

Curtenius Guard Camp #17

Department of Michigan

Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Minutes

Meeting of the Camp
Friday, July 29, 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 7:14 P.M. on Tuesday, July 29, 2003 at the Samuel W. Grinnell G.A.R. Hall, Sunfield Michigan.

II. Roll Call:

Brothers present:

Lavern Aves, Marc Bennetts, Thomas Emerick, Keith Harrison, Paul Hodges, Charles Langworthy, Jim Lyons, Brian MacVean, John Nash, David Neese, Mark Neese, Michael Neese, George Roux, Ronald Shull, Brian Shumway, and Dana Traub, and Dick Williams

Brothers excused:

David Coon, Luke Coon, Zach Coon, Kyle Emerick, Nathan Harrison, Richard Lee, Michael Mitchell, J. Douglas Park, and Joshua Russeau.

Sick Call:

None reported.

III. Welcome to Guests:

Ms. Brenda Holly introduced herself her mother, Audrey, and father, Birdsill. She noted how her Union ancestor was wounded at the battle of Antietam. Bro. Lyons introduced his son-in-law, Marty Hiltz, daughter, Beth Hiltz, and grandson, James Hiltz

IV. Approval of Minutes:

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

May 30, 2003 meeting. Discussion was called for. No discussion was forthcoming. Motion carried.

V. Concerns for Brothers:

No report.

VI. New Members and Initiations:

Bro. Lyons submitted a Junior membership application in the name of his grandson James Oliver Lyons Hiltz. The application was reviewed and deemed to be in order. Bro. David Neese moved, seconded by Bro. Nash, to accept the application as presented and to elect the candidate by a voice vote. Discussion was called for. No discussion was forthcoming. Motion carried. Junior member James Hiltz was forthwith elected by a unanimous vote of the Camp. He was initiated by the prescribed ritual ably assisted by his grandfather, Bro. Lyons.

VII. Recess:

Camp was recessed for a break at 7:35 P.M. and the meeting reconvened at 7:57 P.M..

VIII. Committee Reports:

Bylaws:

Bro. Lyons reported the Bylaws Committee has completed its work. A signed copy of the bylaws is to be retained in the Camp Historian's files. Commander Shumway directed that a copy of the bylaws be distributed to all Camp members.

Memorials and Graves Registration:

Bro. Williams reported over 1,100 entries for Eaton County were entered into the Camp database a few months ago. Bro. Lyons forwarded the raw data for 2,000+ entries from Ingham County. Last names beginning with A through M have been entered into the database with N through Z to be processed before work is begun on the Barry County items. Bro. Lyons also has sketches to be scanned into the database. Commander Shumway recalled how he had seen the Department database at Charlton Park for the first time. He noted the search engine was very impressive. Volunteers will be recruited next year to survey cemeteries in order to follow-up on missing information. It was noted Bros. Lyons, Hodges, and other Camp Brothers had begun collecting cemetery data in 1986 before the database was even conceived.

Bro. Emerick reported on the upcoming dedication of a new monument on National Park Service property in Fredericksburg, Virginia. His re-enacting unit, 7th Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. B, raised several thousand dollars in donations for the boulder and attached bronze plaque commemorating the actions of the unit during the battle of Fredericksburg (1862).

Membership:

Bro. David Neese reported the Bowen's Mills (June) and Charlton Park (July) recruiting endeavors elicited much interest from spectators. Verbal commitments were obtained from several interested parties. Mr. Holly, in attendance this evening, neglected to bring his application with him and will re-apply for membership at the September business meeting. The Sunfield Farmer's Picnic (August) and Bowen's Mills Civil War Days (October) will be our next recruiting opportunities.

Memorial Day/ Day of Remembrance:

Chaplain Nash presented a written report on the June Camp picnic. Bro. Hodges circulated photographs he had taken of the event. Chaplain Nash circulated images captured and forwarded to the Camp by Department SVC, Neil Breagh.

Military Affairs:

No report.

Patriotic Instruction:

No report.

Program and Publicity:

Bro. Traub has confirmed the September Camp business meeting is to be a "campfire" program held at the Sunfield community park. The 3rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry, Co. F re-enacting unit has graciously volunteered to set-up a tent and display of Civil War memorabilia.

Grinnell Award:

No report.

Camp Council:

No report.

Hall Restoration:

Bro. Aves reported the installation of the lights for the flag and memorial board have been completed. The Camp recognized Bros. Aves and Williams for their efforts regarding the lighting project. Bro. Aves indicated flashing would be installed on top

of the memorial board later this summer. He noted the handicap ramp might become a reality before year-end.

Color Guard:
No report.

IX. Orders and Communications:
Department Commander Butgereit sent a note indicating he would review his proposed usage of black ribbons and instructions to utilize it draped behind the SUV CW badges whenever the charter is draped in black for the passing of a Brother. Bro. Lyons reiterated the National Organization would not permit this "decoration" under existing National Regulations.

Bro. Nash sent the Department Commander and the Daughter's Tent thank you notes for their support of our June picnic.

X. Unfinished Business:
No report.

XI. New Business:
Bro. Lyons reported on the upcoming September 20th program at the Sunfield Library and G.A.R. Hall. This will be a combined effort of the Curtenius Guard Camp #17, Helen M. Edwins Tent # 30, Sunfield Library, and Sunfield Genealogical & Historical Society. The program will consist of genealogy research, G.A.R. Hall tour, and mini-living history program. Bro. Hodges noted the Mid-Michigan Genealogy Society was also interested in participating.

Commander Shumway circulated a sign-up sheet for Brothers to march in the Sunfield Farmer's Picnic on August 16th at 12:00 P.M.. An email and U.S.P.S. survey will also be sent out to all Camp members.

Commander Shumway reported on the October 4th Grand Rapids Civil War monument rededication at 10:00 A.M.. Department Commander Butgereit has invested much time and effort in raising funds for the monument restoration. Commander Shumway encouraged a strong show of support from the Camp.

Commander Shumway opened a discussion on the Dimondale headstone

dedication ceremony in October. A final date of October 26th was decided upon. Hughes Battery and Camp #22 will be participating also. Bro. Lyons noted at least 6 Brothers from the Camp are needed to support the ceremony. Bro. Lyons volunteered to perform the Commander's duties. Bro. Williams suggested extending an invitation to our Camp #22 Brothers to assume other ceremonial positions. The cemetery is located on the south side of Vermontville Highway between Dimondale and Potterville. Bro. Emerick volunteered to recruit field music for the program.

Bro. Harrison spoke out regarding the upcoming National Encampment in Kentucky in two weeks. He noted Michigan's own Bro. Kent Armstrong has been nominated for Commander-in-Chief. He indicated how important it was for the State to make a good showing to support Bro. Armstrong. It was noted the Encampment location is only 5 hours away. Bro. Gary Gibson has also been nominated for a position on the Council of Administration.

XII. Good of the Order:
Bro. Mark Neese reported he has digital pictures of the Charlton Park event from Saturday for those interested in viewing them.

Bro. Lyons reported that Sunday, July 27th, was the 50th anniversary of the signing of the truce that halted hostilities in Korea. Technically, there is still a state of war existing on the Korean peninsula today

Bro. Langworthy reported that June was a highpoint in his lifetime. A lifetime membership and ceremonial cane was bestowed upon him by the Manistee Muzzleloaders Club. One week later he learned he had been nominated for the Muzzleloaders National Hall of Fame. The Camp responded with a show of applause in recognition of Bro. Langworthy's past achievements and contributions to the Camp.

XIII. Treasurer's Report:
Bro. Williams Treasurer's report showed a balance of accounts at \$2,767.04 as of July 29, 2003 with \$ 30.90 in checking, \$ 1,491.23 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 May 30, 2003 through July 29, 2003 showed total income for the period of \$0 and total expenses of \$99.39 for net loss for the period of \$-99.38

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

\$30.00 in donations was raised as part of "Passing the Hat".

XIV. Closing Ritual:
Commander Brian Shumway closed the meeting per ritual at 8:50 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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