

Camp Crane History

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CAMP CRANE NOW ONLY HISTORY; COLORS TAKEN DOWN YESTERDAY

Lieut. Col. Slee Officiates at Closing and Tenders People of City Thanks for Treatment of Men and Says Farewell

4/11/19
With the hauling down of the flag at Camp Crane yesterday afternoon, the military camp ceased to exist and became a matter of history.

Lt. Col. Slee, who was here early in the history of the camp, was its head at the close and in a letter to Mayor A. L. Reichenbach, made public yesterday, formally announced the closing of the camp.

The letter in full is as follows:
Camp Crane, Allentown, Pa.,
April 9th, 1919.

Hon. A. L. Reichenbach,
Atlantic City, New Jersey.

My dear Mayor Reichenbach:—

On Thursday, April 10th, 1919, 12 a. m., noon, the colors will be lowered at Camp Crane, and the grounds turned back to the owners, The Lehigh County Agricultural Society. Camp Crane then will cease to be a Government institution, and will shortly become but a memory.

Through various circumstances it has been my lot to help open Camp Crane—to be on continuous duty throughout its entire history, and to close same.

I am therefore familiar with all that has transpired in connection with Camp Crane and its association with the City of Allentown. I am sure that the selection of the Fair Grounds by Colonel Persons as a site for the U. S. Army Ambulance Service has been of material benefit to the City of Allentown. It has made its name and location known

practically throughout the world. The material gain in the expenditure of about \$5,000,000 estimated on the part of the Government, its various agencies and the officers and men stationed here, must be reckoned. The Fair Association has been paid practically \$100,000 in rental and damages.

But, it is not of these material results I write, but rather in connection with the innumerable and continuous kindnesses shown to our officers and men by the Citizens of Allentown, and the many and lasting friendships which have been made, friendships that will last through life.

My duties preclude my visiting the many friends who have contributed to the pleasure of our stay in Allentown, who helped to pass pleasantly and profitably the many weary hours which our men spent while awaiting orders, but on behalf of all of these officers and men, I take this means of publicly acknowledging the indebtedness of Camp Crane to the Citizens of Allentown, and to thank them most heartily for all that they have done, and I am certain that the other Commanders of this Camp, Colonels Persons and Snyder, would join with me in this expression of thanks.

Cordially yours,

RICHARD SLEE.

Lt. Col. Medical Corps, U. S. Army,
Commanding Camp Crane.