

Curtenius Guard Camp #17

Department of Michigan

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Minutes

Meeting of the Camp
Friday, May 30, 2003
Samuel W. Grinnell
GAR Post #283 Hall
115 Main Street
Sunfield, Michigan
49058

Commander Brian Shumway, assigned Brothers to fill vacancies of absent officers by appointment Pro Tem.

I. Opening Ritual:

Commander Shumway opened the Camp meeting per ritual at 7:25 P.M. on Friday, May 30, 2003 at the Samuel W. Grinnell G.A.R. Hall, Sunfield Michigan.

II. Roll Call:

Brothers present:

Marc Bennetts, Steve Church, David Coon, Kyle Emerick, Thomas Emerick, Paul Hodges, Charles Langworthy, Jim Lyons, Brian MacVean, John Nash, Michael Neese, James B. Pahl, Todd Rakestraw, David Rehkopf, George Roux, Ronald Shull, Brian Shumway, and Dana Traub.

Brothers excused:

Lavern Aves, Luke Coon, Zach Coon, Nathan Harrison, Richard Lee, Michael Mitchell, David Neese, Mark Neese, James A K Pahl, J. Douglas Park, Joshua Russeau, and Dick Williams.

Sick Call:

None reported.

III. Welcome to Guests:

Bro. Hodges introduced his good friend of 47 years Mr. Ervin Stahl of Haslett. Mr. Stahl noted he could directly trace his ancestors to the Revolutionary War but not to any Civil War veterans.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

Bro. Lyons moved, seconded by Bro. Shull, to approve of the minutes of the

March 25, 2003 meeting. Discussion was called for. No discussion was forthcoming. Motion carried.

V. Concerns for Brothers:

It was reported with great sadness that Bro. Byron Weed, past member of Camp #17, passed away on May 6th.

VI. New Members and Initiations:

No report.

VII. Recess:

Camp was recessed for a break at 7:35 P.M. and the meeting reconvened at 7:54 P.M..

VIII. Committee Reports:

Bylaws:

An April 5th note from the Department indicated the improper reversal of titles for the Camp Graves Officer and the Camp Memorials & Monuments Officer. Bro. Roux moved, seconded by Bro. Lyons, to include the revised language in the bylaws and resubmit them to the Department for review. Discussion was called for. No discussion was forthcoming. Motion carried.

Memorials and Graves Registration:

No report.

Membership:

No report.

Memorial Day/ Day of Remembrance:

Chaplain Nash reported only 6 Brothers attended the Lansing Memorial Day parade and the ceremonies at Mt. Hope and Evergreen cemeteries. At Mt. Hope, General Order #11 was read at the Gen. Logan Memorial and the detail marched to the G.A.R. burial plot in good order. Commander Shumway officiated the D.U.V.C.W. ceremony in Sunfield accompanied by Bro. Lyons who spoke on history of the Korean War Veterans. Commander Shumway complimented Chaplain Nash on his skills in organizing this year's ceremonies. A round of applause from the Camp saluted his efforts.

Commander Shumway presented a short report on the Clare, Michigan Memorial Day ceremonies he attended. Bro. Lyons reported on the Wacousta Cemetery ceremonies held that same weekend. There were 200+ attendees there to observe the unveiling of a wonderful restoration project

of a Civil War soldier statue. He stated it was a terrific program for such a small town.

A lively discussion ensued when Bro. Pahl noted the Lansing State Journal incorrectly publicized the times for the Mt. Hope and Evergreen Cemetery ceremonies resulting in more than a few spectators arriving too late to observe anything. He reiterated a conversation held with the LSJ reporter assigned to the ceremonies. The reporter was unaware of the history behind Memorial Day or the G.A.R. and S.U.V.C.W. organizations. Bro. Lyons indicated the LSJ maps transposed the locations of the Mt. Hope and Evergreen cemeteries further adding to the confusion. The Camp generally agreed the Memorial Day "government holiday" was the leading cause of the slow death of patriotic fervor normally associated with the "real" Memorial Day. Bro. Lyons spoke at great lengths on the lack of publicity generated for military ceremonial programs in the Lansing State Journal in the last few years. "Five years ago Memorial Day military events were widely advertised even to the point of being front-page section news" noted Bro. Lyons. Bro. Hodges indicated there were television crews at both cemeteries.

Military Affairs:

No report.

Patriotic Instruction:

Bro. Hodges reported attending two Eagle Scout ceremonies to present the S.U.V.C.W. recognition certificate. Commander Shumway paid honors to Bro. Hodges efforts in this area. Commander Shumway also attended an Eagle Scout Court of Honor and presented an SUCVW certificate.

Program and Publicity:

Bro. Traub has arranged for a "campfire" Camp business meeting in the Sunfield community park in September. If successful, he plans to propose to meet there for next spring's annual trivial contest.

Grinnell Award:

No report.

Camp Council:

No report.

Hall Restoration:

Bro. Coons inquired as to the status of the flag and board lighting project. Bro. Lyons stated there would be no funds forthcoming from the local Lions Club. Bro. Aves is arranging for the installation of the lights. The Camp is inquiring of the Daughter's if they wish to assist with the costs. The Camp was suggested using the residual funds in Max O'Neil fund with an accompanying plaque indicating the source of the funds. Bro. Pahl reported that Bro. Rousseau provided a flag when it needed replacement five years ago. Commander Shumway indicated the Camp Council would take up discussion on the matter.

Color Guard:

No report.

IX. Orders and Communications:

Department Commander Butgereit sent a note to Commander Shumway, containing black ribbons and instructions to utilize same draped behind the SUV CW badges whenever the charter is draped in black for the passing of a Brother. Bro. Pahl, also the National Counselor, made a point of order stating this ribbon and method of display is not authorized per the National Regulations. Commander Shumway will discuss this topic with Department Commander Butgereit at the earliest opportunity.

Commander Shumway discussed a note from Department Commander Butgereit regarding the demise of the Grand Rapids Remembrance Day festivities and their replacement by the Flag Day ceremonies at the Michigan Historical Museum. A brochure on the Flag Day event was circulated amongst the Camp. Department Commander Butgereit forwarded a report on the Grand Rapids Civil War monument restoration project. \$200,000 of the \$250,000 needed has been raised to date.

X. Unfinished Business:

Bro. Nash reported 45 people had responded positively to attending the upcoming 20th anniversary potluck meal. The dinner will be served "promptly" at 1:30 P.M. and the Camp needs to put on a good showing. Commander Shumway expressed his regrets as he will be out of town on family business that weekend.

XI. New Business:

Bro. Lyons noted observing multiple errors in the Camp ritual of arrangement of the altar and opening/closing of the bible during the prescribed ceremonies. The current ritual is being revised at the next National Encampment.

Commander Shumway suggested the formation of an ad hoc committee to determine the proper uniform for ceremonial and Camp functions. He has discussed this with Department Commander Butgereit who noted we were the only Camp pursuing this matter. Bro. Rehkopf volunteered to head up the committee. Bro. Coons questioned the reasoning behind adopting a standard "uniform". Commander Shumway expressed the desire to design a uniform for non-re-enactor Camp members to wear at S.U.V.C.W. ceremonies. He expressed the hope this style of uniform would make the Camp members feel more inclusive and renew the public's interest in history of the G.A.R. and their descendants, the S.U.V.C.W.. Bro. Lyons discussed past attempts to standardize on the common, post-war G.A.R. uniform composed of a broad-brimmed Stetson and black frock coat. He noted this would be a step towards memorializing the memory of the G.A.R. and not the generic Civil War soldier. Bro. Pahl strongly supported maintaining the current style dress incorporating a navy blue blazer and kepi. He noted this was an inexpensive addition to any member's wardrobe and melded well with the Civil War uniforms of re-enactors at ceremonies. He noted, given the current business climate, that the costs of the proposed G.A.R. style uniform would be prohibitive to many Brothers. Bro. Rakestraw supported Bro. Pahl noting the cost of said uniforms would be a hardship on many members. Commander Shumway concluded the discussion by indicating Bro. Rakestraw and his committee would be presenting a cost figure with his report and the Camp could renew debate on the topic at that time.

Commander Shumway announced the appointment of Bro. Williams to the Rituals & Ceremonies Committee.

Bro. Pahl spoke out regarding the upcoming National Encampment in Kentucky. He indicated that Bro. Kent Armstrong has been nominated for Commander-in-Chief. Bro. Pahl

expressed the desire for a strong showing of state support for one of Michigan's own. He also noted there would be many controversial topics voted on during the proceedings.

Commander Shumway circulated a sign-up sheet for Brothers to work at the Charlton Park recruiting tent on July 19-20, 2003.

XII. Good of the Order:

No report.

XIII. Treasurer's Report:

Bro. Williams Treasurer's report showed a balance of accounts at \$2,866.42 as of May 30, 2003 with \$30.90 in checking, \$1,590.61 in the Hall Restoration Fund, \$62.62 in the Memorial Fund, and \$1,182.29 in savings. Liabilities included \$259.40 earmarked for the Max O'Neil Fund. The Profit & Loss Statement for March 25, 2003 through May 30, 2003 showed total income for the period of \$72.10 and total expenses of \$957.00 for net loss for the period of \$-884.90.

Bro. Coons moved, seconded by Bro. Nash, to accept the Treasurer's report. Discussion was called for. No discussion was forthcoming. Motion carried. +

\$31.50 in donations was raised as part of "Passing the Hat".

XIV. Closing Ritual:

Commander Brian Shumway closed the meeting per ritual at 9:45 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:

Thomas L. Emerick
112 S. Logan Street

DeWitt, Michigan 48820
(517) 669-5607
tjemerick@attbi.com