

Department of Ohio Sons of Union Veterans of the Cival War

The 79th annual Encampment of Ohio Sons of Union Veterans of the Cival War was held in the Mansfield-Leland Hotel, Mansfield, Ohio, June 15-17, 1961. Department Commander Clyde Neff presiding over the business session. The following minutes were taken during the session, and will be considered correct, but further references to the original copies of reports of the officers will be found in the office of Secretary of the Department, William Selz, 16 Buckeye Street, Dayton 2, Ohio.

On Thursday evening, June 15th, 7:30 P.M., the joint opening was held with the officers of the Sons of Veterans, Auxiliary and Ladies of the Grand Army in attendance. Patriotic Instructor W. Earl Corbin of the Sons of Union Veterans presided over this meeting.

Department Commander Clyde Neff along with the Department Presidents of the Auxiliary and Ladies of the Grand Army, introduced the officers to those assembled.

During the meeting, Past National President Edith Nile presented the Department Commander Clyde Neff a check for \$150.00 to pay for marble benches that were presented to the Xenia Children's Home on Memorial Day by the Department Commander Neff and Department President of the Auxiliary, Adeline Powers.

This being the 75th anniversary of the Department Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans, W. Earl Corbin presented the Department President of the Auxiliary, Adeline Powers, a frame containing 27 silver dollars, along with a \$50.00 bill.

At 8:30 P.M. Thursday, June 15th, the joint Memorial services were held. The Department Chaplains of the three organizations were in charge. Floral tributes were presented in memory of those who have departed during the last year. The Rev. Mr. Roy Smith of Mansfield gave the Memorial Address, reminding those assembled that the Atomic Bomb dropped on Japan in 1945 caused destruction immediately, while Communism is slowly destroying the freedom of the world, and unless precaution is taken, the world will lay waste under this new form of weapon. The best weapon to use against this threat is build --

- (1) Strong characture of the people
- (2) Preserve the Liberty we have enjoyed in this country

- (3) Preserve the institutions of learning
- (4) Closer family life in the home
- (5) Church attendance

At 9:30 P.M. the Mansfield Camp gave the obligation to 5 candidates (there were to be 15, but due to sickness and vacations, only 5 were present.) Department Commander Clyde Neff has secured 25 new and reinstated members during the past year for the Camp in Mansfield. If all would work as Clyde has, Ohio Department would be much larger, and new Camps would be the result.

Friday Morning, June 16th, 1961:

Department Commander, Clyde Neff called the first session of the Department to order at 9:45 a.m. The following committees were appointed:

Credential - Daniel Wasser

Officers report - Charles Bigley, R. W. Ballard

Resolutions - M. R. Battey, Wm. Coffin

Press - Daniel Clancey

Greetings committee to the --

Auxiliary - Wm. Powers, Paul Selby, C. B. Wood

Ladies of the Grand Army - M. R. Battey, John Decker

Col. Dan Clancey to visit the Daughters of Union Veterans while in session in Columbus June 18-22.

R. W. Ballard visited the Relief Corps in Lima, Ohio during their session last week.

The first item of business was the roll call of the Department officers, all present. The Credential Committee reported the attendance to the meeting.

One Commander-in-Chief

One Past Commander-in-Chief

Eleven past Department Commanders

Nineteen delegates

Total - 32

Correspondence received from the following was read:

Commander-in-Chief T. A. Chedwick, stating he will visit the Department on Saturday, June 17th (arrived on June 16th.)

Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief, C. L. Messer, stating due to conflicting Department Encampments, will be unable to attend Ohio meeting.

Secretary of the Regional- reminding the Ohio Department of the Regional Meeting in Columbus October 14-15, 1961.

T. R. Hartpence of the Xenia Home thanking the Department for the benches given the Children on Memorial Day.

A telegram from the Biltmore Hotel in Dayton, Ohio inviting the Encampment in 1962.

The Mayflower-Sheridan Hotel in Akron asking the 1962 meeting in Akron, Ohio June 21, 22, 23.

Officers reports:

Department Commander Clyde Neff reported on visits over the Department, membership drives as well as social engagements.

Department Senior Vice Commander Col. Daniel Clancey made most of his visits and trips around Columbus district, filled the office to a fine degree, and showed great interest in the work of the Sons of Union Veterans.

While Col. Clancey was on the floor, he reported on the progress of the First Ohio Regiment. 49 men in uniform along with the Mount Vernon Drum Corps, or a total of 90 men. Each man furnished his own uniform and equipment.

The regiments are about to be formed. Those in existence to date are the one in Columbus, Akron, Chagrin Falls and the Mt. Vernon Drum Corps. Since the Regiment has been formed, there is no longer need of the reserve board which was appointed two years ago, so a motion was made by W. Earl Corbin and seconded by M. R. Battey that this reserve board be discontinued with a vote of thanks for their services. Motion resulted favorable. A short discussion was held in reference to membership in a Camp of Sons of Union Veterans, from members from the regiments. The result was...those from the reserve units may be associate members if no eligibility for regular membership. Young boys (those under 16 years) can be used if supervision is available. Units of men are under the orders of the Captain of the Regiment and should be in his charge and not the Camp's membership list, and perhaps not have to pay dues into the Camp treasury, as they have been to the expense of uniform and equipment for the unit.

Department Junior Vice Commander John Decker made a number of visits in the vicinity of Cleveland, attended district meetings, as well as Lincoln banquets, but the most effort was to revive the Camp in Ravenna, as it has dropped by the wayside, and thought it could be placed on the active list once more, but all of the real active members have passed away and no one else is willing to get the start again.

Membership -- Charles Bigley made a number of visits to localities that should have a camp but very little interest was shown by those called on, and the younger men have other veteran organizations taking up their time, so very little has been accomplished, Stressed the attendance of all to the Regional meeting in Columbus in October.

Secretary-Treasurer report -- William A. Selz:

"June 12, 1961

To the Officers and Brothers of the
Ohio Department, Sons of Union
Veterans of the Civil War: --

Greetings: --

Another year has gone by and it is my privilege and pleasure to report on the condition of membership and finances of the Ohio Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War.

"As most organizations have some kind of publications that reach their individual members, we have been criticized that our members at large are not interested as we have no publication in the Department or leave them know what is going on. This year with the approval of Commander Clyde Neff I have had the Dept. Orders linotyped so as to get more in the Dept. Order and at the same time cut down the weight because of the postage and sent a copy to all members of each camp who have sent in their membership list which I have asked for on several occasions. The linotyping was the only cost as I furnished the paper and did the printing free. The saving over mimeographing and less postage has more than paid for the postage on more than 200 extra copies that were mailed out. In the Fall Order and the Spring Order I enclosed a self-addressed envelope and a small slip that they could fill out, easily for contributions to both the Christmas Fund and to the Patriotic Instructors Project and it proved out that some do read the Dept. Order as several who have never contributed before sent in donations. These extra envelopes and slips did not cost the Department anything. I am stating this as many might think I am spending more money of the Department's than I should on these extras. I am only trying to prove that if we can reach the membership individually we can get them more interested in this Order and I am willing to prove it at my own expense.

"I bought about 30 copies of "Facts About the Civil War" which were put out by the National Organization. I sent them to all Camp Secretaries as well as to a few of those whom I thought might be interested. I enclosed a slip with these booklets stating that they could get extra copies of this booklet for 25¢ for any of their members or friends but did not receive any orders or even a comment. I did this at my own expense. This is discouraging when you do not receive any encouragement from any one when you are trying in some way to get the membership interested. This may be a sour note in this report, but this is the way I feel.

"On the 1960 Patriotic Instructors Project, seven camps, seven individuals and two districts contributed.

"So far this year on the 1961 Patriotic Instructors Project, five camps, twenty-one individuals and one district contributed \$118.00 Less camps than last year and many more individuals. More camps should take an interest and contribute.

"To the 1961 Christmas Fund, five camps and nineteen individuals contributed \$74.00. A little over half of the amount contributed to the 1959 Christmas Fund. Less camps and more individuals which proves my point that the more individual members you reach the more individual contributions.

"With the following I submit my report as to receipts, disbursements and membership:

"Receipts:

/Gifts:	Ohio Dept. Sons of Veterans Auxiliary	25.00
	Past Dept. Presidents of Auxiliary	25.00
	Fred Pfiester, Jr.	1.00
1960 Project		16.00
Per Capita Tax		472.10
Encampment Registration		23.00
Watch Drawing		45.00
Supplies		6.70
New Members		25.00
Christmas Contributions		74.00

"Radio Drawing	82.00
Chief of Staff Fund	37.00
Patriotic Instructors 1961 Project	118.00
Sale of U.S. Savings Bond	25.00
Total Receipts	\$ 974.80

"Disbursements:

Check No. 123, R. W. Engler, Mg. Children's Home, Toledo, Ohio	66.75
124, Mrs. Marguerite Dayton, Encampment Expense	18.61
125, Secor Hotel	13.40
126, A. C. Lambert, supplies	5.25
127, Gettysburg Battlefield Deed	10.00
128, Charles Bigley, Encampment Expense	10.85
129, A. C. Lambert, supplies	7.20
130, Lt. Col. Daniel F. Clancy	20.00
131, A. C. Lambert, Per Capita Tax	75.50
132, Postage	5.00
133, Hoover=Dayton Co., Mimeographing	23.25
134, Wm. A. Selz, Salary	50.00
135, Col. Daniel F. Clancy	20.00
136, Trelan Printing Co.	19.25
137, Regional Dues	5.00
138, Richorn-Hiel Insurance Agency, Treasurers' Bond	5.00
139, Stuhl-Dracker Floral Co.	7.10
140, A. C. Lambert, Per Capita Tax	74.75
Sub. to Banner	1.00
141, Postage	5.00
142, Albert C. Lambert, supplies	.75
143, Wm. A. Selz, Salary	50.00
144, J. P. Home, Treas., O.S. & S.O. Home Committee	25.00
145, Wm. F. Powers, Presents for Madison Home	27.00
146, Beringer Printing Co.	9.00
147, Postage	5.00
148, A. C. Lambert, Per Capita Tax	67.75
149, Col. Daniel F. Clancy	20.00
150, Postage	5.00
151, Wm. A. Selz, Salary	50.00
152, Ireland Printing Co.	13.50
153, Col. Daniel F. Clancy	20.00
154, Beringer Printing Co.	17.50
155, A. C. Lambert, Per Capita Tax	67.00
Supplies	11.50
156, Postage	5.00
157, Peoples Bank & Trust Co. U. S. Savings Bond	37.50
158, Wm. A. Selz, Salary	50.00
Banking Charge Peoples Bank	4.10
Total Disbursements	\$ 929.59

"Balance in Peoples Bank, Dayton, Ohio, last audit June 18, 1960	410.72
Total Receipts	<u>974.80</u>
Grand Total	1385.52
Disbursements	<u>929.59</u>
Balance in Peoples Bank, Dayton, Ohio	446.53
Checks on Hand	10.00
United States Savings Bond	37.50
The balance consists of the following funds:	
G.A.R. Highway No. 6 Fund	4.50
U. S. Savings Bond	37.50
Christmas Fund	166.48
Dept. Patriotic Instructors Project Fund	118.00
Chief of Staff Fund	37.00
General Fund	<u>130.55</u>
	\$ 456.53

MEMBERSHIP

Number of Camps 1960 Report including those suspended	28
Number of camps suspended	<u>7</u>
Number of Camps paying Per Capita Tax	21
Number of members 1960 Report	309
Loss by Death	9
Dropped by Camps	44
Members in Camps suspended	20
Total Loss	<u>73</u>
Gains	
New Members	28
Reinstatements	<u>4</u>
Total Gain	32
Total Membership to Date:	<u>268</u>

I think this gives a complete picture of both the finances and membership of the Ohio Department.

Before closing this report I want to give credit to those whom I think are responsible for the money that we have in the Bank. As you will note \$127.00 was taken in on two drawings that we had. Fred Pfiester, Jr. P.D.C. donated all the prizes and sold most of the tickets. This project did not cost the Department one penny. He has another project this year of which he has donated all the prizes. Many THANKS to Brother Pfiester.

Much credit is due Robert Austin the Assistant Secretary who has taken the minutes for the past three years. He has had many copies of these Department minutes mimeographed and sent to all members who were present at the Encampment and any others who might be interested. He has done this at his own expense. Many THANKS, Bob.

In closing I want to thank Dept. Commander Clyde Neff for his co-operation and for writing letters at my suggestion to delinquent camps. He has come to Dayton on three different occasions to consult with me on Department problems. I know he has made many trips around the State to try and pep up camps and members. Thanks.

Respectfully submitted,
Wm. A. Selz, Dept. Sec'y-Treas."

Department Council -- Fred Pfeister, Jr. reporting --

The Council found the department sec'y-treas. books in fine shape, and a balance of \$446.63 in the hands of the treasurer as of May 31st. At the last Department Encampment in Toledo, Ohio there were a number of resolutions referred to the Council for their action. In October, 1960 the Department Council met at the home of Council Member R. W. Ballard in Lima, Ohio to take action in the items, and dispose of them in a proper way.

As this meeting was quite beneficial, it is felt the by-laws of the Department should include the office of "Council of Administration" so a motion was made by W. Earl Corbin which was seconded by Fred Pfeister, Jr. that this Department form a Council of Administration to iron out work of the Council. This to consist of sitting Council members, Commander, Secretary and Past Department Commander. Vote on this motion resulted favorably.

At the 1962 Encampment it is planned to change the by-laws of the Department to include this body of administration.

AFTERNOON SESSION JUNE 16th:

Commander-in Chief Thomas A. Chedwick was at the meeting and spoke briefly, reminding the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War have something the outsider does not have...more to live for and proud of the part their fathers and grandfathers...stress membership and don't let a prospect tell you that we have nothing to offer as we have far more than any other. W. Earl Corbin spoke briefly on the money collected in the office of Patriotic Instructor and Chief of Staff. There are times that all money is not needed for project and Encampment expenses, so felt that this should be placed in the general fund of the Department for use as seen fit during the year's work.

Patriotic Instructor - Chief of Staff - W. Earl Corbin reporting. The amount of \$123.00 was collected for both funds. The project selected along with the Auxiliary was a wheel chair for the Richland County Children's Treatment Center, which the cost will be \$74.50. The Ladies of the Grand Army to present a standing table to cost \$64.84. It was quite difficult to collect funds this year, very little from the Camps, but better returns from the individuals than usual. W. E. Corbin explained where the \$225.00 came from for the Xenia Home benches and the seventy-fifth anniversary present to the Auxiliary. \$100.00 came from the Charlotte Steckem estate and there was money left in the treasury of the Grand Army Post in Akron and in closing out this account \$125.00 was received.

After a short discussion a motion was made by R. W. Ballard and seconded by M. R. Battey that the Secretary of the Department send a letter to the parties responsible for these gifts. Vote taken resulted favorably.

Commander-in-Chief asked to speak briefly and was given the opportunity. He expressed his satisfaction of the work of the officers of the Ohio Department, but stressed the advantage in having written reports in place of oral, as they can be placed on file and referred to during the years to come and see what was done during Department Commanders' year as well as the other officers of that year.

Greeting committees were received from the following members of the Grand Army Family:

Woman's Relief Corps - Mrs. Edwin Penco representing.

Fred Pfiester, Jr. responding

Ladies of the Grand Army - Mollie Mercer, Clara Tatch representing

Col. Dan Clancey responding

Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans - Aneta Selby, Blanche Row

Com. in Chief Chedwick responding

R. W. Ballard reported on the visit to the Woman's Relief Corps meeting in Lima last week.

A short memorial was held for the departed members, and the following resolution of respect was prepared for Louis G. Blair and be attached to the minutes of this Department meeting.

Resolutions of respect were prepared and sent to the Geo. Walter family earlier in the year, so hope that the following may be for both.

"Louis G. Blair

A M E M O R I A L

We here record with sorrow the passing into the life eternal, on Wednesday, the 7th day of December, 1960 at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, of our faithful Brother-

L O U I S G . B L A I R .

Brother Blair was born August 9, 1868 at Nashville, Tennessee, the son of E. W. Blair who enlisted September 2, 1862 as Private in the 4th Michigan Cavalry, under Col. Gould, at Detroit, Michigan.

Brother Blair became a member of U.S. Grant Camp, No. 11, Cincinnati, Ohio, on July 17, 1914; and having previously served in various Camp Offices, he was elected Commander of the Camp and served as such during the year 1919. He was elected Commander of the Ohio Department in 1942, and served during the year 1942-1943. At the time of his death he was the Department Chaplain. He was also active in the Central Regional Conference, and was its President in 1957.

Constant in his attendance at all meetings of his camp and Department, he was most active in the observance of Memorial Day, and was Chairman of the Program Committee of the Hamilton County Memorial Association for many years.

Next to his name in our book of memories we shall inscribe the words - "Semper Fidelis" (Always faithful); and though he has passed from our visible presence, his cheery helpfulness will be long in our memories, and the Spirit of Lou Blair will remain with us always.

This memorial is prepared for presentation at the 79th Annual Encampment of the Ohio Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, at Mansfield, Ohio, June 16, 1961, for incorporation in the permanent records of the Department, with copies to the Camp and to the son, Ralph Blair.

Wm. M. Coffin, PCC

Fred Pfiester, Jr., PDC

William A. Selz, PDC

The following resolutions were introduced and acted upon:

1. That the Ohio Department Sons of Union Veterans invite the Daughters of Union Veterans to our Encampment in 1962, and delegate someone to extend this invitation. Passed.
2. That we express our sincere thanks to the City of Mansfield and the Mansfield Leland Hotel personally for their courtesies and kindness extended to our organization in their efforts to make our visit a pleasant one.
3. That we extend our heartiest congratulations to our Department President Mrs. Adeline Powers, and her efficient corps of officers.
4. The Ohio Department of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War present our Ohio Department Auxiliary \$75.00 on their 75th Anniversary which is this year at no cost to the Department treasury.
5. Resolved that we commend W. Earl Corbin and Past National President, Edith Nile for their efforts in raising \$75.00 presented to the Ohio Department of our Auxiliary in their 75th anniversary from the Ohio Department Sons of Union Veterans without any burden on our treasury, and that a letter be sent to Sister Edith Nile thanking her for her efforts.

In as much as a resolution was introduced and adopted at the 1960 Encampment in Toledo, Ohio that the Sons of Union Veterans being the only male organization in the Grand Army Family, they should assume the chairmanship, and select the next meeting place of the Encampment subject to the approval of the other branches, two invitations have been received for the next meeting (Akron and Dayton). . . a discussion was held as to the selection of a place which resulted in Akron being the choice. The Ladies of the Grand Army and Auxiliary to be notified while still in session. A motion was made by Fred Pfiester, Jr. and seconded by M.R. Battey that W. Earl Corbin be retained as the committee chairman. Vote favorable. A meeting of the Encampment Committee will be held at the close of all sessions of those assembled.

Wm. Powers reported on the work of the Christmas committee:

37 widows were remembered at the Madison Home, but since there are no children in the Xenia Home of Grand Army men, a donation was made to the Home Christmas Fund for their use as this was the Home that the Grand Army started, and later was taken over by the State of Ohio.

SATURDAY MORNING, JUNE 17th - 8:30 A.M.

The committee reported on the officers reports and congratulated on the work accomplished during the past months.

In the Department Commander's report, he spoke of a field man to interest prospective members in the order. The committee reported that the regular department appointments covers this office and the items of -- uphold the Chief of Staff in his work, help the Department Commander in the work during the centennial years, and stress the reports from the Camps be sent to the secretary promptly; were all agreed to.

A parade is scheduled for Saturday afternoon to go to the Children's Treatment Center, and a drum corps as well as others out of town will be present, ... a motion was made by Fred Pfiester, Jr. that a check be drawn to the amount of \$15.00 to be given drivers bringing reserve units and drum corps men, ... vote resulted favorably.

During the Encampment session tickets were sold to raise funds for the treasury, ... money turned over to the treasury was \$96.50 from tickets and \$22.00 for registration of delegates.

As all business of the Encampment had been completed, the only further business was the nomination and election of the officers for the 1961-62 term and resulted as follows: Since only one candidate was nominated for the offices, a motion was made by Wm. Coffin and seconded by Clyde Neff that the secretary cast the ballot for the officers as nominated. Vote taken resulted favorably.

Department Commander - Col. Daniel F. Clencey of Columbus.
Department Senior Vice Commander - Wm. Powers of Dayton
Department Junior Vice Commander - John Decker of Cleveland
Department Council -- Fred Pfiester, Jr. of Cincinnati
Charles Bigley of Toledo
Robert W. Ballard of Lima

The officers were installed by Past Commander-in-Chief Wm. Coffin and C. B. Wood acting as guide during the ceremony.

Commander-in-Chief Chedwick presented Clyde Neff the Past Department Commander's badge with the fitting remarks he surely was entitled as he worked hard during this year as Department Commander.

Past Department Commander Neff spoke briefly on a letter he received from the Caretaker of the Flags in the State House. The battle flags displayed in the rotunda of the State House are getting in bad shape from the years of service, so a plan has been arranged to have them plastic coated so as to preserve them and will be able to be displayed for years to come. All organizations interested in the flags must give their consent to have this work done, but with no cost to the order, as the State will bear all expenses, so a motion was made to give our consent with thanks to the State for this patriotic gesture.

On Friday evening the banquet was held with all orders included. The speaker of the evening was Mr. Robert F. Hillibish of Canton, Ohio, a member of the Stark County Civil War forum. His subject was "Human Interest Stories of the Civil War." This was a very fine address and a great amount of research and reading must have been done to have the information that this man had at his fingertips. Some of the highlights to remember were: More men lost their lives during the Civil War than all other wars combined since. Total of 346,511 Union and estimated 622,511 total as the Rebel deaths were not too accurate a count of 258,000. While all wars since total 598,573. State of Ohio sent 313,080. Many acts of gallantry were exemplified on both sides and many humorous events were enjoyed even though men were ready to kill each other. Some of the firsts to be remembered, but thought to be recent events were (1) First submarine (2) first balloon to be used during war maneuvers (3) first machine gun (later known as the Gatlin gun).

After 100 years still many questions really settled by the North but not acknowledged by the South. After the banquet, a reception of the Department officers was enjoyed, with music furnished by the Mt. Vernon Drum Corps.

On Saturday afternoon a parade to the Richland County Children's Treatment Center new building and presented them two standing tables, two small wheelchairs, and a reclining chair. The Ladies of the Grand Army also presented the Center a 50 star Flag.

The above notes are to be considered the official minutes of the 79th Encampment of the Ohio Department Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War held in Mansfield, Ohio, June 15-17, 1961.

Wm. A. Selz, Department Secretary
Robert Austin, Assistant Department Secretary

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