

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

**Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, March 28, 2006  
Samuel W. Grinnell  
GAR Post #283 Hall  
115 Main Street  
Sunfield, Michigan

Commander Ron Shull assigned Brothers to fill vacancies of absent officers by appointment Pro Temp.

**I. Opening Ritual:** Camp Commander Ron Shull opened the meeting per Ritual at 7:11 PM.

**II. Roll Call:**

**Brothers Present:** Arnold, Hodges, Keith Harrison, Hodges, Langworthy, Lyons, Miller, James B. Pahl, Park, Rehkopf, Shull, Shumway, Stahl, Traub, and Warren.

**Brothers Excused:** Aumaugher, Bennetts, Luke Coons, Zack Coon, Emerick, Nathan Harrison, Hiltz, Lee, Mitchell, Nash, and James A. Pahl.

Three guests were introduced, Ray Bower and his son who are researching their ancestor who served in the 14th Michigan Infantry and Mr. Ray Dykhouse from Lake Odessa who is looking for information on his ancestor who served with General Custer.

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

**IV. Concern for Brothers:** It was reported that Brother Mark Bennetts' mother recently passed away and that his father was in the hospital receiving a pacemaker. It was requested that a card be sent to Brother Bennetts.

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

**VI. Committee Reports:**  
**Camp Council** – No report.

**Bylaws** - No report.

**Memorials and Graves Registration** - Brother Miller reported that the last meeting of the Department's Memorials and Grave Registration Committee took place on March 11, 2003. At that meeting, Brother Miller indicated that additional grave information with photographs was turned in on behalf of the Camp. He indicated that the state currently has over 55,000 graves registered. The next meeting of the Department Committee will take place on June 10, 2006.

Brother Lyons reported that Mark Harvey, State Archivist, asked about acquiring information from the Department's Grave Registration program since the state was in the process of re-working the Civil War grave registration information that was acquired by the Civil War Centennial Commission in the early 1960s. Instead, it was suggested they should integrate the hard copy information that they have with the computerized graves registration information of the SUVCW. The state is currently comparing records in their collection against the names in the Department's database. After having only gone through the letters A – F in the state's collection, already there have been identified over 8,500 records that do not exist in the Department's database. This information has been transmitted to the Department for incorporation into its database. Additional records will be transmitted to the Department as they are identified.

Brother Jim Pahl updated the Camp on the National Organization's efforts to redo its National Graves Registration Database Computer Program. The goals of the National effort are to phase out the old (proprietary) computer program and to replace it with a computer program that will be more user-friendly, more closely attuned with what is available commercially, and is more readily available technologically to the masses. The process is proceeding, however, it will still be awhile before a new system is put into place and all the information from the old program is transferred. In a related matter, he reported that it is also National's goal for the new computer program to be able to handle the National Organization's GAR Post Records program.

The Camp was recessed for 15 minutes.

**GAR Monuments** - No report.

**Eagle Scouts Certificates** – Brother Hodges reported that since the last meeting, he has attended two Courts of Honor and has just received notification of another that will take place in May.

**Membership** – It was reported that there existed two possible candidates that either have been or will be provided with an application.

**Military Affairs** - No report.

**Patriotic Instruction** - No Report.

**Program and Publicity** - No Report.

**Hall Restoration** – Brother Park inquired if there has been any evaluation done recently on the GAR Hall's structural foundation. This matter will be discussed by the Camp Commander with the Hall Restoration committee and reported back at the next meeting.

**Memorial Day Activities** – A question was raised regarding Memorial Day activities for 2006. This matter will be looked into by the Camp Commander with the chair of the Memorial Day Activities Committee and a schedule of activities will be made available to the membership via email prior to the May 30, 2006 meeting.

**Grinnell Award** - No Report

**VII. Orders and Communications:**

Commander Shull indicated that there were no additional orders or communication from the Department beyond what had already been transmitted with the recent *Michigan's Messenger*.

There were two communications, one from Eaton County, and one from the current Indiana Department Commander. Both were referred to the appropriate Camp Committee for follow up.

**VIII. Unfinished Business:** There was no unfinished business.

**IX. New Business:** Brother Harrison offered a resolution of endorsement for James B. Pahl for the position of Commander-in-Chief of the Sons of

Union Veterans of the Civil War (attached). A motion was made and seconded to adopt the resolution; motion passed unanimously. It was indicated that a copy of the resolution would be forwarded to the Department for consideration and action at the Department Encampment.

**X. Good of the Order:** It was reported that as part of the Michigan Historical Museum's month-long program on "A Soldier Life," a special presentation and program would take place on Saturday, April 29, 2006. At 11 AM on that day, Flag historian Matt VanAcker will offer a presentation about the battle flag collection in the Museum Education Room and from Noon to 3 PM, a rare opportunity will take place to tour the flag collection storage area (limit 20 people per 30-minute tours). Brothers should access the State Museum's website for additional information.

Brother Warren displayed some iron utensils that were made by Brother Charles Brown a while ago and suggested that these might be raffled off at some future Camp meeting as a fundraiser.

Brother Arnold reported on his attendance at the DeWitt Camp meeting and his request for its assistance with monument restoration and grave stone replacement at two cemeteries in Gratiot County. He also reported on the speaker that the Camp had that night from Mason and suggested that he would be a good speaker for our Camp. It was suggested that he get with our Program Committee chair to see about arranging to get this person to our Camp.

Camp Commander Shull reminded the membership of the upcoming Department Encampment and encourage a good showing by the Camp's membership.

**XI. Treasurer Report.** Camp Treasurer Brother Warren reported that the Camp currently had \$1,000.28 its checking account, \$2,123.84 in its Hall Restoration Fund, and \$2,057.36 in its CD. A total of \$35 or \$36 was collected with the Passing of the Hat.

Brother Warren also indicated that he still had seven brothers who have not

paid 2006 dues. He indicated that he would be sending out a reminder. As of this date and per the Camp's Bylaws, the late fee of \$5.00 would now apply to these Brothers and would need to be paid along with their annual dues.

A motion was made and seconded to waive annual dues of Brother Kyle Emerick while he is on active service in military, motion passed.

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

**XII. Closing Ritual:** The Camp was closed per Ritual by Camp Commander Shull at 8:22 PM.

Respectfully Submitted in  
Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

*Keith G. Harrison, PCinC*  
**Camp Secretary**  
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