

THE UNION INFORMER

Monthly Newsletter of the Indian Nations Camp No. 3
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
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Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War members from the Indian Nations Camp No. 3 and the Sgt. Jacob Overturf Camp No. 4 attending the Remembrance Day ceremony at Rose Hill Cemetery on November 18: Brothers Mike Gates, DC Clint Anderson, Joe Fears, Scott Preston, Rex Griffin, Mike Rusk, Bob Wilkerson, and Carl Fallen.

December Camp Meeting

This will be our final camp meeting of the year, and we have some important business to discuss, so please plan to be there. The meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Oak Room of the Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd, which is different from last month. (There may be congestion from road work in the area.)

Department Commander Clint Anderson has been asked to conduct the camp meeting this month, since Brother Rusk's involved in pressing personal business.



October Camp Meeting

Brothers Rusk, Fallen, Fears, Gates, Wilkerson, and Anderson attended.

We were pleased to have Life Member Ernest Blevins join us for our October meeting. He is a member of Kennesaw Mountain Camp No. 2 of the Georgia and South Carolina Department. Ernest said he happened to be working in our area and wanted to visit us.

Dept. Cdr. Clint Anderson presented an interesting program on the Andersonville Prison, which he and his family had recently visited. Clint also talked about seeing the original White House of the Confederacy (before the one in Richmond), now a museum, adjacent to the Alabama state Capitol building. Clint had an ancestor who was captured on the first day of the Battle of Gettysburg and was unfortunate enough to be taken to the notorious Andersonville Prison in Georgia. He survived over a year in captivity there before being released with all the other prisoners at the end of the war.

Clint's presentation also included photos of the rooms inside the Confederate White House, the Jefferson Davis family bible (which has quite a history in itself) and the display of several examples of original Confederate paper currency, which he passed around for our examination.

Among the photos of the prison, past and present, were the rows upon rows of closely-spaced government headstones marking the graves of Union soldiers who died at the prison while being held there. He said that on average, 50 died each day. The prison's outer walls were timbers about 15 feet high with a deadline 19 feet inside that marking the boundary beyond which prisoners would be shot without warning upon their encroachment.



A portion of the Andersonville Prison showing its composition and proportions. This is the prison gate where incoming prisoners were processed. The highest structure in the corner (right) is a 'pigeon roost' guard post. (dp Sager Photography)

Andersonville Prison covered approximately 16 acres of land, but was later enlarged to 26 acres. It was only in operation for fourteen months. During that time, 45,000 Union soldiers were imprisoned there. Nearly 13,000 of them died from disease, exposure, poor sanitation, malnutrition, or overcrowding. That's almost one in three. A few were murdered by their fellow prisoners.

The suffering and high mortality rate is attributed to the Confederate government's inability to supply the prisoners with adequate shelter, food, clothing, or medical care.

Intended for a population of 10,000, the prison reached its highest level of 33,000 in August of 1864. When Sherman occupied Atlanta the next month, most of the prisoners were moved to other locations to avoid the cavalry troops within easy striking distance.

After the war, a project was initiated to identify and mark the graves of the Union dead. That led to its transformation into the Andersonville National Cemetery.



A portion of the Andersonville Cemetery. (Photo by Clint Anderson)

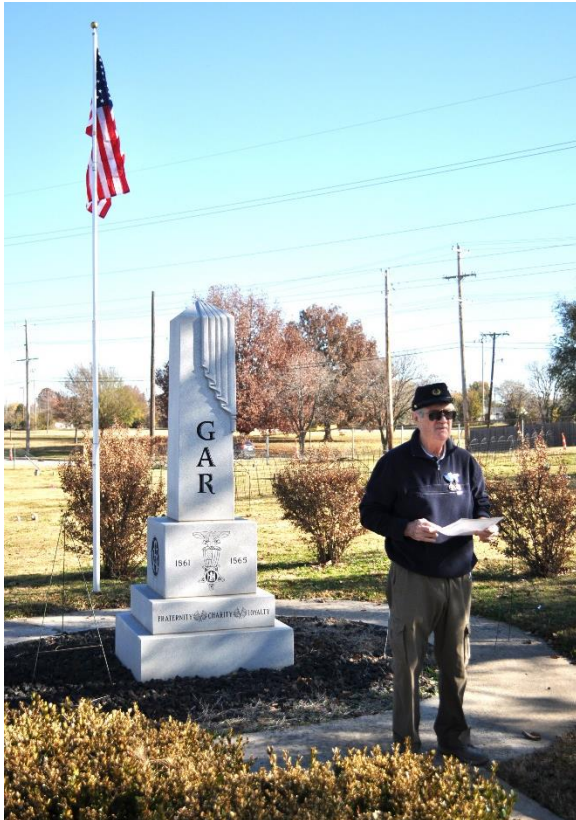
Camp Business

The status of the proposed camp night out at a restaurant has been dropped for lack of a proper site. This seemed to be a more popular choice than a cookout at a city park. However, Cdr. Rusk reports that the search for a suitable venue at a local restaurant led to its demise. This was envisioned to be a night when our families could get together to socialize and enjoy a meal together.

The Nominating Committee presented its recommended slate of officers at the October camp meeting, but it was augmented by nominations from the floor. A vote was taken on the slate at the meeting, with unanimous approval. Following the meeting, a ballot was emailed to the camp members for them to also vote on the unopposed candidates, and sufficient votes were received back from those who didn't attend the meeting to make the elections official. The new officers for the year 2024 are:

Camp Commander	Joe Fears, PDC
Senior Vice Cdr.	Mike Gates
Junior Vice Cdr.	Bob Wilkerson
Secretary	Rex Griffin, PDC
Treasurer	Carl Fallen, PDC
Camp Council Member	Mike Rusk, PDC

These officers will be installed at the January 25 camp meeting as we look forward to getting back on track for a normal camp operation with a full complement of camp officers.



Cdr. Mike Rusk opens the Remembrance Day Ceremony at Rose Hill Cemetery. (Photos by Carl Fallen)

Remembrance Day preparations were in progress for a ceremony which was conducted on Saturday, Nov. 18

at 10 a.m. The mild, sunny weather was ideal. Rachel Cormany Auxiliary No. 2 Chaplain Carol Cox began the proceedings with the Invocation. Cdr. Rusk presided. Brother Rex Griffin recited Lincoln's Gettysburg Address. Wreaths were presented by Camps Indian Nations and Sgt. Jacob Overturf and by the Rachel Cormany Auxiliary No. 2.



Principal Speaker Joe Fears delivers his patriotic message.

Brother Joe Fears, as the principal speaker, gave the patriotic speech. Lori Cooper provided carnations to be laid at the base of the GAR monument as the attendees individually came forth and paid tribute to their Union soldier ancestors.

Cdr. Rusk reports that our camp's possible involvement in the leadership for the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Perryman Cemetery will not be further pursued this year.

Camp dues notices are expected to be emailed later this month.

Kathy Huber Joins the DUVCW

The Allied Orders received a local boost when Kathy Huber located a Union ancestor and joined the

Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War. A long-time supporter of Civil War history and manager of the Tulsa City County Genealogy Center on the second floor of Hardesty Library, Kathy has been a resource for us when we needed presentations on how to research civil war ancestors. She conducts a multi-day annual genealogy tutorial at the Hardesty Library with expert speakers on genealogy topics from around the country. Attendance is free to the public.

These genealogy sessions are a wonderful free source of information and tips on how to correctly and efficiently perform your research activities. Often, those of us who conduct genealogy research without the proper background, fail to perform some of the basic documentation chores that make it reliable, particularly for those who come after us. Along with accurate and reliable sources of data, useful computer software is also covered. Noted speakers present programs on various genealogy topics in which they are recognized as experts. These programs are presented annually over a period of several days.



Kathy Huber, new DUVCW member.
(Photo by Carl Fallen)

Long associated with Confederate heritage organizations, Kathy was delighted when she recently discovered a Union ancestor she didn't know about, which led to her membership in the DUVCW. Attending our Remembrance Day ceremony this year,

she joined in our remembrance of ancestors by placing a carnation at the base of the GAR monument. Welcome, Kathy!



On Remembrance Day, Kathy Rusk and Clint Anderson read the names of Union Soldiers buried at Rose Hill.



PDC Rex Griffin delivers Lincoln's Gettysburg Address from memory. (Rex and Joe Fears are both dual members of the Indian Nations and Overturf camps.)



More photos from the Andersonville National Historic Site: Water source for the prisoners.



Individuals attending events hosted by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, by virtue of their attendance, agree to the usage of their likeness in the Banner, any Camp or Department Newsletter, any SUVCW website and/or on any SUVCW Social Media outlet, promotional brochures, or any other SUVCW material.

Early Preparations for the OK Department Encampment 2024

Dept. Cdr. Clint Anderson reports that the National Organization has pressed for the dates of next year's Department Encampments. Clint stated, "I reached out to Adam at Honey Springs requesting the Visitors Center. I requested Saturday, May 4th for the event. I also sent a request to the Tulsa library for a room on Saturday, March 30th for the planning meeting."

We have used the Honey Springs Visitors Center for the past two encampments. It's free to us, has the right size meeting room, has cooperative management, and we're welcome there. It offers the benefit of being between the eastern and western parts of the Department and thereby reducing travel distances.

One thing that won't be the same next year is the work formerly performed by our super Department Secretary, Dr. William Andrews. Brother Bill resigned his posts (Secretary, Chaplain, and others) due to his relocation. We are accustomed to the Secretary's function being performed at a scale that we can't expect to be duplicated by his replacement.

We should all wish Bill success in the future, and welcome him back for a visit whenever he might be able to do so. Bill, we salute you!

Camp Calendar



- Dec. 7 Indian Nations Camp Meeting
Oak Room, Hardesty Regional Library
- Dec. 16 Wreaths Across America 11 a.m.
Memorial Park Cemetery (NSDAR)
- Jan. 25 Indian Nations Camp meeting
Location to be announced
- Feb. 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- Mar. 30 Dept. Planning Meeting
Hardesty Regional Library - Tulsa

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Camp Website:

<http://indiannationscamp3-suvcw.weebly.com>

Webmaster: Terri Walker – National Auxiliary to the SUVCW