

**Curtenius Guard**  
**Camp #17**  
**Department of Michigan**  
**Sons of Union Veterans**  
**of the Civil War**

**Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, November 29, 2005  
Samuel W. Grinnell  
GAR Post #283 Hall  
115 Main Street  
Sunfield, Michigan

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

**I. Opening Ritual:**

Commander Brian Shumway opened the meeting per Ritual at 7:00 PM.

**II. Roll Call:**

**Brothers Present:** Arnold, Bennetts, Keith Harrison, Hodges, Langworthy, Miller, James B. Pahl, Peabody, Rehkopf, Roux, Shull, Shumway, and Traub.

**Brothers Excused:** Aumaugher, Aves, Luke Coons, Zack Coon, Emerick, Nathan Harrison, Hilts, Lee, Lyons, Mitchell, Nash, James A. Pahl, Park, and Warren.

**III. Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as transmitted; motion passed.

**IV. Concern for Brothers:**

Commander Shumway reported that Brother Lavern Aves had contacted him and requested not to be considered as a candidate for Camp Council this next year because he was having some medical problems. Brother Langworthy reported the recent loss of his nephew and niece in an unfortunate motorcycle accident.

**V. New Members and Initiations:**

Brother Miller reported that Brother David Arnold was present for his initiation. He had been elected and enrolled at the last meeting. Brother Arnold was initiated per Ritual, after which the Camp took a brief recess.

**VI. Committee Reports:**

**Camp Council** – The Camp Council, which had been designated as the nominating committee at the last meeting, deferred its report until later in the meeting.

**Bylaws** - No report.

**Memorials and Graves Registration -**

Brother Miller stated that the Department's next Graves Registration Committee was scheduled for December 10, 2005 at the Library of Michigan and that he plans to be present. He reported that about two-thirds of the 60 grave registration forms he had prepared had been put into the Department's Graves Registration database. He also presented a short summary of the process of how information gathered in the process is researched, verified, compiled, and then sent in to the Department's Graves Registration Officer for placement into the database.

Brother Arnold referenced a concern that he has been made aware of, and has since seen for himself regarding the Gratiot County Old Fulton Cemetery. The cemetery is small, but has 10 to 12 Civil War veterans buried in it. The condition of the cemetery and the Veterans' markers are in deplorable shape. It was decided to forward Brother Arnold's concern to the DeWitt Camp as that Camp has been doing work in that county.

**GAR Monuments** - No report.

**Eagle Scouts Certificates** – No report

**Membership** – Brother Miller reported that he set up a recruiting area at the Bowen Mills Civil War event on October 8 and 9, 2005. He indicated that he assisted two individuals to apply for membership – one for the Kalamazoo Camp and one for the Big Rapids Camp.

**Military Affairs** - No report.

**Patriotic Instruction** - No Report.

**Program and Publicity** - No Report.

**Hall Restoration** – No Report.

**Memorial Day Activities** – No Report.

**Grinnell Award** - No Report

**VII. Orders and Communications:**

There were no orders or communications.

**VIII. Unfinished Business:** Brother Harrison indicated that a while back the Department, under Department Order #1, Series 2005 – 2006 Item #12, encouraged all Camps to appoint a Camp Signals Officer to serve as the recipient and distributor for the Camp of the Department's newsletter, the *Michigan's Messenger*. Brother Harrison indicated that the current Camp Bylaws do not provide for such a position. He further indicated that based on the nature of the responsibilities outlined by the Department for this position, the position would most likely need to be an ongoing one and, as such, probably should be established in the Camp's Bylaws, if the Camp followed the Department's suggestion. Brother Harrison stated that he would recommend against the Camp creating another position since the duties that were being proposed should easily fall within the realm of responsibilities of the Camp Secretary. The Camp concurred with this assessment and the Camp Secretary was instructed to inform the Department that it would not be creating the Signals Officer position and that the *Michigan's Messenger* should be electronically directed to the Camp Secretary for distribution.

Brother Harrison also discussed the Department's earlier request (several months ago) for Camps to consider obtaining a separate Internet provider rather than staying on the Department's server. Brother Harrison indicated he had investigated that possibility and that such a move would be cost prohibitive. Brother Harrison further indicated that based on his 10 years experience as the National Webmaster and Backup Webmaster for the SUVCW, there really was little merit (financial or work wise) for the Department's concern regarding its providing space to its local Camps. He further indicated that if it is an issue of money, there is no reason that the Department could not charge its Camps for their proportional use of the allocated space that the Department gets from its Internet provider. Finally, he indicated that if the issue is pushed and the Department still desires its Camps to seek service elsewhere, this Camp should seek space on the National Server. Either case (pay the department

or pay national) would be cheaper and less involved in terms of the mechanics (e.g. securing a provider, convoluted Internet address change issues, page set up, etc.) than if the Camp was to obtain its own Internet Provider. A motion was made and a seconded that the Camp (1) not seek its own Internet provider, (2) pursue its retention on the Department's server, and (3) in the absence to achieve item 2, pursue its placement onto the National server; motion passed.

**IX. New Business:** There was no new business.

**X. Good of the Order:** Brother Bennetts reported on a new exhibit on Michigan soldiers that was at the Michigan State Library. The exhibit will be up until June 20, 2006. It also is anticipated that as a part of that exhibit, the Michigan Civil War flags will be available for viewing sometime around April 12th. He indicated that he needed to verify the April date and get back to the Camp.

Brother Pahl reported that the SUVCW's Remembrance Day Program in Gettysburg was a huge success. The event saw a large turnout of parade participants (including 15 Brothers from the Michigan Department) and spectators. During the weekend, the Department conducted a ceremony at the monument to the first Michigan. A wreath was laid at the monument and Brother Pahl presented the speech that was presented when the monument was first dedicated. The Department also placed Michigan and newly purchased U.S. flags at the graves of the Michigan soldiers at Gettysburg. Brother Pahl specifically acknowledge the role of Past Department Commander Bruce Butgerite to purchase, on behalf of the Department (Bruce was able to locate and secure the flags for one-third the cost that was quoted to the Department) and ensure the presence of the U.S. flags at Gettysburg for Remembrance Day. Brother Pahl also related an incident involving two little girls wanting to assist the Michigan Brothers in the removing of the flags from the graves later in the weekend. According to Jim, the little girls' mother indicated that girls' request to assist was solely their decision.

Brother Pahl reported that at the National

Organization's Council of Administration (CoA) meeting, it was acknowledged that the various shortcomings associated with the computerized National Gravesite Registration Program had finally become insurmountable. Given that the estimate to fix the current program problems would cost more than what the National Organization originally paid for the program's development, it was decided by the CoA that it would be better just to develop a new database. The CoA further indicated that the new database program should be developed by a person who had database administrative versus program development experience and that it would need to be based on currently available technology.

Brother Pahl reported that the first issue of the *Banner* for the 2005-2006 year should be in members' mailboxes shortly and that the second issue should be here by Christmas.

Finally, Brother Pahl reminded the Camp that the Department Encampment will be in April and that the National Encampment will be in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania in August. He encouraged all that could attend to attend these Encampments.

Brother Harrison reported that the November 11th Mason Grave Marker Ceremony and Lansing Veterans Day Parade were highly successful and appreciated by the American Legion and Lansing citizens, respectively. Brother Harrison acknowledged Brothers Pahl, Church, Miller, Shumway, and Shull from our Camp; Brothers Emerick and Williams of the DeWitt Camp; and all the members of the 7th Michigan for their participation in the two events.

**XI.** It was reported by Commander Shumway that the Camp currently had on hand \$4,426.77 in the Treasury. Of this, \$451.76 was in the checking account, \$1,917.65 was in the Hall Restoration Fund, and that \$2,057.36 was in the newly opened (as of October 12, 2005) CD. The time period for the CD is eleven months and the rate of return is APY 4.00. It was moved and seconded that the Treasurer's report for the September meeting be removed from the table, combined with the November report, and approved as presented by the Camp Commander; motion passed.

Twenty-nine dollars were secured for the Camp Treasury from the "Passing of the Hat."

**XII. Election and Appointment of Camp Officers for 2006:** Brother Traub of the Camp Council presented the proposed slate of elected officers for 2006. Commander – No candidate, Senior Vice Commander – David Rehkopf, Junior Vice Commander – Bill Miller, Secretary – PCinC Keith Harrison, Treasurer – John Warren, and Camp Council – Dana Traub, Wendel Peabody, and George Roux. The Camp Commander asked for other nominations from the floor three times; there were none. Given this, a motion was made and seconded to cast a unanimous ballot to elect the proposed slate of officers; motion passed. Between now and the upcoming January meeting, a candidate for Commander would be secured. Until a new Camp Commander is qualified and elected, Commander Shumway will continue as Camp Commander. Camp appointments for 2006 were announced as follows: Color Bearer – Ron Shull, Chaplain, George Roux, Counselor – PCC James Neal, Guard – Wendel Peabody, Guide – Paul David Arnold, Historian and Monuments & Memorials Officer – PDC James T. Lyons, Patriotic Instructor – Marc Bennetts, and Graves Registration Officer – Bill Miller. Installation of officers will take place at the January meeting.

**XIII. Closing Ritual:** The Camp was closed per Ritual at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted in  
Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

*Keith G. Harrison, PCinC*  
**Camp Secretary**  
([pcinc@prodigy.net](mailto:pcinc@prodigy.net))