

THE UNION INFORMER

Monthly Newsletter of the Indian Nations Camp No. 3
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
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OK Department Commandeer Jesse Walker receives the tomahawk gavel of office from National Organization Representative Mark Edwards at the XVIII Oklahoma Department Encampment in Del City.

April Camp Meeting

Again this month, our camp meeting will be held at the **Schusterman-Benson Library**, 3333 E. 32nd Place. This location is two blocks east of Harvard with parking in the rear.

Rather than the speaker we had in mind, this month we will have a discussion of the Battle of Pea Ridge. This is a subject we should all have a good knowledge of, since it was a major battle in our region, and involved fighters from Indian Territory. The meeting will begin this Thursday at the usual time of 6:30 p.m.

March Camp Meeting

The discussion topic for the March camp meeting was Confederate General Sibley's New Mexico Campaign. Attending to take part in the discussion were: Cdr. Rusk, and brothers: Charlie Walker; Mike Gates; Carl Fallen; Jesse Walker; Norman Crowe; Kevin White; and Joe Fears.

The New Mexico Campaign was a military operation of the Trans-Mississippi Theater from February to April of 1862. Sibley invaded the Northern New Mexico Territory in an attempt to gain control of the southwest,

including the gold fields of Colorado and the ports of California. They hoped to deny the Union the gold and silver as a major source of funds to finance the war effort. This campaign is regarded as the South's most ambitious attempt to control the American West and open up an additional theater in the war. It did not succeed.

Advancing from Fort Bliss along the Rio Grande, the Confederates won the battle of Valvede, but failed to capture Fort Craig, or force the Union army in the territory to surrender. Continuing north across the border toward Sante Fe and Fort Union, they left the Union force in their rear. At Glorieta Pass, the Confederates defeated another Union force from Fort Union, but were forced to retreat after their wagon train was destroyed containing most of their supplies.

Camp Business Conducted In March

Cdr. Rusk announced that he was in the process of resurrecting the Oklahoma Home Guards organization that had lapsed as a result of the IRS requirement for filing non-profit organization returns. The Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) is the ceremonial uniformed military component of the SUVCW. The National Military Department of the SVR consists of the General Staff and seven geographical Military Districts across the nation. SVR Units participate in Civil War related ceremonies, parades, living history programs, and reenactments. This local unit will be a part of the Sixth Military District.

A project to develop a camp brochure to be used in recruiting activities will be undertaken. As perceived, this will be a one page document printed on front and back and folded in thirds, which can be handed to any prospective member.

Cdr. Rusk announced that he attended an Auxiliary meeting during the past month.

Carl Fallen gave a report on the recruiting table at the Gun Show on the weekend of March 16-17, which was paired with the SCV's table. Our camp cost was \$39, but other cost was privately funded. No immediate recruits were enlisted, but we did talk with interested men about the organization, and hopefully, the effort will yield results in the long run.

Department Encampment in Del City

As planned, the Oklahoma Department Encampment XVIII was held in Del City, Oklahoma on Saturday, April 13 at 10 a.m. It adjourned before noon, and the attendees were invited to gather for lunch at a local restaurant.

Owing to the heavy rains forecast for the state, several of the Tulsa folks did not make the trip. However, the event carried on, and all it's goals were accomplished. One member of the Rachel Cormany Auxiliary, Kathy Rusk attended, along with two ladies from the Daughters of Union Veterans, Laurie Chambers and Carol Comp. Cdr. Jim Baxter presented the Dr. Mary Walker Award to Kathy for her outstanding leadership and service.



Dept. Cdr. Jim Baxter presents the Dr. Mary Walker Award to Kathy Rusk of the Rachel Cormany Auxiliary.

Kathy's award read as follows: "Kathy Rusk joined the Elizabeth Van Lew Auxiliary as a charter member in 2005. She began the process of chartering the Rachel Cormany Auxiliary to INC # 3 in 2007 and was the sole chartering officer. She held the first Organizational meeting of the Auxiliary in 2017 and personally handled the applications for ten women who formed the auxiliary, many of whom are still active. She served as the first Rachel Cormany Auxiliary President and has had that role four times since and served multiple times as Auxiliary Treasurer. She has participated in all Mamorial Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies representing the Rachel Cormany Auxiliary and often conducting part of the program. She instituted the annual program of placing flags on Union graves at Rose Hill Cemetery, which has been done continuously with participation of the SUVCW INC # 3 brothers since 2007. She represented the Rachel Cormany Auxiliary in many Wreaths Across America ceremonies at the Tulsa Perryman Cemetery in support of the SUVCW and placed wreaths on the graves. She originated and coordinated the Rachel Cormany Auxiliary project to fund a tree which was planted on the Living Legacy

‘Hallowed Ground’ pathway for Civil War Veterans from Gettysburg to Monticello”.

Also, the Turner-Williams Award was presented for the first time. It is a Department Award in honor of the late Gene Turner and John Williams. It went to our hard-working, and very efficient, Department Secretary and Past Department Cdr. Dr. William Andrews.



Dept. Cdr. Jim Baxter presents the Tucker-Williams Award to Secretary and PDC Dr. William Andrews.

Indian Nations Camp Cdr. Mike Rusk announced that he was starting up the 1st Regiment, Indian Territory Home Guard unit of the Sons of Veterans Reserve, and would be calling on brothers across the Department to join. It is largely a ceremonial unit which seeks to enhance SUVCW functions by appearing in uniform providing service. He said that he would be contacting members later to urge them to join up.

Among other new business items addressed was a proposal for establishing an Awards Committee, and a recommendation to find a new site for the traditional mid-term Encampment Planning Meeting, which has been held at the Round Mountain Battle Re-enactment. There is no longer a suitable meeting place at the re-enactment to conduct business.

Dept. Treasurer distributed a report on Financial Activity, which showed income of \$1,575.50 and \$1,370.51 in expenses, for a gain of almost \$204 and an ending bank balance of \$1,587.89.

The election of officers went smoothly, without any contests for office. Therefore, all nominees were elected by acclamation.

Dept. Commander	Jesse Walker
Dept. SVC	Craig McKinley
Dept. JVC	Jell Kennedy
Secretary	Dr. William Andrews
Treasurer	Tucker McHugh

Council # 1

Steve Clapp

Andrews, McHugh, and Clapp were re-elected for a succeeding term.



Installation Officer Mark Edwards swears in the Department officers for 2019.

JVC-in-C Brian Pierson was expected to represent the National Organization at the Encampment, but he was attending a Council of Administration meeting. Consequently, this honor was given to PDC Mark Edwards of the Jeremiah Smith Camp.



Indian Nations Camp Cdr. Mike Rusk displays the still active charter of the 1st Regiment, Indian Territory Home Guard at the Encampment as he appeals to the Department membership to join the organization.

Memorial Day Ceremony

Our usual Memorial Day ceremony is being planned by Patriotic Instructor Joe Fears, and will be held at the GAR marker in Rose Hill Cemetery. The event is being planned for 10 o'clock on Memorial Day, Monday, May 27th.

Brother Fears can be counted on to arrange a pleasing ceremony that is appropriate to the occasion.

On the Saturday preceding Memorial Day, the Rachel Cormany Auxiliary will be assembling at Rose Hill Cemetery to distribute grave flags to be placed at each known Union soldier's grave. They urge our brothers to participate in this necessary activity. They will gather on the west side of the entrance at 10 o'clock.

Local authors tell Civil War tales of county drummer boy, 96th Infantry

Chicago Tribune

By Sheryl DeVore

News-Sun, January 15, 2019



Orion Perseus Howe enlisted in the Civil War when he was 12 years old and living in Waukegan, IL.

Orion Perseus Howe was 12 years old and living in Waukegan when he enlisted in the Civil War. At age 14,

he became one of the youngest people to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor after being wounded in the Battle of Vicksburg.

Howe was born in 1848 in Ohio, but in 1852 after his mother died, he, his father William Howe and his new wife along with Orion's younger brother, Lyston Druett Howe, moved to Waukegan.

While living there, Orion Perseus and Lyston Druett Howe joined the 55th Volunteer Infantry Regiment with their father, who served as band leader. Orion enlisted as a drummer boy.

Orion was one of several infantrymen who volunteered to retrieve gun cartridges and was seriously wounded while in the field. He was awarded the Medal of Honor because of his act, and the Waukegan Park District dedicated a statue and memorial plaque to him in 2006.

Drummer boys served a lot of different roles during the Civil War. Part of it was entertainment during the camp, sometimes sounding the beat while marching or sounding certain drum rolls, helping send messages about the battles.

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We are still working on establishing a consistent meeting place in the Tulsa Library System. We know that it's destabilizing to meet at various places from month to month, and sometimes our members go to the wrong place out of habit.

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Camp Calendar

April 25	Camp Meeting – Schusterman Benson Library
May 22	Camp Meeting – to be announced
May 25	Place Grave Flags at Rose Hill Cem.
May 27	Memorial Day Ceremony – Rose Hill
June 27	Camp Meeting – Kaiser Library

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