

# THE UNION INFORMER

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

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Indian Nations Camp meeting at Kaiser Library, 5202 South Hudson Avenue, Tulsa. Participating in the discussion are Brothers Charlie Walker, Mike McGraw, Kevin White, Jesse Walker, Rex Griffin, Joe Fears, Mike Gates, and Cdr. Mike Rusk. (Photo by Carl Fallen)

## June Camp Meeting – Battle of Prairie Grove

Our very knowledgeable Brother Joe Fears has been designated to lead this month's camp meeting discussion on the Battle of Prairie Grove, AR. We have reservations for the meeting room at Kaiser Library for at least this month and next month. The meeting will convene at the usual time: 6:30 p.m.

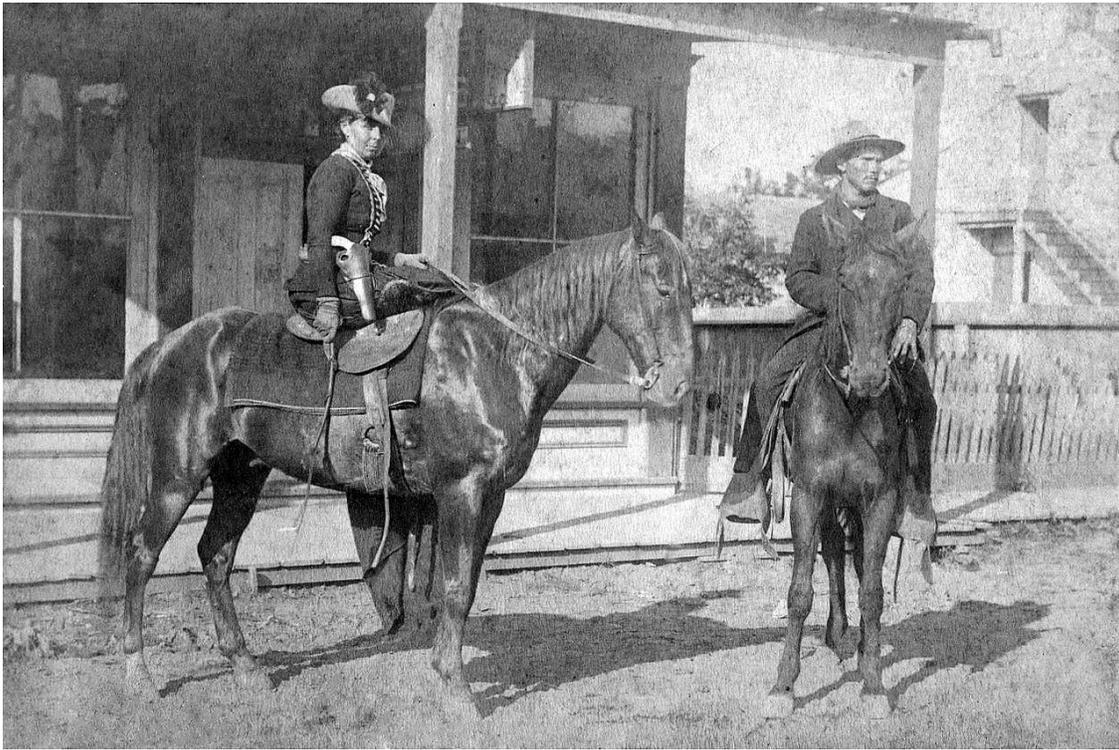
Everyone is encouraged to read about the battle and come to meeting prepared to contribute to the discussion. This subject is another battle that took

place in close proximity to Tulsa, and one we should be well acquainted with. It was fought to almost a draw, but it helped shape the rest of the war in this part of the country. The Battle of Prairie Grove is re-enacted every other year.

## May Camp Meeting – Battle of Carthage, MO

Last month's camp meeting discussion topic was the Battle of Carthage, MO. We had a good turnout for the meeting, and had a meaningful discussion. It was good

to see everybody participating. Cdr. Rusk brought one of his books on the subject.



**Belle Star at Fort Smith, AR in 1886. (Photo from the internet.)**



**(Photo from the Internet.)**

An interesting sidelight is that during the battle the county courthouse in Carthage was pressed into service as a hospital for the wounded, and the young daughter of a Carthage innkeeper was one of the nurses. This was the person who would later become known as the infamous Belle Star. After the war, she became associated with Cole Younger, a member of the Jesse James gang. She subsequently turned to a life of crime settling in Indian Territory. The “Bandit Queen” was eventually gunned down by an unknown assassin, receiving two shotgun blasts to the back. No one was ever convicted for the murder.

Also, one of the Confederate officers of the battle, General William Y. Slack of the Missouri State Guard, was later killed in the Battle of Pea Ridge, and lies in the Confederate Cemetery in Fayetteville, AR with many other Confederate soldiers. He fought in the Battle of Springfield and at Wilson’s Creek, where he was wounded. He was among the leading citizens who raised funds for what later became the University of Missouri. His commander at Pea Ridge, Sterling Price, deemed Slack as one of “my best and bravest officers.”



Cdr. Rusk welcomes new Brother Charles Walker to the Indian Nations Camp upon approval of his membership application. (Photo by Carl Fallen)

## Charles Walker is Newest Camp Member

Following up last month's camp meeting Charlie Walker brought his membership application and fee to this month's meeting and became our newest member. We're glad to have Charlie with us and look forward to our association with him in the future. Some time ago, Charlie fell from a ladder and badly injured his leg and ankle. As so often happens, arthritis has set in and the doctors say they can't do anything to help him.



Cdr. Rusk presides at the May camp meeting. You can see from the book on his table that he came prepared to talk about the battle. (Photo by Carl Fallen)

## National Encampment -2018 Framingham, MA

PCC Kevin White will represent the Indian Nations Camp at the National Encampment in Framingham, MA in August. Although it's not too late to make arrangements, only one other member of the Oklahoma Department is known to be attending, and that is Brian Pierson, who is a National officer and a member of the Jeremiah Smith Camp in OKC.

We understand that the 2019 National Encampment will be held in Branson, MO. We can't confirm that from the SUVCW website, but if that happens, we should all attend. There are plenty of things for the wives to do while the men are confined to meetings, and it's much closer than just about any other recent encampment locations. Every member should attend at least one National Encampment.

## Memorial Day Ceremony



Indian Nations Camp Patriotic Instructor, Joe Fears, addresses the gathering at Oaklawn Cemetery for the Memorial Day observance. (Photo by Carl Fallen)



**Cdr. Mike Rusk delivers an outstanding principal address at the Oaklawn Memorial Day ceremony. (Photo by Carl Fallen)**

Assembling at the downtown Oaklawn Cemetery at 10 a.m. on Memorial Day, the Indian Nations Camp Patriotic Instructor, Joe Fears, conducted the annual ceremony to honor GAR Veterans. Also taking part were Rachel Cormany Auxiliary # 2 sisters, the Sgt. Jacob Overturf Camp # 4, and OK Dept. Cdr. Jim Baxter.

Cdr. Mike Rusk, as the principal speaker, gave an excellent presentation that was well received. As usual, Terri Walker and Mike McGraw read the names of the Union soldiers buried at Oaklawn, and bugler Josh Payton, Bugler's Across America, played TAPS.

## **FLAGS AT ROSE HILL**

At 10 a.m., on Saturday before Memorial Day, the Rachel Cormany Auxiliary met at the Rose Hill Cemetery to distribute American flags to all the known Union Soldier graves there. This is an annual practice. The Auxiliary came with a supply of grave flags tagged as their property, clipboards, pencils, and maps of the cemetery and locations of the graves within their

various sections. Also provided were metal shafts with which to penetrate the hard ground and make holes for the flag staffs. Among the Auxiliary sisters were: Kathy Rusk; Lori Cooper; and Terri Walker.

Several Indian Nations Camp brothers joined with the Auxiliary to complete the job: Cdr. Mike Rusk; Jesse Walker; and Carl Fallen.

Editor's note: Sadly, a group photo turned out to be a bust – robbing us of a visual record of the group.



**Bugler Josh Payton blows Taps to conclude the Memorial Day ceremony at Oaklawn Cemetery. (Photo by Carl Fallen)**



## **Camp Calendar**

June 28	Camp Meeting – Kaiser Library
July 26	Camp Meeting – Kaiser Library
Aug 9-12	National Encampment – MA

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## **Commander's Dispatch**

Thanks to all camp members and Auxiliary sisters who attended our Memorial Day service at Oaklawn cemetery this year. We had a good turnout and the service itself was short but very meaningful. Special thanks to Patriotic Instructor Joe Fears, PDC, for putting this program together. Recognition of Memorial Day is a prime directive for all camps in the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War directly from our national organization and everyone who took part did well to carry out this order. As Camp Commander I was pleased with the presence of brothers from Sgt Jacob Overturf camp and the Rachel Cormany Auxiliary and with the turnout from our Indian Nations Camp. Department Commander Burgess's presence was most appreciated.

One thing I noticed is that this was the first patriotic observance held by our camp in my 17 years with the SUVCW that I did not see many Union uniforms. There may have been one somewhere but

most of us seem to wear civilian attire or the traditional blue Oblazers. There is no dress code for our camp but I want to stress the importance of camp members at least wearing their membership badge at all SUVCW activities. We should be proud to wear the badge of our order and it makes a nice statement to visitors who see it being worn.

## **Rachel Cormany Auxiliary News**

The Auxiliary met on Thursday, June 21, 2018 at the Schusterman Library and discussed the Battle of Vicksburg. Sister Connie Rowe presented a two part program about the battle from the viewpoint of three children who were present for the fighting. In other news President Lori Cooper asked the ladies to be thinking of officers for the coming year. The Auxiliary will meet again in September 2018 at the Schusterman Library.