



Travels in Time Indiana World War One Sites

The sites included in this itinerary are in some way recognized by programming that filters through the DHPA—the State or National Registers, the Historic Theater Initiative, the Cemetery Registry, the Underground Railroad Initiative, and others. The itinerary are by no means a comprehensive list of sites in Indiana related to each theme.

Enthusiasm of War - Statewide

Unfortunately during times of war, a country's citizen's may create a sense of nationalism or patriotism capable of generating racist sentiments, which may lead to the recipients of those racist sentiments being labeled unpatriotic, traitors, or worse. During the First World War, similar feelings were directed toward Indiana's German community. In Indiana, as elsewhere, these attitudes produced public pressure and legislation prohibiting German language instruction in public schools, pressure on German language newspapers to stop publication, a cessation of public performances of German music, and the Americanization of German names often found in street and city names throughout the state. Many businesses also feeling this pressure changed their names, like Das Deutsche Haus in Indianapolis, which became the Athenaeum, and the Fort Wayne German-American National Bank, which changed its name to Lincoln National Bank. Can you find an example in your town or county?

INDIANA STAMPS OUT TEACHING OF GERMAN IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Indianapolis, Ind., Feb. 26.—Indiana has stamped out the teaching of the German language and the trustees and officers of any elementary school, schools of correction, and benevolent institutions, private and Parochial schools, are subject to fine and imprisonment if German is taught today. Governor Goodrich late yesterday signed the McCray anti-German bill shortly after its passage by the House of Representatives, which sets out that "the German language shall not be taught in any of the elementary schools of Indiana."

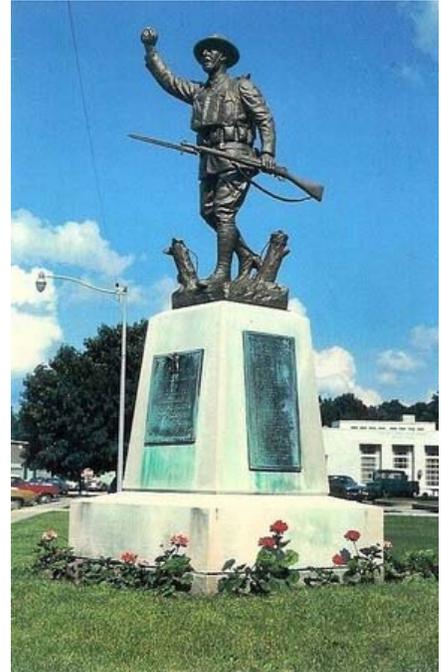
"THE SPIRIT OF THE AMERICAN DOUGHBOY" (Eleven Counties)

A major figure in shaping American's remembrance of the First World War was Ernest Moore Viquesny of Spencer, Indiana. Born in 1876, he learned sculpting, engraving, and carving from his father and served in the Spanish American War, later heading the town of Spencer's Spanish American War Veterans Post on more than one occasion. Viquesny was eventually employed in Americus, Georgia by Clark's Monumental Works and Schneider's Marble Company, where he was involved in the design and construction of monuments placed in the nearby National Cemetery at the Andersonville Civil War Prison site. Around 1920, he created what would become the most widely recognizable statue in United States, "The Spirit of the American

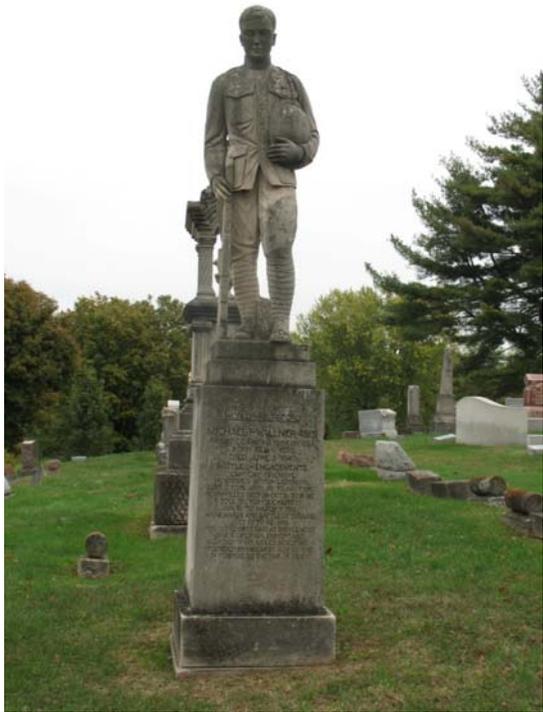
Doughboy.” Dressed in the American uniform of the First World War with rifle in hand, the soldier appears to be boldly entering no man’s land, the barren and dangerous landscape separating opposing forces during the war. It is believed there are 135 statues in thirty-five states, eleven of which are in Indiana.

Locations of “The Spirit of the American Doughboy” in Indiana:

1. Attica, Indiana (Fountain County)-- Library Park, in front of Attica Public Library, at 305 South Perry Street.
2. Evansville, Indiana (Vanderburgh County) -- Funkhouser American Legion Post No. 8 at 6001 New Harmony Road.
3. Fort Wayne, Indiana (Allen County) -- At Glasgow Avenue entrance to Memorial Park.
4. Greencastle, Indiana (Putnam County)-- On the Putnam County Courthouse lawn.
5. Hartford City, Indiana (Blackford County) – On the Blackford County Courthouse lawn.
6. Hobart, Indiana (Lake County) -- A triangular park bounded by Seventh, Lincoln, and Main Streets.
7. Muncie, Indiana (Delaware County) -- In Elm Ridge Cemetery, 4600 Kilgore Ave.
8. New Castle, Indiana (Henry County) -- In Memorial Park just north of New Castle. It stands on a large earthen mound covered with shrubs and foliage (a common setting designed by Viquesney).
9. Peru, Indiana (Miami County) -- On the Miami County Courthouse Square.
10. Spencer, Indiana (Owen County) -- On the Owen County Courthouse lawn.
11. Winchester, Indiana (Randolph County) -- On Randolph County Courthouse Square.



For more information on doughboys visit <http://doughboysearcher.weebly.com/>



Wallner Monument (Lawrence County)

Known as the “Limestone Capital of the World,” the city of Bedford, Indiana produces not only an abundance of Oolitic limestone but also talented artists, sculptors, and the products of their work.

One such sculpture is the Michael F. Wallner (1893-1940) Monument located in Greenhill Cemetery. The sculpture modeled by Frank Arena and carved by Fred Edler, displays impressive facial, clothing, and weaponry detail. Wallner, a Private in Company A-16th Infantry First Division, fought in numerous battles during the First World War, which are memorialized on the base of the stone. Regrettably, Wallner was wounded by shellfire in a campaign on July 20, 1918. Although sent home and hospitalized for his wounds, he never recovered. Wallner died in a

military hospital twenty-two years later.

Greenhill Cemetery
1202 18th Street
Bedford, Indiana

Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis (Marion County)

Following the Spanish American War and realizing the need for additional troop mobilization sites, the federal government constructed Fort Benjamin Harrison in 1903. The site, chosen for its central location, also had access to railroad facilities able to assist with troop and equipment movement. However, between the summer of 1913 and the spring of 1917, Fort Benjamin Harrison sat mostly empty with the exception of a few soldiers stationed there to maintain the base. But, with war raging in Europe the need soon arose to prepare for American entry into the conflict. Fort Benjamin Harrison was selected as one of thirteen different military bases to host officers of the first training series, beginning in May of 1917. Numerous Indiana National Guard units were mobilized at Fort Benjamin Harrison and near the height of this activity in June 1917, one Indianapolis newspaper estimated 12,000 men resided at the base.



Troops spent up to several weeks training at the fort, practicing trench digging, and learning trench-style warfare as witnessed along the front lines in Europe. Instructors tried their best to simulate battlefield conditions by exposing troops to night rifle fire and bombing, which ruined soldier's sleep but prepared them for overseas fighting. Training also included long hikes around the reservation, most of which occurred along Fall Creek which traverses the property.

The Medical Officers Training Camp opened on June 1, 1917 with 300 distinguished physicians coming to the northeast side of Marion County. By winter, the camp was dismantled and replaced by General Hospital Number 25, constructed as a temporary structure. Initially, the hospital dealt with the 1918 Influenza Pandemic, but later, the majority of patients were victims suffering from what was then known as "Shell Shock," referred to today as post-traumatic stress disorder.

Following the First World War, Fort Benjamin Harrison remained an active military base and played an important role training troops during the Second World War. However, with the conclusion of the Cold War, the United States government began downsizing the military by closing bases, and in 1991 Fort Benjamin Harrison was decommissioned. In 1995, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources took over a portion of the decommissioned fort and created Fort Benjamin Harrison State Park.

Fort Harrison State Park
6000 N. Post Road
Indianapolis, IN 46216
<http://www.in.gov/dnr/parklake/2982.htm>



Indiana World War Memorial Plaza (Marion County)

Soon after the First World War, in an attempt by the city of Indianapolis to lure the national headquarters of the newly formed American Legion, and to honor the Hoosiers and all Americans who gave their lives and service during the “Great War,” the decision was made to erect a memorial.

Construction of the memorial, which was designed by architects Frank R. Walker and Harry E. Weeks began in early 1926 but was not fully completed until 1965. The building, which is modeled after the Persian Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, exhibits a square shrine structure with a pyramidal dome, and Ionic columns. The structure's exterior also includes multiple standing figures that symbolize Courage, Memory, Peace, Victory, Liberty, and Patriotism.

The main floor houses exhibit space, administrative offices, meeting rooms, and the

Pershing Auditorium. Also on this level is a listing of the names of all Hoosiers who participated in the First World War and all Hoosiers who were killed or missing in action from the Second World War, Korea, and Vietnam. A military museum in the basement allows visitors to follow the history of Indiana soldiers from the Battle of Tippecanoe through the most recent conflicts. The Shrine Room, with twenty-four stained glass windows, is a stunning architectural setting for the 17-by-30 foot American flag suspended from the center of the room.

Indiana World War Memorial
50 East Michigan Street
Indianapolis, IN 46204
<http://www.in.gov/iwm/>



To learn more about the National Register of Historic Places, preservation, or historic buildings or other program administered by the DNR-DHPA, visit us at www.in.gov/dnr/historic

