

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

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 31, 2006
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: Camp Commander Brian Shumway opened the meeting per Ritual at 7:05 PM.

Chris Czopek from Camp 22 requested to address the Camp. Brother Czopek indicated that he was researching a Civil War soldier who is mentioned on a cannon memorial in the Delta Center Cemetery. The name of the soldier is W. Carpenter. Specifically, he is interested in finding out if this soldier is the same soldier (Otis W. Carpenter) who had been a prisoner at Andersonville, served as a Judge Advocate with the 7 Michigan Cavalry, and later, died before he could make it home to Michigan due to illness. Several members suggested possible members and nonmembers that he could contact, including Brother Lyons of this Camp, that might be able to assist him. Along the same line, he indicated that there was a person who was recording all the Civil War soldiers who were buried in the cemetery. Again, he was referred to individuals who could provide assistance in this matter.

In response to a question, he indicated that Camp 22 was doing a lot of work on the recording of Civil War soldier graves and that in general, he Camp was in good health.

II. Roll Call:

Brothers Present: Arnold, Aves, Keith Harrison, Hodges, Langworthy, Miller, James B. Pahl, Peabody, Roux, Shull, Stahl, Shumway, Traub (late), and Warren.

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

III. Approval of Minutes: A motion was made and seconded to correct the November 2005 Camp meeting minutes to reflect the fact that the Camp also elected its delegates to the Department Encampment; i.e., – the first named individuals on the Camp Roster who do not otherwise have standing credentials equal to the number of delegates allowed by the National Regulations were elected as Camp Delegates with the remainder of the Camp who do not have otherwise standing credentials elected as Alternates; motion passed. A motion was made and seconded to accept the November 2005 Camp meeting minutes as amended; motion passed. Given the above, the elected Camp Delegates would be Brothers Arnold, Aumaugher, Aves, Bennetts, and Brown. Everyone else who would not otherwise have standing credentials would be considered as Alternates.

The Camp was recessed for 10 minutes.

IV. Concern for Brothers: Brother Pahl indicated that he has had word that Brother Mike Mitchell is doing a little better but that his daughter, Jennifer, has been afflicted with an illness that has rendered her paralyzed from the waist down. It may take a year before she regains the use of her lower body according to her mother.

V. New Members and Initiations: Brother Miller reported that there have been no new applications.

VI. Committee Reports:
Camp Council – No report at this time but they would report later in the meeting regarding the Camp Commander position.

Bylaws - No report.

Memorials and Graves Registration - Brother Miller reported that the next meeting of the Departments Memorials and Graves Registration Committee will be March 1, 2006 at the noon at the Michigan State Library. Any Brother is welcomed to attend.

GAR Monuments - No report.

Eagle Scouts Certificates – Brother Hodges reported that although there had been no activities since the last meeting, he received notice of an upcoming Eagle Scout Court of Honors program. He indicated that he would be following up on this.

Membership – No report.

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:

Commander Shumway indicated that there were no communications but that the most recent Department Orders were contained in the Michigan's Messenger. Brother Pahl referenced the request contained in Department Order #2, Item #6 for each Camp to generate a Camp history and forward same to the Department Historian. The history should be in an electronic format and should include names and pictures of Charter Camp members, Camp Officers for each administrative year, rosters of members, stories of projects, and other activities, anecdotal remembrances of selected members, and anything of interest that the Camp may wish to submit. Histories should be written in paragraph form with supporting pictures, charts, etc. Completed histories should be forwarded to Brother Gary Gibson, who will compile them into a Department history and forward to it National. Histories should be completed and submitted to Brother Gibson by September 1, 2006. It was decided that this matter should be referred to the Camp Historian for coordination with other Camp members as needed and completion.

VIII. Unfinished Business:

Brother Harrison reported that the most recent *Michigan's Messenger* had been completed and forward electronically through the Camp Secretary's office to

all Camp Brothers with email capabilities. Copies of the newsletter also were available at the meeting for those who do not have email (only three such Brothers were present and picked up their copy). For non-email equipped members who did not attend the meeting, a copy of the Department's newsletter would need to be mailed to them.

A discussion ensued regarding the number of copies of the Department's newsletter that needed to be made and mailed, and the associated cost to the Camp as a result of the Department's new distribution directive.

Given that the discussion went off on several different tangents, it was important to point out what was **not** at issue with the Department's new newsletter distribution directive. First, the issue has nothing to do with the fact that the newsletter is now being transmitted via email since (A) it is an extremely efficient way of distribution (for email equipped Brothers), and (B) it eliminates the previous high costs associated with printing that was being incurred by the Department. Also, the issue is **not** associated with the fact that the Camp is now responsible for distributing the newsletter to its email equipped Brothers since Camps would be in a much better position to know who has an email address and if those addresses were up-to-date or not.

The issue that is in question is who should be responsible for paying for the distribution, on behalf of the Department, of the Department's newsletter to non email equipped Brothers.

In terms of this Camp, according to Brother Harrison, there existed 12 members that either did not have email (11 Brothers) or had email but with a service that does not allow attachments to be opened or downloaded (1 Brother). The cost associated with the making of the copies for this Department newsletter for these 12 members was \$14.75 and it was anticipated that the mailing cost (envelopes and stamps) of the Department's newsletter would run the Camp per copy about another \$0.70 to \$0.90 more, given the number pages in this particular issue of the newsletter. Given this, and for purposes of example

only, there would be a total cost of anywhere between \$2.00 to \$2.10 to photocopy and mail the Department's newsletter to each of the Camp's current non-email equipped Brothers or a total of between \$96.00 to \$100.00 per year to distribute, on behalf of the Department, the Department's four yearly newsletters. The impact to each Camp undoubtedly will be different depending on the number of pages involved in each newsletter and the number of non-email equipped Brothers affected each quarter.

Based on the discussion, it was decided that Camp members planning to attend the April Department Encampment should be made aware of the cost impact to this Camp to distribute, on behalf of the Department, the Department's newsletter with the intent of possibly revisiting the cost portion of last year's Encampment decision for Camps serve in this role.

IX. New Business: There was no new business.

X. Good of the Order: Brother Pahl reported that his project of securing pictures of Michigan monuments on Civil War battlefields was proceedings and that he was only missing a couple of monuments.

Camp Commander Shumway indicated that he thought that Department Commander Greene was in the process of putting together a book on the GAR Posts in Michigan.

XI. Treasurer Report. Camp Treasurer Warren reported that the Camp currently had \$848.86 was in the checking account, \$2,123.84 was in the Hall Restoration Fund, and that \$2,057.36 in the newly opened (as of October 12, 2005) CD.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Treasurer Report; motion passed.

Brother Warren indicated that Brother Holly Birdsell was more that one year in arrears for dues and had not paid any dues for the new year. Brother Harrison reported that he had been informed that Brother Joshua Rousseau would not be renewing his membership for 2006. Based on the above, a motion was made and seconded to drop Brother Birdsell

and to issue Brother Rousseau an Honorable Discharge, motion passed. Thirty-one dollars were secured for the Camp Treasury from the "Passing of the Hat."

XII. Installation Officers for 2006: Upon being informed by Camp Commander Shumway that (1) he was not seeking another year as Camp Commander and (2) that he had so informed the Camp Council of his intention, Department appointed Camp Installation Office James B Pahl relieved and thanked, on behalf of the Camp, Camp Commandery Shumway for his two years of service to the Camp as Camp Commander. Brother Pahl then declared the position of Camp Commander vacant and requested the Camp Council if it had appointed a new Camp Commander. The Council reported that it had and that its appointee was Brother Ron Shull. Brother Pahl then continued on with the Installation of officers and staff for the Camp for the year 2006.

XIII. Closing Ritual: The Camp was closed per Ritual by Camp Commander Shull at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted in
Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Keith G. Harrison, PCinC
Camp Secretary
(pcinc@prodigy.net)