

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

Meeting Minutes—March 18, 2006—Richard's Restaurant

Commander Alan Teller opened the meeting at 12:55 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 \$3,283.29, which includes \$835.00 for the cannon fund. Secretary Gayle Eikenberry reported that the minutes of our February 18 meeting were emailed/mailed to everyone and asked that members please let him know if there are any additions or corrections to them. He also reported that the membership booklet will be ready by the April meeting.

Members present were Jon Ayers, David Bastin, Larry Myer, Seth Kirchner, Russ Kirchner, Ned Baker, Gayle Eikenberry, Allen Moore, Jeff Alexander, Randy McNally, and Alan Teller. Guests in attendance were Greg McDerman, Jay Krause, Jeff Kirchner, and Cella Kirchner.

Old Business:

Commander Teller reported that the Ben Harrison Camp was going to donate \$50.00 to the plaque fund.

Randy McNally read a thank-you card from Timon Pike thanking us for our support of his Eagle Scout Project to restore Freeman Cemetery in Howard County..

Commander Teller requested an update on the cleaning of the cannon. Russ Kirchner reported that he will clean it next week. Commander Teller then asked for volunteers for summer cleaning. It needs to be cleaned on a weekday before 3:30. David Bastin will clean it in June, Jon Ayers in July, Randy McNally in August, and Russ Kirchner in September.

Commander Teller reported that he has received some comments about the by-laws and that he will make appropriate revisions and get them out to us before the next meeting so we can vote on them.

Allen Moore reported that the plaque is finished and that the dedication ceremony will be on Sunday, May 21, at 3:00 p.m., at the Riverside Cemetery in Gas City. He is trying to get the Company Singers from Huntington to participate and is contacting other individuals and groups to get the word out. The cemetery is putting in the base free of charge, and Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral Services of Gas City will contact the media. Commander Teller will post an announcement on Yahoo Groups.

Commander Teller reported with more information about our invitation to participate in the Howard County Historical Society's tent at the Howard County Fair from July 10-16. The Historical Society is only participating because other organizations have agreed to participate also, since the benefits of participation are somewhat negligible. Russ Kirchner suggested that Tom Crawford might want to participate in the storytelling on Saturday evening and volunteered to chair a committee to get volunteers to take artifacts and help with the graves registration project one evening. Russ Kirchner made a motion to form such a committee. It was seconded by David Bastin and passed unanimously.

Commander Teller reported that he did not have an update on the website, that talks were on-going on its construction.

Jon Ayers reported on the planning for the Memorial Day Services. Two volunteers are needed for Marion, one to read General Logan's Memorial and one to read the Gettysburg Address. One volunteer is needed at Gas City to read General Logan's Memorial. Please notify Jon if you are willing to volunteer.

Several books have been contributed for the book raffle. Three books were raffled at the meeting. Winners were Seth, Cella, and Jeff Kirchner.

New Business

Allen Moore introduced Jeff Alexander, a new member, and Greg McDerman, a prospective member.

Commander Teller reported that several members had not paid their dues for 2006, even though they have been reminded. It is important to finalize our membership list so our yearly report can be filed and a check sent to the Department. Commander Teller had contacted one member, who will pay his dues in April, and will contact three others. Allen Moore will contact one member who is now working in Atlanta, Georgia. Russ Kirchner made a motion for the camp to take care of Craig Dunn's dues in appreciation of his service to our camp. The motion was seconded by Allen Moore and passed unanimously.

Commander Teller made several announcements:

The Annual Encampment will be June 3 at IUK in Kokomo.

The National Encampment will be in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, August 10-13.

(Badges are available and can be ordered at www.suvcw.org)

The Lincoln Tomb Ceremony will be April 15—our next meeting date.

The Knightstown Graduation Ceremony will be May 20, at 10:00 a.m.

(18 will graduate this year—the biggest class)

Allen Moore presented a GAR banner which he discovered while cleaning out a closet in his house. He suggested giving it to the Howard County Museum; however, Commander Teller informed us that the museum was not taking donations at the present time. David Bastin suggested that we frame it and display it in the building with the cannon when the building is finished. He will take the banner and investigate framing and preserving it. Treasurer Randy McNally suggested that the camp has sufficient funds to finance the project.

Allen Moore also showed an enlarged photograph which he is donating to the camp of our participation in the 1982 Veterans Day Parade in Kokomo. The photograph shows the authentic Civil War Ambulance pulled by Percheron horses owned by Jack Shinn, a grandson of Orlando Somers. Jack Shinn is driving the team, and riding in the ambulance are Fred Goodier, a son of a Union veteran, Allen Moore, Gayle Eikenberry, and two other members who could not be identified. Allen believes that the boy walking alongside the horses may be a grandson of Allen Parker Shinn.

The program was given by members Russ Kirchner and David Bastin. They showed a video of their experiences exploring Civil War battlefields and historical sites with noted historian Ed Bearss on a 7-day trip in 2004. They described how Mr. Bearss was so knowledgeable that he never spoke with notes but could accurately give details, dates, and names entirely from memory. The program was well received, and we appreciate their work in editing and presenting us with key points in their tour.

Commander Teller closed the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Gayle Eikenberry, Secretary