

MINUTES  
Ben Harrison Camp # 356  
September 9, 2017

**Call to Order:** Commander Floyd called the meeting to order.

**Roll Call of Officers:** Present were Commander Floyd; Jr. Vice-Commander, Signals Officer, and Graves Registration Officer Beckman; Secretary, Treasurer, Historian Thompson; Chaplain Winters; and Eagle Scout Coordinator, Camp Council Member Bowyer. In all, nine brothers and one prospective member were present.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes were approved as read

**Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer's report was approved as read.

**Brothers in Distress:** None

**New Application:** The camp received the application for William Charles Hendricks, who derives his membership from his great-great grandfather Seymore Norton Kibbe, who served as a private in Company M of the 21st Pennsylvania Cavalry.

**Initiation of New Member:** With due ceremony, William Charles Hendricks was welcomed into the order. Brother Hendricks derives his membership from the service of his ancestor, Seymore Norton Kibbe, who served as a private in Co. M of the 21th Pennsylvania Cavalry.

**Old Business:**

\* Recent Events: Commander Floyd gave a recap on the cemetery cleaning and explained that he purchased a new chain hoist , which he donated to the camp. The governor's proclamation has designated May 30 as Indiana Civil War Soldiers' Memorial Day. This will be in effect throughout his term in office. Commander Floyd showed the news footage of our Memorial Day ceremony and plans to encourage more press coverage next year.

\* Department Encampment: Brother Beckman was installed as Department Sr. Vice Commander.

\* Eagle Scout Court of Honor: Brother Bowyer will present the Eagle patch and certificate to new Eagle Scout Logan Marshall tomorrow.

\* Ongoing Projects: Regarding the gravestones in error at Crown Hill, one gravestone will be replaced. We are still waiting for paperwork for another stone. The National Park has the missing seal from the Vicksburg Monument in a safe place. We still need to know how, where, and when this monument will be moved to Park property. We are still working on documenting all Indiana Civil War markers and monuments for the Camp and Department websites.

\* National Encampment: Indiana was well represented at the Encampment. National has reminded all brothers to refrain from representing the organization to the Media or pursuing legal actions regarding the removal of Civil War monuments, without authorization from the Commander-in-Chief.

During the break for lunch, Brother Beckman gave a history of the recently vandalized Confederate monument at Garfield Park. It still needs to be cleaned and discussion is ongoing whether to move it to another location, possibly Crown Hill Cemetery. After lunch, we continued with:

\* 501C Status: IRS has changed National's status to 501C3 status. Camps are still at 501C4 status. All Indiana camps are in compliance with filing with the Department.

\* Memorial University: Brother Winters and Commander Floyd have completed this SUV course online.

\* Ancestor Certificate: Commander Floyd purchased extra certificates for those who wish to honor their ancestor.

\* Upcoming events: The 2018 Encampment will be held August 9-12 in Boston, Massachusetts. The monument in Winchester is supposed to be rededicated on October 7, 2017. The date is still unknown for the rededication of the Greencastle monument. The 61st annual Gettysburg Remembrance Day parade will occur on November 18, 2017. We are hosting the Midwinter Encampment and will discuss it more under New Business.

\* Ball Caps: The license was renewed for these to be produced.

\* Grave registration brochures: The brochures have been printed.

\* Flag pole: Commander Floyd purchased a new pole and eagle for our National flag. We still need to purchase stands for the flag for outside and inside use.

\* Tripod: Our cemetery cleaning tripod needs reinforcement to make it more stable.

\* Martinsville Cannon and Mortar: Brother Beckman will find out more about a product that will arrest rust on metal objects for use on these items.

\* Camp donation: The camp received an acknowledgement letter for the donation made to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in honor of Mary Gayle Beckman.

\* Genealogical Local History Fair: We received a confirmation letter for this event on October 28.

\* General Orders: Commander Floyd summarized the recent General Orders.

#### **New Business:**

\* D2: We need to purchase more D2. Brother Beckman will check on the cost of this and the rust removing product.

\* Midwinter Encampment: We decided to purchase breakfast and lunch items from GFS for this event and moved to charge \$15 registration to cover our expenses. The Auxiliary will provide desserts. Sister Thompson will give the presentation at lunchtime.

\* 150th Anniversary: Next year will be the 150th Anniversary of the GAR establishing Memorial Day. We may try to use this as part of our Memorial Day ceremony and to get more press involvement.

\* President Harrison's Birthday: He was honored at Crown Hill on August 19. Next year, we need to be part of this ceremony.

\* Purchases: Brother Bowyer purchased Eagle Scout badges and certificates at the National Encampment and will be reimbursed after the meeting. Brother Winters moved we purchase 200 SUVCW wooden coins from the Quartermaster. We will also purchase more membership badges. Brother Thornsberry moved we purchase ten camp ball caps.

\* Patriotic Instruction: September 11 is a national day of mourning. We should lower our flags or hang a black streamer on them. We discussed the meaning behind coins left on tombstones. We need to look at ways to promote our organization to the public and to the Boy Scouts. Brother Beckman reminded new members to join on Yahoo email lists.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned with appropriate ceremony.

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Jerry Thompson, Secretary

Jim Floyd, Commander

Date