

**Orlando A. Somers Camp #1
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**

Meeting Minutes—November 21, 2020—South Branch Kokomo Howard County Public Library

Commander Alan Teller opened the meeting at 12:15 PM. Acting Chaplain Russ Kirchner, Jr. gave the invocation; while Commander Teller led the American Creed and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members present were: Matt Elkin, Alan Teller, Russ Kirchner, Jr., Tom Crawford, Travis LeMaster, and George Frantz, potential Member Drew Godby attended and turned in his application and that of his father and grandfather. Larry Myer came in near end of the meeting with his wife Beth. .

Old Business:

George Frantz was introduced as a new member and our new Graves Registration Officer. Commander Teller said he had an extra 2020 Department Ribbon and asked if anyone wanted it; Russ Kirchner, Jr. took the ribbon. Matt Elkin will clean the cannon in Dec., Alan Teller will clean it in Jan. There have been no cannon or monument controversies in Kokomo. The Commander gave a few minutes for everyone to read the Oct. 17, 2020 Minutes. Russ Kirchner, Jr. made a motion to accept the minutes as written; seconded by Tom Crawford; passed. Matt Elkin gave the treasurers report.

New Business:

Life Member Steven Hofer made a donation to the Camp. Today is Remembrance Day, honoring the day Lincoln gave the Gettysburg Address, Nov. 19, 1863. The large celebration in Gettysburg, sponsored by the SVR, was cancelled; but there will be a small meeting at the Woolson/GAR Monument at 11:00 AM per General Order #4. Copies of the General Orders were passed around to read. Commander Teller said he had two SUVCW gaiter/masks sold by the SUVCW-CF. If someone wants one, they can save the shipping and pay the Commander \$20.00 each. New Member George Frantz was initiated. A discussion was held concerning starting times for the meeting. It was decided to start our meetings at 12:00 PM, noon. A Battlefields Trust 2021 Calendar was made available. A photo of the members present for Remembrance Day was taken by Beth Myer. The photo will be submitted for publishing in the Winter Issue of The Banner.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 PM.

Acting Secretary Matt Elkin; Typed by Alan Teller

Commander Teller gave a brief report on the book "In God We Trust" by William Bierly. He talked about events in the religious community in the early days of our Republic up to Civil War; the coin shortage effecting commerce during the war; the monetary needs of the government to finance the war; and the financing of those needs. All of these things were circling around the development and placement of the phrase "In God We Trust" on our coinage.