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

Meeting Minutes—April 15, 2006—Richard's Restaurant

Commander Alan Teller opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. Chaplain Jon Ayers led the group in the opening prayer. We then recited the American's Creed and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commander Alan Teller. Treasurer Randy McNally reported that we have a balance of $3,601.17 which includes $835.00 for the cannon fund. Secretary Gayle Eikenberry distributed the 2006 membership booklet to those members present and asked everyone to check their entry for accuracy. [The booklet will be mailed to those who cannot attend the May meeting.] Alan Teller and Randy McNally introduced guests present.

Members present were Don Overmyer, Alan Teller, Russ Kirchner, Jon Ayers, Matt Elkin, Allen Moore, Gayle Eikenberry, Jeff Alexander, and Randy McNally. Guests in attendance were Connie Overmyer, Lee Ann Teller, Larry & Margaret Eggleston, Barbara Moore, Albert Buchanan, Sally C. McNally, Clare McNally, and Teresa Smith.

Old Business:

Commander Teller brought up the new by-laws for a vote. He asked for discussion, but since none was forthcoming, Matt Elkin made the motion to accept them. It was seconded by Allen Moore and passed unanimously. We will take the second vote at the May meeting.

Allen Moore gave an update on the ceremony for the dedication of the plaque for Pvt. John C. Adams. He is trying to get participants and reported that the Marine Corps League of Marion will participate. He distributed a flyer with the details. (I have included the flyer at the end of these minutes.)

Commander Teller asked if there was any discussion about our participation at the Howard County Fair on July 15. Russ Kirchner reported that Tom Crawford will not be available to tell the story of Old Bob, so Commander Teller asked for a volunteer to be the storyteller. Gayle Eikenberry volunteered, saying that either he or his wife would tell the story. Commander Teller asked for members to attend that evening to support the camp's efforts. The tent will be in the Pioneer Village section, in the northeast part of the fairgrounds.

Commander Teller reported that Gayle Eikenberry had agreed to be the contact for our website, and asked for discussion about posting the minutes of our meetings there. Russ Kirchner suggested that a summary might be better to place on the website and that we distribute the full minutes to members as usual by email. Commander Teller asked if anyone had objection to his name and ancestor being included on the website. It was noted that this information is already available on the department website, so the question was withdrawn. Randy McNally suggested that we not put any financial information on our website. There was consensus concerning the above suggestions.

Commander Teller reminded us of the Annual Department Encampment on June 3 at IUK.

Five items were raffled at the meeting. Winners were Connie Overmyer, Albert Buchanan, Alan Teller, Russ Kirchner, and Gayle Eikenberry

New Business

Commander Teller reported on the graves registration project, noting that his wife, Lee Ann Teller, has entered approximately 1,112 individuals, and that Howard County is pretty much complete. The Indiana soldiers buried in the national cemetery will not show up in the graves registration database on the SUVCW site. Commander Teller also informed us about the Kokomo-Howard County Public Library's website where we can find listings and photographs of grave markers for the following cemeteries: Crown Point, Albright, Memorial Park, New London, Russiaville, Freeman, and Shiloh. Go to www.kokomo.lib.in.us, then click on Departments→Genealogy & Local History Services→Databases→Cemetery Databases.

The initiation ceremony was conducted by former National Commander Allen Moore and Chaplain Jon Ayers for Jeff Alexander. A brief recess was called in order to welcome Jeff into our camp.

Commander Teller introduced our speaker, Larry Eggleston, who discussed his book *Women in the Civil War*. Mr. Eggleston researched the material for his book for four years. He gave us much interesting and startling information about women who disguised themselves as men to fight, serve as spies, serve as couriers, serve in the hospitals, and forage—and get by with it without being discovered. Three women were even sent to the Andersonville Prison, and there is no record of any such woman deserting or running away during battle. His book was available for purchase and a personal autograph.

The program for the May 20 meeting will be "Memories of the Blue and Gray" by Steve Jackson.

Commander Teller closed the meeting at 2:10 p.m.

Gayle Eikenberry, Secretary

Mark Your Calendar

What: Dedication of new bronze marker at the grave of Pvt. John C. Adams, the last Union Civil War veteran in Indiana.

When: Sunday, May 21, 2006, at 3 P.M.

Where: Riverside Cemetery, Gas City, IN, on Main Street just west of the railroad tracks (SR 22 and 35). West section of the cemetery.

By: Members of Orlando A. Somers Camp #1 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Kokomo, IN

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A Day To Reflect… Batesville Herald Tribune

For this Memorial Day, May 30, the story of Civil War Veteran John H. Schultz seems an appropriate one for our troubled times. It is a true story of love and devotion for his country and his willingness to give his life to preserve that love and devotion.

Pictures of the graves of veterans of World War 1, Hugo Prell and John Lester Bland, Ivan Bauer of World War II and James M. Houston of the Korean War, may remind us of the obligation we have, the living, to honor all veterans on Memorial Day by displaying the flag and attending the Memorial Day services at Huntersville Cemetery.

In the 1935 Memorial Day Parade a presentation of a silk flag was made to the Prell-Bland Post of The American Legion here by John Schultz, Civil War Veteran.

The flag was presented by E.B. Schultz who said that his father was making the gift in appreciation for the love and esteem in which the younger veterans held him.

John H. Schultz was born in Germany on Feb. 2, 1844 and came to America at the age of nine years. His first home in the United States was in Parkersburg, W. Virginia. Two years later the family moved to Portsmouth, Ohio where he grew to adulthood working as a coal miner. When still in his teens a call by President Lincoln for volunteers led him to leave home and join the Union Army at Jackson Co. Ohio.

He entered the army as a private and was assigned to Co. D. 53rd Regiment of the Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

He saw action at Pittsburg Landing in Tennessee where he contracted Typhoid fever and was in an Army hospital for six weeks. He rejoined his company and was in action at Corinth, Monterey, Chicasaw Bayou, Black River, Jackson, Miss. And at the siege of Vicksburg, where for seven weeks the fighting went on under Grant and Sherman until the city fell.

Again he was in the thick of battle at Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. At Resaca, Ga., a horse fell on Pvt. Schultz, severely injuring him and on Dec. 31, 1863 he was discharged from the Army. A few days later on Jan. 7, 1864, he re-enlisted and was in a Georgia Co. on special assignment as a teamster in the Georgia campaign.

The capture of Atlanta found Pvt. Schultz once more on the fighting line and he had the distinction of joining Sherman on his march to the sea.

The war over, he had the privilege of passing in Grand Review on May 24 and 25, 1865 in Washington, D.C. He received his Army discharge in Little Rock, Ark. On Aug. 7, 1865, having served his country a total of three years and nine months.

After his discharge he went to Indianapolis where his parents were residing and worked in a furniture factory. He married Ana Severinghaus on Nov. 1, 1866 and moved to Batesville in 1868 where he became a stockholder in the Union Furniture Co. He worked one year in Shelbyville when the Union burnt down and then returned to Batesville where he lived the rest of his life.

When Grand Army of the Republic post were being formed, the post in this community was the August Willich post which was organized in 1883 with Mr. Schultz as a charter member. It lasted until only two members remained, Comrad Schultz and Comrad Ward at which time it was dissolved and both were honored by being named aide de camps.

One of the chief duties of the GAR posts was the observance of Memorial Day and Mr. Schultz observed each one with deep reverence and pledged anew his allegiance to the flag and love for his country.

When John Schultz died in May of 1937, Mayor Andrew Benz ordered all flags in the city to be lowered to half-mast until after the funeral.