

MINUTES  
Ben Harrison Camp No. 356  
September 9, 2023  
Zoom Only

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

**Roll Call of Officers:** 2023 officers present were Commander Bruce Kolb; Treasurer, Mike Beck; JVC, Brian Mexin; Secretary, Graves Registration and Signals Officer Tim Beckman; Camp Council Jerry Thompson; Camp Chaplain Brian Mexin; Camp Eagle Scout Coordinator, John Bowyer; Camp Color Bearer and Camp Guard, Joe Beckman. In all, nine brothers were present via Zoom.

**Secretary's Report:** Motion to approve the July 2023 minutes as distributed was passed.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer's report was distributed and read.

**Report of Sick Brothers or Families in Distress:** Brother [REDACTED] continues to recuperate from back surgery. No report of any other sick or distressed members. Prayers go out to all who are sick or in distress.

**Membership Application Received:** None.

**Initiation of New Members:** None

**Reports from Committees:**

\* Sultana Monument Committee: Commander Kolb informed the camp that the Sultana plaque and monument is now installed on the grounds of the Veterans National Memorial Shrine and Museum in Fort Wayne. Timing for the official unveiling ceremony is still uncertain. A discussion about what to do with the Allied Orders funds that were designated for this monument was brought up. Suggestions included a time capsule and included a discussion about what kind of items to place into the time capsule.

\* Cemetery Cleaning and Restoration Committee: Mike Beck informed the camp that the Foster Camp ordered seven Last Union Soldier coins. Other camps have expressed interest in these coins, but no others have been sent out. Mike Beck informed the camp that he received approval from the cemetery in Johnson County where the Last Union Soldier is located, to install one of the Last Soldier coins there.

**Orders, Communications, and Bills:** Commander Kolb informed the camp about General Orders #28, #1 (New Administration), #24 (Rescinded), and #2 (Amended Membership Qualification).

**Unfinished Business:**

\* Brian Mexin reminded the camp about possibly participating in the Indianapolis Veterans Day Parade. The website is still not open for registration. He will keep the camp updated as needed.

**New Business:**

\* The camp was informed of the President Benjamin Harrison's wreath laying ceremony that took place at Crown Hill Cemetery on August 19, 2023. Camp members Brian Mexin, Joe Beckman, and Tim Beckman were in attendance.

\* The grave of President Benjamin Harrison was officially marked with a G.A.R. grave marker on August 27, 2023. Camp member Joe Beckman was instrumental in getting his grave marked with the G.A.R. marker.

\* Information and pictures were shared with the camp of the security and cameras that are in place at the Confederate Mound in Crown Hill Cemetery.

\* Tim Beckman informed the camp on an extensive 49<sup>th</sup> Indiana document collection that he was gifted. The collection is now on permanent loan to the University of Southern Indiana Archives and Special Collections, where the documents will be preserved and eventually digitized for viewing on their website.

\* Information was shared about the planed restoration work of the G.A.R. monument located in Thraikill Cemetery in Swayzee that the Orlando Somers Camp is overseeing (donations are needed).

\* Information on the Last Union Soldier of Vanderburgh County was shared with the camp. The ceremony will take place on September 23, 2023. The Foster Camp will be in charge of the ceremony.

**Upcoming 2023 Camp Meeting Dates and Dept. Events**

September 23rd – Vanderburgh County Last Union Veteran Ceremony, Locust Hill Cemetery, Evansville, IN

October 14th - Meeting in-person and virtual

November 4th – Dept. of Indiana Mid-Year Encampment, Newburgh (East of Evansville)

November 11th - Meeting in-person and virtual

December 9th - Meeting in-person and virtual

December 16<sup>th</sup> – Wreaths Across America Ceremony, Williams Creek Cemetery, Indianapolis, IN.

**For the Good of the Order:**

Brian Mexin shared a poem from the book Grand Army Men, titled “The Same Canteen.”

**Patriotic Instruction:** None

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Tim Beckman, Secretary

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Bruce Kolb, Commander

\_\_\_\_\_  
9/9/2023  
Date