Orlando A Somers Camp #1 Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

Meeting Minutes—May 21, 2007—Richard's Restaurant

Commander Matt Elkin presided and opened the meeting at 12:45 p.m. Chaplain Jon Ayers led the group in the opening prayer, and members joined to recite the American's Creed and the Pledge of Allegiance. Secretary Gayle Eikenberry gave no report due to being absent the last two meetings, but will compile minutes for the March and April meetings and distributed them members. Treasurer Randy McNally was not present, but sent his report by email. The balance in our account is \$2,679.84, of which \$835 is the Cannon Fund.

Members present were: Matt Elkin, Allen Moore, Alan Teller, Larry Myer, Tom Crawford, Jon Ayers, and Gayle Eikenberry. Lee Ann Teller attended as our guest.

Old Business:

Commander Elkin reported that one member in arrears had paid his dues for 2007 and asked if the others had been contacted. Some members still need to be contacted.

Tom Crawford reported again on estimates received for the plaque to be placed at the grave of Gordon Williams at Albright Cemetery. Waverly Monuments quoted a price of \$607. Caldwell Monuments at first quoted a price of \$886, but brother Crawford's persuasive tactics got them to lower the price to \$583. The plaque has been ordered and paid for from Caldwell Monuments. We thank brother Crawford for his efforts in obtaining the lowest price possible.

Brother Crawford also reported on the problem of where to place the plaque at Albright Cemetery since it is a private cemetery and has rigid rules. A solution was arrived at during discussion with an official at the cemetery, and it was decided to place the plaque on the side of the monument. A new foundation has to be poured for the monument anyway, so the cemetery will extend the foundation far enough to the side to place the plaque there. The plaque should arrive by the end of May, and Caldwell will place it free of charge. It was decided that the dedication will be on Sunday, June 10, at 2 p.m. There was discussion about which honor guard to use. Jon Ayers agreed to work up a prayer for the dedication ceremony, and Alan Teller will read the Gettysburg Address.

Alan Teller informed us that the Greentown Historical Society had offered to share a night at the Howard County Fair with us. It was decided that we will participate on Tuesday evening, June 10th.

Tom Crawford reported that the holes are all dug for the monuments to be placed at Lindley Cemetery, including one for a flag pole. They will be set on Tuesday next week beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The Howard County Veterans Council has informed us that they do not want their share of receipts from selling the Host prints and monuments. We may keep the proceeds, which amount to \$228, for our camp. We thank them for their generosity.

We were reminded that the Knightstown Graduation is Saturday, May 26. This year's graduating class is the largest ever.

New Business

Our speaker for today's meting, Jim Goecker, donated \$150.00 to our camp. We also thank him for his generosity.

Cannon cleaning schedule: May, Tom Crawford. June & July, Alan Teller. We hope the cannon is housed in its new building at Highland Park by August.

Jon Ayers informed us of the Memorial Day Services at Marion (2:00 p.m.) and Gas City (3:00 p.m.). He has recruited a special army unit to participate.

There ensued a discussion about our participation at the Memorial Day ceremony at Crown Point Cemetery. Members were encouraged to attend.

GenFest 2007 on June 8 & 9 at the Marion Public Library was announced. Handouts about the SUVCW will be distributed, and there will be opportunity to do research; take a bus trip to Historic Estates of Serenity Cemetery (IOOF) and Grant Memorial Park (6/9); listen to The Company Singers, Civil War period vocalists; and attend a program by Shirley Richison of the Indiana Genealogical Society in which she will demonstrate the marriage indexing project.

Commander Elkin thanked Lee Ann Teller for making a cloth bag to carry the Camp Charter.

Tom Crawford announced that he had purchased a mannequin for \$300 which would be suitable to use in our display with the cannon at Highland Park. He had the mannequin standing and dressed for all to see. Brother Crawford made a motion to be reimbursed from the Cannon Fund for the mannequin with two stipulations: (1) that it remain the property of the SUVCW, and (2) that he be given the first opportunity to purchase it back for \$300 if the occasion arises. The motion was seconded by Alan Teller and passed unanimously.

Discussion followed about outfitting the mannequin with an artillery uniform or whatever would be appropriate. A motion was put forward by Commander Elkin and seconded by Jon Ayers to provide a suitable outfit and pay for it out of what remains of the Cannon Fund. The motion passed.

Gayle Eikenberry agreed to serve as the camp correspondent for the *Indiana Legion*, and will update the Membership Book for 2007-2008.

Program

The program was given by Jim Goecker, the Dean of Admissions & Financial Aid at Rose-Hulman and a member of the Civil War Roundtable. He spoke about the Galvanized Yankees (Confederate soldiers in the Northern Army), explaining who they were and how they were used in the North during the Civil War. He gave many interesting details and provided much background information.

Commander Elkin closed the meeting at 2:30 p.m., and the closing prayer was given by Chaplain Jon Ayers. The next meeting will be in September.

Gayle Eikenberry, Secretary