

MINUTES
Ben Harrison Camp #356
July 14, 2018

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

Bethel Cemetery Relocation Project Update: [REDACTED]

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; and Chaplain Winters. In all, ten brothers and two guests were present.

Secretary's Report: The minutes stand approved as read.

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

Brothers in Distress: Brother Walls' brother-in-law passed away.

Applications Received: The camp was pleased to receive applications for Wayne Sharp, who is joining as an associate member, and Terry Kinman, who derives his membership from his ancestor Eli Troutman, who served as a private in Company B of the 65th Indiana Infantry.

Initiation of New Member: With due ceremony, Wayne Sharp was welcomed into the order as an Associate member.

Reports from Committees: Commander Floyd showed a mock-up of our camp cap with the Department badge.

During the break for lunch, Dave Wilson gave a presentation about Fort Fisher.

Old Business

* General Orders: Commander Floyd gave a brief synopsis of General Orders 25 - 32.

* Garfield Park Confederate Memorial Update: Brother Sharp explained that our efforts to preserve the monument kept it from being dismantled and destroyed. It now will be left in Garfield Park. The criminal trial for Anthony Ventura for damaging the monument was moved to September 18, 2018 at 9 a.m. in Criminal Court 24 in the City-County Building. Commander Floyd appointed Brother Sharp to chair a Confederate Memorial and Monument Committee to provide updates on Confederate Monument defacing, removal, and relocation efforts.

*Big Four Railroad Wreck SUVCW/ASUVCW Stone in Lafayette: Brother Sharp provided a photograph of this stone in April. Brother Winters located and visited the stone in St. Mary Cemetery, which was dedicated August 17, 1952, after a train wreck killed 35 veterans.

* Eagle Scout Court of Honors: Brother and Sister Bowyer attended the court of honor for Matthew Shiriaev on April 15, 2018. Jeremiah Best held his court of honor on April 28; Commander Floyd mailed him his certificate and patch.

* Old City Cemetery in Shelbyville: We completed the third and final year of cleaning these stones on May 12, 2018. Our canopy displaying our banners attracted several public inquiries. Brothers Tim and Joe Beckman, Beck, Walls, Hendricks, Thomas, and Floyd and Sisters Thomas and Floyd assisted. We were also joined by Lisa and Landon Blackwell, who will be joining our groups soon. The *Shelbyville News* published a nice front-page story on this event and Commander-in-Chief Day congratulated our Brothers and shared the news article on Facebook.

* Hartford City Civil War Days: The Floyds attended this event on May 12-13 and enjoyed hearing the SUVCW Brothers musical group and the night cannon firing.

* Certificate of Commendation: On May 22, Commander Floyd gave a presentation on the history of the SUVCW and President Bowyer presented a certificate to the Lions Club in Pendleton for over ninety years of supporting Boy Scout Troop No. 132.

* Flowers: Speedway Legion Post 500 Commander John Hannon died on May 24, 2018. The Camp sent potted miniature roses to his viewing and the family sent a thank you card.

* Memorial Day: On May 28, fifteen members of the Camp and Auxiliary and at least thirty-five members of the public participated in our recreation of Memorial Day 150 years ago. Fox 59 news interviewed President Bowyer and Commander Floyd; the story ran on multiple newscasts and on the reporter's Twitter feed. Through the efforts of Brother Kolb, Governor Holcomb proclaimed May 30, 2018 as "Indiana Civil War Soldiers' Memorial Day."

* Department of Indiana Encampment in Kokomo: At the June 2 encampment, Commander Floyd presented our Camp report and inventory. The following Camp members were elected: Brother Beckman is now Department Commander and Brother Floyd is now Department Junior Vice-Commander. Brothers Kolb and Beck were elected as Department Council Members. Brother Floyd presented our Ben Harrison Camp badge to National Secretary Jonathan C. Davis, PDC. Commander Beckman shared his first General Order.

* Gettysburg: The Floyds visited Gettysburg on June 7-11. They now have a book listing all burials in the Soldiers' National Cemetery and the two Indiana soldiers buried in Evergreen Cemetery. They visited the Indiana regimental markers and state monument, the Wills House, and spent hours on the battlefield. They also saw Lincoln and the Cyclorama. They represented the Camp in uniform and period dress during the 100 Nights of Taps performed by Michelle Murray-Poczobut at the Soldiers' National Monument. She is a retired R.N., who worked at San Antonio Military Medical Center (formerly Brooks Army Medical Center, where Sister Floyd, who is also a retired R.N., was born).

* Simon Cemetery Military Headstone Dedication: Brothers Tim and Joe Beckman and the Floyds attended this dedication service conducted by John W. Foster Camp at Tobinsport, Indiana on June 24.

* Putnam County Civil War Monument Re-dedication: Six Camp members, one Auxiliary member, and a member of Porter Camp attended this re-dedication on July 1 in Greencastle. The *Banner Graphic* published a news article about this event; Commander-in-Chief Day congratulated the Brothers and shared the article on Facebook.

*No Updates: Brother Beck did not have anything to update on the Indiana Monument at Vicksburg. There was no update on getting the Crown Hill Cemetery headstone corrected. *

Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Evansville: Brother Hutchinson reported at the Department Encampment that legal action may be necessary to recover the GAR material.

Thomlinson Hall: Brother Kolb is working on maybe getting a plaque to honor the GAR Encampments that occurred on this site.

* William A. Clark Headstone Installation in Terre Haute: Brother Hutchinson located and visited the cemetery. We still need to find the grave location and gain permission to install the headstone.

* Upcoming presentations: Next month is the National Encampment. Fred Schaefer will be our guest speaker in September. Brother Kolb will speak in October. Commander Floyd will speak in November, when we hold the Camp officer election. We will have Camp Show and Tell in December, when we have the Camp officer installation.

New Business

* Kimmel Park G.A.R. Monument in Vincennes: Brothers Beck and Floyd have been named to a Department Committee to learn more about this monument. The monument, dedicated on May 11, 1941, was moved further into the park on May 1, 1952 when a new flood wall was constructed. On November 18, 2015, the city deeded the park to Vincennes University, who is in the process of renovating the park.

They moved the monument to storage; Brother Beck reported that the marker is in storage but is not sure what happened to the rest of the monument.

* John Auten Camp No. 8 in South Bend: The Department's soon-to-be eighth and newest camp is named for Private John Auten, the first soldier from St. Joseph County to die during the Civil War. The chartering ceremony date will be announced soon.

* Genealogy and Local History Fair: The Indiana State Library will host this event on October 27 from 10 - 3:30. Brother Winters and the Bowyers will be at our exhibit table and Sister Thompson will send in the paperwork for this event.

* Charles Hughes: Longtime Camp member Hughes fell last year and now lives at Heritage House Rehabilitation and Healthcare Center in Connersville. He played a role in having a Medal of Honor marker installed for William G. Cubberly, the only Fayette county Medal of Honor recipient. Department Secretary Teller paid his 2018 dues. The Floyds visited with him on May 6 and got his updated address; they delivered a birthday card from the Camp, a poppy (which his parents used to sell), and a flag on his birthday May 28. Brother Floyd also awarded him a Ben Harrison badge in recognition for his membership, patriotic efforts, and service to his country. The Camp moved to pay his dues in the future.

* In ground Flag Holders: Brother Beck and his brother-in-law made four flag holders for the Camp and Auxiliary.

* Ben Harrison Camp Badge: Brother Beck donated his camp badge to give to the National Secretary in June. The Camp moved to have badges available for presentation to National officers at encampments.

* Morgan County Cannon/Mortar Cleaning and Camp Picnic: The cleaning will begin at 9 a.m. on August 4, followed by a picnic at the Morgan County Courthouse in Martinsville. We have invited all Indiana Camps to join us. We will purchase our meal at the local Kroger or go to a local restaurant if the attendance is low. The Camp moved to budget [REDACTED] to cover the cost of the supplies and meal.

* Upcoming Events: These events include: the Morgan County Cannon/Mortar Cleaning on August 4; the National Encampment at Framingham, Massachusetts on August 9-12; the Central Region Association meeting in Valparaiso on October 6, and Remembrance Day in Gettysburg on November 17.

* Flags: Brother Copeland gave remains of the 70th Indiana regimental and national flags to the flag restoration person at the World War Memorial. We sent a donation of [REDACTED] to the Wilder Guidon Restoration Project. Commander Floyd has Indiana pins [REDACTED] and provided patriotic instruction about the high school student who designed our fifty-star flag in 1960. We need to have flags with cards listing our camp and auxiliary information at any event.

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

Jerry Thompson, Secretary

Jim Floyd, Commander

Date