



**ISRAEL KNOKE,** Private, Company B, 151st Indiana Infantry, Union Street Cemetery, Valparaiso



**HIRAM BARTON,** Private, Company A, 99th Indiana Regiment, 1839-1922, Merrillville Cemetery



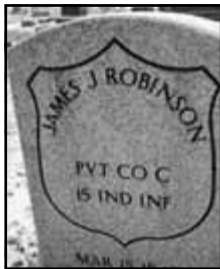
**ISRAEL VANNES,** Private, Companies B, D and K, 20th Indiana Infantry, Merrillville Cemetery



**JAMES M. BUEL,** Second Lieutenant, Company M, 12th Indiana Cavalry, Union Street Cemetery, Valparaiso



**JAMES FRAZIER,** Private, Companies B and H, 20th Indiana Regiment, 1827-1905, Merrillville Cemetery



**JAMES J. ROBINSON,** Private, Company C, 15th Indiana Infantry, 1843-1915, Maplewood Cemetery, Valparaiso



**JAMES A. VANATTER,** Private, Company H, 9th Indiana Infantry, 1841-1918, Maplewood Cemetery, Valparaiso



**JOHN GROAT,** Musician (Fifer), Company B, 40th Indiana Infantry, Oak Hill Cemetery, Hammond

## HELL'S HALF ACRE | COL. ISAAC SUMAN

If anyone was the Porter County counterpart to Crown Point's Col. John Wheeler, it was Valparaiso's Col. Isaac Suman, an eminent citizen who served as postmaster and mayor of the city following the war.

Unlike Wheeler, Suman survived the Civil War, though not unscathed. A 1911 news account of Suman's death in the Porter County Vidette indicates he died of heart disease and that his death likely was hastened by 50-year-old wounds he suffered at the Battle of Stones River in Tennessee.

Suman, who also served in the Mexican-American war as a teenager in the late 1840s, was the son of a Maryland Revolutionary War veteran who at one time owned slaves, something the younger Suman reportedly detested.

He moved to Valparaiso in the 1850s and enlisted in the 9th Indiana as a captain in 1861, making colonel in 1863.

Suman led his regimental company during the 1862 battle in an area that later would be dubbed Hell's Half Acre because of the many casualties. During the fighting, a bullet known as a Minie ball passed through Suman's body, according to his obituary and military records.

In 1863, Suman and others present during the fighting would help build Hazen's Monument at the scene of the battle — a memorial to the brigade that held the ground in a Union victory.

Near the war's end, President Abraham Lincoln offered to promote Suman to the rank of brigadier general. Suman declined, saying he did not serve for glory.



**ISAAC SUMAN** (wounded in battle), Colonel, Company H, 9th Indiana Infantry, 1831-1911, Maplewood Cemetery, Valparaiso

Suman was one of the highest-ranking Civil War veterans with region ties. Suman was shot but survived during the Battle of Stones River in 1862, a Minie ball, or rounded bullet, passing through his body, according to his obituary. The conflict, near Murfreesboro, Tenn., ended in Union victory. Fighting on ground held by Suman's regiment was so fierce it became known as "Hell's Half Acre." Following the battle, Suman and another colonel, William Hazen, arranged for a monument in Murfreesboro to honor the fallen soldiers there. Hazen's Monument, as it is now known, is believed to be the oldest standing Civil War monument.



**JARIUS P. JONES,** Corporal and Sergeant, Companies B, D and K, 20th Indiana Infantry, 1834-1896, Merrillville Cemetery



**JOHN B. HERR,** Private, Company B, 151st Indiana Infantry, 1809-1891, Union Street Cemetery, Valparaiso



**JOHN A. KELLAR,** Sergeant, 24th Battery, Indiana Light Artillery, Oak Hill Cemetery, Hammond



**JOHN W. LYON,** Private, Company H, 9th Indiana Infantry, Union Street Cemetery, Valparaiso

## WAR AND MATRIMONY | MCCARTHYS

Many region Civil War veterans lived in apparent happiness before and after the war.

Among them were Valparaiso physician Dr. John McCarthy and his wife, Mary. They were described in news accounts of the era as the consummate team.

John McCarthy served as a Union Army surgeon — achieving the rank of major — for the 29th Indiana Infantry.

According to her headstone, Mary J. McCarthy served as an Army nurse, though her service records could not be verified.

In 1861, Dr. McCarthy served as a secretary for a gathering of men who organized one of Indiana's first volunteer regiments following the war's first shots fired at South Carolina's Fort Sumter.

The McCartlys, who lived on Valparaiso's South Washington Street, held important roles in the community, with John McCarthy serving as the city's postmaster for several years following the war and his wife helping to run the office and organize its affairs, according to John McCarthy's 1905 obituary.

Today, the husband and wife remain together in side-by-side graves. Their memorial markers are among the first to be seen when entering the gates of Valparaiso's Union Street Cemetery.



**JOHN F. MCCARTHY,** Major/Surgeon, 29th Indiana Infantry, 1824-1905, Union Street Cemetery, Valparaiso

McCarthy's grave is one of the first seen when entering the gate at this historic Valparaiso cemetery. A surgeon during the Civil War, McCarthy's marker is next to that of his wife, Mary McCarthy, who according to her headstone served as an Army nurse. John McCarthy served in the Indiana Legislature prior to the war, according to news accounts of the era.

## NORTH AND SOUTH | GETHRO G. WOOD

Not all the Civil War veterans buried in the region fought for Indiana regiments — and at least one wasn't even a native of the northern states.

Gethro G. Wood went by the nickname of "General," though his actual rank in Company H of the 1st Tennessee and Alabama Independent Vidette Cavalry was private.

Wood, an Alabama native, joined the unit — composed of southern men loyal to the northern cause — in February 1864.

He moved to Indiana and, ultimately, Hammond with his wife, Martha, sometime following the war.

In 1927, suffering from heart and circulation ailments and a widower by that time, 82-year-old Wood moved into a Danville, Ill., home for disabled veterans, according to records from the home.

He died there a month later — with about \$9 remaining to his name — and was shipped back to Hammond's Oak Hill Cemetery for burial.



**GETHRO G. WOOD,** Private, Company H, 1st Tennessee and Alabama Independent Vidette Cavalry, 1844-1927, Oak Hill Cemetery, Hammond

Though his headstone indicates he fought for the 1st Alabama Cavalry, a Confederate unit, military records show Wood actually fought for the 1st Tennessee and Alabama Independent Vidette Cavalry, a Union unit made of up southern men loyal to the northern cause. An Alabama native, Wood moved to Indiana with his wife Martha sometime following the war. Though he lived in Hammond in the early 1900s, Wood died in a Danville, Ill., home for disabled veterans in 1927, and his body was shipped back to Hammond for burial. Listed as a widower in records from the home, Wood had about \$9 left to his name at his time of death.

## CADENCE OF WAR | WINFIELD BREWER

Most of the region men who fought in the Civil War were lowly privates, not high-ranking majors, colonels and generals.

And in some cases, they weren't men at all.

Fourteen-year-old Winfield "Winnie" Brewer followed his father, Capt. Jacob Brewer, into battle with the 99th Indiana Infantry in 1861.

The Valparaiso youth became a drummer boy in the regiment for the duration of the four-year war, a duty requiring him to set the cadence for marching and assembly at camp and in battle.

It's a skill he would hone into a profession, joining the traveling P.T. Barnum Circus band after the war, winning several drumming awards and titles and becoming a fixture in Valparaiso parades for many years.

Brewer also became a regular at reunions of the 99th Indiana Infantry. His 1909 obituary indicates he was returning home from such a reunion in September of that year when he slipped and fell 40 feet from a Hobart railroad bridge. He would die in the hospital from his wounds that December at age 62.

A drum belonging to the Valparaiso native remains on display at the Porter County Historical Society Museum, and his grave lies at Valparaiso's Maplewood Cemetery, not far from that of Suman and more than two dozen other Civil War veterans.

**WINFIELD E. BREWER,** Musician, Company C, 99th Indiana Infantry, 1847-1909, Maplewood Cemetery, Valparaiso



A lifelong resident of Valparaiso, Brewer enlisted as a drummer for his regiment at the age of 14, serving from 1862 until the war's end in 1865. His father, Jacob Brewer, served as captain in the same regiment. After the war, Winfield Brewer worked for a time as a traveling drummer for the P.T. Barnum Circus band. In September 1909, following a reunion of the 99th Indiana, Brewer fell 40 feet from the Nickel Plate railroad bridge in Hobart. His obituary indicates he ultimately died from the injuries he sustained from the fall in December of that year.

A drum played by Winfield Brewer from the 99th Indiana Infantry is on display at the Porter County Historical Museum in Valparaiso.

JOHN J. WATKINS | THE TIMES



**JOHN C. SIGWALT,** Private, Company C, 5th California Infantry, Salem Cemetery



**MARK L. DEMOTTE,** First Lieutenant, 4th Battery, Indiana Light Artillery, 1832-1908, Maplewood Cemetery, Valparaiso



**JAMES A. LANDON,** Captain, Company B, 153rd Illinois Infantry, Oak Hill Cemetery, Hammond



**JOHN B. SWOAP,** Private, Company F, 199th Pennsylvania Infantry, Death 1914, Maplewood Cemetery, Valparaiso



**LEWIS COLLINS,** Seaman, USS Colorado, Maplewood Cemetery, Valparaiso



**MYRON J. SWEET,** Corporal, Company I, 5th Indiana Cavalry, Salem Cemetery



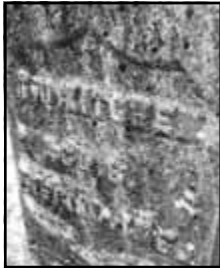
**MELVIN GLAZIER,** Private, Company B, 20th Indiana Infantry, 1833-1902, Merrillville Cemetery



**SAMUEL WHITE,** Private, Company A, 99th Indiana Infantry, 1825-1908, Merrillville Cemetery



**STEPHEN H. BAUGHMAN,** Private, Company A, 10th Ohio Cavalry, Oak Hill Cemetery, Hammond



**THOMAS A. KITCHEN,** Private, Company B, 151st Indiana Infantry, Maplewood Cemetery, Valparaiso



**THOMAS J. MCKNIGHT,** Private, Company I, 144th Indiana Infantry, Oak Hill Cemetery, Hammond



**WILLIAM H. FREEMAN,** Private, Company H, 9th Indiana Infantry, Salem Cemetery



**WILLIAM H. BEAL,** Captain, Company B, 111th Ohio Infantry, Oak Hill Cemetery, Hammond



**WILLIAM S. BHYMER,** Private, Company A, 87th Indiana Infantry, Maplewood Cemetery, Valparaiso



**LUMAN A. FOWLER,** Private, Companies A and E, 73rd Indiana Infantry and 151st Indiana Infantry, 1844-1917, Maplewood Cemetery, Crown Point



**NEHEMIAH HUNTLEY,** Private, Company D, 38th Indiana Infantry, 1836-1896, Merrillville Cemetery