

THE UNION INFORMER

Monthly Newsletter of the Indian Nations Camp No. 3
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
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Working on the Red River Dam. (Photo from the internet)

August Camp Meeting – The Red River Campaign

The discussion topic for the August camp meeting will be The Red River Campaign. This is a series of battles fought along the Red River in Louisiana in the spring of 1864. This was the largest combined army-navy operation of the war, and the last decisive Confederate victory of the war.

As in the past, each member is asked to brush up on this campaign and come to the meeting prepared to talk about it and pose questions he might have that others might be able to answer. This is your chance to show what you know, and have some fun doing it.

The camp meeting will be held at our usual time (4th Thursday, 6:30 p.m.), but this month the meeting will be at the Schusterman-Benson Library 3333 E. 32nd Place, which is just a block east of Harvard Ave. There

is parking on the north side. The meeting room is on the east side of the library entrance.

July Camp Meeting – Battle of Vicksburg

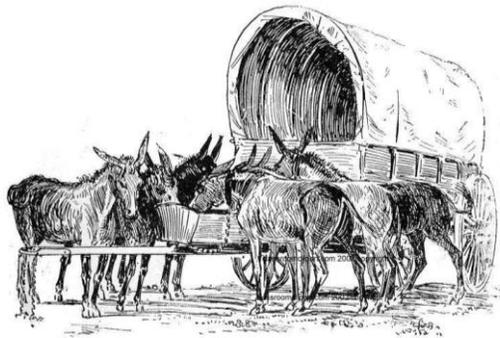
As Brother Rex Griffin pointed out during our discussion of the Battle of Vicksburg, Gen. Grant never ‘took’ Vicksburg. It was surrendered, because his siege had effectively cut off all supplies to the city and its defenders and the population as well as Pemberton’s army were out of food.

Of course, this was precipitated by Grant’s plan to run the gauntlet of Confederate strongpoints on the mighty Mississippi River with supplies and transports for his troops to cross from Louisiana into Mississippi. Also, rather than directly attacking Vicksburg from the south, he sent his troops east to attack Jackson, which was the supply route for Vicksburg and Pemberton’s troops.

Having accomplished his mission at Jackson, he turned to his left and advanced west on Vicksburg, driving the Confederate troops before him and fighting battles at Champion Hill and Black River Bridge en route.

The Confederates had a strong position around the city, on the high ground. Grant's troops had to charge up steep inclines at all points to launch attacks, and suffered heavy casualties in doing so. However, Grant was unwilling to wait for the siege to produce results, had troops available, and was willing to pay the price.

The end was not long in coming, because the city was already almost out of food. Pemberton, having been advised by his superior to abandon Vicksburg while he still had the chance and save his army, chose instead to remain and defend the city. Surrounded and outnumbered, he surrendered his army on July 4, 1863, immediately after Lee lost at Gettysburg.



Possible Camp Activities Explored

During the July camp meeting two possible camp activities were addressed. One was a suggestion that we might organize to have a meal at a local restaurant with the Auxiliary, which can always be counted on to serve the camp. We need to do something to show our appreciation for them.

The second item was to test the water for a picnic similar to the ones we used to have at LaFortune Park. The weather is always hot in the summer months and other activities compete with a picnic time when the weather is less intimidating. Brother Mike McGraw volunteered to cook burgers as he had done previously.

For the time being, no action was concluded on either suggestion. If you have a strong preference for either of these events, or would suggest a different one, please contact the Camp Commander.

Joint Meeting – SUVCW & SCV Camps

You will recall that we invited the local SCV Camp, the Daniel N. McIntosh Camp No. 1378, to come to one of our meetings last year. They came, and were interested enough to invite us to one of their meetings this year. Both camps liked the association.

Todd Cathay, the SCV Camp Commander has inquired about the meeting, and our camp proposed that we meet in September. However, this was not a good time for the SCV camp. Consequently, they proposed that we meet in October. Communicating that information through members who belong to both camps, the October date was accepted. Therefore, we will meet with them at their Hardesty Regional Library meeting place on the 2nd Tuesday of October.

National Encampment Trip Report

By Brother Kevin White

There was so many things to do and learn during my time at the 2018 National Encampment in Framingham, Massachusetts. I hope this report will help you feel like you were there with me as I cover the day by day events.



Photo by Kevin White.

Thursday, August 9, 2018

My plane arrived late Thursday so I only had time to take the \$12 Logan Express Bus from the airport to the bus station in Framingham, MA. At the bus station, the hotel had a courtesy shuttle to pick us up. Once I arrived at the hotel at check in, I was told because I was a rewards member of the Sheraton Hotel [its free to sign up for rewards] that I would be placed on the 6th floor, whereas guests on the 6th floor would have special access for a free breakfast [6 to 9] and a free dinner buffet [5pm to 8pm] all prepared by a special team of chefs. Wow, I had never experienced anything like that. I thought reward benefits were only for points to get a free room.

Once I ate and got my Credentials for the Encampment, the bus was ready to leave for Lynn, MA for the GAR Museum Tour & Dinner. Before we got on the bus, we were told an old poem about Lynn, MA "LYNN LYNN THE CITY OF SIN YOU NEVER COME OUT THE WAY YOU WENT IN". The tour and meal was only \$15, which was surprising since most of the tours in the past run about \$60. We had 2 buses going to this event [took an hour of travel]. I happened to be on the bus that carried the band, and they played their instruments and sang songs. It was enjoyable. They were at the back of the bus, so it was not that loud. We ate a 3 course meal at the Masonic Lodge and then walked around the corner to see the GAR Museum. The Department of Mass. even arranged to have police there to ensure our safety. We returned back at the hotel about 10:15pm.

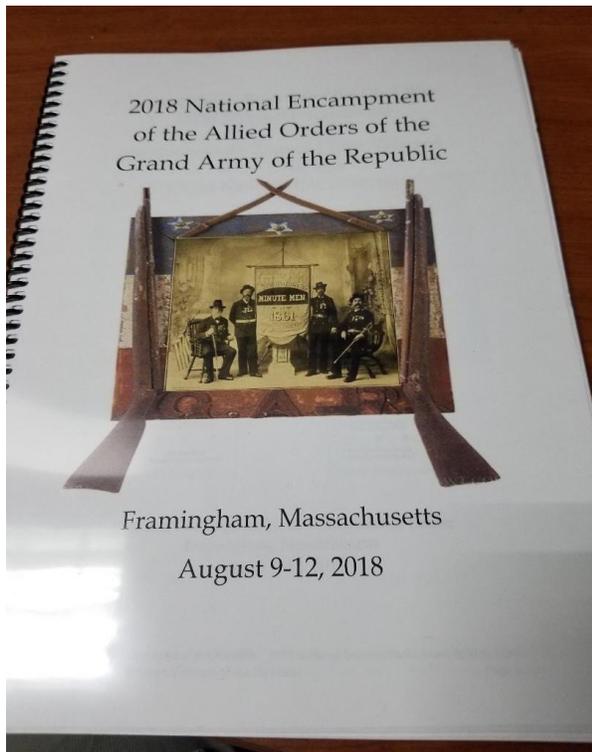


Photo by Kevin White.

Friday, August 10, 2018

I had registered Thursday for the Encampment. After attending the beginning of Friday's business meeting, I was off to see the sights and sounds of Boston. I took the hotel shuttle to the Framingham Bus Station, purchased a round trip bus ticket for \$22 to the airport, took a bus to the Old Town Trolley tour and then met up with Wendy [a childhood friend of my neighbor in Muskogee. She was born in MA, but went to grade school in Muskogee and now lives 10 miles from Boston]. I invited her to eat the free meal at the hotel

and to the Campfire entertainment and to the Courtesy Hour, in which the outgoing CIC [Commander in Chief, Mark R Day] and the auxiliary would receive gifts from each state. The Department of Oklahoma gave some funny gifts like vitamins for men over 50, I arranged with the mayor of Muskogee to sign a certificate proclaiming Mark R Day as an *Okie From Muskogee*. Brian Pierson brought some food of Oklahoma and some rope, which he had the auxiliary president use to tie up Mark Day as he sat in the chair on stage. Amazingly, she did it, and the room was filled with laughter and fun. After that Wendy and I traveled to the Elks Lodge and Eagles Lodge [both in Framingham], since I'm a member of both. People at both places were great. They joked with me about my Oklahoma accent.

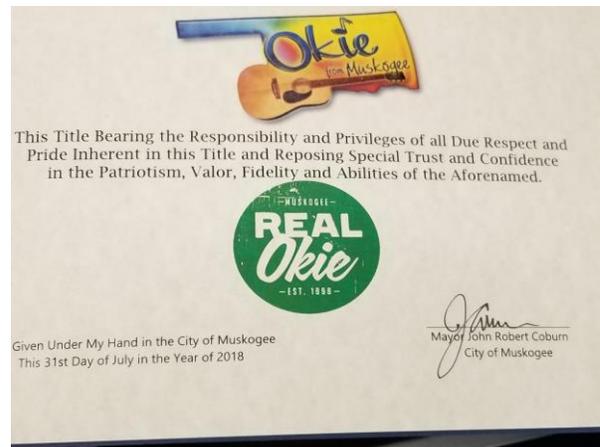


Photo by Kevin White.



Gen. Landers GAR Post 5.
Photo by Kevin White.

Saturday, August 11, 2018

The business meeting started at 9:30 but I just could not get up and around till 10. Only one of the offices had competition, the Council of Administration

between Harry W Reineke [Department of Illinois] and Bruce Frail [Dept. of Rhode Island]. Bruce Frail won by only 4 votes [The Department of Oklahoma voted for Harry Reineke]. The new Commander in Chief is Donald W Shaw; Sr. Vise CIC: Ed Norris; Jr Vise CIC Brian C Pierson. The business meeting closed approx. 3pm and the Allied Orders Banquet was from 7pm to about 10pm. The Department of Massachusetts really out did themselves for this and everything seemed to run smoothly.



Allied Orders scene at the Encampment.
Photo by Kevin White.

Camp Business

Cdr. Rusk reports that the camp has 19 members in good standing. And we're always looking for more!!

He has also filed the required annual Form 990-N with the Internal Revenue Service, which maintains our good standing with the National Organization, retains our 501 3 (c) status as a charitable organization and provides for tax deductible contributions.

We are also current in filing all our reports to the Department of Oklahoma, and payment of all member dues for the year.

Commander's Dispatch

The American Legion is a national level organization for veterans whose mission is support for the US military and veterans'- needs. The National Commander of the American Legion is Denise H. Rohan. It is good for us to be aware of the American Legion and its founding by American officers in the aftermath of World War 1. According to the American Legion magazine "The Grand Army of the Republic and the United Confederate Veterans emerged after the Civil War. Aspects of each group, like the GAR's organizational model and the massive convention parades of the UCV would later serve as examples for the American Legion. Former GAR and UCV halls,

event traditions, records of war dead and memorabilia were turned over to Legion posts in many communities. The Civil War associations were designed to disappear when the last of their war's veterans died in the mid-1950s."

As Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War we have ties to other veteran and military support groups in our communities. Some of our camp members are members of the local Tulsa American Legion post, Carson, Wilson, Rigney, Forrester and Shoemaker Post #1.

Remember that our camp meeting will be at the Schusterman Library this month instead of Kaiser. We will also be at Schusterman for our September meeting which will hopefully be a joint meeting with our Auxiliary.



Cdr. Mike Rusk pins an SUVCW membership badge on Brother Charles Walker at the July camp meeting.



Camp Calendar

August 23	Camp Meeting – Schusterman Library
September 27	Camp Meeting – Schusterman Library
October 9	Joint Camp Meeting with SCV Hardesty Regional Library

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