

MINUTES  
Ben Harrison Camp #356  
October 13, 2018

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

**Roll Call of Officers:** Present were Commander and Patriotic Instructor Jim Floyd; Sr. Vice-Commander, Memorial Officer, and Camp Council Member Mike Beck; Jr. Vice-Commander, Signals Officer, and Graves Registration Officer Tim Beckman; Secretary-Treasurer and Historian Jerry Thompson; Chaplain Robert Winters; and GAR Records Officer Bruce Kolb. In all, twelve brothers 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:** Commander Floyd's Aunt had a stroke and died. Sister Floyd is sick.

**Applications Received:** none

**Initiation of New Member:** none

**Reports from Committees:**

\*Camp Baseball Cap Committee: Brother Joe Beckman showed a possible hat. Commander Floyd showed the patch we want on the hat. We would like it to say Ben Harrison Camp 356 and Indiana on the back.

\* Cemetery Cleaning and Restoration Committee: The committee is considering cleaning cemeteries at Franklin or Pendleton.

\* Confederate Memorial and Monument Committee: The trial date for Anthony Ventura has been moved to February 26, 2019 or later.

**General Orders:** Commander Floyd read General Order #5 about the recent death of a National Auxiliary Past President.

**Unfinished Business:**

\* Camp By-Laws: We sent postcards to all members with internet access and mailed copies of the proposed changes to those without internet access. Brother Tim Beckman moved to accept the proposed changes, seconded by Brother Kolb. Brother Kolb added an amendment to remove Article 6, Section 4 from our By-Laws, which was seconded by Brother John Copeland. The motions passed unanimously.

\* Camp Debit Card: The treasurer applied for and has received a MasterCard debit card for the camp, which is locked up until needed.

During the break for lunch, Brother Kolb gave a presentation of how the GAR reacted to The Birth of a Nation. After lunch, we continued with:

\* Indiana Genealogy and Local History Fair: Brother Winters, and Brother and Sister Bowyer will be manning Booth GH21 at the Indiana State Library on October 27, 2018.

\* John Auten Camp #8 Chartering Ceremony: Several brothers were in attendance at this event on September 22, 2018 in South Bend. Brother Beckman (Department Commander) installed the officers and presented their charter. The 27th Indiana SVR presented colors. They also held a ceremony at the grave of John Auten.

\* Cemetery Visit at Galveston, Indiana: Commander and Sister Floyd visited the grave of his third great uncle Corporal Thomas Fording at Galveston Cemetery on their return from South Bend. Commander Floyd cleaned his headstone on his way to Valparaiso for the CRA meeting. This cemetery has a nice monument erected to his G.A.R. Post, the Dan Pratt Post #50, near his

grave. Corporal Fording's brother, William Henry Harrison Fording was also a Union veteran and G.A.R. member.

\* Central Region Association Meeting in Valparaiso: Commander Floyd, Brothers Tim Beckman, Bowyer, Winters, and Walls, and Sisters Floyd and Bowyer attended this event, which included tours of the cemetery, Opera House, and Valparaiso Museum. Sister Bowyer and Commander Floyd facilitated groups. During the dinner, someone spoke about Civil War mourning practices.

\* Kimmel Park G.A.R. Monument in Vincennes: Brothers Beck and Hendricks plan to visit to see the condition of this monument, so they can report this at the midwinter encampment.

\* Indiana Monument at Vicksburg: Brother Bill Adams said this will be moved in 2019. At this point, they are checking to make sure it can survive the move.

\* Incorrect Crown Hill Headstone: We are still waiting for the people in Marion to get this done, but now new people are in office, so they will need to be informed about this issue.

\* Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Evansville: There is no update yet, but we believe there are G.A.R., WWI, WWII, and SpanAm artifacts inside this building.

\* Thomlinson Hall Marker: We can sign up for tours online of the catacombs. There will need to be a study of markers in the region about this place.

\* No updates: We had no updates of the William A. Clark Headstone Installation in Terre Haute or Bethel Cemetery.

\* Camp Meeting Dates and Presentations: The meeting and presentation schedules were presented for the remainder of this year and for all of next year.

\* Slate of 2019 Officers: The slate of elected Camp officers include: Camp Commander Floyd; Sr. Vice-Commander Beck; Jr. Vice-Commander Beckman; Secretary-Treasurer Thompson; and Camp Council Members Walls, Bowyer, and Beck. The slate of appointed Camp officers include: Chaplain Winters; Patriotic Instructor Floyd; Color Bearer Landon Blackwell; Guide Andrew Kolb; Guard Dave Wilson; Eagle Scout Coordinator Bowyer; Signals Officer Beckman, Historian Thompson; Memorials Officer Beck; Grave Registration Officer Beckman; and G.A.R. Records Officer Bruce Kolb.

### **New Business:**

\* Civil War Show at Beech Grove: We can share a table with Brothers Kolb or Beck who will have free tables at this event on March 23, 2019.

\* National SUVCW Survey Results and our Camp Strategic and Development Plan: The top three strategic priorities determined by the National survey include raising visibility and awareness of SUVCW, increasing membership; and implementing a plan to guide in during the next three to five years. Brother Winters moved to adopt these for the next two years, seconded by Brother Thomas. The motion passed. Our Camp Plan will focus on promotion, membership, and continuity. Brother Wilson will be our Community Public Relations Officer.

\* Membership Plan: Commander Floyd showed how we have lost 25% of our membership in the last ten years and need to work on recruiting new members. He now has a professional certificate in Genealogy and belongs to two genealogical organizations. He will provide free Civil War Ancestor research for prospective members. We need to have interested people join as Associates if genealogy is delayed and switch to hereditary membership if it is found. Brother Winters has a lot of information he plans to pass out at the Genealogy Fair. We also need to retain our members. Our last meeting had the largest attendance since 2012. We need to show appreciation to our members. The Camp will purchase birthday cards, Thinking of You cards, a stamp with our groups' names on it, and will pay for postage. The Auxiliary will

have cards ready to sign and send to those with birthdays each month. We will send Thinking of You cards to out of state members or those in nursing facilities on a rotating basis. Brother Winters moved we start this project, seconded by Brother Hendricks.

\* Committee Appointments: Commander Floyd appointed himself as Genealogy Officer.

\* Upcoming Events: Commander and Sister Floyd and Brothers Beck, Kolb, Walls, and Smith plan to attend Remembrance Day in Gettysburg on November 17.

\* Other New Business: Brother Beckman received a letter from the President of the Women's Relief Corps about needing to raise money to preserve a 30th Indiana battle flag. He moved to send ██████ to this cause, seconded by Brother Copeland. The motion passed. Commander Floyd has paid the expenses of transporting Brother Morey to our meetings, but that cost has increased since he move to a facility that is further away. Brother Winters moved the Camp reimburse this expense, seconded by Brother Thomas. The motion was amended to paying for only three meetings per year.

\* For the Good of the Order: Commander Floyd has visited Crown Hill to find prospective members to honor for Memorial Day. He chose Captain Richard Burns who is buried in Section Four. Two other veterans are buried within walking distance for our public procession. Sister Thompson and Commander Floyd will work on learning more about this veteran for our ceremony. Brother Beck will send our next camp newsletter in December using a new format.

\* Patriotic Instruction: We watched a video on the "History of the U.S. Flag." There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with appropriate ceremony.

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Jerry Thompson, Secretary

Jim Floyd, Commander

Date