

Curtenius Guard Camp #17

Department of Michigan

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Minutes

Meeting of the Camp
Tuesday, March 30, 1999
Samuel W. Grinnell
GAR Post #283 Building
Main Street
Sunfield, Michigan

I. Opening Ritual:

Camp Meeting was opened with prescribed ritual by Commander Lyons at Samuel W. Grinnell G.A.R. Hall at 7:00 PM.

II. Roll Call:

Brothers present:

Lavern Aves, Marc Bennetts, Charles Brown, Dale Calder, Thomas Emerick, Paul D. Hodges, Ronald Kruger, Charles Langworthy, James Lyons, Michael Mitchell, John Nash, James Neal, James B. Pahl, Todd Rakestraw, David Rehkopf, George Roux, Ronald Shull, Brian Shumway, Dana Traub, Richard Williams.

Brothers excused:

Layton Aves, Keith Harrison, Nathan Harrison, James AK Pahl, Adin Shank, Gordon Warren, and William Warren

Sick Call:

None reported

III. Welcome to Guests:

Commander Lyons welcomed John C. Hall of 7325 Dupre, Dimondale, Michigan 48821 and Neil Stevens of 6639 3rd Street, Mecosta, Michigan 49332 (former Sunfield resident).

IV. Approval of Minutes:

In the minutes of the January 26, 1999 meeting, Commander Lyons indicated the correct spelling of PDC Mellor and Bro. Nunemaker's names. Bro. Shumway was also noted to have accepted the appointment as the Camp Historian. Bro. Calder moved, seconded by Bro. Rehkoff, to accept the minutes with the aforementioned changes. Ayes all.

V. Concerns for Brothers:

The Camp membership expressed their condolences to Bro. Langworthy on the recent loss of his wife.

VI. New Members and Initiations:

Commander Lyons recalled Bro. Emerick's remarks from the January meeting regarding his not having experienced the initiation ceremony. Bro. Emerick was then properly "initiated" into the Camp per the prescribed ceremony. Bro. Roux reported receiving two inquiries regarding membership since the last meeting. Recruiting information was distributed to the one interested party.

VII. Recess:

Camp was not recessed for a break in lieu of the upcoming Trivia Challenge.

VIII. Committee Reports:

Bylaws:

No Report.

Memorials and Graves Registration:

No report

Membership:

Br. Roux reported on the Camp staffing of a recruiting table at the upcoming Lansing Genealogy Show. He noted this was one of our two major recruiting events. Volunteers were reminded of their shifts and to bring the necessary supplies.

Memorial Day/ Day of Remembrance:

Bro. Calder indicated the Camp would not meet before the Memorial Day program and discussed the outcome of the organizational meeting. He expressed the need for the Brothers to coordinate bringing the necessary ceremonial items. The student musician to who normally plays taps at the Mount Hope Cemetery, does not appear to be forthcoming from Everett H.S. this year. Brothers suggested contacting the St. John's, Potterville, or Lakewood school districts for assistance. Bro. Hodges expressed the gratitude received from the Lansing parade organizers for our continuing participation. He also mentioned the Arlington Cemetery staff welcomes any support we can provide given the tight time line between ceremonies on Memorial Day.

Military Affairs:

No report.

Patriotic Instruction:

No report..

Program and Publicity:

No report.

Grinnell Award:

No Report.

Hall Restoration:

No report.

Commander Lyons indicated the scarcity of formal reports were due to the forthcoming committee appointments.

IX. Orders and Communications:

Commander Lyons read excerpts from a letter sent to the Camp from Dept. Commander Armstrong regarding the Memorial John A. Logan Highway project. Members of the Camp related the various attempts to retain the name of the existing street. The Camp unanimously decided to delay any further action until there appeared to be renewed support from the various governmental entities.

Commander Lyons discussed the story behind the DUVCW Tent #30's imminent possession of a family bible from Frankenmuth, MI. This bible contains information regarding the marriage of Samuel W. Grinnell. Commander Lyons will obtain a copy of the information as soon as it is available.

DUVCW Tent #30 correspondence:

a) confirming the date of their Memorial Services Sunday, May 23, 1999 and specifically honoring WWI veterans b) requesting the Camp to provide a Color Guard to lead the parade at the Farmer's Picnic in August c) the future planting of three maple trees to replace the one's removed from the front of the G.A.R. hall. These maples are from the same wood lot the original trees were obtained from.

Department Bylaw/Amendment changes:

Discussion commenced on the following changes a) to revise the range of dates the Department Encampment is to be held between to 1/1 and 7/1 of each year, b) revisions to article 16, section 2 to drop "initiates" in favor of "accepts into membership", c) removal of chapter 5, article 6 and article 17, section 1 and referral to the National Bylaws for disciplinary action. Bro. Pahl remarked the discipline sections of the National Bylaws are currently being reviewed for update. d) revision of article 20, section 1 to remove the dollar amount of the Annual Encampment fee from the Bylaws. The Department Committee has been appraised of the Camp's wishes to simplify the complicated formula for discounts on early payment of this registration fee.

The Camp engaged in discussions regarding upcoming election of candidates to Department offices. Bro. Calder moved, seconded by Bro. Pahl, to reserve the Camp's endorsement of candidates until the Department Encampment. Ayes all. Bro. Pahl encouraged all Brothers to become more active in offices with Department responsibilities.

Bro. Hodges provided information regarding a new *Cold War Recognition Certificate* to be issued by the Federal government. A copy of the brochure will be provided in the next Yankee.

Commander Lyons discussed a current project of the State of Michigan Museum to digitally record photographs for display on the Internet. They have over 1,300 photographs of Civil War veterans (most in G.A.R. uniforms) in their collection. The estimated cost of the project is \$4,600. The National SUCVW Treasurer has been instructed to commit \$1,000 in funds and the Michigan Department has graciously donated \$500 to this worthwhile project. The Museum hopes to complete the project and present it to the public on February 12, 2000, Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

Bro. Shumway spoke on the Barry County Historical Society's recent donation of \$1,000 towards the preservation of the 6th Michigan Cavalry Regiment's battle flag. Bro. Shumway attended the presentation dinner on behalf of the Camp. This is the fourth flag adopted by the Society. Commander Lyons embellished on this topic with facts regarding Ms. Sally Redinger's class at the Matawan Elementary School in Kalamazoo, MI. The teacher and her students have adopted nine battle flags as of the printing of this newsletter. Bro. Pahl noted the 27th Virginia Infantry Regiment (CS) reenacting unit is on the verge of adopting it's first battle flag.

X. Unfinished Business:

The proposed changes to timing of collection of the Department Per Capita Tax was debated at the Mid-Winter Conference. The Camp unanimously voted to send a letter to Department Commander Armstrong expressing our opposition to the proposed revision.

XI. New Business:

Visitor John Hall suggested the Camp may benefit by contacting the Eaton County Historical Association regarding the possibility of obtaining funding for preservation and historical projects.

Visitor Neil Stevens presented the Camp with photographs of his Civil War ancestors (Sunfield citizens) and residences from that time period.

Bro. Hodges moved, seconded by Bro. Roux, that the Camp should host our own "True Son" Adin Shank and his wife at the upcoming Department Encampment. Ayes all. Adin, whose ancestor served in the 44th Indiana, is one of only two "True Sons" in the Michigan Department. Treas. Williams was instructed to send in the necessary reservations for the special guests.

The Camp discussed the topic of holding a Trivia Challenge during the Day of Remembrance activities on August 8th.

Bro. Shumway suggested a work group composed of Bro. Nash, Bro. Shumway, and Bro. Williams to develop the program. Bro. Pahl moved, seconded by Bro. Hodges, to present the program for approval at the Department Encampment. Ayes all. Bro. Calder suggested extending an offer of participation to our brothers in the SCV.

Election of delegates to the Department Encampment was commenced:

Credentials were extended to Bro. Hodges (PDC), Bro. Lyons (PDC), Bro. Nash (PCC), Bro. Neal (PDC), and Bro. Pahl (PDC). Elected delegates were Bro. Calder, Bro. Kruger, Bro. Rehkoff, Bro. Shumway, and Bro. Williams. Bro. Emerick, Bro. Roux, and Bro. Shull volunteered as alternates.

XII. Good of the Order:

Discussion ensued regarding nominations for National Officers. Bro. Pahl moved, seconded by Bro. Williams, the following endorsements be forwarded to the National headquarters on behalf of the Camp. Ayes all.

Danny Wheeler - CinC

Allen Peterson - SVCinC

George Powell - JVCinC

Congratulations were extended to Bro. Williams on his acceptance of the Gold Star last year. Of the five Brothers who have received this award since it's inception, three were "Michigan" men from our own beloved Camp. The local honorees were Bro. Keith Harrison, Bro.

James Lyons, and Brother Richard Williams. The Camp heartily praised the Brothers responsible for producing the new layout of *The Banner*, especially the addition of the color photographs to the body of the publication.

XIII. Treasurer's Report:

Treas. Williams presented a report showing a balance of accounts at \$2,006.93 as of March 27, 1999 with 182.90 in checking, 883.03 in the Hall Restoration Fund, 60.00 in the Memorial Fund, and 881.00 in savings, with anticipated expenses of 140.00 currently due towards the Per Capita Tax. Bro. Calder moved, seconded by Bro. Hodges, to adopt the Treasurer's report as submitted. Motion carried. +

XIV. Closing Ritual:

Commander Lyons closed the camp per ritual at 8:58 PM.

+ indicates that a written report has been submitted and is available for inspection.

Notes on the Evening Program:

The Second Annual Trivia Challenge commenced at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Thomas L. Emerick,
Secretary**