

MINUTES
Ben Harrison Camp # 356
November 11, 2017

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

Roll Call of Officers: Present were Commander and Patriotic Instructor Floyd; Sr. Vice-Commander, Memorial Officer, and Camp Council Member Beck; Jr. Vice-Commander, Signals Officer, and Graves Registration Officer Beckman; Secretary, Treasurer, and Historian Thompson; Chaplain Winters; Eagle Scout Coordinator and Camp Council Bowyer; and GAR Records Officer Kolb. In all, eleven brothers 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: Former Brother Eugene O. Thompson passed away on October 21, 2017.

Old and New Business:

* Report of Cap Committee: Brothers Tim and Joe Beckman talked about having camp ball caps made, since the Iowa Camp no longer produces them. Brothers Kolb and Beck will ask the Quartermaster about this issue when they are in Gettysburg on November 18.

* Applications: No applications have been received.

*General Orders: Commander Floyd read General Orders #5 and #6.

* Nomination of Officers: All officers will remain the same as last year, and Brother Floyd will be voted in as Patriotic Instructor.

* Historical Photos: Commander Floyd showed pictures about the Fortville GAR Post. A composite of Fortville GAR members is located in the Soldiers and Sailors Monument. The members of the Post donated money for the stained-glass window in the Fortville United Methodist Church, which includes the list of the members in 1902. These pictures can be found online at <http://www.fortville.lib.in.us/Genealogy/VernonTwpinWartime/VernonTwpCivilWar/tabid/1637/Default.aspx>.

* Midwinter Encampment: Commander Floyd has made a flyer and map for the encampment, which Brother Beck will put in the Camp Newsletter and Brother Beckman will put on our website. He showed pictures of the cemetery and GAR headstones. We will hold a cemetery ceremony during the meeting with the reading of the poem "When the Boys in Blue are Gone," the firing of three volleys, and the playing of Taps. We will have pictures of the headstones and GAR information showing on a monitor. We will also have a Vacant Chair Ceremony to honor the SUVCW and GAR.

* Genealogy and Local History Fair and Camp Belzer: Brother Winters and Brother and Sister Bowyer passed out wooden coins, brochures, and applications at the History Fair at the Indiana State Library on October 28. We need to also do this at Camp Belzer next year. Brother Winters will look for more upcoming events. He also picked up a brochure about a Hamilton County History Society Tour.

* Monument Projects: The Greencastle monument is complete; we will schedule a re-dedication ceremony in the future. We discussed using Rustoleum to clean the Martinsville cannon and mortar.

* Memorial / Decoration Day: Sister Thompson has prepared the brochure for this event. We will discuss it more at a future meeting.

During the break for lunch, Brother Beck gave a lecture about a book he purchased and information about the soldier who owned and signed it.

* Camp Newsletter: Brother Beck requested more information for the next newsletter. He has more time to work on this now and is willing to use whatever information he receives.

* Gettysburg: Brothers Kolb, Beck, and Brother and Sister Floyd will be in Gettysburg next weekend. Brother Floyd showed pictures from previous parades.

* Upcoming Meeting and Presentation Schedule: Upcoming meetings and presenters include: December 9 (Brother Kolb); January 27 (Midwinter Encampment); February 10 (Brother Wilson); March 10 (Brother Beckman); April 14 (Brother Kolb); May 12 (Cemetery Cleaning); May 28 (Memorial Day at Crown Hill Cemetery); June 30 (Department Encampment); and July 14 (Commander Floyd).

* Cemetery Cleaning in Shelbyville: We have two or three headstones to reset and twenty-six headstones to clean. One headstone is of a Confederate veteran.

* Evansville Memorial Hall: The Foster Camp has permission from National to seek legal action to get the GAR Artifacts from the Memorial Hall.

* Tomlinson Hall: The GAR held encampments at this location, but most of it was destroyed in a fire. One arch remains and we would like to have a marker placed to explain the significance of this location. The Historical Bureau holds tours of the Catacombs under this location from May to October.

* Ribbons and Medals: We need to bring In Memoriam ribbons, Camp Morton medals, and our camp medals to the Midwinter Encampment to sell. Brothers Kolb and Beck will check into making more In Memoriam ribbons at a 9 1/2" length, so they can be worn under our badges.

* Upcoming Events: The ceremony at the Lincoln Boyhood Home will be held on February 11, 2018. The ceremony at the Lincoln Tomb in Springfield, Illinois will be held on April 14, 2018.

* Soldiers and Sailors Monument: The Civil War Museum at the monument will be closed for about a year as they are doing extensive restoration.

* Our Next Meeting: The ladies will provide desserts at our next meeting.

* Patriotic Instruction: Commander Floyd acknowledged our two veterans at the meeting and showed a video on the end of WWI at the eleventh hour, eleventh day, eleventh month of 1918. He showed pictures of Thanksgiving at Civil War camps and of Lincoln's Thanksgiving Proclamation.

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

Jerry Thompson, Secretary

Jim Floyd, Commander

Date