

Curtenius Guard Camp #17

Department of Michigan

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Minutes

Meeting of the Camp
Tuesday, September 24, 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 7:08 P.M. on Tuesday, September 24, 2002 at the Samuel W. Grinnell G.A.R. Hall, Sunfield Michigan.

II. Roll Call:

Brothers present:

Lavern Aves, Marc Bennetts, David Coon, Tom Emerick, Keith Harrison, Paul Hodges, Charles Langworthy, Jim Lyons, Brian MacVean, John Nash, David Neese, James B. Pahl, Wendel Peabody, David Rehkopf, Kenneth Rousseau, George Roux, Ron Shull, Dana Traub, and Dick Williams.

Brothers excused:

Jeff Adams, Robert Aumaugher, Kyle Emerick, Nathan Harrison, Mike Mitchell, Mark Neese, Michael Neese, James A K Pahl, J. Douglas Park, Joshua Russeau, and Brian Shumway.

Sick Call:

None reported.

III. Welcome to Guests:

Commander Lyons introduced the following brothers from General Benjamin Pritchard Camp #20: Gary Gibson (Patriotic Instructor, PDC), Joe Orbeck (Treasurer), John Keefe, and Bill Brennan (Chaplain, PDC). Charles Lee and John Hall from the Eaton County Historical Commission were recognized.

Ed Voss introduced himself as having descendents who fought in the great conflict. Bro. Langworthy introduced his friend, Robert Hedke. Mr. Hedke noted his research led to the discovery his great-great grandfather served in the Secret Service during the Civil War. Bro. Hodges introduced his friend, Owen Birchman, of Lansing Township. Mr. Birchman noted his ancestor, John Mitchell, fought with the 96th Illinois and he had brought supporting documentation with him for the benefit of the Camp.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

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

V. Concerns for Brothers:

Commander Lyons reported that Bro. Shumway's son, John, fell and broke his hip recently. Bro. Shumway is tending to his son, which is why he was absent from this evening's meeting.

Bro. Pahl reported that former Bro. Don Everett was on the mend and recovering from his previously reported motorcycle accident.

Bro. Pahl reported Bro. Mitchell has shoulder surgery following the Charlton Park re-enactment this past July. His wife was also reported to be feeling poorly lately.

VI. New Members and Initiations:

No report.

VII. Recess:

Camp was recessed for a break at 7:30 P.M. and the meeting reconvened at 7:43 P.M..

VIII. Committee Reports:

Bylaws:

Commander Lyons read through the proposed bylaw changes. They were presented at this meeting so the Camp can vote on them at the November business meeting. The bylaws were last changed in 1997 but are meant to be a living document. A major change reported was the \$6.00 increase in the annual National dues.

Bro. Hodges inquired about the specifics of the Life Member Program. Commander Lyons noted there are three known

versions. Originally there was a one-time fee charged to the applicant. The member was subsequently not assessed any dues by the National Organization and was exempted from Department dues. The National Organization reimbursed the Camp each year. Curtenius Guard Camp #17 has 7 life members in this program. This program has been closed to new enlistees. The second version of the program was set-up in the same fashion as the original except the National Organization was not reimbursing the Camps. Lastly, the current enrollment program rules are confusing and in limbo.

Memorials and Graves Registration:

Bro. Williams reported Eaton County information had been entered in its entirety into the graves registration database. Enlistment information has been entered for 500+ individuals. Bro. Hodges continues to assist in verifying military service and other information. Commander Lyons will soon submit the Ingham County information for data entry.

Chairman Williams provided a brief report on the latest Department Graves Registration meeting. There was a noticeable increase in the number of camps attending. Attendees were shown additional research resources in the library and museum. Barry County's information gathering is currently in progress. Ingham County's will be completed by year-end. There are currently 33,000 entries in the Department database and they are available in Excel spreadsheet format. Bros. Nash and Shumway are currently surveying the Riverside Cemetery in Nashville.

Membership:

JVC David Neese reported the recruiting tent would next be posted at the Bowen's Mills event on October 12-13. He will be manning the tent and welcomes any and all volunteers.

Commander Lyons reported the receipt of a notice from the Department regarding an internet membership application from an individual in the East Lansing area. A young man attending Michigan State University is interested in joining the Sons but is in need of transportation to attend the meetings. Bros. Rehkopf and Roux volunteered to coordinate a car pool effort to assist the potential recruit.

Memorial Day/ Day of Remembrance:
No report.

Military Affairs:

Commander Lyons and Bro. Coon spoke out on the November 11th Lansing Veteran's Day Parade. All Brothers are encouraged to participate and to confirm their attendance with Bro. Coon.

Patriotic Instruction:

Bro. Hodges reported on the Camp participation in the Grand Rapids Remembrance Day ceremonies. Bros. Harrison, Hodges, and Rousseau represented the Camp. He also provided detail regarding information he received in a copy of a Baltimore newspaper issue covering the 140th Antietam event. Finally, Bro. Hodges encouraged the Camp to forward copies of their ancestor's service and pension records to the Department Historian for maintenance within the department archives.

Program and Publicity:

No report.

Grinnell Award:

No report.

Camp Council:

Bro. Aves gave a brief report on the Camp Council meeting from the prior week.

Hall Restoration:

Bro. Aves reported he and Bro. Williams replaced roofing and tarred the outhouse roof. They also scraped the loose paint off of the west side of the hall exterior. Bro. Aves is awaiting the loan of compressor powered spray painter to finish the job. He also noted the resident who lives next to the Hall has been performing grounds keeping duties on our behalf.

IX. Orders and Communications:

Bro. James Pahl noted that new CinC, Bob Grim has taken "firm" command of the National Organization since his election to office in August. He noted the next Annual Encampment is to be held in Covington, Kentucky and that Michigan's own Kent Armstrong will be running for the office of CinC. Finally, Bro. Pahl expressed his observation that the new Executive Director's office was functioning smoothly and efficiently.

Commander Lyons read from a letter sent by Department Commander Bruce Butgereit. Commander Lyons also read from the most recent DUVCW minutes. In them the Daughters expressed their appreciation for the Sons strong support of the Farmers Picnic activities and parade. The event raised approximately \$1,200 of funds.

Bro. James Pahl reported on the activities of the Department and Blair Camp #7 recruiting tent at the August Jackson Civil War Muster. There were 33,000+ entries in the Department graves registration database in the laptop computer maintained at the tents. Spectators were encouraged and took advantage of researching ancestors via the computer.

X. Unfinished Business:

Commander Lyons reported on the Charlotte cannon restoration project and his communications with Mindy Dings, Executive Director of the Courthouse Square Association. The Camp's plan for restoration was presented to the Association's Executive Board. It must be approved first by the Association's Buildings and Grounds Committee. The committee had many specific questions on the preservation techniques and materials to be utilized. There are a few remaining questions to be clarified before final approval is given.

XI. New Business:

Commander Lyons proposed the first Saturday in May 2003 for the date of the Camp's 20th anniversary dinner. Bro. Nash volunteered to chair the committee, along with Bros. Rehkopf and Williams, to explore the details of the gathering. A lunchtime meal was suggested along with inviting past Camp members, Department officers, and the Daughters.

Bro. Coon reported that the Ionia dedication ceremony of the Camp Sigel monument celebrated 2 years past has become an annual event. The 21st Michigan re-enacting group setup a living history program this past weekend. Bro. Coon indicated he would follow up with the unit to coordinate future participation by the Camp.

Bro. Rousseau reported the organizers of the Grand Ledge Fall Color Tour contacted him regarding the Camp participating this

year. Commander Lyons noted we could not due to the conflict with our recruiting tent at the Bowen's Mills event.

XII. Good of the Order:

Bro. Pahl expanded on the 100th anniversary activities in September at the G.A.R hall in his hometown of Marshall. He noted Bro. Williams and his lovely wife, Linda, also attended the festivities. He recounted how a Georgia resident recently donated a hand-typed diary of a Civil War soldier to the hall.

Commander Lyons spoke out on an award recently bestowed upon the Camps own Bro. Langworthy. Bro. Langworthy was invited to a ceremony at the U.S.M.C. recruiting depot at Parris Island held on July 30th. In honor of his demonstrated expert gunsmith abilities, he was recognized as an honorary U.S.M.C. gunsmith. The certificate of recognition was then read aloud for the benefit of the Camp. Bro. Langworthy noted that, hard work aside, the award was due to the benevolence of his nephews stationed at the depot.

Commander Lyons reported that at the Department Encampment, Dept. Secretary Lee presented the Camp with the Nicolay Hay award for the Camp Secretary's timely submission of the quarterly reports for the past year. It was noted the quarterly reports were being phased out in favor of an annual report filing system beginning in the year 2003.

Bro. Nash noted an abbreviated version of the Ken Burns Civil War documentary was being televised on public television this week.

Bro. Shull provided a brief history lesson on Fort Mackinac and it's history during the Civil War.

Bro. Hodges noted the Antiquarian Book & Paper Show was being held at the Lansing Center this upcoming weekend.

XIII. Treasurer's Report:

Bro. Williams Treasurer's report showed a balance of accounts at \$2,789.56 as of September 23, 2002 with \$22.00 in checking, \$1,185.83 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 July

30, 2002 through September 23, 2002 showed total income for the period of \$-394.86 and total expenses of \$67.38 for net gain for the period of \$327.48.

Bro. Williams reported individual National dues were increased by \$6.00 at the National Encampment. It was proposed to increase the annual Camp dues to \$30.00 to cover the increase. The vote on dues was tabled until the next business meeting.

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

\$33.75 in donations was raised as part of "Passing the Hat".

XIV. Closing Ritual:

Commander Lyons closed the meeting per ritual at 9:05 P.M..

Notes on the Program of the Evening

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

Respectfully Submitted,
In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty

**Thomas L.
Emerick**
Secretary

Any additions, corrections, or inquiries regarding the newsletter can be directed to:

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