

MINUTES
Ben Harrison Camp #356
April 13, 2019

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; Guard Dave Wilson; Eagle Scout Coordinator and Camp Council Member John Bowyer; and GAR Records Officer Bruce Kolb. In all, eleven brothers and two prospective members were present.

Brothers in Distress: Brother and Sister Thompson are putting their house on the market to move into a condo.

Membership Applications Received: We received the applications of Danny Smith, who derives his membership from his great-great grandfather John S. Stevenson, who served as a private in Company K of the 20th Indiana Infantry; and of Raymond Brown, who derives his membership from his great-great grandfather George C. Davis, who served as a private in Company A of the 5th Tennessee Mounted Infantry.

Initiation of New Members: With due ceremony, Danny Smith and Raymond Brown were welcomed into the camp.

Reports from Committees:

* No Updates: There were no updates from the Camp Baseball Cap Committee or the Confederate Memorial and Monument Committee.

* Cemetery Cleaning and Restoration Committee: We learned that the Greenlawn Cemetery requires insurance for us to clean the stones, so we will not be cleaning there. Commander Floyd will let us know if we will be cleaning stones at another cemetery on May 11 or whether we will hold a ceremony honoring Charlie Hughes at his gravesite.

Orders, Communication, and Bills: We will be reimbursing the Thompsons for mailing expenses.

During the lunch break, Brother Kolb gave a presentation on the Indiana monument at Vicksburg.

Unfinished Business:

* Charlie Hughes: We still need to set the date for placing the SUVCW grave marker at his grave.

* Memorial Day: We will be honoring Captain Richard Burns on Memorial Day at Crown Hill Cemetery.

* Kimmel Park G.A.R. Monument in Vincennes: There was no update.

* Indiana Monument at Vicksburg: Brother Kolb has contacted Senator Todd Young and Vice President Pence about this.

* Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Evansville: We may need to threaten legal action to gain access to the building and to the G.A.R. property inside.

* Thomlinson Hall in Indianapolis: With the weather getting warmer, it is time to look into this more. The Ruckle G.A.R. post used to meet in this building.

* William A. Clark Headstone: The trustee can find no evidence that Clark is buried in the cemetery or that a well was located inside the cemetery. We were told that he was buried

near a well. Until we can find additional evidence to support the location of this grave, we will take no further action.

* Bethel Cemetery Relocation: Brother Beckman will find out if they want us to order new headstones for the Civil War soldiers.

* 2020 Mid-Winter Encampment: We are hosting this at the church in Greenfield. We will be serving BBQ, sides, and desserts and create a welcome packet.

* Civil War Show in Beech Grove: They raised over [REDACTED] for the school. They had 140 tables rented for the event.

* Midwestern Roots Conference: We have received confirmation about our reserved tables 42 and 43. We voted to pay for electrical service for the event. Brother Winters moved we purchase more wooden nickels, pens, and brochures (up to a cost of [REDACTED]) for the event. Those who will be manning our tables include: Brother Winters, Sister Bowyer, Brother Beckman, Brother and Sister Thomas, and possibly Brother and Sister Thompson.

* Meeting and Presentation Schedule: Commander Floyd reminded us of the 2019 schedule.

New Business:

* Civil War Monument in Shields Park in Seymour: The Civil War statue is missing from this monument, which was pictured on a postcard. Brothers Kolb and Bowyer are checking into this.

* Marion Library: Brother Beckman will be giving a presentation on John C. Adams, the last Civil War soldier in Indiana. He was given two possible dates and we prefer the date of May 30. The library has received a stained glass window that came from the church Adams attended. The church has since been demolished. Brothers Beckman and Kolb will find out more about this and announce it online if we need to do more.

* Memorial Day: We will be meeting at the gravesite that day with the roses, flags, bugle, and programs.

* Upcoming Events: Commander Floyd listed the upcoming events through November.

Good of the Order: Nothing was shared.

Patriotic Instruction: Commander Floyd shared a video entitled "Medal of Honor Recipient Melvin Morris walks in the footsteps of the 54th Massachusetts."

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

Jerry Thompson, Secretary

Jim Floyd, Commander

Date