



The National Son

The newsletter of the Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans

Volume 2023 No. 2

All Aboard for Indianapolis!

See Page 11 for Convention Information



GOING TO THE FRONT! - 17th Infantry going to the front. Ca. 1899-1900. B. W. Kilburn. Stereo. (War Dept.) Exact Date Shot Unknown NARA FILE #: 165-FS-16-13638 WAR & CONFLICT #: 309

Annual Convention

**Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans
& Daughters of '98
Indianapolis, Indiana
August 4th through 6th, 2023**



Room Reservations

**The Courtyard Marriott at Indianapolis Northwest
7226 Woodland Drive
Indianapolis, Indiana**

Sales Department/Reservation Desk: 515-223-9800

Call by July 10th

From the National President

It is Annual Convention Time

Tim Mabee
National President

National Convention

In this 125th anniversary year of the Spanish-American War, the National Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans convention will be held on August 4th through 6th in Indianapolis, Indiana. PNP James McBryant and I have scheduled some fun things to do and to see while we're there. Some of these are detailed in this newsletter but always stay tuned to the website (<https://ssawv.org>) for the latest information.



Room Reservations

I have arranged for a small block of rooms at Courtyard by Marriott Indianapolis Northwest, 7226 Woodland Drive, Indianapolis. We have 5 rooms each of standard rooms with two Queen size beds at \$170 a night or a King size bed and Sofa bed at \$160 per night. Breakfast is included in the rate. Cancellations after July 17 will be subject to their no-show policy.

Reservations may be made by Call-In, to the Sales Department by July 10: 515-223-9800. There is also a link one can use to make reservations electronically: ([Book Your Group/Corporate Rate | Marriott International](#)) (Ctrl + Click to follow the link.)

A Salute to Indiana

In this issue of *The National Son*, you'll find camp news, convention information as well as 'A Salute to Indiana' consisting of interesting articles and historical snapshots about Indiana's contribution to the Spanish-American War era conflicts.

One Indiana man, Brigadier General Henry Lawton was the most senior U.S. officer killed in action during the era and the *first* U.S. general killed in action on foreign soil. As part of our activities, we'll visit the monument dedicated to his memory in 1907 by then President Theodore Roosevelt.

It is convention time and I hope to see you in Indianapolis!

From the National Chaplain

“A Call to Remember”

The Rev. John S. Sims
PNP & Natl. Chaplain

In my seminary years Paul Tillich (1886-1965) was the theologian who made the most profound impact on understanding my faith. Many people consider him one of the most important theologians of the twentieth century. He was interviewed in his later years and asked what it was that he most feared about approaching death. He responded that it was the fear no one would remember him.

I imagine that many people have some concern with being forgotten when their course of life on this earth is over, but I cannot say whether it was a concern for our SAW veterans. What I can say is that the SSAWV has only one primary reason to exist: As stated in our national constitution, it is “to perpetuate the memory” of all veterans who served our country 1898-1903.

The Korean conflict has often been called the “Forgotten War,” and truly it has been forgotten in many ways by a country whose majority knows little or nothing of history. How much more forgotten are those who served and sacrificed in the War with Spain? They have all died and today there are even few of their children still living who remember them. If the SSAWV does not remember them, they are indeed forgotten. Let us always remember them!



“Peace be to their ashes and honor be to their memory.”



Biographical Note

The Reverend (Dr.) Paul Tillich mentioned in the message by Brother, PNP and National Chaplain John Sims is “widely regarded as one of the most influential theologians of the 20th Century.” A native of Germany he actively campaigned against the Nazi Party and managed to escape in 1933 when deemed “an enemy of the Reich” In the United States he taught at Union Theological Seminary in New York, Harvard Divinity School, and the University of Chicago. He was the author of multiple works and was on the cover of *Time Magazine* in 1959. He died of a heart attack in 1965. His ashes were interred in the Paul Tillich Park in New Harmony, Indiana.

---Indiana's Volunteers---

Hoosiers Provided Over 7,000 Men to Spanish American War

The War Department Adjutant General's *Statistical Exhibit of Strength of Volunteer Forces Called into Service During the War with Spain*, reports Indiana provided 281 officers and 7,142 enlisted men to U.S. Army (Volunteer Units).

The number is actually slightly higher because Indiana provided Company D, under Captain Barton Dickson, of the 2nd U.S. Volunteer Engineers and the 14th U.S. Volunteer Signal Company under Captain Charles T. MacIntire. The Engineers (Companies A through H) saw service in Cuba from November 25, 1898, through 15 April 1899, as part of the Occupation forces. Company D was engaged in building railroads, constructing water works for camps, building roads and hospitals.

Table 1 Indiana Volunteer Units in the Spanish-American War

Indiana Units	Campaigns	Officers	Enlisted
157th Indiana Volunteer Infantry	None	54	1258
158th Indiana Volunteer Infantry	None	52	1294
159th Indiana Volunteer Infantry	None	52	1317
160th Indiana Volunteer Infantry	Cuba	57	1303
161st Indiana Volunteer Infantry	Cuba	52	1411
1st Indiana Volunteers (Colored), Co. A&B	None	6	211
27th Indiana Volunteer Battery	Puerto Rico	4	173
28th Indiana Volunteer Battery	None	4	175
Co. D, 2nd U.S. Volunteer Engineers	Cuba	4	94
14 th U.S. Volunteer Signal Company	None	4	51
Grand Total		289	7,287

According to Indiana State Records, "The 27th Battery was the only organization that was sent to the enemy's country during the war... The 27th Battery was sent to Porto Rico, and they were about to engage the Spaniards, and were on the firing line ready for action, when a messenger arrived announcing that Spain had sued for peace and that hostilities must cease." They began the journey back to the U.S. on September 7, 1898.

Two other units, the 160th Infantry and the 157th Infantry were preparing to embark for Puerto Rico but "the order to move was countermanded". The war ended shortly thereafter. The 160th did see service in Cuba as part of the occupation forces. They arrived on January 15, 1899, and marched for Matanzas remaining until March 27th when ordered out for demobilization.

The 161st Indiana Volunteer Infantry also saw service in Cuba arriving on December 15, 1898. They settled at Campa Columbia in Mariana, Cuba. They departed on March 29, 1899, and returned to the U.S. for demobilization. Their Colonel Winfield T. Durbin had been a private in the 139th Indiana and their Lieutenant Colonel Victor M. Backus had been a private in the 17th Indiana Volunteers during the Civil War.

Statistical Snapshots

According to the *Record of the Indiana Volunteers in the Spanish-American War, 1898-1899*,¹ Indiana troops originated from across the globe and the country. No less than 125 of the volunteers were born in Germany, 16 were from Canada, 19 from England, 10 from Hungary, 18 from Ireland and smaller numbers from Austria, Bohemia, Denmark, France, Holland, Italy, Norway, Poland, Sandwich Islands, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, South America, Wales, and the West Indies.

From the states, the vast majority – 5, 528 – were native Hoosiers. The rest came from practically every other state in the Union. There were 266 men from Illinois, 209 from Kentucky, 105 from Michigan, 111 from Pennsylvania and 502 from Ohio.

More than 1,500 were between the ages of 18 and 21 while the majority of 3,328 were between 21 and 25 followed by 1,544 between 25 and 30 years of age. Seven men were between 50 and 55 years of age, four between 55 and 60 years of age and one man over the age of 60.

1,520 of the men were laborers and 1,223 were farmers. There were 35 members of the free press who enlisted to include 11 editors, six journalists, 18 reporters, 22 photographers and 121 printers. Also enlisting were 66 hostlers, 203 carpenters, 136 blacksmiths, 204 machinists, 109 barbers, 34 musicians, six artists, one auctioneer, one artist and nine ministers of the gospel. There were nine wheelmakers and six shoemakers. The full spectrum of professions was represented.



¹¹ *Record of the Indiana Volunteers in the Spanish-American War, 1898-1899*. Indiana Adjutant General's Office. Indianapolis: William B. Burford, 1900.

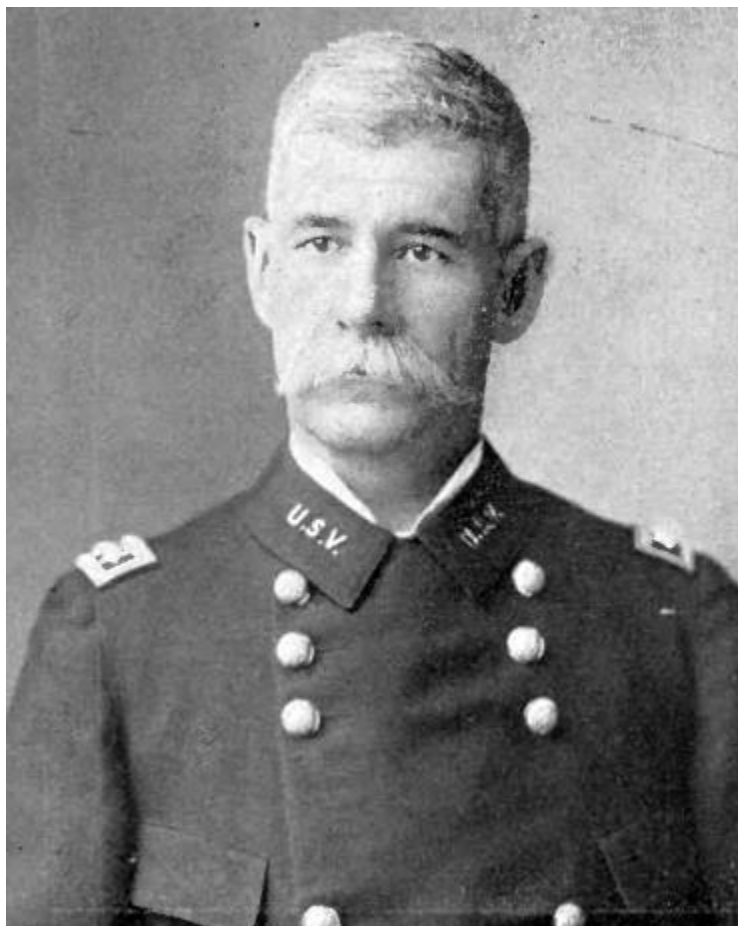
---'General of the Night'---

Brigadier General Henry Lawton: Indiana Native Killed in the Philippines

General Henry Ware Lawton was born in Ohio but grew up partly in Fort Wayne, Indiana and partly in Ohio. He was studying at the Methodist Episcopal College in Fort Wayne in 1858 and was still there when the Civil War erupted.

Civil War

He enlisted as a three-month volunteer in Co. E of the 9th Indiana Volunteer Infantry seeing action at Philippi, Laurel Hill and Corrick's Ford, Virginia (now West Virginia). Shortly after discharge he enlisted in the 30th Indiana Infantry as a First Sergeant and later 1st Lieutenant. The regiment was assigned to the Army of the Ohio and served in the Western Theatre of Operations where he was in 22 battles earning the Medal of Honor for bravery in the Atlanta Campaign. By the time the war ended, he had been breveted to Colonel.



Indian Wars

He graduated from Harvard and tried to get back on active duty and was forced to accept a 2nd Lieutenant's commission in the Regular Army. He reportedly was a good fighter and organized quartermaster during the Indian Wars engaging the Cheyenne, Comanche, Kiowa and Apache. He was described as tenacious in pursuit of Apache and his actions helped lead to Geronimo's surrender. Lawton later served as Inspector General of the Army and was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Regular Army when the war with Spain erupted.

Cuba

In May 1898 he was promoted to Brigadier General of U.S. Volunteers commanding the Second Division of the U.S. V Corps. His 6,000-man force landed at Daiquiri on June 22, 1898. His Division took El Caney after a severe engagement which resulted in heavy casualties for the unit.

He also participated in the Siege of Santiago. When the Spanish surrendered, Lawton was named the military governor of Santiago Province serving until October 1898. He proved to be an effective administrator, establishing law and order and working on sanitation to prevent disease. He suffered from malaria while there.

Philippines

On December 29, Lawton was named to command in the Philippines and would be subordinate to the military governor and Eighth Corps Commander, General E.S. Otis.

Lawton commanded the First Division of the Eighth Army Corps. His forces engaged the Army of the Philippine Republic winning numerous battles including the battle of Zapote River on June 13, 1899. It would turn out to be the second largest battle of the war. He was reportedly liked by his troops, competent and aggressive in the field.

Philippine President Emilio Aguinaldo called Lawton the “General of the Night” because of his multiple night assaults on Filipino positions.

Aguinaldo reportedly said he never knew when Lawton was coming.

During the battle of Paye, Lawton was killed by a Filipino sniper. He was the first American general officer killed on a foreign shore and the highest-ranking officer killed in action during the Spanish-American era. His remains are buried in Arlington National Cemetery following a large procession in Washington D.C. He was buried on February 3, 1900.

The City of Indianapolis commissioned a monument to Lawton’s memory, dedicated in 1907 by President Theodore Roosevelt. It was relocated to the city’s Garfield Park and rededicated in 1917. It stands to the memory of a gallant and professional American soldier.





THE LAWTON MEMORIAL – Pictured above is Theodore Roosevelt addressing 150,000 people at the 1907 dedication of the Lawton memorial. The memorial is pictured below as it is today.



--Indiana's Brigade and Division Commanders--

Indiana Governor Served in Cuba

There were at least three Brigade commanders with Indiana connections, including one Civil War veteran that would become governor in 1900. Among the brigade commanders were:

Colonel Winfield T. Durbin

Winfield T. Durbin was destined to be the last Civil War veteran to be Governor of Indiana. Born in Lawrenceburg, Indiana on May 4, 1847, he was working in his father's tannery when the war broke out. His brothers were able to enlist in the Union Army but he was rejected due to an arm injury. After it healed, he enlisted and reportedly helped raise the 139th Indiana Infantry Regiment serving in the last 12-months of the war.

At the conclusion of the war, he attended school and became a bookkeeper in a store in Indianapolis, finding success in a variety of business ventures. He was also a national leader for the Grand Army of the Republic.

When the Spanish-American War started, he was commissioned a Colonel and commanded the 161st

Indiana Infantry Regiment. He eventually commanded the First Brigade of the Third Division of the U.S. VII Corps (Fitzhugh Lee's) and served in Cuba for three months as part of the occupation forces. Durbin returned home, ran for governor in 1900 and was elected. He died on December 18, 1928, at his home in Anderson, Indiana.



Brigadier General William James McKee

Born in Madison, Indiana on December 12, 1853, McKee was much too young for the American Civil War. He attended college in Connecticut and 1893 became a merchant in Indianapolis. His military service started when he joined the Indiana National Guard. At the age of 39, in 1893, he was made Brigadier General. When the Spanish-American War started, he was appointed a Brigadier General of U.S. Volunteers commanding the Second Division of the First Corps. His service was limited to the continental U.S. at encampments in Georgia and Tennessee.

Brigadier General Charles Elmer Compton.

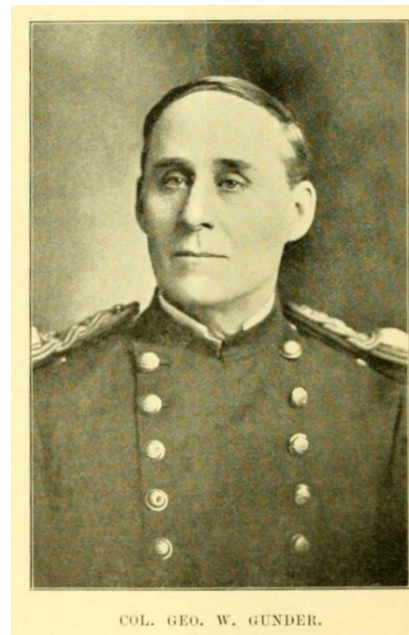
Born in New Jersey on January 28, 1836, General Compton's connection with the state was because of his Civil War service.

He served as a Sergeant in E Company, First Indiana Infantry and then Sergeant Major early in 1861. By October he was a Captain in the Eleventh Indiana Infantry remaining until May 4, 1863, when he was promoted to Major of the 40th U.S.C.T. which led to appointment as Lieutenant Colonel in the 53rd U.S.C.T. Compton remained on active duty after the war and fought Comanches and allied tribes during the Red River War. When the Spanish American War started, he was promoted to Brigadier General of U.S. Volunteers. He commanded the First Division of the First U.S. Army Corps. He does not appear to have seen foreign service.

He was discharged from active service in June 1899 due to age. Though living in Washington, D.C., he was visiting his son in Los Angeles when he died on July 20, 1909.



George W. Gunder: Led Troops in Porto Rico Campaign



Born in July 1840 in Ohio, he was a 21-year-old teacher when the Civil War started. He enlisted in Company B of the 71st Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He was promoted to First Sergeant, then was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. By the time the war ended, he had served in almost all the western campaigns through Atlanta.

Gunder became a merchant when the war ended settling in Indiana in 1868, He helped organize a local National Guard company in 1885. In 1890 he was promoted to Colonel of the Indiana National Guard to command the 4th Indiana Infantry. The 4th was Federally mobilized as the 160th Indiana when the war with Spain started.

In July '98 they prepared for the Porto Rico campaign but later went to Matanzas, Cuba where they relieved the Spanish garrison there. By December he was commanding the First Brigade, Second Division of I Corps. The regiment returned to the U.S. in April 1899. Gunder died on October 11, 1926, in Marion, Grant County, Indiana.



Welcome to Indianapolis, Indiana!



Indiana War Memorial Exterior

During the early part of the twentieth century, a new concept of design was emerging, called City Beautiful Movement. The existing buildings on the plaza, punctuated by the building of the Indiana War Memorial provided a formal setting with classical designs that reflected the concepts of the City Beautiful Movement. The War Memorial is inspired by a neoclassical design. It is similar to the Greek architecture of the fifth century. It is a square shrine structure with a pyramidal dome and has Ionic columns. Its formally designed open spaces and its heroic monuments and statuary all contribute to its grandeur.

Shrine Room

The fundamental intent of the Shrine Room, the emotional and architectural core of the Memorial, was to inspire citizenship amongst all who visit. Inspiration will come from the room itself, its architectural treatment, its shape and lighting which all form a magnificent setting for the American Flag hanging from the center of the room and the lighted Star of Destiny above.

ROOM RESERVATIONS! ***for the Convention***

[Book Your Group/Corporate Rate | Marriott International](#)

Where: Courtyard by Marriott Indianapolis Northwest
7226 Woodland Drive,
Indianapolis, Indiana (Book it electronically at the link: **Ctrl plus Click to follow link**).



When: August 4th through 6th

How: Reservations may be made by Call-In to the Sales Department by July 10 at (515)-223-9800.

Breakfast is included in the rate.

Cancellations after July 17 will be subject to their no-show policy.

5 rooms	standard, 2 Queens	\$170
5 rooms	King, Sofa bed	\$160



Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans

Annual Convention

August 4 to August 6, 2023

Indianapolis, Indiana

Preliminary Agenda

(Additional details to be provided at check-in.)

August 4, 2023 (Friday)

6:00pm-8:00pm Pre-convention social gathering. (Details at check-in.)

August 5, 2023 (Saturday)

3:00pm-5:30pm Registration in Marriott Hotel lobby.

4:00pm-5:00pm Council of Administration

7:15pm-9:00pm Ceremonial opening and 1st plenary session.

Opening Ceremonies, pledge, invocation

Guest Recognition

Daughters of '98

Roll Call of Officers

Minutes of 2022

Treasurer's Report

Officers Reports

Camp Reports

Unfinished Business

New Business: New Charter Presentation / Buckey O'Neil

Nominating Committee Report

unfinished bus

Installation of New Officers

Date and place of next meeting

Benediction

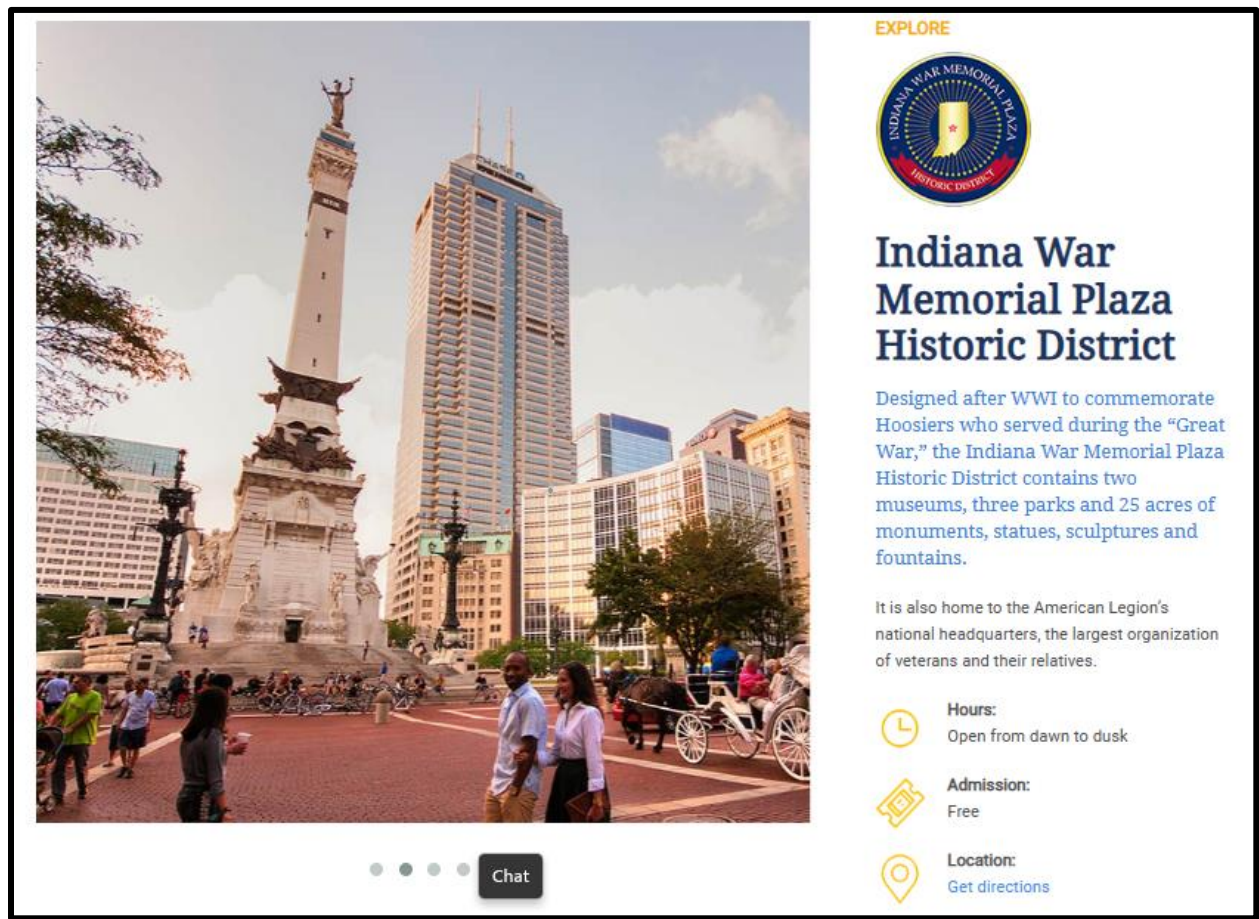
August 6, 2023 (Sunday)

9:15am-12:15pm 2nd Plenary session.

12:15pm-2:30pm Lunch, walking tour of Indianapolis military sites (Details at check-in).

3:00-4:00pm Memorial service (Lawton Memorial, tentative)

6:30pm-8:00pm Dinner at Downtown (Details at check-in.)



The Indiana War Memorial Plaza Historic District is on the agenda as part of a historic walking tour. For more information on the plaza visit: [Indiana War Memorial Plaza Historic District – Indiana War Memorials Foundation](https://ssawv.org)

Enjoy Food and Drinks Offered at Courtyard Indianapolis Northwest

AT THIS HOTEL: The Bistro – Eat. Drink. Connect.® OPEN FOR BREAKFAST ONLY (MONDAY-SATURDAY) American. Your food and beverage destination for refreshing breakfast choices in the morning. The Bistro also offers Starbucks® drip coffee to help you get a jump on the day. Open for breakfast and dinner.

MORE OPTIONS NEARBY

AMERICAN

Steak 'n Shake

.1 Miles

+1 317-299-5043

Open for Breakfast & Lunch & Dinner

Dress Code: Casual

AMERICAN

Gatsby's

1 Miles

Casual Sports Bar

+1 317-275-2205

Open for Lunch & Dinner

Dress Code: Casual

AMERICAN

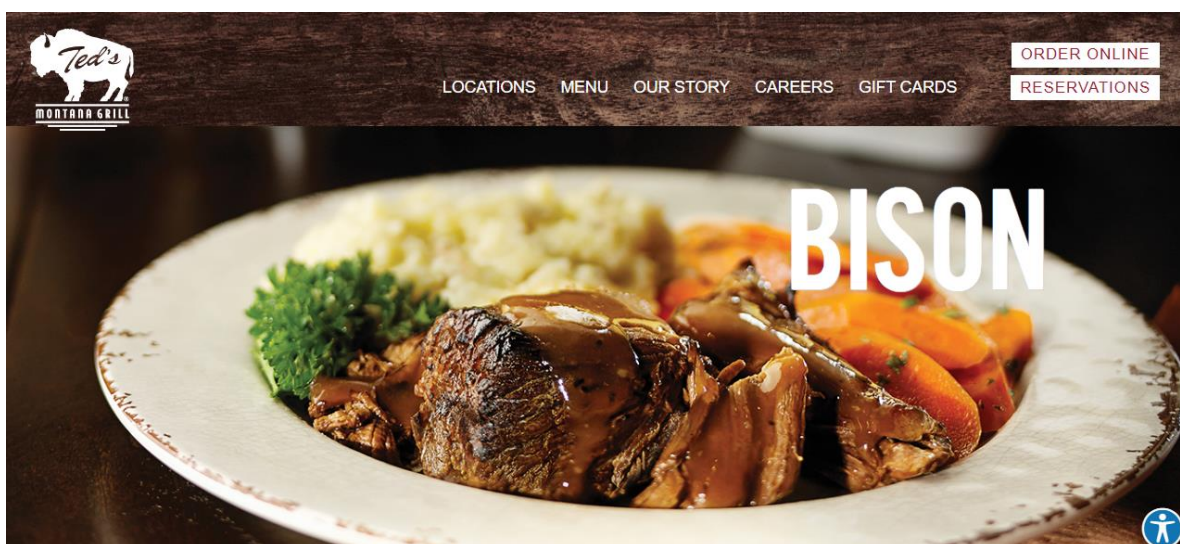
Ted's Montana Grill

2.5 Miles

eco-friendly restaurant founded by Ted Turner featuring American favorites such as steak, burgers, bison and chicken

+1 317-875-8337

Dress Code: Casual



STEAKHOUSE

LongHorn Steakhouse

2.5 Miles

Texas roadhouse style restaurants featuring a menu consisting of fresh cut steaks, as well as salmon, shrimp, chicken, ribs, pork chops, and prime rib.

+1 317-704-0024

Dress Code: Casual

AMERICAN

Traders Point Creamery

Open for Lunch & Dinner

3.9 Miles

Dress Code: Casual

SEAFOOD

Rick's Cafe Boatyard

6.5 Miles

Seafood restaurant situated on the waterfront of Eagle Creek Reservoir. Open for lunch and dinner along with late bar.

+1 317-290-9300

Open for Lunch & Dinner

Dress Code: Casual

ASIAN

P. F. Chang's China Bistro

11 Miles

Features a blend of traditional Chinese cuisine and American hospitality in a contemporary bistro setting.

+1 317-815-8773

Dress Code: Casual

STEAKHOUSE

Sullivan's Steakhouse

11 Miles

Sullivan's is 1940's styled steakhouse featuring the finest steaks and seafood, unparalleled martinis, and great live jazz!

+1 317-580-1280

Dress Code: Dress Jeans

AMERICAN

The Cheesecake Factory

12 Miles

Upscale casual dining restaurants offering a variety of items including specialty pizzas, steaks, pastas, and of course over 30 varieties of cheesecake.

+1 317-566-0100

Dress Code: Casual

ITALIAN

Maggiano's Little Italy®

12 Miles

Offers authentic Italian food served family-style in restaurants throughout the U.S. with locations, menus, take out, gift cards, banquet facilities, and catering

+1 317-814-0700

Dress Code: Casual

SEAFOOD

The Oceanaire Seafood Room

13 Miles

As sleek as a 1930's ocean liner, the Oceanaire provides the perfect setting to enjoy the freshest seafood flown in daily from around the world.

+1 317-955-2277

Dress Code: Casual

ITALIAN

Buca di Beppo®

14 Miles

Italian restaurant offering authentic food served in Italian tradition, across various locations in the U.S. Find location details, menu, and reservation info.

+1 317-632-2822

Dress Code: Casual

STEAKHOUSE

Mo's A Place for Steaks

14 Miles

Mo's...A Place for Steaks

+1 317-624-0720

Dress Code: Shirt/Slacks Req.

STEAKHOUSE

St Elmo Steak House

14 Miles

Serving premium steaks, seafood, and chops in downtown Indianapolis.

+1 317-635-0636

Open for Dinner

Dress Code:

Shirt/Slacks Req.

JAPANESE

Mikado Japanese Restaurant

14 Miles

Mikado Japanese Restaurant, rated best Japanese restaurant in Indianapolis.

+1 317-972-4180

Dress Code: Casual



SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR ARMY KITCHEN (1898)

Credit: The Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs: Photography Collection, The New York Public Library. "Spanish-American war photograph, 1898, an army kitchen" *The New York Public Library Digital Collections*. 1860 - 1920. <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47d9-b363-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99>

Visit Indianapolis!

A variety sites are available for visitation by attendees at the 2023 Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans/Daughters of '98 National Convention in Indianapolis this August.

- Visit the American Legion National Headquarters and American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters.
- A trip to the famed Indianapolis Motor Speedway, home of the “greatest spectacle in racing,” includes a narrated tour of the 100-year-old racing circuit while traveling around its 2.5-mile oval track, and admission to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum.
- Indianapolis is second only to Washington, D.C., in the number of war monuments and memorials. Tour them – including the Soldiers & Sailors Monument, World War II Memorial, USS Indianapolis Memorial & the 9/11 Memorial.
- Camp Atterbury, over 40,000 acres in South Central Indiana, was a major combat training facility during World War II and now is one of two facilities that train regular and reserve forces before their deployment to Afghanistan and Iraq.
- The Allison Engine Company (now Rolls-Royce) had a history of creating U.S. military technology dating back to World War I. Tour its museum in Indianapolis to see historical engines and several turbine engines designed for automobiles.
- Just 30 minutes south of Indianapolis in Edinburg Premium Outlets, home to shopping in stores such as Ann Taylor, LOFT, Ralph Lauren, Coach and Tommy Hilfiger. Visit <https://www.premiumoutlets.com/outlet/indiana> and join their Premium Shopper Club for discounts *before* you arrive!

Entertainment: On Friday, August 4, 2023, at Holliday Park the folk music and country band Mt. Joy will perform at 7 p.m.; Comedian Trey Kennedy performs at 8 p.m. at the Old National Centre and at the Bankers Life Fieldhouse at 7 p.m. the Indiana Fevers take on the Connecticut Sun in a WNBA game.



Indiana State Library and Historical Bureau Holds Spanish-American War Research Materials

The Indiana State Library and Historical Bureau holds a “good amount of material” related to the Spanish-American War according to Reference Librarian Brent Abercrombie but, he notes, “it is not compiled into a single collection.” Nevertheless, it is a unique opportunity for conventioners to slip off and conduct some personal family or unit history research.

Abercrombie said the “general collection contains many biographies of the war, with a surprising amount of content published shortly after the conclusion of the war. Some examples: *Leslie's official history of the Spanish-American War: a pictorial and descriptive record of the Cuban rebellion, the causes that involved the United States, and a complete narrative of our conflict with Spain on land and sea*. The work is “supplemented with fullest information respecting Cuba, Porto Rico, the Philippines and Hawaii, their commerce, climate, productions, history and people : embellished with 1500 original illustrations, by the great artists of Leslie's weekly, and pictures taken of actual scenes by its corps of correspondents and photographers sent to the front for the purpose, including such world-famous masters of the brush and camera (1899)”

They also have *Wright's official history of the Spanish-American War : a pictorial and descriptive record of the Cuban rebellion, the causes that involved the United States, and a complete narrative of our conflict with Spain on land and sea*. It too is “supplemented with

fullest information respecting Cuba, Porto Rico, the Philippines and Hawaii, their commerce, climate, productions, history and people (1900).” Other period titles include *The story of the war of 1898* (1898), and *The Spanish-American War* (1901).

Abercrombie said the library’s government documents collection also contains published material to include the following titles: *The Spanish-American war: Blockades and coast defense* (1899), *Sketches from the Spanish-American War* (1899), and *How the Battleship Maine was destroyed* (1976).

He said, “We also have a collection of newspaper clippings on the war including a *Scrapbook of newspaper articles on the Spanish American War*. Abercrombie noted, “Our Genealogy division has microfiche on Michigan and Maryland soldiers from the war. Our library also has access to Ancestry.com and FamilySearch, which both have digital collections on the Spanish-American War.”

Most important are The Rare Books & Manuscripts Division which, he says, “has several manuscript collections relating to the war: Spanish American War letters, Spanish American War, 160th Indiana Volunteers military pass, Fred Norris papers, Ralph W. Stark collection, and U.S.S. Indiana ribbons.” (The titles are linked to the collection finding aids for potential researchers “to get a better sense of each collection.:

Abercrombie says, “These titles do not represent the entirety of ISL’s material on the war. I would encourage you to browse our online collections, and search by subsection headings (Spanish-American War, 1898).”



USS INDIANA – Just one of many photos contained in Wright’s Official History of the Spanish-American War, a copy of which is in the Indiana State Library in Indianapolis.

Select Bibliography of Indiana Volunteers in the Spanish-American War

Biederwolf, William Edward. *History of the One Hundred and Sixty-First Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry*. Logansport, Indiana: Wilson, Humphries, and Company, 1899. A contemporary and detailed regimental history with a unit roster. The 161st Indiana Volunteer Infantry saw service as part of the Occupation of Cuba arriving on December 15, 1898. They settled at Campa Columbia in Mariana, Cuba. They departed on March 29, 1899, and returned to the U.S. for demobilization.

Internet Archive: [History of the One hundred and sixty-first regiment, Indiana volunteer infantry : Biederwolf, William E. \(William Edward\), 1867-1939. cn : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

Cassard, William Gilbert (Editor) and Everett B. Mero. *Battleship Indiana, and Her Part in the Spanish American War*. New York, 1898. Compiled and published for the Indiana Ship's Company by Everett B. Mero, Chief Yeoman, U.S.N. This ship was a participant in the battle of Santiago Bay.

Internet Archive: [Battleship Indiana, and her part in the Spanish-American War : Cassard, William Gilbert, 1864-\[from old catalog\] ed : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

Record of Indiana Volunteers in the Spanish-American War, 1898-1899. Indianapolis: Sixty-first General Assembly of Indiana, 1900. Basic resource; contains Indiana government actions and complete rosters and service of all volunteers.

Internet Archive: [Record of Indiana volunteers in the Spanish-American war 1898-1899; : Indiana. Adjutant General's Office : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)

Watt, William J., and James R. H. Spears, eds. *Indiana's Citizen Soldiers: The Militia and National Guard in Indiana History*. Indianapolis: Indiana State Armory Board, 1980. Useful background; good chapter on Spanish-American War. Additional resources. Available for borrowing on Internet Archive.

Internet Archive: [Indiana's citizen soldiers : the militia and National Guard in Indiana history : Free Download, Borrow, and Streaming : Internet Archive](#)



--- Research Available Online ---

Index of Spanish-American War Veterans

INDIANAPOLIS – The nationally-recognized Indiana Digital Archives² (www.indianadigitalarchives.org) has new digital collections available for anyone interested in Indiana heritage and genealogy.

The United Spanish War Veterans (USWV) database includes over 6,470 entries for members of the Indiana Department of the USWV. The database, including the Indiana subset, was created in 1904 by the merger of three smaller record sets of Spanish-American War veterans. At the peak of the war, there were over ninety camps (posts) located in towns across Indiana. Although the USWV national headquarters closed in 1998, Indiana USWV records have remained housed at the Indiana State Archives. Membership files for the Indiana Department of the USWV are organized alphabetically by veterans' names.

Typical files contain applications, membership information, pension correspondence, and death notices (TAPS). Information on spouses and widows can also be found within many files.

“Indiana has a proud Spanish-American War legacy of being the first state in the union to have its entire quota mustered into service,” said Jim Corridan, State Archivist and Director of the Indiana Commission on Public Records in 2011. He said, “As with military conflicts that preceded and followed the Spanish-American War, Hoosier soldiers have led the way in defense of our nation and we at the State Archives feel privileged to share their records with current and future generations of Hoosiers.”

Researchers can view the United Spanish War Veterans database and the naturalization databases along with other Indiana State Archives collections through the Indiana Digital Archives.

About the Indiana Digital Archives. The Indiana Digital Archives is operated by the State Archives Division of the Indiana Commission on Public Records. The result of a cooperative partnership made possible by a grant from the Library of Congress and administered by the Washington State Archives, the Digital Archives has more than 2.8 million searchable records online. Other partners include the states of Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Louisiana, Montana, Nevada, North Carolina, and Oregon. The Digital Archives was named a 2011 Best State Website by "Family Tree Magazine."

About the Indiana State Archives. The Indiana State Archives collects records of historical value including governmental history, census and naturalization records for families, selected medical, military and criminal records, records of land ownership, maps, blueprints and photographs. Visit the Collections Page for a detailed listing of these resources, including links to online exhibits and electronic indices of select records.

² This is an edited reprint of a 2011 news release.

Camp News

Buckey O'Neill Camp 175 (Arizona)

The Buckey O'Neill Camp 175 presented a wreath on Memorial Day to Spanish American War veteran Nathan Cook who was the last United Spanish American War Veterans member as well as the last United States Spanish American War veteran. Nathan Cook enlisted in 1901 during the Philippine Insurrection with the Navy serving on the *USS Pensacola*. Mr. Cook also served in the Border War, World War I, and World War II.



Nathan Cook - Last surviving American veteran of the Spanish-American War era.



Avery Frantz President and Verna Maleski, National Senior Vice President of the Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War presented the wreath.

In the photo below, the Buckey O'Neill Camp and a granddaughter of a Spanish American War veteran help flag graves at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix.



Camp Quinn 173 (Lebanon, PA)



MEMORIAL DAY PARADE – In the top photo, Past National President Jim McAteer drove a SSAWV car with new member Dennis Flake in the Lebanon Memorial Day parade. In bottom photo, Daughters of '98 Past National President Pat McAteer rode in the Daughters car with driver Jim Rinehart, Nancy Rinehart (front seat) and Pauline Werni (back seat) (Photo contributed by Pat McAteer)



DAUGHTERS SCHOLARSHIP- Lebanon, Pennsylvania *Fort Keystone Commonwealth* Daughters of 98 #173 present their first student award to Vo-Tech student Meghan Carpenter. Presenting award is Sue Dieffenbach Secretary and co-founder of the Lebanon Fort. The *Keystone Commonwealth* Fort is one of the most active in the Daughters of '98 and remains active in 'showing the flag' for Spanish-American War era veterans. (Photo contributed by Pat McAteer)



***LEST WE FORGET* – While 'showing the flag' for the Daughters of '98 flag in the Lebanon, Pennsylvania Memorial Day parade, Keystone Commonwealth Fort #173 Daughters of 98 President Pauline Werni also showed a photo of Lt. Col. Theodore Roosevelt of the 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry, the 'Rough Riders'. (Photo contributed by Pat McAteer)**

USS Olympia Camp No. 174 (Philadelphia, PA)



The USS Olympia Camp No. 174 in Philadelphia conducted two Memorial Day events, according to Bill Burkheimer, National First Vice-President for the Sons of Spanish-American War Veterans. The camp helped put up flags in the Laurel Hill Cemetery, a historic rural cemetery in the East Falls neighborhood of Philadelphia founded in 1836. It contains over 200,000 burials, 58,000 monuments and about 400 mausoleums. On Memorial Day the camp conducted service and presented a wreath at Commodore George Dewey’s flagship and Manila Bay veteran the USS OLYMPIA (C-6) moored at the Independence Seaport Museum in Philadelphia.

General Joe Wheeler Camp (Chattanooga, TN)

Camp member Greg Eanes delivered the Memorial Day speech at Sailor’s Creek Battlefield State Park near Amelia, Virginia on May 27, 2023. The site of the last major engagement of the American Civil War on April 6, 1865, Eanes spoke of the battlefield as a “living memorial to reunion and reconciliation” as demonstrated by the many acts of humanity between blue and gray in those final hours of Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia.

Quoting President Theodore Roosevelt who said, “*the memory and the valor showed alike by the men who wore the blue and the men who wore the gray, is a heritage of honor for the whole country*”, Eanes proceeded to detail many vignettes associated with the battlefield also noting the many future Spanish-American War veterans at this particular battle.



Eanes said, “No less than 21 veterans of Sailor’s Creek (Lockett’s Farm, Hillsman’s Farm and Harper’s Farm) to include eight Confederates, played a role in the Spanish-American War, the event identified by many veterans as the final seal on reunion and reconciliation for a united nation. Most, including four former Confederates, served as General Officers in the U.S. Army.”



MONUMENT OF THE 161st INDIANA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY IN CUBA erected by the men of the regiment between January 21 to February 5, 1899, at Camp Columbia near Havana. The base was sixteen square feet and four feet high. It was surmounted by a second base twelve feet square and three feet high. The shaft was sixteen feet high and four feet square at its base and two- and one-half feet square at the top where rests a twelve-inch steel shell making a total height of twenty-four feet. The shaft was a heavy frame work covered with brain coral and set in cement. In the cornerstone was placed a tin box 15”x15” filled with papers, historical records and mementos from the unit to include a complete roster, a copy of drill regulations, the manual of arms, photographs of officers of the regiment, and “all the newspapers published in Indiana which could be procured, a few small coins, a piece of rope from the lamented *Maine*, one cigar in a box, a brief history of the regiment, copies of the New York, Cincinnati and Chicago papers, and lastly a copy of the *Times of Cuba*, of Tuesday, January 23 which contained the first account of the unique memorial of the Indiana regiment.” (Photo by Eola Willis. Special Collections of Charleston, SC Libraries. ID 31717)

REGIMENTAL BAND of the 161st Indiana Volunteer Infantry. The band gave weekly concerts. It is reported, “They withstood the climate of Cuba admirably, and returned to Savannah March 29. 1899...As a band this ranked second to none in the Seventh Army Corps All are as proud of their record as the men are of the record of the regiment during the Spanish-American war.”

See [161st Indiana Volunteer Infantry Band \(spanamwar.com\)](https://spanamwar.com)

