

# Curtenius Guard Camp #17

Department of Michigan

## Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

### Minutes

Meeting of the Camp  
Tuesday, July 30, 2002  
Samuel W. Grinnell  
GAR Post #283 Hall  
115 Main Street  
Sunfield, Michigan  
49058

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 7:14 P.M. on Tuesday, July 30, 2002 at the Samuel W. Grinnell G.A.R. Hall, Sunfield Michigan.

### II. Roll Call:

#### Brothers present:

Jeff Adams, Robert Aumaugher, Lavern Aves, Marc Bennetts, David Coon, Tom Emerick, Keith Harrison, Paul Hodges, Charles Langworthy, Jim Lyons, Brian MacVean, Mark Neese, Michael Neese, Wendel Peabody, David Rehkopf, Kenneth Rousseau, George Roux, Brian Shumway, and Dick Williams.

#### Brothers excused:

Steve Church, Kyle Emerick, Nathan Harrison, Mike Mitchell, John Nash, David Neese, James A K Pahl, James B. Pahl, J. Douglas Park, and Joshua Rousseau.

#### Sick Call:

None reported.

### III. Welcome to Guests:

Commander Lyons introduced Dept. Commander Bruce Butgereit, Dept. JVC – Neal Breaugh, Editor, *Michigan's Messenger* - John Mann, Luke Coon (son of Bro. David Coon), and Christina Peabody (daughter of Bro. Wendel Peabody).

### IV. Approval of Minutes:

Bro. Harrison moved, seconded by Bro. Hodges, to approve of the minutes of the May 30, 2002 meeting. Motion carried.

### V. Concerns for Brothers:

Former Bro. Don Everett of Lansing, Michigan is recovering from a motorcycle accident suffered enroute to Flint, Michigan this past weekend. His injuries were limited to his right ankle and left wrist. He is reported to be recovering at Ingham Regional Hospital in Lansing, Michigan. Don's employer is the company that prints the *Michigan's Messenger*. The Camp expressed a heartfelt wish for Don's speedy recovery.

Dept. Chief of Staff, Richard Greene's wife was recently admitted to a hospital with a suspected heart attack. She is home now making good progress towards recovery.

Bro. Bob Aumaugher's father passed away July 7, 2002 in the state of Iowa.

### VI. New Members and Initiations:

No report.

### VII. Recess:

Camp was recessed for a break at 7:37 P.M. and the meeting reconvened at 7:57 P.M..

### VIII. Committee Reports:

#### Bylaws:

No report

#### Memorials and Graves Registration:

Commander Lyons reported he was still photographing memorials in Eaton County and filing paperwork. Ingham County photographs have been taken and the paperwork should be completed by this Fall. Bro. Shumway is working on graves registration in Barry County. Bro. Williams is continuing to work on identifying graves in Eaton County. Over 600 have been identified to Union units using Bro. Keith Harrison U.S. Civil War site links. Bro. Williams is using an Access database to record cemetery information and sexton information. This database is being used to provide an Excel spreadsheet format to the Dept. Graves Registration officer.

Commander Lyons reported the Department has notified him that photographs of memorials need be accompanied by measurements

#### Membership:

Bro. Michael Neese reported the recruiting tent at the Hastings, Michigan (Charlton Park Re-enactment) attracted lots of interest but no potential recruits.

#### Memorial Day/ Day of Remembrance:

No report.

#### Military Affairs:

No report.

#### Patriotic Instruction:

Dept. Commander Butgereit reported Camps 17 and 58 were the only camps participating in the Eagle Scout Recognition Certificate Program. He will be distributing kits to all the camps to encourage the program. He noted most of the letters are from non-local politicians. He is hoping the SUVCW can add some prestige to itself via local participation in the ceremony.

JVC Breaugh brought historical information on the Robert Finch Camp for the Camp Historian.

Bro. Hodges reported the area Boy Scout organizations had recognized 12 Eagle Scouts in the past year. He reported it has been very inspiring to attend the ceremonies and hear the accomplishments of these young men. 3 troops of the local council are aware of the SUVCW Eagle Scout program. Bro. Hodges suggested that Bro. Pahl attempt to touch base with the Mason scout troop.

Commander Lyons reported on the recent ceremony at Raney Park in Lansing, Michigan. Bro. Coon headed up the color guard consisting of Bros. Aves, Coon, Rehkopf, and Williams. Commander Lyons was the guest speaker and spoke at length on the accomplishments and contributions of the only U.S. Civil War Medal of Honor winner buried in Ingham County, Dr. George Raney.

#### Program and Publicity:

No report.

#### Grinnell Award:

No report.

#### Camp Council:

No report.

#### Hall Restoration:

Bro. Aves reported Bros. Adams, Aves, Nash, and Williams scraped and painted the cannons and outhouse roof. The outhouse will be painted in August pending the obtaining of a paint sprayer. The paint on the west side of the hall is peeling again and will need to be scraped and painted this year. Bro. Aves reported on the mystery of the nicks at the top of the foyers doors. They were caused by the rifle sights of the G.A.R. members as they entered the hall. Commander Lyons expounded on additional

history regarding the peephole in the foyer door.

#### **IX. Orders and Communications:**

Commander Lyons read a letter of commendation from Dept. Commander Butgereit for the Flag Day ceremonies at the Michigan Historical Museum on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Bro. Bennetts was the organizer of the event supported by Bros. Rehkopf, Rousseau, and Russeau.

Dept. Commander Butgereit commented on this being his first visit to the G.A.R. hall. He expressed his appreciation for the work of the Camp and their dedication towards educating the public. He commented further that the challenge for the Department is to "get back to basics". JVC Breaugh expressed his appreciation of how the Sons and Daughters have worked to preserve such a fine, historical building to have their meetings in. He recalled how his current camps first meeting was held in a Chinese restaurant in Traverse City 5 years prior. He noted the Curtenius Guard Camp was an inspiration to other camps and encouraged us to keep up the good work.

Editor John Mann vigorously encouraged the Camp to send in articles to the *Michigan's Messenger*.

Commander Lyons reported on receipt of a letter confirming the Eaton County Historical Commissions approval of a \$350.00 grant for preservation projects at the hall. He noted the receipt of the April 2002 DUVCW meeting minutes. We had not been receiving copies of their meetings for some time. He also mentioned a recent *Michigan's Messenger* article on the founding of a new camp in Royal Oak by former Camp #17 Bro. Keith Krinn.

#### **X. Unfinished Business:**

Commander Lyons reported on the upcoming Sunfield Farmers Picnic Parade. The parade begins at 12:00 P.M. and troops should muster by 11:00 P.M.. Eunice and Ed Black are parade marshals. The Camp needs to have a good turnout to show our appreciation for all of the support the Daughter's have given us over the years. The hall will be open on Sunday from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.. Commander Lyons will be in the hall on Saturday and encouraged all Brothers to attend and reach out to the community.

#### **XI. New Business:**

Commander Lyons announced the appointment of Bros. Nash (chairman), Aves, and Williams to the Nominating Committee. He also announced he will not be available to serve in any elected or appointed positions in the near future. Commander Lyons encouraged all Brothers interested in serving the Camp to contact the Nominating Committee. He noted that this did not preclude someone from "throwing their hat in the ring" at the time the slate is presented.

Commander Lyons reported Dept. Commander Butgereit has developed updated recruiting flyers for Camps and the Department. Commander Butgereit offered to provide them to the Camp if the Camp supplies the necessary customized inserts. Bro. Shumway volunteered to provide said insert for the Camp. Bro. Peabody noted he is a member of the Sunfield Historical & Genealogical Society, which will provide another outlet for distribution of the Camp flyers.

Commander Lyons reported the discovery that the base of the cannon at the old county courthouse in Charlotte is severely cracked and quickly disintegrating. Bro. Aves reported he had a nephew who is a stonemason who could provide the Camp with technical advice on how to repair and preserve the cannon base. Commander Lyons and Bro. Aves approached the museum staff with an offer to repair the base. They were given a tour of the many rooms in the museum containing Civil War military artifacts. The museum staff is looking for volunteers to identify, inventory, and organize displays of the artifacts. Commander Lyons approached them with a request to store Camp archives in exchange for assistance with the artifact inventory and display. Bro. Roux moved, seconded by Bro. Keith Harrison to formalize an agreement with the museum. Motion passed. Commander Lyons volunteered to follow-up on the matter and also noted the building has multiple fire proof vaults. Dept. Commander Butgereit mentioned the need to obtain storage space for Department archives due to the limited capacity of the current area at the Marshall G.A.R. hall.

Commander Lyons noted this was the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our Camp by Bro. Keith Harrison. Bro. Harrison established the Camp in his basement and then discovered the Camp charter in the Sunfield G.A.R. hall. Commander Lyons suggested we organize a dinner to

commemorate the founding of the Camp in May 2003. He suggested it be a potluck or buffet dinner and past members be invited to join the festivities. All attendees would be encouraged to bring stories, photographs, and memories of past activities. Editor John Mann suggested the Camp provide an article of the 20-year history of the Camp to be published in the *Michigan's Messenger*. Commander Lyons volunteered to author such an article. JVC Breaugh suggested invitation of other dignitaries. The organization of such an event was heartily approved by the Camp.

JVC Breaugh recalled the founding of his current camp, Robert Finch, two year ago and the assistance Commander Lyons provided in recovering the original camp charter and records. He also reported that Bro. Williams won the Robert Finch Camp's recent raffle to raise funds for a Camp flag. Bro. Williams contributed half of his winning towards restoration of the Traverse City Soldiers memorial.

#### **XII. Good of the Order:**

Bro. Shumway spoke briefly on the noted improvements in the layout of the Yankee newsletters.

#### **XIII. Treasurer's Report:**

Bro. Williams Treasurer's report showed a balance of accounts at \$2,462.08 as of July 30, 2002 with \$22.00 in checking, \$858.35 in the Hall Restoration Fund, \$62.62 in the Memorial Fund, and \$1,519.11 in savings. Liabilities included \$259.40 earmarked for the Max O'Neil Fund. The Profit & Loss Statement for March 30, 2002 through July 30, 2002 showed total income for the period of \$-21.00 and total expenses of \$299.74 for net loss for the period of \$320.74.

Bro. Keith Harrison moved, seconded by Bro. Roux, to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried. +

\$25.00 in donations was raised via a book raffle to be directed towards hall restoration. Bro. Langworthy was the winner of the *Faded Coat of Blue*.

#### **XIV. Closing Ritual:**

Commander Lyons closed the meeting per ritual at 9:30 P.M..

#### **Notes on the Program of the Evening**

Commander Lyons reported a Mr. James Perkins was scheduled to present a program

to the Camp on the 1897 G.A.R. hall located in Dimondale. Mr. Perkins is involved in the restoration of the building. He expressed his regrets for not being able to attend but provided Commander Lyons with a file of pictures, newsprint articles, and a scale model of the building for the Camp to review. Commander Lyons further expanded on his knowledge of the hall's history.

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

Respectfully Submitted,  
In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

Thomas L.

Emerick

Secretary