

Curtenius Guard Camp #17

Department of Michigan

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Minutes

Meeting of the Camp
Tuesday, November 30, 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 7:05 P.M. on Tuesday, November 30, 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, Ron Kruger, Charles Langworthy, James Lyons, John Nash, David Neese, Mark Neese, Michael Neese, James B. Pahl, J.D. Park, David Rehkopf, Ken Rousseau, George Roux, Ron Shull, Brian Shumway, and Richard Williams.

Brothers excused:

Layton Aves, Nathan Harrison, James AK Pahl, Todd Rakestraw, Adin Shank, Dana Traub, Gordon Warren, and William Warren.

Sick Call:

None reported

III. Welcome to Guests:

Bro. Rousseau introduced Mr. Ernst Floeter of Grand Ledge, Michigan as a visitor to the Camp.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

Bro. Calder moved, seconded by Bro. Keith Harrison, to approve the minutes of the September 28, 1999 meeting of the Camp as distributed. Motion carried.

V. Concerns for Brothers:

Bro. Rakestraw reportedly "volunteered" to stay home with a bad case of the flu. Bro. Roux reported Bro. Adin Shank celebrated his 87th birthday on October 12, 1999.

VI. New Members and Initiations:

JVC Roux reported no new applicants as of the date of the meeting.

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 copy of a 1995 *Historical Seekers Society* article on the G.A.R. Hall. He is pursuing permission to publish and distribute the article before the May 21, 2000 memorial services next year.

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:

Commander Lyons reported and estimate for the "surgical" extraction of the tree stumps (Generals Sherman and Sheridan) in front of the Hall was necessary. When the trees (including General Grant) were removed earlier in the year, they were only ground down to stumps. In order to plant the replacement trees, the stumps will have to be removed. The Daughter's are encouraging the Son's to proceed with the project despite the obstacles.

Commander Lyons initiated a discussion regarding the replacement/preservation of the sandstone name plaques at the base of the cannon. The current options are to remove the bases and start from scratch or identify what is on the badly worn stones, grind them down, and pay to have them re-engraved. Future erosion could be

hindered by application of a sealant. Bro. Park suggested grinding the bad stones, create new stones, and installing those over the top of the bad ones. Bro. Aves reported the guns are mounted on bases independent of the engraved stones. The engraved stones are only 1" thick. Eunice Black (DUVCW) is searching for the business card of a local businessman who is in the masonry restoration business. Bro. Brown noted Ionia City hired a Lowell, Michigan firm to restore cemetery headstones. He will obtain the business's contact name and address.

IX. Orders and Communications:

Commander Lyons paid glowing complements to the latest issue of the *Banner*. This was a dual issue including one issue dedicated to coverage of this past August's 50th anniversary of the last G.A.R. National Encampment held in Indianapolis, Indiana. Attendees quoted in the issue included Michigan's own Thane LaBanta and lots of informative articles were incorporated in the publication. Bro. Pahl noted it was the best quality *Banner* published in quite a long time but the problem of delays in mailing it still persist. Commander Lyons stated the mail delay has been an ongoing problem and quoted the same complaints regarding issues printed as far back as 1912.

Bro. Nash reported a request from the editor, Mr. John Braden, of the *Michigan Reenactor* as to whether the Camp wished it's advertisement in the publication to be continued. The Camp whole-heartedly concurred with the suggestion.

X. Unfinished Business:

Commander Lyons provided an update on the General John A. Logan Memorial project at Mount Hope Cemetery. Bro. Park noted the past intention to honor this hero in the form of naming M-99 to the Memorial Gen. John A. Logan Memorial Highway. Legislation in the State legislature was prepared but died for lack of support. Mr. Walter Juall - Ingham County Commissioner, solicited support from the Lansing State Journal for some form of memorial for this patriotic soldier. With cooperation from the City of Lansing, Mr. William Vernon -Ingham County Veterans Council, Ms. Alfreda Schmidt - Ingham County Commissioner, and others, the plan has born fruit and the memorial will be dedicated next year.

The date for the dedication has been tentatively scheduled for Memorial Day, May 30, 2000. Camp discussion regarding the dedication noted the conflict with the Camp's annual Memorial Day business meeting and memorial ceremony at the cemetery site of Samuel Grinnell. It was decided the dedication to Gen. Logan would take precedence over the Camp's normal ceremonies for the year 2000. Bro. Harrison suggested inviting Civil War reenacting groups throughout the state to attend the ceremony. Commander Lyons and Bro. Aves will forward information to the *Michigan Messenger*. Bro. Harrison will coordinate notification to the 7th Michigan Vol. Inf., Co. B. and 24th Michigan with Bro. Downing.

Commander Lyons gave a brief report on the G.A.R. Hall dedication scheduled for May 21, 2000. It will resemble the 1987 Hall marker dedication ceremony. Handouts for attendees will be provided. Bro. Harrison suggested using information contained within the 1987 brochures.

Bro. Adams presented a follow-up report on the proposed Muscular Dystrophy Living History event in Eaton Rapids over Labor Day weekend next year. He is planning to approach the Eaton Rapids City Council with the proposal at its January 10, 2000 meeting. He requested 2 Brothers to attend the meeting with him as a show of support. Bro. Harrison noted having contact with a representative from the VFW Children's Home in Eaton Rapids regarding the same type of function. Bro. Adams further elaborated on ideas pertaining to activities and potential fund raising amongst Eaton Rapids businesses.

Bro. Park expanded upon the difficulties of hosting a combined living history and fund raising event. Bro. Harrison presented an example of an Illinois living history event held to raise funds for some injured students. Bro. Harrison noted this would serve the dual purpose of supporting a worth cause and provide some public exposure to the SUVCW organization. Commander Lyons reviewed the differences between "living historians" and the SUVCW. He suggested the Camp needed to obtain commitments of support from the "living

history" community before the Eaton Rapids City Council was approached with the idea. Bro. Adams will provide a status report on his progress at the January 25, 2000 Camp meeting.

Bro. Brown reported on a project to relocate the 21st Michigan Volunteer Infantry monument from a road right-of-way in Ionia County. The rededication of the marker is tentatively scheduled for September 12, 2000. The 21st Michigan Vol. Inf. re-enacting unit has committed to support the ceremony.

XI. New Business:

Bro. Rousseau expressed concerns among the new members in the Camp. He noted the late receipt of the *Yankee* (sometimes a few days before the meetings) is preventing Brothers from participating in activities. He noted the title and duties of the Camp officers is not readily apparent. He expressed the willingness of the new members to support the Camp but that a lack of communication regarding event scheduling, dress code, etc. is having a negative effect on their participation. Commander Lyons initiated a discussion regarding the shortcomings. Bro. Roux covered the type of information currently distributed to new members. Commander Lyons suggested resurrecting a New Member Packet containing basic information. Bro. Harrison noted he is working on diagrams and simplified instructions for the Dept. of Wisconsin which may provide some benefit if incorporated into the proposed New Member Packet. Bro. Pahl volunteered to consolidate information from the various sources, adapt it to the needs of the Camp, and present it for approval at the next meeting.

Bro. Pahl reported the National SUVCW organization was holding ongoing discussions with the organizers of the National Civil War Museum being constructed in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. It is a 2 story facility scheduled to open in June, 2000. They have hired a professional museum curator and have reserved a display area for articles related to Veteran's organizations. They have proposed providing office space for use by the National SUVCW organization staff.

Bro. Park inquired as to the status of the search to fill the position of National

Executive Director SUVCW. Bro. Pahl provided a brief overview of the 4 current applicants. Commander Lyons reviewed the job description and the anticipated workload. Bro. Harrison noted the person selected will serve in the capacity of secretary for the National SUVCW organization.

Bro. Pahl reported the Michigan Department is submitting a request to the Michigan Secretary of State to issue a SUVCW vanity-style license plate.

XII. Good of the Order:

Bro. Harrison noted the Lansing Genealogy Show occurs on April 2, 2000.

Commander Lyons introduced Mr. Ernst Floeter (guest of Bro. Rousseau) from Grand Ledge, Michigan. Mr. Floeter briefly recalled his experiences as a teenager during World War II after he was drafted into the German Army. He described how he was captured, transferred to a Michigan POW camp, repatriated after the war, and has spent the last 40 years in Grand Ledge as a photographer.

Bro. Rehkopf donated 2 homemade leather flag carriers to the Camp.

Bro. Hodges reported on the Eaton County Genealogy Society meeting he recently attended. The U.S. Civil War was the main topic of discussion. Bro. Hodges used the meeting as an opportunity to distribute some of the Camps membership applications. He noted the County Courthouse has a genealogy library with a considerable amount of U.S. Civil War information.

Commander Lyons opened a discussion on the Camp's delegates to next year's Department Encampment. Bro. Keith Harrison moved, seconded by Bro. Calder, for the Camp to nominate 5 members, without standing credentials, to serve as delegates. His motion included nominating the remainder of the Camp, without credentials, as alternates. Motion carried. Commander Lyons noted we would select the 5 delegates at the January 25, 2000 Camp meeting.

Bro. Hodges reported the Mid-Winter Conference will be held on February 12, 2000 in Lansing. He also noted the date coincides with Union Defenders Day.

XIII. Treasurer's Report:

Bro. Williams Treasurer's report showed a balance of accounts at \$1638.73 as of November 30, 1999 with \$18.80 in checking, \$947.20 in the Hall Restoration Fund, \$60.62 in the Memorial Fund, and \$612.11 in savings. The Profit & Loss Statement for September 28, 1999 through November 30, 1999 showed total income for the period of \$322.25, total expenses of 181.20 for net income for the period of \$141.05.

Officer's ceremony until the January 25, 2000 Camp meeting. The Camp unanimously agreed.

XIV. Closing Ritual:

Commander Lyons closed the meeting per ritual at 9:25 P.M..

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

Respectfully Submitted,
In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

**Thomas L. Emerick,
Secretary**

Bro. Williams moved, seconded by Bro. Keith Harrison, to maintain the 2000 Camp membership dues at the current amount of \$24.00. Bro. Pahl questioned whether the dues would be sufficient given the National fee increase of \$2.00 next year. Bro. Williams confirmed our current dues schedule would be adequate. Motion carried. Bro. Williams moved, seconded by Bro. Keith Harrison, to institute a \$5.00 late fee for all membership dues received after January 31. Motion carried. Bro. Keith Harrison moved, seconded by Bro. Calder, to approve the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Bro. Pahl registered the only dissenting vote. Motion carried.+

\$44.00 was collected in "Passing the Hat".

Notes on the Program of the Evening

The Camp proceeded with election of Officers. Bro. Hodges presented the following slate of nominees to the Camp:
Camp Commander:

Bro. James Lyons

Senior Vice Commander:

Bro. Todd Rakestraw

Junior Vice Commander:

Bro. George Roux

Secretary:

Bro. Dana Traub

Treasurer:

Bro. Richard Williams

Camp Council:

Bro. Laverne Aves

Bro. Dale Calder

Bro. Charles Brown

Bro. Keith Harrison moved, seconded by Bro. Rehkopf, to accept the slate of officers as proposed. Motion carried.

Due to the lateness of the hour, Bro. Park proposed delaying the Installation of