

# Curtenius Guard

## Camp #17

<http://suvchw.org/mi/017/017home.htm>

### Department of Michigan Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

#### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, March 25, 2008  
Samuel W. Grinnell  
GAR Post #283 Hall  
115 Main Street  
Sunfield, Michigan

Commander Paul David Arnold assigned Brothers to fill vacancies of absent officers by appointment Pro Temp.

#### I. Opening Ritual:

Camp Commander Paul David Arnold opened the meeting per the Ritual at 7:03 PM.

#### II. Roll Call:

**Brothers Present:** Arnold, Aves, Bennetts, Haines, K. Harrison, Hodges, Hoffman, Langworthy, MacVean, J.B. Pahl, Park, Peabody, Rousseau, Roux, Shull, Shumway, and D. Smith.

**Brothers Excused:** Burger, L. Coon, Emerick, Goodyear, N. Harrison, Hiltz, Lee, Lyons, Miller, Nash, J.A. Pahl, Rehkopf, Stahl, Thomas, and Warren.

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

**IV. Concern for Brothers:** It was noted that Brothers Marc Bennetts' father, Doug Park's mother, and Lavern Aves' sister-in-law had passed away since the last meeting. Condolences were expressed by the Camp on the loss of each Brother's family member. It also was noted that Mr. Jim Lammers had passed away. Jim was a long-time and very well known Civil War sutler. He also was a friend to all Civil War reenactors and members of the SUVCW.

#### V. New Members and Initiations:

There were no new members to be brought into the Order.

**Recess:** During the Recess, the Camp was afforded the opportunity by Camp Commander Arnold to view an excellent

CD entitled "*Lest We Forget.*" The CD was produced by the state of Michigan and discusses the monuments on the state capital grounds. It was an excellent program. The CD is available by contacting your state Representative.

#### VI. Committee Reports:

**Camp Council** – No report.

**Bylaws** - No report.

#### **Memorials and Graves Registration**

– Brother Hoffman indicated that he had meet with Brother Jim Lyons and left with a trunk full of materials.

**GAR Monuments** – Camp Commander Arnold indicated that Welsh Cemetery needed attention and will be scheduled this year to have many former GAR Post 283 headstones raised and cleaned.

**Eagle Scouts Certificates** – No report.

**Membership** – No report.

**Veterans' Day** – No report.

**Military Affairs** – Camp Commander Arnold indicated that he anticipated that there will be several things that the Camp and the Camp Guard will be able to be involved in once the planned activities by the new state Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission are known.

**Patriotic Instruction:** - No report.

**Program and Publicity** – Camp Commander Arnold reminded the membership of the Camp's sponsored Civil War History Seminars. The inaugural program will take place on Tuesday, April 29th at 7 P.M. at the Sunfield Community Room (186 Main Street, Sunfield Michigan). The Community Room is located just east of the Fire Department. The presentation topic will be *The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln*. The presenter also will briefly discuss Lieutenant Luther Baker's Involvement in the Capture of John Wilkes Booth. Baker along with Colonel Enerton Conger and Lieutenant Edward Doherty lead the search party that captured Booth at Garrett's Farm 12 days after the President's assassination. Following the Civil War, Baker settled in Lansing Michigan and is buried in Lansing's Mount Hope Cemetery.

Lansing Historian, Rick Brown will be presenting the talk. Rick is a noted Lincoln Assassination Scholar and has spent over 40-years conducting research on the subject. It all adds up to an interesting and informative evening on this aspect of Civil War history. There is no charge for the program and light refreshments will be provided.

Subsequent seminars are planned every other month thereafter (April, June, October and February) at 7 P.M. with the exception of August and December, at the Sunfield Community Room. Future Civil War topics to be covered will include *1st Michigan Sharpshooters*, *Michigan's Engineers and Mechanics*, *History of the Curtenius Guards*, *Home Front during the Civil War*, *History of the Grand Army of the Republic*, *Collecting Grand Army of the Republic Memorabilia*, and *Contributions of African American Military Units during the Civil War*.

Camp Commander Arnold indicated that there is a need for volunteers to come early (6 PM) to help set up for the seminar on April 29th. Also, he stated that there is a need for some assistance to set up the Camp's display. Several Camp members indicated that they could come early.

**Hall Restoration** – A discussion ensued regarding the needs of the GAR Hall. It was indicated that the Camp really needed to get a thorough assessment of both the structural and cosmetic restoration needs of the Hall before talking to the Daughter's Tent about proceeding with anything. It is anticipated that some of the structural needs will require a significant fund raising program since the funds in the Camp's GAR Hall Restoration funds most likely will be insufficient. A motion was made and seconded that GAR Hall Restoration Committee obtains a thorough assessment of the restoration needs and anticipated costs for the Hall and present it to the Camp Commander; motion passed. No date was placed on when this assessment should be completed since it was anticipated that a professional assessment will take some time to complete. Once the assessment is completed the Camp Commander and the Hall Restoration Committee will present it to both the Camp and the

Daughter's Tent for discussion.

**Memorial Day Activities** – Camp Chaplain Roux indicated that he is currently working on the Saturday, May 24th, and Friday, May 30th, Memorial Day programs.

#### **VII. Orders and Communications:**

Several Communications from other Michigan Camps were presented regarding support resolutions for Michigan Brothers to Department and National positions. A motion was made and seconded to support Camp Treasurer Brian Shumway for the position of Department Treasurer; motion passed unanimously. A motion was made and seconded to direct the Camp Secretary to send out to all Michigan Camps a notice of the Camp's unanimous support for Brother Shumway for the position of Department Treasurer and to request similar support for Brother Shumway from the other Camps; motion passed.

A letter from Eaton County announcing grant opportunities was discussed. It was indicated that while a \$500 grant from the County would be good to obtain, the May 1st deadline was too short in terms of the Hall Restoration Committee coming up with the restoration needs of the Hall. PCinC Pahl reminded the Camp that grant funds also may be obtained later from the National Organization once the Camp had the Hall Restoration Assessment completed.

A letter was presented from PCinC Alan Loomis from Indiana announcing the upcoming April 12th Abraham Lincoln Death Day program in Springfield, Illinois. It was noted that Brothers Harrison, Pahl, and, possibly, Shull will be in attendance at the program and that Brother Harrison will be presenting the Camp's wreath.

**VIII. Grinnell Award.** No report

**IX. Unfinished Business:** Camp Commander Arnold asked the Camp if it wanted to proceed with the Mount Hope Cemetery GAR Plot Heritage Brick program. A motion was made and seconded that Camp Commander

develop a document outlining the finalized costs of the program and present it back to the Camp for consideration at the next meeting; motion passed.

Camp Commander Arnold asked if the Camp wanted to proceed with the Camp Ring program mentioned at the last Camp meeting. A show of hands indicated that there were not the minimum number of individuals needed to proceed at this time. The concept would be placed on hold for the time being.

Camp Commander Arnold indicated that there was support from the Daughter's Tent for the May 30th Barbecue/Pot Luck. A motion was made and seconded to proceed with the May 30th Barbecue/Pot Luck program; motion passed. A motion was made and seconded to also invite both the local Boy Scouts and local veterans to the pot luck; motion passed.

**X. New Business:** No new business.

**XI. Good of the Order:** Brother Hodges read several Civil War Courts Martial Proceedings, which were quite interesting.

Brother Harrison talked briefly about issue about wearing uniforms to Camp meetings. It was indicated that the Order is a civilian-based organization and that uniforms are not required to be worn by Brothers. At the same time, however, there is no explicit prohibition to the wearing of uniforms. Consequently, the wearing of a uniform or not is up to each Brother (Subsequent research following the meeting indicates that per the Order's *Constitution and Regulations*, Brothers while in Camp, Department or National Encampment, on parade or while performing other duties of the shall be identified by the wearing of a Badge of the Order upon the left breast and also Brothers should take care to ensure their dress is appropriate to the occasion, such as business attire. Also per the Order's *Ritual and Ceremonials*, Camp members are requested to wear their membership medal and dark clothes and white gloves for Memorial Day (May 30th) programs.

Finally, there are specific uniform requirements for Brothers who belong to the Order's Sons of Veterans Reserve).

Brother Harrison indicated that the contents of both Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States' (MOLLUS) Michigan Commandery War Papers volumes were available on line. The MOLLUS War Papers are first hand account from the participants of the Civil War. The 63 Michigan Commandery War Papers were presented by Original Companions of the Michigan Commandery from the period October 1886 to May 5, 1898. The Michigan Commandery War Papers can be accessed at:  
<http://suvcw.org/mollus/warpapers/warpapers.htm>

Brother Pahl indicated that the most recent *Banner* is out and should be coming to all members shortly. An article about the Camp's October program at Mount Hope Cemetery is contained this issue of the *Banner*.

Brother Rousseau indicated that he had come across some GAR buttons that he will have them raffled off at some future Camp meeting.

**XII. Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Brian Shumway presented the attached Treasurer's report. A motion was made and accepted to approve the Treasurer's report as presented; motion passed. The money collected for the Hall Restoration Fund from "Pass the Hat" collection equaled \$51.00.

A motion was made and seconded to extend deadline for dues receipt to April 30th for a couple of Brothers who have been difficult to contact, motion passed.

**XIII. Closing Ritual:** The Camp was closed at 9:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted in  
Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

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

**Treasurer Report**

**Summary of Accounts**

<b>Account</b>	<b>Balance March 24, 2008</b>	
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 2,287.30	(matures 7/2008)
Checking	\$ 1,393.07	
Cash	\$ 36.00	
Checks Out	\$ -	
	0.00	
Savings	\$ 1,503.88	
Total Camp Funds	\$ 5,220.25	

**Operating Budget:**

	Bal Beginning of Period	\$ -
	Interest Income	\$ 9.10
<b><u>Revenues</u></b>	Pass the Hat	\$ 44.00
	Pro Rated Per Cap	\$ -
	Annual Dues	\$ 382.00
	Donation	\$ 2.00
	Sales (net)	\$ 21.00
	App Fees	\$ -
	<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 437.10</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	App Fee	\$ -
	Pro Rated Per Cap	\$ -
	Postage	\$ -
		\$ -
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
	<b>Balance End of Period</b>	<b>\$ 437.10</b>