

Curtenius Guard Camp #17

Department of Michigan

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Minutes

Meeting of the Camp
Tuesday, September 28, 1999
Samuel W. Grinnell
GAR Post #283 Hall
Main Street
Sunfield, Michigan

Commander James Lyons, PDC, assigned Brothers to fill vacancies of absent officers by appointment Pro Tem.

I. Opening Ritual:

Commander Lyons opened the Camp meeting per ritual at 7:03 P.M. on Tuesday, September 28, 1999 at the Samuel W. Grinnell G.A.R. Hall, Sunfield Michigan.

II. Roll Call:

Brothers present:

Jeff Adams, Laverne Aves, Marc Bennetts, Charles Brown, Dale Calder, Thomas Emerick, Keith Harrison, Paul Hodges, Charles Langworthy, James Lyons, John Nash, James Neal, James B. Pahl, J.D. Park, Todd Rakestraw, Ken Rousseau, George Roux, Adin Shank, Brian Shumway, and Dana Traub.

Brothers excused:

Nathan Harrison, James AK Pahl, Ron Shull, Gordon Warren, William Warren, and Richard Williams.

Sick Call:

None reported

III. Welcome to Guests:

JVC Roux introduced David (father), Mark (son), and Michael (son) Neese as applicants for membership in the Camp.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

Bro. Keith Harrison moved, seconded by Bro. Calder, to approve the minutes of the July 27, 1999 meeting of the Camp as distributed. Motion carried.

V. Concerns for Brothers:

Bro. Rakestraw reported former Bro. Dave Johnson (now Camp #58 member)

recently had heart surgery and is doing well. Commander Lyons noted that Bro. Ken Rousseau's wife passed away a few weeks prior to the Camp's meeting. Condolences and well wishes were expressed on behalf of the Camp.

Commander Lyons reported Bro. Richard Estep died on August 12, 1999 and his funeral services were held August 15, 1999. Commander Lyons described Bro. Estep's WWII service record and his recently completed cemetery project. Bro. Estep was a founding member of the Camp and joined at the same time as Bro. Pahl and Commander Lyons.

Bro. Pahl described how the recent River Of Time Living History program in Bay City, Michigan was dedicated to the memory of recently deceased Bro. Gordon McAllister. Bro. McAllister was recognized for his efforts in organizing and supporting the event.

VI. New Members and Initiations:

JVC Roux introduced applicants David, Mark, and Michael Neese and reported their papers were in order. JVC Roux noted their ancestor, Private Elias Ashborn, honorably served within the ranks of the 43rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry, Company B and during the conflict and moved to accept the applicants as members. Bro. Pahl noted the National Encampment attendees voted down a proposal to eliminate use of the ballot box for voting on new applicants. The National Encampment whole heartedly encouraged usage of G.A.R. rituals in all future ceremonies. Commander Lyons gave a brief lecture on the history of the ballot box when voting in new members.

Bro. Pahl moved, seconded by Bro. Harrison, to use the ballot box for electing the new members. Motion carried. Bro. Pahl specifically requested the minutes detail the success of his motion. Commander Lyons and SVC Rakestraw verified the presence of the proper number of marbles in the ballot box. The ballot box was circulated amongst the Camp and members voted individually. Commander Lyons confirmed the candidates were elected by a unanimous vote. The initiation ceremony for the applicants was immediately commenced.

VII. Recess:

Camp was recessed for a break at 7:40 P.M. and the meeting reconvened at 8:00 P.M..

VIII. Committee Reports:

Bylaws:

No Report.

Memorials and Graves Registration:

Bro. Aves presented a research report regarding the history behind the cannon displayed at the front of the G.A.R. Hall. No other reports were presented.

Membership:

No Report.

Memorial Day/ Day of Remembrance:

No Report.

Military Affairs:

No report.

Patriotic Instruction:

No report..

Program and Publicity:

No report.

Grinnell Award:

No Report.

Hall Restoration:

No report.

IX. Orders and Communications:

Commander Lyons reported on the Central Region Conference to be held in Lansing, Michigan on October 2, 1999. Attendees will be taken on a morning tour of the flag storage facility at the State of Michigan Archives by Keri Chartkoff. The business sessions are to be held from 2:00 to 5:30 P.M. with dinner to follow at 6:00 P.M.. David Finney, well-known Michigan historian, is the guest speaker and whose topic is titled "From Sumter to Sumter" concerning the activities of Norman J. Hall of Michigan. Bro. Hodges noted the day-time program and dinner are separate and attendance at one is not required for participation in the other. Details on the conference can be obtained from the *Michigan Messenger*.

Bro. Pahl presented a report on the 50th anniversary of the last G.A.R. National Encampment held in Indianapolis, Indiana in August as part of the 50th anniversary of the last G.A.R. National Encampment held there. A partial list of the election results were Danny Wheeler (CinC), Ed Crieser (SVCinC), George Powell (JVCinC), and Kent Armstrong (Council of Administration). The Thursday banquet was held in the hall where the last National Encampment's banquet was held. A wreath laying ceremony was held at an Indianapolis Civil War monument. A special medal was

struck for the occasion and Bro. Pahl purchased and presented an extra copy to the Camp. Bro. Thane Labanta was the only delegate to attend both the "last" and "current" National Encampment in Indianapolis, Indiana. The Michigan Department delegation was the largest in attendance. Next year's National Encampment is scheduled to be held August 17-20, 2000 in Lansing, Michigan.

Bro. Harrison announced a standardized membership application form is now posted on the SUVCW web site.

Bro. Aves presented a brief report, including pictures, on the Farmer's Picnic and Parade held in Sunfield, Michigan in August. Camp attendees were Brothers Calder, Layton Aves, LaVerne Aves, Rakestraw, Rehkopf, Roux, Shull, and Bro. Dave Johnson (Camp #58). A good time was had by all and Daughters expressed their appreciation for the support. Bro. Aves forwarded photographs and a short write-up to the *Michigan Messenger* for publication. Commander Lyons requested Bro. Aves send a list of the participants names to Sister Eunice Black.

Bro. Harrison, Commander Lyons, and Bro. Williams attended the Austin Blair Camp ceremonies on September 13, 1999 in honor of Bro. Don Hock. Bro. Hock has been a SUVCW member since 1937. He was also recognized as serving in the post of Michigan Dept. Commander in 1949.

X. Unfinished Business:

XI. New Business:

Commander Lyons announced the Centennial of the G.A.R. Hall occurs in October, 1999. There are no plans for a memorial service this year. Commander Lyons attended a recent Helen M. Edwins Tent #30 DUVCW meeting where the date of May 21, 2000 was selected to hold some festivities. The Daughters suggested a potluck between the Camps to be held at the Sunfield Community Center at 1:30 P.M.. This would be followed by a 3:00 P.M. ceremony and program at the G.A.R. Hall to commemorate the building, replacement trees, and improvements to the cannon foundations. They are planning to obtain a National

Historic Register plaque for the front of the building before the May, 1999 date. Commander Lyons is going to submit the necessary paperwork for the plaque.

Bro. Park suggested expediting the planting of the trees to have them ready for the May date. He pledged \$100 in matching funds towards the trees and historical plaque. Commander Lyons expressed optimism the trees will be delivered and planted before December arrives. He is assisting the Daughters with following up on the particulars. The Camp unanimously supported the picnic and memorial service planned for next year.

Bro. Aves reported the sandstone foundations for the cannon were in poor condition when thoroughly examined a few years ago. The foundations have deteriorated an estimated 5-15% over the past 3 years. Bro. Park suggested polling friends and family on any stone masons who could assist with the cannon foundation restoration/preservation project. Bro. Hodges suggested Howard Streeter as a source of information. Bro. Roux inquired about the names on the cannon foundation tablets. Commander Lyons reported he has the names of charter members from information obtained during the most recent Hall restoration. Bro. Park noted he has past photographs of the monuments that may assist in identifying member names. Bro. Park cautioned against the suggestion of using marble tablets between the sandstone tablets in the foundations due to incompatibilities and costs.

Bro. Pahl reported part of the increase in fees voted on at the National Encampment is to be directed towards the preservation of monuments. He encouraged the Camp to apply for the maximum \$500 grant to fund the cannon restoration project. He noted the Council of Administration next meets on November 21, 1999 to review grant applications. Bro. Nash suggested applying for the SUVCW SOS grant. Commander Lyons stated this project does not qualify for the program due to the related statutory requirements.

Bro. Adams presented a proposal for the Camp to organize a Civil War Living History Encampment in Eaton Rapids, Michigan over the Labor Day weekend

next year. The event proceeds would be donated to help in the fight against Muscular Dystrophy. Bro. Adams noted there are several Civil War monuments located on the island where the event would be held. Bro. Adams spoke out on a possible commemoration ceremony for the G.A.R. post that was located there long ago. Bro. Harrison expressed his support for this, and other activities, where the Camp can perform community work not directly related to Civil War history. Commander Lyons requested Bro. Adams present a written proposal for the date, time, and place of the fund raiser to be reviewed at the next Camp meeting.

XII. Good of the Order:

Commander Lyons, during his recent domicile move, discovered streamers the Camp could add to it's flag standards. Bro. Harrison presented 2 more streamers obtained from the Grand Rapids, Michigan and National Encampment events.

Commander Lyons presented original G.A.R. price lists for sale to Camp members at the princely sum of \$1. The Daughters discovered the items while cleaning the hall. The Daughters are also selling throw rugs with a picture of the G.A.R. Hall surrounded by local Sunfield landmarks at a cost of \$35. The proceeds go towards the Hall restoration fund.

Bro. Hodges mentioned that Bro. Thane Labanta's birthday was in October and it would cheer him up to receive a few cards from members of the Camp. He reported on the upcoming Veteran's Day Parade in Lansing, Michigan. It is to be held in the evening with a memorial service to follow. Brothers interested in attending were asked to contact him as soon as possible.

XIII. Treasurer's Report:

Bro. Shumway read Bro. Williams Treasurer's report showing a balance of accounts at \$1,745.41 as of September 27, 1999 with \$150.00 in checking, \$943.08 in the Hall Restoration Fund, \$60.35 in the Memorial Fund, and \$591.98 in savings. The Profit & Loss Statement for June 27, 1999 through September 27, 1999 showed a net expense for the period of \$116.82 composed of raffle ticket proceeds of \$1,380.00, "Pass the Hat" donations of \$29.00, interest income of \$11.18, raffle proceeds remitted to the Michigan Department SUVCW of \$1,380.00, a bank

charge of \$12.50, and Per Capita expenditure of \$144.50. Bro. Williams reported the Camp per-capita fee has been increased to \$5.00 for the membership per quarter. He will be discussing our budget and Camp dues at our next meeting. Bro. Keith Harrison moved, seconded by Bro. Calder, to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Motion carried.+

\$47.00 was collected in "Passing the Hat".

XIV. Closing Ritual:

Commander Lyons closed the meeting per ritual at 9:07 PM.

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

Respectfully Submitted,
In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

**Thomas L. Emerick,
Secretary**