Indiana in the Spanish-American War

Our Gallant Volunteers
Mustered into Service of U.S. for the Spanish-American War, at Camp Mount, July 15, 1898.
First Separate Co. Colored Infantry Indiana Vols.

Officially grouped at military headquarters, Camp Mount, on Wednesday morning, July 27, 1898, under the supervision of the military authorities.
Focus

This year marks the centennial of the Spanish-American War. It lasted barely four months, from April to August 1898. The major focus of this issue is on the home front experience.

An overview of the war is on pages 3-4. The timeline throughout provides greater detail.

On pages 5-6 is an overview of the official Indiana response to the call for volunteers to fight the war. The chart on page 6 summarizes the organization and service of Indiana volunteers.

A diary on pages 7-10 provides an extensive record of service in the words of one volunteer. That view is expanded by photographs and boxed items.

On page 11, there is a brief explanation of the dilemma of black citizens and soldiers in the war.

Disease was the biggest killer in this war. The role of nurses and development of the U.S. Army Medical Department is summarized on page 12. The experience of one Indiana soldier in the Hospital Corps is provided on pages 13-14.

Resources are provided on page 15.

The front and back cover images demonstrate the pride of Indiana volunteers.

The U.S.S. Indiana, built 1891-1895, was the first state-of-the-art battleship of the new U.S. Navy. It played an important role in the blockade of Cuba and the battle off Santiago on July 3, 1898.

The ship chaplain, William G. Cassard, edited a book for the crew: Battleship Indiana and Her Part in the Spanish-American War (New York: privately published, 1899). The ship also served in World War I. The U.S. sank it in 1920 in tests of aerial bombs. The citizens of Indiana demonstrated their pride in the ship by presenting a Tiffany and Co. silver service on September 21, 1896; the story is in Indiana’s Gift to the Battleship Indiana (Indianapolis: privately published, 1896). Pieces of this silver set are presently on loan to the Indiana Governor’s Residence from the Naval Supply Systems Command, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

You be the historian

• Explore in more depth some of the topics on the Spanish-American War in this issue. There are extensive resources on the Internet as well as in library collections.
• Explore the resources in your community about the role its people played in the war. The official Record of Indiana Volunteers (see Bibliography, page 15) provides the town of each volunteer. Your community or county seat also might have a war memorial which lists war volunteers. Be sure, for example, to work with your public library, historical society or museum, local newspaper, local national guard armory, and local historians. Are there descendants still in the area who might have stories or artifacts from the war that they would share?
• What has happened to the countries on the map on page 3 of this issue? What is their status today?
• Newspapers played a large role in forming public opinion about the war. How has the media influenced wars that were fought after this one. What role does the media play in forming public opinion in the present?
In 1898, Spain ruled the island of Cuba located south of Florida in the Caribbean Sea. Since 1895, Cubans had been in revolt against Spanish rule. Spanish rulers on the island became more and more cruel to the Cubans. There was widespread belief by Americans that the U.S. had to defend the freedom of the Cuban revolutionaries and help to free them from Spanish oppression. Also, valuable American trade with Cuba was being interrupted.

In January 1898, the U.S. Steamship Maine was sent to Havana, Cuba as a show of support for American interests. On February 15, 1898, the Maine was sunk in the harbor by an explosion. “Remember the Maine” became a battle cry in many American newspapers. Two New York newspapers trying to increase circulation led the way with stories—some of them false—which caused Americans to sympathize with the Cuban fight for independence and blame Spain for the Maine sinking.

U.S. President William McKinley tried to avoid war through various diplomatic activities. Finally, however, at the request of President McKinley, the U.S. Congress declared war on Spain on April 25, 1898, retroactive to April 21.

During the war the recently upgraded U.S. Navy performed with great success. The U.S. Army is generally remembered for the glory of the Rough Riders and Theodore Roosevelt winning San Juan Hill from the Spanish (Cosmas, 1). However, many volunteer soldiers mustered into the U.S. Army never left the U.S.

Many historians believe that the Cuban situation became an opportunity for politicians who wanted to increase U.S. possessions, influence, and trade. These politicians are called expansionists. Theodore Roosevelt was an expansionist. Indiana’s U.S. Senator Albert J. Beveridge was a leader in this movement (Phillips, 62-63). Others, called isolationists, believed that the U.S. should not acquire further external territory and not govern other countries. The U.S. had begun acquiring external territory with the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867. The U.S. annexed the Hawaiian Islands on July 7, 1898.

The war ended with the signing of a protocol on August 12, 1898. During the short war
over 5,000 American soldiers died; 379 of the deaths were battle casualties. The rest of the men died from diseases in camps in the U.S. and on foreign soil. The U.S. concluded a peace treaty with Spain on December 10, 1899.

The war was a turning point in world politics. Spain lost its navy, its territories, and its position as a world power. As a result of the war, U.S. influence as a world power increased. The U.S. acquired the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Guam, occupied Cuba for a time, and acquired Guantanamo Naval Station in Cuba.

U.S. problems in conducting the war also brought about lasting changes: Walter Reed discovered the cause of yellow fever; a new respect for medical needs brought great improvements in the U.S. Army Medical Department; the role of the state national guard organizations was better defined (Cosmas, 301, 313).

Sources: See page 15 of this issue.

The wreckage of the U.S. Steamship Maine, pictured above after it exploded on February 15, 1898, remained in Havana harbor until 1911. The explosion could have been caused by an external mine or an accident. Several investigations of the event have occurred. The background and latest work is described in Thomas B. Allen, “Remember the Maine?” National Geographic, 193:2 (February 1998), 92-111. This image is one of more than fifty photographs purchased in Cuba by two brothers from Henry County. Claud Bock (Company G) and William Bock (Company H) were in the 161st Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, which served as an occupation force in Havana during peace negotiations. The collection was donated to the Indiana Historical Society. See Erich L. Ewald, “The Bock Brothers: Their ‘Splendid Little War,’” Traces of Indiana and Midwestern History, 7:1 (Winter 1995), 30-37.

A Hoosier in the regular army

The 115-page Spanish-American War diary of Edward L. Henry is in the Indiana Historical Society Library. A few pages are transcribed here. Henry was in Company C, Twenty-second Regiment, U.S. Infantry stationed at Fort Crook, Nebraska. The unit was part of the First Brigade, Second Division, Fifth Corps in Santiago, Cuba. According to the 1900 census, Henry was born in May 1878. He married Ida Anderson in Shelby County November 16, 1899. They lived in Shelbyville in 1900, and he was a day laborer. The 1910 census lists Henry with his wife and four children. No death date has been located.

When the news ran like an electric shock through America that our battleship the Maine had been blown up in Havana Harbor on the night of Feb 15th 98 it set every thing [[i]] in a state of excitement [?] least in Ft Crook. All the soldiers was very much wrought up over the news and [wanted?] to go to war with Spain— ... the excitement ran hight and we mourned over the heroes of the Main and Old Glory fluttered in silent agony on the staff in front of the gaurd house at Ft Crook and the boys in my Co. (Co °C) would sit and talk of the Maine and war till we thought that we were really in war with Spain so things went on slowly and no battles or hair breadth escapes was made except in soldiers’ talk amongst our selves ... 

... we marched out in a coulem of fours 500 strong with our Colonel at the head of the reg and Old Glory waving over our heads we were proud and healthy ... but we returned without our brave commander he fell in the bloody battle of Sann Juan Hill ... it was a heart broken and weary reg that returned to Ft Crook six months later, the fine and gallant looking reg that marched out of Crook ... on that April day 500 strong returned to Crook in the month of Sept 250 strong seared with smoke of battle and broken down in health from Cuban fever. ...
Indiana responds to the war

The U.S. Congress declared war on Spain on April 25, 1898. On April 22, President William McKinley had been authorized to raise a volunteer army to fight the coming war. He called for 125,000 volunteers to strengthen the regular U.S. Army.

On April 25 at 6:15 p.m. Indiana Governor James A. Mount was notified by telegram by the Secretary of War that Indiana must supply four regiments of infantry and two light batteries of artillery. The president wanted trained units of the states’ national guards or militias to provide the first volunteers. Governor Mount responded immediately that the troops would be ready within twenty-four hours—see the illustration on this page.

Governor Mount issued a proclamation on April 25 calling over 4,000 men to the Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis, “where they will be mobilized and mustered into the service of the United States government.” Mount’s proclamation said that there were more volunteers than were needed. He urged that a man should only enter service “upon his own free will and accord.”

From this first call, Indiana Volunteer regiments 157 through 160 were mustered into U.S. service—continuing the numbering from the Civil War Indiana Volunteer regiments. Also the 27th and 28th Light Batteries, Indiana Volunteers were mustered in. In addition, Indiana provided a company of engineers and a company for the signal corps.

The response to Mount’s call was wildly enthusiastic. Indiana was “the first state to meet its full quota of troops” (Phillips, 64). It was believed that “This was to be a war of conquest and glory . . . and for the last time in its history the departure of fathers, brothers, sons, and neighbors was attended by unrestrained jubilation” (Watt and Spears, 90).

President McKinley called for 75,000 more volunteers on May 25. The Indiana quota was one regiment of infantry and two companies of black volunteers.

Governor James A. Mount responded positively to the call for volunteers for the U.S. service in the Spanish-American War. This is a record copy of the telegram that Mount sent to the U.S. War Department on April 25, 1898.

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<td>May 1</td>
<td>World’s Columbian Exposition officially opens in Chicago, Illinois (Carruth, 363).</td>
<td>Indiana Department of Statistics estimates average annual wage of miners in Indiana at $287 (Phillips, 326).</td>
<td>Indiana National Guard units, including 2 black companies, are called by Governor Claude Matthews to calm striking coal miners in Sullivan County (Gatewood, 118, 118n).</td>
<td>May 11</td>
<td>Strike at the Pullman railroad car plant in south Chicago begins; a general railway strike by the American Railway Union, headed by Eugene V. Debs of Indiana, follows (Carruth, 367).</td>
<td>June 28</td>
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These volunteers were mustered into U.S. service at Camp Mount: the 161st Regiment and companies A and B Colored Infantry (Phillips, 64-65).

The Indiana National Guard had been reorganized and re-equipped by the Indiana “General Assembly in 1895 and was relatively well prepared” (Phillips, 64). This allowed for the rapid response to the call for volunteers. None of the Indiana units, however, took part in a battle, but several reached foreign soil.

Indiana furnished a total of 7,421 volunteers for the war. There were no battle casualties, but seventy-three died of disease. Approximately, 1,000 Hoosiers served in the regular army (Phillips, 66).

The official story of these volunteers was issued in 1900 as the Record of Indiana Volunteers in the Spanish-American War, 1898-1899. A summary of their service is provided above. The many diaries and letters—many in books and newspapers—provide the human story of this war.
Clarence Chambers Account

We went into quarters in the barns on the State fair grounds July 1st 1898. The boys immediately set to work in cleaning up their quarters. The cooks were then elected and set to work in preparing dinner. . . . Dinner was served about three o'clock in the afternoon. It consisted of A spoonful of rice, A potato boiled with the jacket on A slice of bread . . . and A quart of coffee. The boys were hungry and were not very well satisfied with their dinner, but the cooks were new and were not fairly onto their job. Supper was much better we had beefsteak and beans and the boys eat until they were satisfied and by the next day all seemed to be in the best of spirits.

On Sunday morning July 3” 1898 the roll was called immediately after breakfast. . . . At ten o'clock the boys were lined up for church services. . . . After rations were served on the morning of July 4th 1898 the company was lined up at 6.30 this being the time for the regular morning drill. Capt. [Charles E.] Cosby addressed the company by saying as this is A national holiday instead of drilling we will smoke and the cigars were passed around by the Capt. in person. . . . July 5th 1898 was [medical] examination day for the Madison boys and every one was wondering whether or not he would pass the examination. There were several boys in our company that were so anxious to go that they actually shed tears upon being told that

Clarence B. Chambers was born in Lancaster, Jefferson County, Indiana on March 25, 1861. He lived in Kent, Jefferson County, when he volunteered to fight in the war. He enrolled as a private in Madison on June 27, 1898 for two years in Company D of the 161st Indiana Regiment. He was thirty-seven years old, single, and a farmer. His record of service in the Indiana State Archives also provides this description: grey eyes, dark hair, dark complexion, height 5 feet 6.25 inches.

When his account of the war was donated to the Indiana Historical Society in 1980, his descendant indicated that he had three children and died on December 21, 1924 in Indianapolis. Pension records indicate that Myrtle E. Chambers, Clarence B. Chambers widow, applied for his soldier’s pension March 16, 1925. The name Clarence Chambers appears in Indianapolis city directories from 1904 until 1922 with various occupations; it is not clear which entries apply to this man.

Sources: Documentation with collection SC 1718, Indiana Historical Society Library; Record . . . 1888-1899. W. E. Biederwolf, History of the One Hundred and Sixty-first Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry (Logansport, Ind.: Wilson, Humphreys & Co., 1899) provides a complete record of Chambers’ regiment and has many interesting photographs. Biederwolf was chaplain of the regiment.
The Madison boys signed the muster roll on July 9th 1898. Before signing Capt. Cosby made the statement that if there was any one that wished to go home that person could make it known by stepping two paces to the front not one man stepped out.

On the morning of July 12th 1898 the regular rules for drilling were put in force. The Articles of war were read to the Madison boys on July 16th 1898. The first stagger at a battalion formation took place July 18th 1898. Col. [Winfield T.] Durbin thought they done exceedingly well for the first time: Uniforms were issued to the boys on July 19th 1898 they were glad to get them as their clothing was getting rather shabby. The boys at camp Mount always look forward to Sunday as a gala day and Sunday July 24th was no exception. The largest excursion came from Lawrenceburg and Mt Vernon. The Lawrenceburg delegation was accompanied by the local band.

On Sunday July 24th 1898 for the first time the different battalions were drawn up in regimental formation under command of Col. Durbin. Fully two thousand persons were in the grand stand at the time and there were many expressions of satisfaction at the soldierly appearance. The weather was sweltering and to provide for prostration the ambulance was called out during the parade. Religious services were held in the grand stand.

Up to this time we had been taking up our quarters in the barns on the State fair grounds but we had received orders to vacate the barns as preparations for the State Fair on the morning of July 29th 1898. A detail from the different companies was organized to put up our tents on the grounds just East of the race track and on July 30th 1898 we packed up all our belongings and moved over in our new quarters. The boys of Co. D. 161st Ind. Regt. drew their guns on Aug. 2nd 1898 they were the Springfield rifle model of 1884 and the belts were issued Aug. 5th 1898.

Col. Durbin made the announcement that the 161st Ind. Regt. was ordered to Jacksonville Florida. The boys were rejoicing over their departure from Camp Mount.

The boys received their first months pay on the 10th of Aug. 1898:

"A Mess Camp, Company H., Second Regiment." A mess camp was where food was prepared and eaten by each company of soldiers. Indiana Governor James A. Mount insisted that volunteers at Camp Mount be well-fed. On April 28th, for example, rations for 4,500 men included bacon, 3,375 pounds; fresh beef, 5,000 pounds; soft bread, 4,500 loaves; potatoes, 4,500 pounds; coffee, 563 pounds; cabbage, 1,350 pounds; pickles, 4,500 (Indianapolis Journal, April 29, 1898). Letters and articles frequently mention the welcome food items provided by Indianapolis and home-town visitors to Camp Mount—especially on Sunday. This Indianapolis company of the Indiana National Guard became Company H of the 158th Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry when it was mustered into U.S. service May 10, 1898 (History of National Guard, 312, 324).
dinner at Camp Mount at 11.45 and by one o'clock we were on the march for Indianapolis. It was real funny to see the boys as they marched from the camp grounds to the street car station. They were not experienced hands at rolling their blankets and their dog tents with their mess outfit on the inside and as they were given the double quick A time or two the mess pans began to fly. Some of the boys stopping to pick them up were ran over by the boys behind them. We took the street car as far as sixteenth street from there we marched to the Soldiers Monument and around the Capitol. from there to North Street depot on the Big Four rail road. We were all the afternoon getting there Great crowds of people were collected along the streets and at the depot. We boarded the train about 8.30 that evening. . . . . 

. . . At 1.40 A M. on August 14” 1898 our train landed in Jacksonville Florida. . . . .

. . . Our train was ran into Union Station where we got hot coffee. Rations were then passed around and we proceeded to eat breakfast. After breakfast our train was ran out to the camp grounds at Park Panama about five miles North of Jacksonville. It was Sunday morning and the heat was intense . . . . And slowly sinking the golden sunset from shining o’er A camp of patriotism and love, while the flag of freedom is floating o’er our land, while the peaceful pines are waving to and fro at the will of A refreshing sea breeze while the Almighty is looking down upon us from on high . . . . Should we not feel grateful to serve our dear and honored country? Should we not look back and recall the deeds of our forefathers when our country was in a perilous struggle for freedom? . . . . Is there anything grander than to serve one’s country . . . .

Notwithstanding our camp in Panama Park was kept clean and nice and had all the appearance of being A healthy place we had A great deal of sickness while there . . . . Our Regiment took its place at Jacksonville in the Seventh Army Corps third Brigade and third division. After A time sickness began to increase so rapidly that it became necessary that the officers in command at the hospital divisions make A requisition on the different regiments for A detail to be sent to the hospitals to act as nurses. . . . .

. . . On Sunday morning October 23” 1898 we began breaking camp at Park Panama Florida . . . . We had A long and wearisome siege of it at this place and it will long be remembered by the boys of company D. as one of the unhealthiest places we were ever in. . . . we left there for Savannah Georgia at one o'clock on the morning of October 24” 1898 . . . .

. . . December 1st 1898 there were seventy-one new recruits arrived at Savannah for the 161st Ind. the most of them had been transferred from the 159th Ind. This was done in order to recruit the regiment up for occupation in Cuba . . . .

. . . It is impossible to estimate the many thousands of people who saw the review [of the Seventh Army Corps in Savannah, Ga. on December 6, 1898] . . . .

. . . There was much clearing and applause . . . . the one hundred and sixty-first Indiana presented A practically perfect appearance. Every company kept good line and the distances were accurate. . . . The streets all along the line of march back to the camps were thronged with people . . . .

On Monday morning December 12th 1898 the one hundred and sixty-first began breaking camp at Savannah Georgia to embark for Cuba having been in camp there just seven weeks.
We . . . went aboard the United States transport Mobile. The Mobile is one of the finest equipped vessels in the United States for the transportation of troops having been fitted up by the government expressly for that purpose. She has all of the accommodations that can be found in the modern hotel she was fitted up with spring mattresses instead of the hammocks . . . she had a capacity for carrying two thousand (2400) four hundred men without being crowded she also had a dining room that would seat six-hundred people. We left Savannah harbor at 715 A.M. on December 13” 1898 . . . . We caught site of land in Cuba about eight o'clock on the morning of December 15th 1898 and it was only a short time afterwards that we were passing Morro Castle she was still flying the Spanish flag . . . . We . . . went into the harbor at Havana. After the whistle had blown for Havana the regimental band began to play, “On the banks of the Wabash far away” “The Star Spangled banner” . . . . We were received with a hearty salute by the people of Havana.

Women on the home front

In this war, as in others before and after it, women did not sit idle as men went off to fight. The Record of Indiana Volunteers in the Spanish-American War, 1898-1899 (pages 20-21) published by the State of Indiana in 1900, included the following tribute.

This report would be incomplete without at least a mention of the part taken by the loyal and patriotic women of Indiana. In every city and hamlet from which the boys came to make up the volunteer army, there was an organization of devoted mothers, sisters and sweethearts who tried to make the soldier’s life as easy as was possible, toiling early and late in making articles and garments to send to hospital and camp, and doing all in their power to make the boys comfortable.

An organization was perfected early in July, 1898, and was called the “Indiana Soldiers’ Aid Society.” The object was to render aid to Indiana soldiers in camp, field and hospital, to provide assistance for their families when in want, and to be ready for service at any time, and in any manner that opportunity offered. Large quantities of fruits, jellies, cordials and soups were sent to hospitals in the south, together with towels, handkerchiefs, pajamas, bedding, all of which were used for the comfort of Indiana’s sons.

All are deserving of praise and honor, and it would not be right to mention any particular organizations, but the ladies of Indianapolis assisted in making the return of the regiments, batteries and separate companies so pleasant that it is due them to say that they earned the respect and gratitude of every man from this State.

As regiment and battery returned to Indianapolis for muster out, the ladies met them at the station with delicacies for the sick, and coffee and sandwiches for the well, and no organization arrived without being given the same hospitable welcome. A dinner was served to each organization by a committee selected for that purpose, and every man was made to feel that he was once more in the hands of friends.

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<td>June 21</td>
<td>inform that Indiana’s quota of soldiers volunteers includes 1 regiment and 2 black companies (Gatewood, 128).</td>
<td>June 24</td>
<td>U.S. troops win first major land battle against Spain at Las Guasimas, Cuba (Carruth, 380).</td>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>U.S. troops, including the Rough Riders, take over San Juan Heights and El Caney, Cuba with heavy casualties on both sides (Carruth, 382).</td>
<td>July 3</td>
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Black soldiers in the war

Indiana black citizens—and blacks across the country—had great sympathy with the Cubans fighting for freedom. Black newspapers regularly praised the “colored” leaders in Cuba. “The Indianapolis World,” one of the few black Democratic newspapers in the nation, noted that the absence of race prejudice among the Cuban patriots would make the island “an inviting field for emigration from the United States” after independence (Gatewood, 115-16).

Black citizens were anxious to help the Cuban patriots. Nationwide, however, black citizens demanded that black officers be allowed to command black troops. Blacks should “be allowed to participate in the military effort in a manner that would elevate their status rather than perpetuate a racial caste system” (ibid., 117).

The first call for volunteers on April 25, 1898—generally limited to national guard/militia troops—had few blacks. Most state militias did not allow blacks to enroll (Cosmas, 136). Indiana’s National Guard had had two companies of black soldiers since the mid-1880s, in spite of a constitutional provision limiting service to white males.* These men had served well under black officers in several emergencies. By 1898, however, the companies had been disbanded in a complex dispute over organization (Gatewood, 118-20).

With the second call for volunteers in May 1898, there was an effort to recruit black volunteers. There had been protests to the White House and Congress that black exclusion from the volunteer army was a “denial of equal citizenship.” Eventually 8,000-10,000 black soldiers were in the volunteer army. Included in that number were several regiments of black soldiers with black officers (Cosmas, 136).

The War Department broke its racial policy because Indiana fought for, and was the first state to obtain, an exception to that policy. Governor James Mount and Senator Charles Fairbanks finally went to President William McKinley to gain permission to raise two companies of black soldiers with black captains who had served in the Indiana National Guard (Gatewood, 127, 139).

Indiana was represented in the war by these two companies.

Like most volunteer units, black units did not engage in any battles. Black soldiers in the regular army, however, fought gallantly—under white officers—at the battle of San Juan Hill, Cuba with the Rough Riders and Theodore Roosevelt (Cosmas, 136).

* The Indiana constitutional restriction against blacks in the national guard was removed in 1936, long after blacks had begun to serve. Women were recruited in 1973 after a constitutional amendment removed the word ‘male’ from the militia provision (Watt and Spears, 194).
Nursing the sick

The high number of deaths from disease in the Spanish-American War in part reflects a lack of medical knowledge. Also, the U.S. Army Medical Department was not prepared. U.S. Surgeon General George M. Sternberg borrowed medical supplies from the states to insure that invasion forces had necessary medical items. The Army Medical Department’s Hospital Corps did not have enough personnel. Sternberg recruited men across the country to serve in the regular army as nurses, stretcherbearers, and ambulance drivers (Cosmas, 245-49).

Throughout the war, there were not enough army personnel to care for increasing numbers of seriously ill soldiers in camps in the U.S. Sternberg was forced to recruit trained female nurses on a contract basis, which he had resisted. Women had served successfully as nurses for the Union Army in the Civil War. Formal training of nurses had existed since the 1870s in the U.S. Thousands of women from all over the country sent applications to serve in this war (Kalisch, 49-70, 197-99).

Applications were processed by Dr. Anita N. McGee and a committee of the Daughters of the American Revolution. On May 6, 1898, the first female nurses signed army contracts. On July 7, Congress authorized employment of civilian nurses at $30 per month. (Dock et al., 36-37, 37n. 41). The women proved their value, skill, and courage; many gave their lives.

The American Red Cross also worked closely with the U.S. Army to recruit nurses and to provide medical and other supplies to soldiers and medical staff (ibid., 29, 52-53). Private religious orders, women’s medical associations and nursing groups, and other private relief organizations also provided badly needed staff and supplies (ibid., 40; Cosmas, 247).

Many accounts of the war experiences of medical personnel have been preserved. Some are available in the histories of nursing cited here.

An Indiana nurse

Kate B. Stansberry, Indianapolis, graduated from Indianapolis Training School for Nurses in 1890. “She was well known both in Indianapolis and Chicago, through her chosen profession.” She served in the Spanish-American War as a nurse. In November 1898, she died in Jacksonville, Florida from typhoid fever at the age of twenty-nine. “When stricken with the fever she was busy caring for nearly forty soldiers.” She was buried in Crown Hill Cemetery.

The Indiana Woman, November 26, 1898, p. 11.

One nurse’s experience

Anna C. Maxwell, Sternberg U.S. Hospital, Camp Thomas, Chickamauga Park, Ga., to The Board of Managers of The Presbyterian Hospital, New York City, October 31, 1898

On August 12 we went to the Sternberg U.S. Field Hospital, to begin the work we had set out to do. This hospital . . . was designed to hold one thousand patients. The supplies were coming in slowly, but for the first patients, who numbered one hundred and thirty-six, the only things ready for use were the tents and beds. The supplies that were on hand had neither been unpacked nor verified and we were helpless . . . . I went to the Quartermaster and told him I should stay there all night, or until the supplies were unpacked . . . . before midnight we had given out sufficient material for the night . . . . I was informed that it was a military law that the soldier, sick or well, must be on the spot before rations can be drawn, hence the supply of food did not arrive until the following day. As the tents were prepared and supplies provided, more patients were admitted; often two hundred in a day . . . . . . It was certainly a most harrowing sight to see the long narrow cots filled with what had been strong, splendid men, hollow-eyed, emaciated, muttering in the delirium of fever . . . . . . Their bones protruding through their skin and bed sores several inches deep were not uncommonly found on hips, back, elbows and often on the head and ears . . . .

The Government sent us one hundred and fifty-two nurses and a dietitian. . . . The total number of patients received between August 15 and September 10 . . . was nine hundred and thirty-six. Four hundred and seventy were furloughed and sixty-eight died.

Excerpted from Dock et al., 51-53.
Fred C. Hurt, hospital steward

Newspaper article: “The First One To Go”
. . . Waynetown can boast of one of her sons now at Chickamauga. Fred Hurt for some time has been making an effort to secure a place in the hospital corpse, and on Saturday received notice of his appointment conditioned on his passing the examination. On Tuesday morning, without a good bye to the boys or telling any one, he in company with his father, went to Indianapolis and reported. . . .

Newspaper article: “At Chickamauga”
Fred Carlton Hurt was born in Waynetown, Montgomery County, Indiana on July 28, 1876. His father, William Johnson Hurt, was a doctor. At the time of his enlistment into the U.S. Army Medical Department Hospital Corps, he was in the sophomore class of the Indiana School of Medicine, Indianapolis. He died of typhoid fever probably on August 9, 1898 at Fort Monroe, Newport News, Virginia.

Newspaper article: “At Chicamauga”
Hurt, Camp Thomas, Chickamauga Park, Ga., to Mrs. Brant and Bettie, June 28, 1898
. . . The papers say the health in camp is improving. It’s not so. When I came here there was 75 men in our hospitals. Today we have 125. Our corps is allowed 90 men to do the various kinds of . . . work about the hospital, and today we only have 14 able for duty. They have to call men from the ranks to nurse and help us out. . . .

Newspaper article: “At Chicamauga”
Hurt, Camp Thomas, Chickamauga Park, Ga., to Dear Folks at Home, June 26, 1898
. . . Each regiment contains about 2,000 soldiers and have a hospital of their own. Then come the division. We are the main division being the first. We have the largest “field hospital” at Chickamauga and all serious cases are brought to us. At present we have 150 men . . . who are bad sick. There are only 10 men who go on duty at one time to take care of 150. We go on 12

Sources: Sketch by Nancy Hurt Diener, a descendant of Hurt, in The Spanish American War and Private Fred C. Hurt, June to August 1898 (a scrapbook), Crawfordsville District Public Library, Crawfordsville; Montgomery: Your County Magazine (December 1988), 19. Crawfordsville Daily Argus, August 10, 13, 1898. Materials cited here are from the scrapbook. Copies of the Hurt materials are in the Indiana Division, Indiana State Library.

In his letter of July 9, 1898, Fred Hurt indicates to Gertrude Jachman, that he will send a photograph later of the tintype that he describes. This photograph fits that description: “The cross is red, the pants stripe green, the sack is a medicine bag. The moustache a summer luxury” (Hurt, Camp Thomas, Chickamauga Park, Ga., to Gertrude Jachman, Indianapolis, July 9, 1898). Jachman reportedly was Hurt’s fiancée.

1901 1902 1902 1903 1903 1904 1904
September 14 Theodore Roosevelt is sworn in as 26th president of the U.S. (Carruth, 390).
June 28 U.S. Congress passes Isthmian Canal Act which authorizes and finances construction of a canal across the Isthmus of Panama (Carruth, 394).
July 1 U.S. Congress passes Philippine Government Act declaring Philippine Islands an unorganized territory and authorizing a commission to govern the territory (Carruth, 394).
July 4 First Pacific communications cable is opened; President Roosevelt sends message around the world and back to him in 12 minutes (Carruth, 397).
December 17 Orville Wright makes first powered flight in a heavier-than-air machine at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina (Carruth, 395).
May 5 Eugene V. Debs of Indiana is nominated for the presidency of the U.S. by the Socialist National Convention (Carruth, 398).
November 8 Theodore Roosevelt is elected president of the U.S.; Charles Fairbanks of Indiana is elected vice president (Carruth, 398).
In late July or early August 1898 Fred Hurt’s medical unit was transferred to Fort Monroe, Newport News, Virginia. There he contracted typhoid fever and died probably on August 9, 1898. After his death, his nurse, Caroline Robin, corresponded with Hurt’s father, Dr. W. J. Hurt, and apparently sent these pictures. In an undated letter (circa winter 1898), she wrote: “Your boy, expecially became very dear to me, and it is something I shall never forget.” She also described the hospital camp. “We have twenty beds to the ward . . . the ward is composed of four tents. We . . . have everything we need to make the men comfortable. Thanks to the Red Cross Auxi.iary . . . . At first they only had male nurses, then we came down . . . by Sept 1st we had 11 trained nurses on the field at night, and two in most of the tents during the day.”

The Indiana Historian, September 1998
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Selected Resources

Bibliography
  Official point of view by the secretary of war.
  Comprehensive, easy-to-read timeline of American history.
  Very useful on all aspects of the war.
  Early history of American Red Cross Nursing Service using many documentary sources.
  Detailed examination of the topic.
  Comprehensive, easy-to-read timeline of world history.
• *A History of the National Guard of Indiana*. Indianapolis: W. D. Pratt, 1901.
  Useful introduction; helpful in tracking unit information.
  Textbook for nursing profession; provides comprehensive survey of topic.
  Useful entries on the war and related topics.
  Chapter that includes war very useful for context.
• 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 names and service of all volunteers.
  Useful background; good chapter on Spanish-American War.

Additional resources
  Useful entries on the war and related topics.
  Includes some items from Indiana newspapers.
• Internet resources:
  • <http://www.inspire-indiana.net>
    Many articles available.
  • <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/sawhtml/sawfiles.html>
    Library of Congress American Memory site.
• Lovett, Christopher C., Karen Manners Smith et al. “Remembering the Maine: Teaching about the Spanish-American War Era after 100 Years.” *Social Studies*, 89: 3 (May/June 1998), starting 123.
  Many references and resources listed.
  Useful background essays and lesson plans.

Suggested student resources
  Good resource with interesting photographs; for intermediate readers.
  Easy-to-read work chronicles the war with text, photographs, maps, and political cartoons. Part of A First Book series.
  Describes how the Rough Riders were formed at the beginning of the Spanish-American War. Part of Cornerstones of Freedom series.
  Good source for general historical background: includes a chapter on the Spanish-American War.
  Historical context for the Spanish-American War; American Albums from the collections of the Library of Congress series.
  Limited text; wonderful photographs provide some understandings of life in the period covered. Volume 8 of series.

Special Thanks to:
• Carole Allen, Indiana Historical Bureau.
• Maurice Holmes, Shelbyville.
• Mary Johnson and Dellie Craig, Crawfordsville District Public Library.
Company H, First Regiment, Indiana National Guard, became Company H of the 159th Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry when it was mustered into U.S. service May 12, 1898 (History of National Guard, 329, 339-40).