00. This will include a box lunch, admission to the La Porte County museum and our meeting room. All registration fees must be in no later than January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010. For those who do not pre-register, but still attend, you will not receive a lunch.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

SUVCW Camp name/number \_\_\_\_\_

Please Make Checks payable to: David D. Porter Camp SUVCW and mail to:  
William Adams,  
2772 N. 150 E.  
La Porte, IN. 46350

### BOX LUNCH

The box lunch will include a Sandwich of choice (Ham or Chicken Salad), Salad of choice (Pasta Salad, Broccoli Salad or Cole Slaw), Fruit, Cookies and Beverage of your choice (soda, water or coffee). Please make selections.

Sandwich.....Chicken Salad \_\_\_\_\_ Ham \_\_\_\_\_

Salad.....Pasta Salad \_\_\_\_ Broccoli \_\_\_\_ Cole Slaw \_\_\_\_

Beverage.....Soda\_\_\_\_ Water \_\_\_\_ Coffee\_\_\_\_

For recommended over night accommodations: The Blue Heron,  
1110 Lakeside St. La Porte, IN 219-362-5077 / 800- 575-3880  
[www.pleastshore.com](http://www.pleastshore.com) Please contact the Blue Heron for reservations.

---

### **NEW INDIANA SUVCW CAMP!**



**Members of the new Anderson Camp, with new flag and Charter.**



**Dept. Commander Shaw presenting Camp Commander McClure with the new Charter.**

### **JOHN B. ANDERSON CAMP UP AND RUNNING!**

John B. Anderson was a lifelong resident of Bartholomew County. He was born at Hartsville, Indiana on December 29, 1846, the son of Daniel and Margaret Anderson, and

was one of ten children. The family moved to Elizabethtown, Indiana in his early youth and lived there since.

At the age of fourteen years John enlisted with the 6<sup>th</sup> Ind. Volunteers Infantry Company G on September 10, 1861, serving four years with that Company.

He was in several engagements including; The Battle of Shiloh, The Siege of Corinth Mississippi, Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Liberty Gap, and Chickamauga, Georgia. During the battle of Chickamauga, John was wounded in the face.

While at Chickamauga he was taken prisoner on September 19, 1863, and was in the following military prisons. Battlefield, Richmond, Virginia, Danville Virginia, Andersonville, Georgia, Charelston, South Carolina, and Florence, South, Carolina.

He was exchanged at Charleston, South Carolina on December 20<sup>th</sup>, 1864. He arrived home on December 31, 1864 as one had returned from the grave.

He saw continuous action with the 6<sup>th</sup> Indiana from September 10, 1861 until he was captured on September 19, 1863. John B. Anderson was discharged at Indianapolis on January 23, 1865 at the rank of private.

John B. Anderson was a charter member James Moffatt G.A.R. Post No. 223 at Elizabethtown. He served as Post Commander at the time it was founded on August 12, 1883. Later he served as Quarter-master, and was a leader in the reunions of Company G, and attended each and every reunion until just before he died on April 10, 1931. John was also a member of the I.O.O.F. Lodge and took much active interest in both organizations.

Shortly after the war John and Laura E. Wilson were married and from this union came nine children. Laura E. Anderson died in 1895.

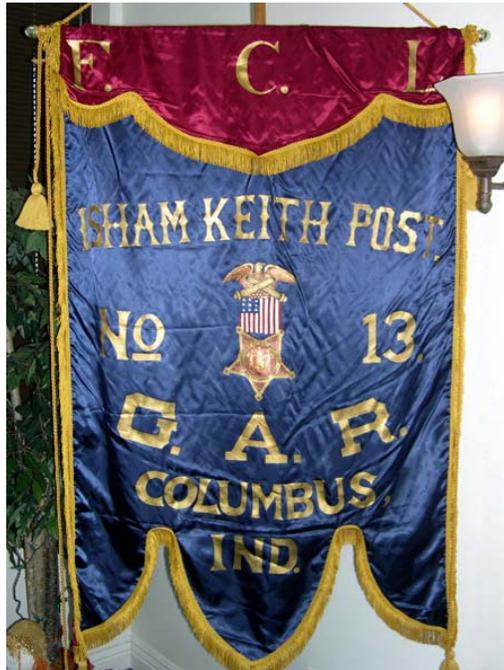
John became a school teacher in the county schools for over forty years in Rock Creek and German Townships. He was also Deputy Auditor, and at one time a member of the Indiana State Board of Accounts.

He is buried in Springer Cemetery along side of his wife Laura E. Anderson. The Springer Cemetery is located six miles southeast of Columbus on U.S. 31. In attendance at his funeral there were members of the James Moffatt Post of Elizabethtown, the Isham Keith Post No. 13 out of Columbus, and a Spanish-American War Camp.

John had four brothers two of which severed in the Civil War. Capt. Elridge Anderson of Hope, Indiana. He was a Captain in the 20<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was wounded in the leg at the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. He died on January 1, 1927. Also William H. Anderson was in the First Indiana Heavy Artillery. He died on October 15, 1921.

## Officers of the John B. Anderson Camp

Philip D. McClure	Camp Commander
Bret Caldwell	Camp Senior Vice Commander
John Russell McClure	Camp Junior Vice Commander
Steve Coffman	Camp Secretary
Bart Caldwell	Camp Treasurer
Aaron Coffman	Camp Chaplain
Philip D. McClure	Camp Monument Officer







## **Champion Hill Camp has new officers for 2010!**

The officers for 2010 have been elected for Huntington Champion Hill Camp 17 and will be installed at the January meeting. All area brothers are invited to attend and get an overview of 2010 for the brothers in Camp 17. The new officers for 2010 are;

**Camp Commander** – Steve Williams – Roanoke

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander** – Don Morgan – Andrews

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander** – John Eger – Ft. Wayne

**Secretary/Treasurer** – Alan Bowers – Huntington

**Camp Council #1** – Phil Dyer – Andrews

**Camp Council #2** – Rod Stine – Huntington

**Camp Council #3** – Gib Young – Huntington

(All other posts are appointed by the Camp commander so please offer yourself freely if asked to serve in some capacity.)



**Champion Hill Commander Williams**

---

## **Marion County Pioneer Cemetery Remarkd with Ceremony**

On September 7, 2009 a dedication ceremony attended by five Ben Harrison Camp #356 members, civil war reenactors, and more than 50 family members and guests was conducted at the Swift Pioneer Cemetery located in Marion County, Indiana in a little park owned by the town of Wynnedale. This ceremony was the culmination of many years of research conducted by John Swift to find the final resting place of his pioneer ancestors. Many of John's ancestors are buried in this cemetery, including his 3rd Great Grandfather, George Swift, and his 4th Great Grandfather, Thomas E. Swift. George was a Civil War veteran and served as a private in company F, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Indiana Cavalry,

while George's father, Thomas, served in the War of 1812 as a private in the North Carolina Militia. This cemetery would have sadly passed into obscurity like many other Indiana pioneer cemeteries without the tireless efforts of Thelma Murphy, whose work in documenting pioneer cemeteries in Marion County spanned nearly 70 years. From documents now in the possession of the Indiana State Library, it was learned that in 1940, Thelma visited the Swift Cemetery and recorded all of the names still visible on the remaining gravestones. No gravestones have been seen in this cemetery for at least the last 30 years, and until recently, nearly forgotten. The Ben Harrison Camp assisted John Swift in obtaining new military gravestones for both George and Thomas Swift and was honored to have participated in the rededication ceremony.



**Left to Right: Ben Harrison Camp Members Tim Beckman, Jerry Thompson, John Bowyer, Mike Beck, and Stewart DeVane and John Easley from the 42<sup>nd</sup> Indiana Co. H Reenactment Group.**



**Swift Family and Invited Guest**

---

## **Letter submitted by Camp Commander, Mike Downs**

### **The Unknown Soldier From The Battle Of Franklin**

Early in the summer I read about an excavation crew unearthing the remains of a Civil War era soldier in the Franklin, Tennessee area. The body was identified as a probable Union soldier, mainly because of the uniform buttons they found at the site, and somewhere between the ages of twenty to thirty. "The City of Franklin's Battlefield Task Force" soon came to the conclusion that the unidentified soldier should have a proper military funeral. While attending the Son's National Encampment in Louisville, Kentucky the Tennessee (and Alabama) Department invited us to join in the program.

Knowing that Carol and I had plans to travel to our condo in Crossville, Tennessee in October I made contact with Dr. Sam Gant, the Commander of the Fort Donelson Camp, #62 to see if it would be okay for me to march in the funeral procession. He was eager to have me so on the day before the burial Carol and I made the ninety minute drive to Franklin. On Friday the 9th I was to meet Robert Huff of the Sons of Confederate Veterans at St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 4 PM to see what I could do to help out and obtain a schedule of events for Saturday. Entering the chapel of the church I found the remains of the Unknown Soldier lying in state with an honor guard from the SCV and SUV. St. Paul's is the oldest Episcopal Church west of the Appalachians and had been used during the Battle of Franklin as a hospital and afterwards as a stable for Union horses. Robert asked if I was interested in being part of the honor guard detail, as a representative of the Son's, from 8 until 10 PM, I readily agreed. I thought this would be a quiet time with few visitors since the viewing had started at 8 Friday morning. However I was wrong, during my watch more than 100 people paid their respect to the unknown soldier of Franklin.

On Saturday morning I ushered at St. Paul's helping to seat people for the service. The fire marshal had placed a limit of 200 individuals inside the church but at least 250 guests had squeezed in. Outside several hundred more were standing in the chilly, rather gloomy weather waiting for the procession to begin. Among those in attendance were two original sons, Mr. Harold Becker, whose father fought at the Battle of Franklin and Mr. James Brown whose father was with the 8th Georgia Infantry. During the service numerous songs were played from the Civil War era including the Battle Hymn of the Republic and Dixie. Chaplains from both organizations offered up a fitting prayer and Robin Hood, the chairman of the "City of Franklin Battlefield Task Force" presented the elegy. It was very well done and can be heard at – <http://battleoffranklin.wordpress.com/2009/10/10/elegy-from-franklins-fields-of-glory>, please take the time to listen.

At the end of the service the casket was carried to the Rest Haven Cemetery by a horse drawn caisson with the procession following. The downtown area had been closed to traffic allowing approximately 600 men and women in Civil War period uniforms to march the half mile long procession with another 1500 civilian onlookers. Once at the cemetery Dan Butterfield's "Taps" was played with a 21 gun salute following.

One of the interesting parts of the program was the “Dust to Dust” ceremony. The “dust” was gathered from every state that had soldiers at the 1864 Battle of Franklin then after the coffin was lowered a representative of each of the states scattered their “dust” on the grave. Sam Gent asked me to represent the state of Illinois which I felt honored to do. At the “Dust to Dust” ceremony the real son, Mr. Becker, represented Indiana and Mr. Brown scattered the “dust” from the state of Georgia while Brigadier General Robert Grim from the Son’s of Veterans Reserve represented the State of Ohio.

The services concluded with a floral tribute presented by Patricia Mullenix, Past National President, Daughters of Union Veterans and Elizabeth Coker, President, Mary Kate Patterson Chapter #7, Order of the Confederate Rose. The Chaplains offered their final invocation and scripture and the colors were retired. All in all it was a very impressive program and certainly the largest that I ever had the honor to take part in.

Yours in Fraternity, Loyalty and Charity  
Michael Downs  
Commander, D. D. Porter Camp #116  
Son’s of Union Veterans of the Civil War



**P.C.-in-C. Bob Grimm and Camp Commander, Mike Downs**



**Camp Commander, Mike Downs sprinkling soil on the grave of the Unknown Soldier, during the Dust, to Dust Ceremony.**



**Two real sons attended. Brother Harold Becker, whose father fought at the Battle of Franklin and Mr. James Brown (Confederate), whose Father served with the 8th Georgia.**

---

### **SUVCW Recruitment at Centerville, MI**

On October 11th, on behalf of the Department of Indiana and the David D. Porter Camp, a recruitment table and SUVCW display was set up and the Annual Civil War Collectible Show, in Centerville, Michigan.

The table was manned by Camp Secretary, Bill Adams and Department Commander, Jack Shaw. The two got an early start on that chilly October morning, but the efforts were rewarded. By late morning/early afternoon there were many attendees that passed through the building and stopped at the SUVCW table to chat about their Civil War veterans.

Brother Adams and Shaw were ready with brochures that would explain the membership of our Order and aid in the prospective member to retrieve his Ancestor's Civil War Records from the National Archives by following the enclosed instructions and using the proper applications, provided. Information on some prospects were collected and are being sent to JVC Beck for processing. During the Recruitment, a couple of gentlemen visited the table that new the Descendants of Private, John Auten. This was a plus for the David D. Porter Camp as plans are underway to order a new headstone for his grave and

provide a dedication ceremony. It was said that Auten was the first Civil War casualty from Indiana, although there are some disputes.

Also at the Centreville Show, Robinson's Battery was on hand with their 1861 bronze 6-pound cannon. They fired it several times during the afternoon and literally rocked the fairgrounds. Robinson's Battery was formed in May, 2004 for the purpose of Preserving the history of the American Civil War. The Battery was named after, George Robinson, who served as Captain of the original Battery. If you would like to contact them for an event, please contact John Hughes at 269-965-3884.



**Department Commander, Jack Shaw and Camp Secretary Bill Adams at the Centreville recruiting table.**



**Department Commander, Jack Shaw with Cousin, Ron McKimmy holding a Bayonet that once belonged to their Great, Great Grandfather, Francis McKimmy, who served with Company E, of the 6th West Virginia.**



**Robinson's Battery firing an 1861 6-pounder at the Centreville show.**