

MINUTES  
Ben Harrison Camp #356  
July 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; Color Bearer Wayne Sharp; Guard Dave Wilson; and GAR Records Officer Bruce Kolb. In all, ten brothers and two prospective members were present.

**Announcement:** Sister and Brother Thompson will be giving up their positions of secretary, treasurer, and historian at the end of the year. We may look into a storage unit to store the Historian tubs.

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

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

**Brothers in Distress:** none.

**Membership Applications Received:** We received the applications of Roger Branch, who derives his membership from his great-great grandfather Isaac Newton Powers, who served as a private in the 120th Indiana Infantry; and Alan Hunter, who derives his membership from his great-great-great grandfather John B. Ryan, who served as a Captain of the 39th Ohio Infantry. Initiation of New Members: With due ceremony, Roger Branch and Alan Hunter were welcomed into the camp.

**Orders, Communications, and Bills:** Commander Floyd and Brother Beckman updated us on General Order #10 (regarding the illness of National Treasurer David McReynolds) and Department Order 2019-2 (Department Officer election). Sister Amy Bowyer submitted receipts for Eagle Scout expense reimbursement.

**Unfinished Business:**

\* Midwestern Roots Conference in Indianapolis: The Camp and Auxiliary will staff recruiting tables at this event this coming Friday and Saturday.

\* Bethel Cemetery Update from John Flood: All the 542 bodies (including four 1812 veterans and eight Civil War veterans) have been reinterred in Concordia Cemetery (on 2703 South Meridian, one mile south of I-70, southeast of Garfield Park). Two Civil War soldiers (an officer and a GAR member) are unknown. Because the Veterans Administration will not provide new headstones for them, the airport will pay for their tombstones. A monument is also planned for the new burial site. There are two potential dates for the Repatriation Ceremony. The airport wants September 28. The cemetery wants June of next year to make things look better at the site.

**Reports From Committees:**

\* Camp Baseball Cap Committee: no update.

\* Cemetery Cleaning and Restoration Committee: This report will be heard under Old Business.

\* Confederate Memorial and Monument Committee: Brother Wayne Sharp was hired as a private investigator to research the history of a New Castle mansion and the reported spirit of a dead soldier who haunts it. This second son of the owner, Sergeant Major Olistus Powell, served in Co. C, 36th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was killed in the Battle of Chickamauga on 20 September 1863. He does not have a military marker at his grave in New Castle; however, his

service is denoted on a weathered pillar monument. Brother Sharp is researching how to honor him with a new marker of some type.

\* Community Public Relations Committee: no update.

### **Continuation of Unfinished Business:**

\* Department of Rhode Island: On 2 May 2019, Brothers Beckman and Beck and Commander Floyd had dinner with Scott Reese, the Department Commander of Rhode Island. Commander Reese works for the federal government and was assigned to Indiana for the week, so a nice dinner and conversation were had in Greenwood, Indiana.

\* Greenwood Cemetery Cleaning: On 11 May 2019, our annual cemetery cleaning and restoration activity took place in Greenwood Cemetery on South U.S. 31. This was the replacement location since we were unable to clean and restore headstones in the Franklin, Indiana cemetery. Approximately 30-35 Civil War veteran stones were in need of cleaning, and two were pulled and reset. Brother Raymond Brown also restored brass plaques. A newspaper article on the efforts was published in the *Greenwood Daily Journal*.

\* Captain Richard Burns: On 27 May 2019, the Camp conducted our annual Memorial Day service at Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis, Indiana. Co. D, 27th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, Sons of Veterans Reserve led a large public attendance of approximately 40-45 people in the procession to decorate the grave of Capt. Richard Burns with roses and U.S. flags. The service was conducted and the SVR fired volleys and sounded Taps. WFYI published a report on the service, along with a radio story. Additionally, Brother Alan Hunter authored an article about the Memorial Day service that was published in the *Weekly News*.

\* G.A.R. Stained Glass Window: On 30 May 2019, Brothers Kolb and Beckman attended a ceremony at the Marion Public Library where a G.A.R. stained glass window, donated by Jim and Pat Garstka, was unveiled. Brother Kolb gave a presentation on the history of the G.A.R. in Indiana during the event.

\* 133rd Annual Department Encampment: On 1 June 2019, the Annual Encampment for the Department of Indiana was held in Kokomo, Indiana. Department Commander Tim Beckman was re-elected to a second term, as were all the sitting officers, with the exception of Alan Teller who retired from being Department Secretary after many years of valuable service. Brother Bill Adams was elected Department Secretary. National Secretary Jonathan Davis attended the encampment and installed the Department officers.

\* Flag Retirement Ceremony: On 14 June 2019, the Camp was asked to provide Taps during the Southport, Indiana flag retirement ceremony. The ceremony was well attended by members of the public, and veterans from all branches of the armed services were present as 1,996 U.S. flags were retired with due honor. Commander Floyd represented the Camp and sounded Taps to conclude the ceremony. The *Southside Times* published photographs and an article.

\* SUVCW Grave Marker: The Camp still needs to select a date to honor our late Brother Charlie Hughes.

\* Kimmel Park G.A.R. Monument in Vincennes, Indiana: No update.

\* Indiana Monument at Vicksburg: Vicksburg Military Park is absorbing additional park lands and that is their current focus.

\* Veterans Memorial Coliseum in Evansville, Indiana: No update.

\* Thomlinson Hall in Indianapolis, Indiana: No update.

\* 2020 Indiana Department Mid-Winter Encampment in Greenfield, Indiana: Discussion was tabled until the 14 September 2019 meeting.

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

New Business:

\* Sultana Marker: The Camp moved to obtain a marker to commemorate the Indiana soldiers aboard the Sultana for placement in Marion National Cemetery. We will not be allowed to include any names on the marker; however, we are considering adding a QR code so that viewers can learn more about the Sultana and the Indiana soldiers aboard at a linked website. The motion was made by Brother Winters, seconded by Brother Beck, and passed unanimously. Commander Floyd appointed Brothers Beck, Kolb, and Beckman to the Sultana Marker Committee.

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

**Good of the Order:** Brother Kolb shared a newspaper article about the recent auction of a U.S.C.T. flag for \$196,000.

**Patriotic Instruction:** Commander and Sister Floyd attended the 154th anniversary of the Lincoln funeral train at the Stone Gable Estate - Star Barn Village in Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania on 22 April 2019. The replica Lincoln funeral car "The United States" travelled on the same rails as it had 154 years previously. Commander Floyd showed a video about the Lincoln Funeral Train.

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

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Jerry Thompson, Secretary

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Jim Floyd, Commander

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Date