

THE UNION INFORMER

Monthly Newsletter of the Indian Nations Camp No. 3
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Tulsa, Oklahoma

VOLUME 26 NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2024



Entrenched along the west bank of the Rappahannock River at Fredericksburg, Virginia, these Union soldiers were about to take part in the pivotal Battle of Chancellorsville, beginning on April 30, 1863. A. J. Russell/National Archives

January Camp Meeting

After a long layoff, we will gather again at the Hardesty Regional Library for our 1st camp meeting of the new year. As required, our officers will be installed, and Dept. Cdr. Clint Anderson will be in charge of that duty. No information available at this time as to a planned program, or who the speaker might be.

Let's begin the new year with a strong showing of support. Everyone is strongly encouraged to attend.



Camp Newsletter Turns 25 Years Old

Our camp newsletter, has completed 25 years of monthly publications during which the camp held a regular camp meeting. The editor has a digital record of those issues of which we surely can take some pride. It represents a body of work over the years, and hopefully has furnished a little 'glue' to keep our camp together over that time, as well as providing current information about camp business, activities, and related events for those members who are unable to attend regular camp meetings. Members of the allied orders and other camps in the department have asked to be included in our monthly distribution. More recently, even wider distribution was requested. Now, key members in the other camps are forwarding *The Union Informer* newsletter to the other members of their respective camps.

Until recent years, a printed copy of the newsletter was mailed to those camp members who did not have email service, but since everybody now seems to have email, the entire distribution is through that means.

As a camp publication, Brothers are encouraged to take an active part by furnishing articles to be included in it under their own name, or simply furnishing information as a basis for one. We aim to help keep alive the memory of our ancestors, and what they did.

Our unstated objective is to present a mix of camp news and business with a portion of the space devoted to Civil War history. Published two days before our camp meeting, it is intended to be a reminder of our meeting the following Thursday. A key feature is also to provide a calendar of events in the near future along with their locations.

The first newsletter was a one or two pager begun by a charter member, but it lasted only about a year, before being discontinued. It was succeeded by *The Union Informer*, which has carried the flag ever since.

Union Ancestor of Jesse Virgil Walker, PDC
Ancestor: Pvt. Henson Casey,
1st Arkansas Infantry

Camp Business

Camp dues notices are expected to be emailed later this month. If you haven't received an email dues

statement, you can expect one shortly. Dues this year are the same amount as last year: \$35 and are payable now. All dues collected are expected to be in the hands of the Camp Treasurer by the end of February. The treasurer for 2024 will be PDC Carl Fallen after being sworn in at this month's camp meeting. You may bring your dues payment to camp meeting Thursday, or mail a check to:

Carl Fallen
6120 E. 76th Street
Tulsa, OK 74136

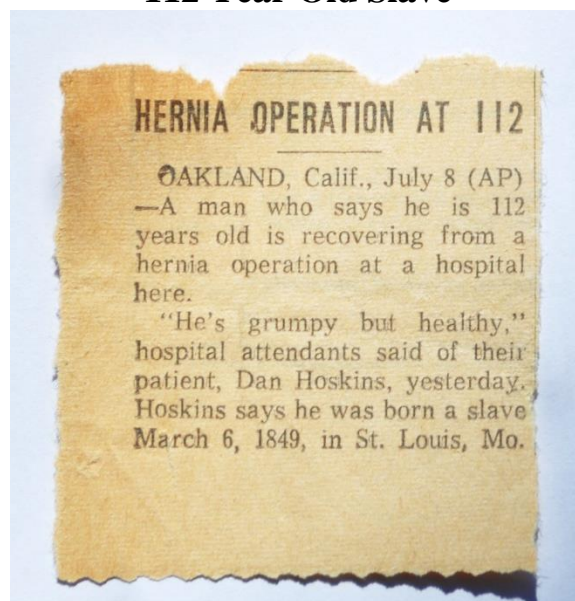


Individuals attending events hosted by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, by virtue of their attendance, agree to the usage of their likeness in the Banner, any Camp or Department Newsletter, any SUVCW website and/or on any SUVCW Social Media outlet, promotional brochures, or any other SUVCW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

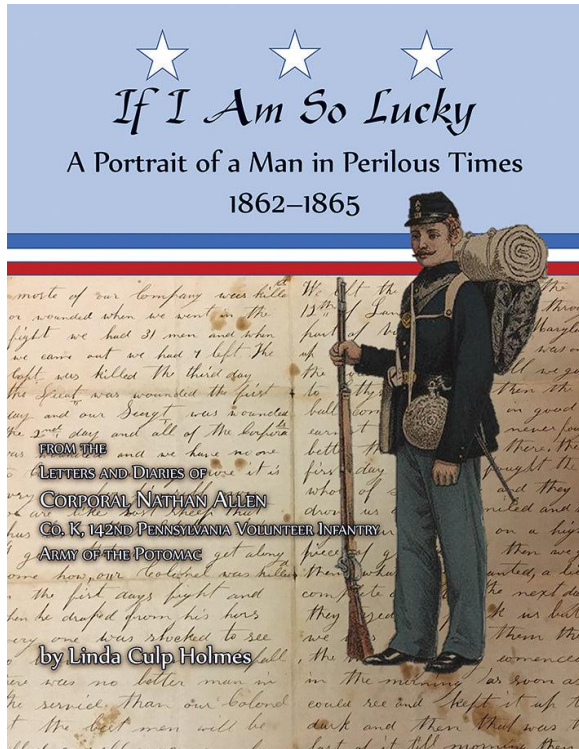
The Rebel Yell

First heard at the Bull Run, it was one of the most effective Confederate weapons. Described as a high-pitched shout and supposed by some to be a variation of the Southern fox hunters' cry, it invariably produced an eerie feeling within the enemy lines, although there is no record that the Yankees ever turned tail upon hearing it.

112 Year Old Slave



Newspaper clipping from 1961 found in an old book.



If I Am So Lucky: A Portrait of a Man in Perilous Times, 1862-1865
\$40.00

From the Letters and Diaries of Corporal Nathan Allen, Co. K, 142nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Army of the Potomac

In his 29 months in the Union Army, Nathan Allen managed to write more than 120 letters to 36 different people under the direst circumstances. Of these 120, 52 letters along with two diaries survived. In an effort to save their content from the ravages of time, the author began to transcribe them, thinking that Nathan’s own words would be sufficient to tell his story. Along the way, however, the transcription became a research project — and a journey that begged to be shared.

In this book, the author interprets Nathan’s words, identifies the complex network of his friends and relatives that were impacted by the conflict, and analyzes his activities and what he thought about them in the context of history. From this thematic approach,

a real human being emerges putting a face and a name to one of the most tragic periods in American history.

While Nathan’s writing is not polished and eloquent, his voice is, nevertheless, loud and clear. His words show a man who did not analyze the strategies of war, but who cared about the reasons for fighting; a man who did not criticize his superiors’ motives, but cared deeply about their well-being; and a man who put the value of family, friends, and colleagues as high as his own life.

Nathan was like so many in the Civil War, just a young man who accepted the call to fight for what he perceived to be a noble cause, did his duty, and never complained — and paid the ultimate price when he died from battle wounds only two months before the end of the war.

Statistically, he was indeed an average soldier. And yet, he was more than that. Nathan’s letters and diaries and the research into the details behind his words can tell his unique story. He bared his hopes, dreams, beliefs, fears, obsessions, and flaws for all to see. What becomes the crux of Nathan Allen’s letters and diaries is what we learn about him. The man, not the soldier and not the statistic, becomes the message.

Visuals included with the text are from several sources. Many are taken from Harper’s Weekly of the Civil War period showing artist renditions of scenes relevant to Nathan’s life in the army. Hal Jespersen’s battlefield maps show the position of Nathan’s regiment in the battles in which he participates. The author has also included recreated newspaper articles of the period, photos of commanding officers and other people, and charts relevant to Nathan’s experience.

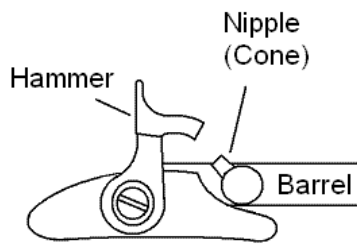
Three appendices (Pennsylvania and Virginia Maps, Allen-Bronson Family Tree, and Original Letters and Diary Entries), a list of works cited and consulted, and an index to full names, places and subjects add to the value of this work.

Linda Culp Holmes
 2023, 8½x11, paper, index, 276 pp

Percussion Caps

Percussion caps are described as small metal covers, inlaid with detonating powder, and placed on the nipple of a rifle or revolver. The hammer, striking on the outer surface of the cap causes the powder to explode and ignite the charge. Although invented by

the Scottish clergyman, Rev. Alexander John Forsyth, in 1805, they were not used on military weapons until about 30 years later.



The caplock mechanism consists of a hammer and a nipple (sometimes referred to as a cone). The nipple contains a hollow conduit which goes into the rearmost part of the gun barrel, and the percussion cap is placed over the nipple hole. Pulling the trigger releases the hammer, which strikes the percussion cap against the nipple (which serves as an anvil), crushes it and detonates the mercury fulminate inside, which releases sparks that travel through the hollow nipple into the barrel and ignite the main powder charge.

The easier to use percussion caps replaced the earlier flintlock ignition systems, offering improved reliability, particularly when weather conditions were poor.

The Tune “Dixie”

One of the most distinctively Southern musical products of the 19th century, this popular song, apparently originated in early La. There in a predominantly French area, the French word for ten, “dix,” was printed on the ten-dollar bills. Louisiana became then to be known as Dix’s Land, and changed slightly to Dixie, this took in the entire South. A better theory is that Dixie comes from Mason and Dixon Line. Daniel D Emmett, the famous minstrel, composed the song and first sang it in New York in 1859, although others also claim credit for it. His delayed copyright also weakens his claim. The tune was an immediate success and quickly adopted by the South. It was first used by the Confederates on 18 February, 1861, when a march arrangement was played at Jefferson Davis’ inauguration in Montgomery. There are many versions of the words for it, but the most popular are the original version. Interestingly, the tune was originally played as a slower pace than it is usually played today.

Some have claimed that Dixie was Pres. Lincoln’s favorite song. However, the Lincoln Financial Institute states, “Lincoln was not particularly musical, but when a band serenaded him in the White House at

the end of the Civil War, he asked the musicians to play “Dixie” saying, “I have always thought Dixie one of the best tunes I have ever heard. Our adversaries over the way attempted to appropriate it, but I insisted yesterday that we fairly captured it....I now request the band to favor me with its performance.” (April 10, 1865)



Camp Calendar



- Jan. 25 Indian Nations Camp meeting
Hardesty Regional Library
- Feb. 12 Lincoln’s Birthday
- Feb. 22 Indian Nations Camp Meeting
Location to be announced
- Mar. 28 Indian Nations Camp Meeting
Location to be announced
- Mar. 30 Dept. Planning Meeting
Hardesty Regional Library - Tulsa

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Camp Website:

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

Webmaster: Terri Walker – National Auxiliary to the SUVCW