

At the Camp Fire, Good Talks made Tuesday Evening, Visitors served with a fine dinner, Wednesday, Notes and incidents of Fortieth's Reunion

Together with the election of officers and the selection of the place to hold the next meeting as given to yesterday's edition to the Commercial, the veterans of the Fortieth Ohio, Regiment Volunteer Infantry, listened to a number of letters of regret from comrades who were unable to be present and transacted some minor business.

From the afternoon adjournment until the campfire last night the visitors were engaged in renewing old acquaintances and making new ones, enjoying themselves in general.

At the campfire last night there was quite a large crowd in attendance and the exercises passed off very pleasantly. The gathering was in the Grand Army of the Republic hall.

Captain Alex A Knapp, being ill, John Hamilton, the newly elected vice-president, called the assemblage to order and introduced Mayor Isaac Simmons, who delivered the address of welcome. In his address, Mayor Simmons said:

Gentlemen and ladies, I say gentlemen and ladies from the fact that his is a soldier' gathering and men before me tonight are the boys of ' 61 to ' 65--not that I mean any disrespect to the ladies.

"My countrymen, in looking over this company, Is see gray hairs and physical changes reminding me of the hardships endured. Your regiment, the Fortieth, Ohio, I never saw except part of Company F and this in the southeast part of the county. I had a brother in the regiment, which endears me to you, though he now sleeps in the far west.

"My Countrymen, the ex soldiers are not like those of any other country. How was it when the news flashed over the wires that Fort Sumpter had been fired upon and our martyred president's call came for volunteers. The greatest battles of history were fought by men who went from the plow in the field.

"The soldiers of the army were the educated men of the country. Could the men of any other country have abandoned the army and returned to the civil pursuits of life?? In the last struggle- the Spanish American War-- our soldiers came from the bone of the country, the educated.

"Now gentlemen of the Fortieth, Ohio, I see you with your heads frosted over with the frosts of many winters. Nearly fifteen hundred of you started out but only a handful now remains. The American nation has provided persons of honor such as no other nation has ever produced. Our country has provided a home for those who shouldered a musket and went to the front.

" That great battle of Chickamauga, you boys will remember, but now my countrymen, you sit tonight in the Grand Army of the Republic Hall in the peaceful city of Portland, I bid you welcome. No class of people could I more heartily welcome to our city.

" I want to turn over the keys of the city, our doors are open and we say come in. Therefore gentlemen, to you, your wives and your children, we bid welcome, I thank you".

The address delivered by Mayor Simmons was briefly responded to on behalf of the regiment by vice president Hamilton, who said, "We accept the keys of your good city and

thank you for the kind regard shown the comrades and appreciate your hospitalities"

Col. Nimrod Headington, was called upon for remarks and began by addressing himself to the comrades of Fortieth Ohio, "who live in God's country" He said he did not want to insult the boys who live in Indiana, but there is Bill McLaughlin, O.B. Snyder and Jerry Tomey, who are quite common. He said he was back in the Ohio country to attend a reunion and never saw so much chicken in his life. He said his brother Judge Headington, cleared twenty square feet of the table and would leave today for another reunion. He said he regretted that some of the boys had not called upon him, as his white headed wife is a good cook.

W. H. McLaughlin told the "boys" to make good use of their opportunities and O.B. Snyder said "I will go you one" and continuing said that he was surprised at Co. Headington's speech, as he had been in Jay County so long that the moss has grown on his back and he can't tell a good thing when he sees it" Oscar was Captain Knapp's youngest soldier and thought he had the nerve. One night he had to sleep on two rails for a bed and the mud was shoe mouth deep. He turned in and the next morning would rather have seen his mother, than any one else.

Major Reeves, said he was in favor of woman's suffrage and believed that a lady had as much right to cast a vote as a man. During the forenoon the members of the reunion had refused to elect him or O.B. Snyder as chaplain of the association and in a joking way, Major Reeves referred to this and the deep humiliation (?) he felt in having come her after a position he long coveted and having been cast down in the presence of those who accompanied him.

Milton Wasson of Rensellaer, told of entering the service because he felt it his duty. Thirty of the members of Company H. were taken prisoners and he was one of the men who crawled through the tunnel at Libby prison.

Col. J. W. Headington, expressed his pleasure at seeing the members of the Fortieth in Portland. Col. Headington related some of this army experiences, sleeping with one rail for a bed and living on half or quarter rations.

Comrade Dean said that it is not often he gets to reunite with the Fortieth and then read a paper giving a resume of the Chattanooga campaign. The paper was fraught with good things relating to army life but was quite lengthy.

O.B. Snyder, said the read of the paper ought to be sent to the guard house for saying it was not long.

Secretary Worthington made a spicy talk telling of some experiences which fell under his observation in the service.

Wm. McLaughlin related a number of amusing instances and then solemnly asserted that he never stole but one chicken and had been provided with a kodak, he would have taken a snap shot of it. He said at the coming reunion at Ft. Recovery, Ohio, Oscar Snyder will resemble a big sunflower and that all the boys will be there. He also mentioned Billy Mite, the little drummer boy.

Sam Reeves said he started out when a little boy, kicked out of home without a mother. He started out to make a record for those who were born in Ohio.

Co. Putman of the Sixty-ninth said, he commanded a little regiment, but soon made a big one out of it and from the ranks the benches were filled with judges. He said they all ought to

be proud of having been soldiers.

Mrs. Beerry, said she did not remember very much about the war, and said that a good deal of her time at her home in Washington is spent in the interest of the old veterans and their families, traveling over the city looking after their wants and supplying them as much as possible. Her talk was a very interesting one in every way.

F.M. McLaughlin made a few interesting as well as laughable remarks and spoke of the canteen which had no water in it but was liberally supplied with apple jack.

A strange gentleman talked quite feelingly of the reunion, of the grandness of the country and the abolishment of slavery.

At 10 o'clock the campfire was brought to an end by signing "Marching Through Georgia?" and an adjournment was taken until 10 o'clock this forenoon

This forenoon at 10 o'clock all those of the regiment present were lined up and a photograph taken of the group by A.E. Wiest Jr. Immediately after this the members of the individual companies conceived the idea that they would like to have their photographs also and a number of other sittings were then in order

At noon the regimental association was invited to partake of a feast served by the Woman's Relief Corps, in the Rebekah Degree banquet hall. All of the good things of life were spread upon the groaning tables in abundance and the veterans did ample justice to them. This brought the reunion to an end and most of those who attended left on the afternoon trains.

J.W. McCabe, Co. G of the 49th Ohio of Celina, Ohio. H.C. Lilly, Co A. who lives at Desoto, Jonah Wood, Co. A. of Madison County, John A. Hamilton, Co. I of Muncie, Henry Collett, CO I of Ansonia, Mike Shults Co I of Laramie, Ohio, reuned with their regiment returning home at noon today. It will be observed from the above there were only two of Co A. and three of Co. I present at this reunion.