

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

Type of Memorial (check all applicable)

Monument with Sculpture without Sculpture with Cannon standalone Cannon
 Historical Marker Plaque Other (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

Affiliation

GAR MOLLUS SUVCW WRC ASUVCW
 LGAR DUVCW Other

If known, record name and number of post, camp, corps, auxiliary, tent, circle or appropriate information of other groups:

suvcw Col. William Kinsman Camp #23

Original Dedication Date 4/25/18 Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the *first* dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

Location

The Memorial is *currently* located at:

Street/Road address or site location Holman Cemetery 5204 180th St -
Section A, Lot 13 GPS Coordinates 43.39060 -95.76080
City/Village &/or Township Sibley
County Osceola State Iowa Zip Code 51249

The front of the Memorial faces: North South East West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner

Name Unless who is really in charge of Cemetery - she
Dept./Div. is contact listed below
Street Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
Contact Person Dawn Butler Telephone (512) 754-3650 ext _____

Is Memorial on the National Register of Historic Places Yes No ID # if known _____

For Monuments with/without sculpture:

Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = Stone Concrete Metal Other
If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

Material of the Sculpture Stone Concrete Metal Other Is it hollow or solid? _____
If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) _____

For Historic Marker or Plaque:

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = Aluminum face + back PVC core

For Cannons with/without monument:

Material of Cannon = Bronze Iron Type of Cannon (if known) Rifled YES NO

Markings: Muzzle Base Ring/Breech

Left Trunion Right Trunion

Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? Yes No

[For camp/department monuments officer's use: Cannon on list of known ordnance] Yes No

For Other Memorials: (flag pole, G.A.R. buildings, stained glass windows, etc.)

What best describes the memorial

Materials of the Memorial

Complete for All Memorials

Approximate Dimensions (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points

8" Height 12" Width Depth or Diameter

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue (service, pose, etc) and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

Markings/Inscriptions (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)

Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found

Please attach legible photographs of all text &/or Record the text in the space below. Please use the addendum - narrative sheet if necessary.

See attached

Environmental Setting

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

Type of Location

- Cemetery
- School
- Traffic Circle
- Park
- Municipal Building
- Library
- Plaza/Courtyard
- State Capitol
- Other: _____
- "Town Square"
- Courthouse
- Post Office
- College Campus

General Vicinity

- Rural (low population, open land)
- Suburban (residential, near city)
- Town
- Urban / Metropolitan

Immediate Locale (check as many as may apply)

- Industrial
- Commercial
- Street/Roadside within 20 feet
- Tree Covered (overhanging branches)
- Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors)
- Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)

Any other significant environmental factor _____

[To detail the condition of a monument used the addendum form for *Monument's Condition*]

Supplemental Background Information

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment.

Addendums attached to this electronic file are the *Monument's Condition* and the *Narrative* forms. Only the *Monument's Condition* form is required if you are requesting grant money using form CWM-62 *SUVCW Memorial Grant Application Form and Instructions*.



Thank you.

Inspector Identification _____ Date of On-site Survey 4/25/18

Your Name Roy Linn

Address 1097 Preston Blvd.

City Correctionville State Iowa Zip Code 51016

Telephone  E-Mail 

Are you a member of the Allied Orders of the G.A.R.? If so, which one?
SUVCW Col. William Kinsman Camp #23

Please send this completed form to:

Walt Busch, PDC, Chair
1240 Konert Valley Dr.
Fenton, MO 63026



Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR – CIVIL WAR MEMORIALS COMMITTEE.

Department of Iowa - Civil War Monuments
Osceola County - Sibley

Last Soldier Thomas O. Wilbern

Private Thomas Wilbern (1847-1936) was the last living soldier of Osceola County. He served in Company C, 153rd Illinois Infantry Regiment. He is buried in Section A, Lot 13 in Holman Cemetery, 5204 180th Street Southwest of Sibley. The plaque to honor Private Wilbern was placed April 25, 2018 by Roy and Linda Linn. Thanks to them for providing photos and information.



T. O. WILBERN,
LAST COUNTY

T. O. Wilbern . . .
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VETERAN, DIES

Rites Are Held Yesterday at American Legion Building

T. O. Wilbern, Osceola county's last veteran of the Civil War and a member of that thinning band of pioneers who opened up this part of Iowa, died Monday morning at Sioux City at the home of his son, Porter L. Wilbern. Mr. Wilbern was 88 years old.

Funeral services were held yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the Legion building with the Rev. J. A. Rotschafer of the Presbyterian church officiating.

Members of the George E. Mudge post of the American Legion and members of the W. R. C. attended in a body. Taps, the last tribute to a soldier, were sounded at the Sibley cemetery by the legionnaires.

In Failing Health

Mr. Wilbern had been failing gradually the last few years. He spent the winter with his son Porter in Sioux City. Early in May he came to Sibley. The middle of that month he went to visit his son, C. L. Wilbern of Altoona.

The first week in June there was a family reunion at Altoona at which his children and their families attended. Mr. Wilbern returned to Sibley early in June. About June 15 he began to fail rapidly. June 16 he went to Sioux City to the home of his son, Porter, where he was at the time of his death.

T. O. Wilbern was born in a log cabin at Huntley, McKinley county, Ill., Nov. 27, 1847. In remarking about that log cabin, Mr. Wilbern once said: "Being born in a log cabin, I was eligible to the presidency, but something happened and I missed it." However, he stated that he did not therefore find life "flat, stale and unprofitable."

Under "Pap" Thomas

He enlisted in 1864, when 17 years old, and was assigned to the army of the Tennessee under "Old Pap" Thomas. He served until the

demoralized the Union advance.

Mr. Wilbern made Huntley his home till 21. He had little opportunity to acquire an education, being prevented by illness from attending school until 12 years old. His schooling in the aggregate did not exceed 15 months.

Off to "Iowa"

After the war, Mr. Wilbern returned home and settled down as a farmer. In 1868 he and his brother, in spirit with the times, loaded their belongings in a covered wagon and were off on the laborious trek toward the west. Their objective was admittedly "somewhere in Iowa."

Held three days by a blizzard at State Center, Iowa, they reached Denison in the dead of winter with four feet of snow on the level. They worked at hauling wood around Denison that winter and in the spring homesteaded in Cherokee county.

Cherokee county was then a vast expanse of prairie grass, a sight which only the pioneers recall. Denison, 70 miles away, was the nearest railroad point.

There were but few dwellings at Cherokee then. Nearby was the Indian trading post and stockade built at approximately the same time of the Spirit Lake massacre. A company of soldiers was once kept at the stockade.

To Indian Territory

In 1870 Mr. Wilbern drove a mule team across Nebraska and Kansas and down as far as Indian territory looking for a location for the stock business.

In 1871 he married Sara Adelaide Porter at Cherokee. When Mr. Wilbern went on to Osceola county in the fall of 1872 he left his wife, as did his brother, on the homestead in Cherokee. Their wives came to Osceola county the next spring.

In 1872, accompanied by his brother, Cyrus D. Wilbern, the two a part of the vanguard of first settlers, came to Osceola county. They began in that year the first agricultural implement business in the county.

It was in 1873 that the worst year in the history of the county occurred. The summer of that year was marked by a plague of

surrender of Lee.

Mr. Wilbern took no big part in the war. He "just helped clear up." Although Thomas' gallant little band participated in no major campaigns, it helped subdue guerilla bands. That meant sharp and dangerous skirmishing.

For the full length of the war, history is thoughtful to remind us that the greatest bane of the Union Army was guerilla bands

(T. O. Wilbern)

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grasshoppers unparaleled since and the winter by a blizzard which was said to have no compare until 1936.

Start General Store

In 1873 the brothers started a general store. The two brothers were associated in the merchandising and later, the land and loan business, until the death of Mr. Wilbern's brother in 1905.

Active in civic affairs, Mr. Wilbern was Mayor of Sibley from March 1897 to April 1900. During his administration, Sibley's fire station and water system were built.

Mr. Wilbern is survived by C. L. Wilbern of Altoona, Ia., Porter L. Wilbern of Sioux City, sons; Mrs. Glen Crawford, Blue Island, Ill., a daughter; three grandchildren, Mrs. Velda Newcomer of Champaign, Ill., Lorane Wilbern, Sioux City and Miss Joan Crawford, of Blue Island, Ill.; one great grandchild, Thomas Wilbern of Sioux City. A son, Cyrus D. Wilbern, died in 1932.

Those from out of town who attended the funeral follow: Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Wilbern, Altoona; the Rev. and Mrs. Glen Crawford, Blue Island, Ill.; Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Wilbern and Mr. and Mrs. Lorane Wilbern, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Clayton and two daughters of Sioux City; Mrs. Charles Glazier and Marguerite Glazier of Sandborn; Mr. and Mrs. Lee and Mrs. Edwards of Des Moines and Mrs. Reed of Ames.

T. O. Wilbern Dies



With the passing of T. O. Wilbern the Grand Army of the Republic has no living representative in Osceola county. Mr. Wilbern was also one of the vanguard of first settlers who came to this county.