



Arnold E. Kahnert Papers

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

St Paul.Minn. Dec.30.1913

Comrade G.E.Rausch
Adjutant General.U.S.W.V.
Washington.D.C.

Dear Sir and Comrade;

Replying to yours of the 26 inst relative to request from Adjutant of Hamilton Fish Camp requesting that change of Charter be made beg to state that the comrades here at the Fort would be opposed to anything of this kind for several reasons and it would perhaps be well for me to go into the history of Hamilton Fish Camp in order that you may understand the situation.

On Jan.29.1906,while Commander of the Department of Minnesota I mustered this Camp,the charter list contained an equal number of comrades of the Fourth Cavalry and the 28th Infantry. In the Fall of 1910 the 4th Cavalry was transferred to the border and from there to Arizona,thence to Honolulu.

The comrades of the Fourth have since formed the nucleus of the new Camps installed during the past year at Honolulu. The growth of the camp was slow during the next two years,while the 28th were stationed at the Fort,as they were to manouvers so much during the greater part of the year. Last July I transferred my membership from Worth Bagley Camp No.2 of St Paul to Fort Snelling in order to give the Camp my personal attention. While the Regular soldier is a splendid worker in the Order,some one is required who was familiar with the workings of the Ritual etc. With

The 9th Infantry had been transferred to Ft Snelling during the meantime and with the assistance of my present Quartermaster John McPhillips and the co-operation of comrades who had been in the Order in other Departments we succeeded in recruiting the camp from 25 to 152 as shown by our semi-annual report of June 30.1913.

Hamilton Fish-2

Having had a stand of Colrs valued at \$200 we now added more paraphernalia and secured the Post Exchange for the holding of regular meetings

Our equipment was complete. Early in the Spring, the 9th Infantry was transferred to Ft Thomas, Ky, where they are now stationed. Following closely upon this the 28th was ordered to Texas. This left us only the civilians, those enlisted men who are employed in the Quartermaster Department and 6 Comrades in D. Battery of the 5th Field Artillery. Our Officer of the Day Benj. Smith of the 9th, having left with his Regt. that office had remained unfilled, this together with myself were the only officers of the Camp who did not go to Texas.

The comrades co-operated with the Department of Texas and were of material assistance to them during their Encampment last summer.

With the organization scattered we were unable to hold meeting, but the boys managed to maintain a social organization in Texas, during the past summer. Our Quartermaster has returned to Minneapolis. I am enclosing a copy of his report showing amount of dues each comrade owes. You will note that we have done pretty well and that the boys have the nucleus for the formation of a new good strong Camp which would add another link to the service Camps in the Army as I am informed from our Quartermaster Comrade McPhillips that there is plenty of timber for recruiting at Galveston among the various Regiments stationed there.

As to Hamilton Fish Camp we have sufficient comrades here to hold our charter and immediately upon the arrival of a new Command at the Fort, which may occur at any time, we will proceed to recruit from their number thereby strengthening the Order in the Army.

It is gratifying to my comrades and myself, to feel that our labors here resulted in the new Camps being formed from our old comrades in the 4th Cavalry at Honolulu.

This is the situation here and I hope you will pardon me for having gone into the many details, but I feel that for you to act to the best interests of the Order you should be fully informed.

I am writing Comrade Benjamin Smith at Ft Thomas, Ky who has asked for

Hamilton Fish(3)

furloughs for a number of Comrades of the 9th to extend to such period as they will know where they will be permanently located. This is very often the best means of keeping the men who are still in the service lined up. They keep their dues paid up, if you are upon the ground on pay days and see that none become delinquent but it is necessary to work strongly upon the social features to keep them interested.

This is also true of the boys at Texas, that is why I feel that the sooner they are launched in a new camp, the better for the Order.

There is no occasion to have change of charter made. I have proposed to Comrade Andrew Desmond, the present Senior Vice Commander stationed at Galveston that I will share the finances with them in an equitable manner, so that the boys will get a good start.

Awaiting your reply and wishing you a Happy and prosperous New Year I beg to remain

Fraternally yours

Commander.



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

United Spanish War Veterans

SOUTHERN BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D. C.

December 26, 1913.

The Commander, Camp #7,
Dep't of Minnesota,
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Sir and Comrade:

We are in receipt of a letter from the Adjutant of your camp requesting that a change of charter be made, and at the same time let the camp retain its name and new officers be elected and installed direct under National Headquarters charge. As this camp is composed mainly of men in the 28th Infantry formerly stationed at Ft. Snelling and who are now at Galveston, Texas, they are under the impression that on account of the members being separated, it would be best to have the charter changed.

Kindly let me hear from you regarding this matter.

Very fraternally yours,

GE Rausch
ADJUTANT GENERAL.



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

United Spanish War Veterans

SOUTHERN BUILDING

WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 5, 1914.

The Commander, Camp #7,
Dep't of Minnesota,
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Sir and Comrade:

With reference to your letter of the 30th ultimo relative to Camp #7: At the outset let me thank you for the full information you and your Quartermaster had the kindness to furnish us. I shall immediately take the proposition of having the boys at Galveston form a camp there, which we think is the proper thing to do. The proposition that you made to the Sr. Vice Commander stationed at Galveston is more than equitable and should be looked upon with favor by the boys located there.

Wishing you and the members of your camp a happy and prosperous New Year, I am

Very fraternally yours,

E. D. Rausch
ADJUTANT GENERAL.

GER/G

St Paul.Minn Dec 30.1913

Comrade Andrew Desmond
Senior Vice Commander.Hamilton Fish Camp No.7
Galveston.Texas;

Dear Sir and Comrade;

Have this day recieved a letter from the Adjutant General of the United Spanish War Veterans in which he states that the Adjutant of Hamilton Fish Camp has made application to him that a change of Charter be made and at the same time let the Camp retain its name. I want to co-operate with the boys in every way possible but I do not feel that Hamilton Fish Camp No.7 of the Department of Minnesota should be removed from this station as we have more than enough Comrades here to retain the Charter and recruit up the ranks from the next outfit that would be transferred to Ft Snelling. I have had the Bond of Quartermaster renewed and taken an inventory of our properties of which I will make report as soon as I can get it in shape. If the boys at Galveston desire to form a new Camp I will be pleased to co-operate with them in every way. I will be willing to make such a division of the finances as would be fair in the permises. and let it be understood that I want to retain the good will of all the boys,my one thought in transferring to the Camp at the Fort was to build it up and you may realize that my interest in wanting to retain the Charter of Hamilton Fish Camp No.7 in the Department of Minnesota. I am enclosing a statement of the dues for comrades down there with you,they were computed to March 31 inclusive as the boys have always paid a quarters dues in advance. In regards to the boys at Ft Thomas I have suggested to Comrade Ben Smith that the boys be placed on furlough for a period of nine months,whcih they can under our Rules & Regulations,during which period they are not required to pay dues or assesments. And of course as a result the Camp is not required to pay per capita tax upon that number.

We have six comrades who are desirous of transferring to our Camp out at the Fort from outside Camps, this would help us getom a good working bas -is.

While there is sure to be a diversion of opinion as to the stand I am taking in wanted the Camp here at the Fort remain as it is, you boys who belong to the I.O.O.F. can put yourselves in my place, were some members to ask that the Charter of Snelling Lodge be transferred elsewhere.

Wishing all the boys a Happy and prosperous New Year I beg to remain

Fraternally yours

Commander.