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

Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2006
Richard's Restaurant

Senior Vice Commander Matt Elkin opened the meeting at 12:45 p.m. Chaplain Jon Ayers led the group in the opening prayer. We then recited the American's Creed and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Commander Alan Teller. Treasurer Randy McNally was not in attendance, so there was no Treasurer's report. Secretary Gayle Eikenberry reminded everyone that the minutes of our January 14 meeting were emailed/mailed to everyone and asked that members please let him know if they didn't receive them or if there were any additions or corrections.

Members present were Jon Ayers, Larry Ebert, David Bastin, Tom Crawford, Larry Myer, Jacob Elkin, Matt Elkin, Seth Kirchner, Russ Kirchner, Don Overmyer, Ned Baker, Gayle Eikenberry, Kent Smith, Allen Moore, and Alan Teller. Guests in attendance were Lee Ann Teller, Barbara Moore, Martin Pike, Timon Pike, and former member and guest speaker, Allen Parker Shinn.

Old Business:
Commander Teller requested an update on the cleaning of the cannon. David Bastin reported that he had cleaned it and had found the cover very dusty. Tom Crawford reported that the building to house the cannon at the park should be completed by this summer or early fall. He also mentioned difficulty in trying to find a mannequin to display a uniform.

Commander Teller reported that he has rewritten the by-laws and that they have been proofread by Allen Moore. He offered five sets of the new and old bylaws for review which will be due back to him by March 9 with comments. Several members took copies for review. After copies have been reviewed and returned, he will distribute the new bylaws in final form by mail/email for everyone's review. Then they will be voted on at the next two consecutive meetings.

Tom Crawford reported on the plaque for John C. Adams, Indiana's last Civil War soldier to die. He distributed the wording for the plaque:

John C. Adams – G.A.R.
Here in honored Glory rests the last Civil War
Veteran of Indiana. May his deeds and sacrifices
be ever green in our memory.

Placed by Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

He informed us that permission to place the plaque has been approved and that there will be no charge for its cement foundation at Riverside Cemetery. He received a new quote for the cost of the plaque, $390.00, which is five dollars more than the quote he obtained last fall, but is for a larger plaque, measuring 12x24 inches. Total cost including shipping will be $412.00. The Department contributed $300.00, Tom Crawford contributed $50.00, which leaves $62.00 for the camp to pay. A motion was made by Larry Ebert, seconded by Matt Elkin, and passed for the camp to pay the $62.00. Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral Services of Gas City will handle arrangements and

is very supportive of the effort. There was then discussion about when to hold the dedication ceremony. It was decided that Sunday, May 21, would be the best date. Many members indicated they could attend on that date.

Tom Crawford announced that next year he would like to propose a new project, one to recognize the last Howard County Civil War veteran, Gordon Williams.

Gayle Eikenberry reported that he is working on a membership booklet which will list all current members, their addresses, phone numbers, and Civil War ancestors. He will distribute the booklet by mail/email so members may check their personal information and offer suggestions before it is printed in final form. A motion was made by Allen Moore, seconded by Ned Baker, and passed to reimburse the secretary for expenses incurred in printing the booklet.

New Business

Commander Alan Teller reported that the Howard County Historical Society had contacted him wondering if we would like to participate with them in their booth at the Howard County Fair (July 10-15). After discussion, it was decided that we may be interested and will get more information before making a final decision.

Commander Teller reported on his interest in launching a website for our local organization. He bought the domain name "somerscamp" and paid for it for two years. Russ Kirchner's son, David, has agreed to host the site. More information will be forthcoming at the next meeting.

Commander Teller reported on the restoration of the Civil War Monument at Crown Point Cemetery in Kokomo. The Veterans Council is in charge of the restoration and is seeking financial support.

Commander Teller asked for a report on the Memorial Day Service. Jon Ayers said he will keep us informed as plans are made.

Commander Teller offered the suggestion that we go through our collection of Civil War books and see if there are any we don't want any more that we would be willing to donate to be raffled off at meetings.

Ned Baker offered two VHS tapes of *Gettysburg* if anyone would like to have them.

Allen Moore reported that he had recruited a new member that morning at the SAR meeting.

Don Overmyer said he publicized our organization by buying SUVCW pins and wearing them.

Allen Moore introduced the presenter of today's program, former member Allen Parker Shinn, a great grandson of Orlando A. Somers. He read selections from letters Orlando Somers had written back home during his involvement in the war. Somers' comments were revealing and sometimes humorous.

Commander Teller closed the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Gayle Eikenberry, Secretary