

THE UNION INFORMER

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

VOLUME 21 NUMBER 6

JUNE 2019



This photograph by Andrew Gardner depicts the staff of Brigadier General Andrew Porter in 1862. George Custer (of the Battle of Little Bighorn fame) is shown reclining next to a dog on the right. (Colorized by Reddit)

June Camp Meeting

Again this month, we will return to a meeting format of a discussion topic. Brothers Mike Rusk and Rex Griffin will lead a discussion of Major General William S. Rosecrans – “Old Rosey,” as he was affectionately known.

Members are asked to research the General’s past service to the GAR, and come to the camp meeting ready to contribute to the discussion. It shouldn’t be difficult to find sufficient material on this subject. The meeting will be held at the Helmerich Library beginning at 6:30 on June 27th.

May Camp Meeting

Last month, our speaker was Cdr. Mike Rusk. His topic was “On Both Sides of the Line.” His presentation was based primarily on a diary kept by Fannie (Oslin) Jackson during the Battle of Chickamauga. Mike particularly likes diary material, because it gives a first-hand view of the war by someone experiencing the effects of the war at the time.

Mike was able to track down one of the last copies of the book published later in the author’s life (1835 – 1928), which included material and opinions added years after the war. She served as a Union Army Nurse.

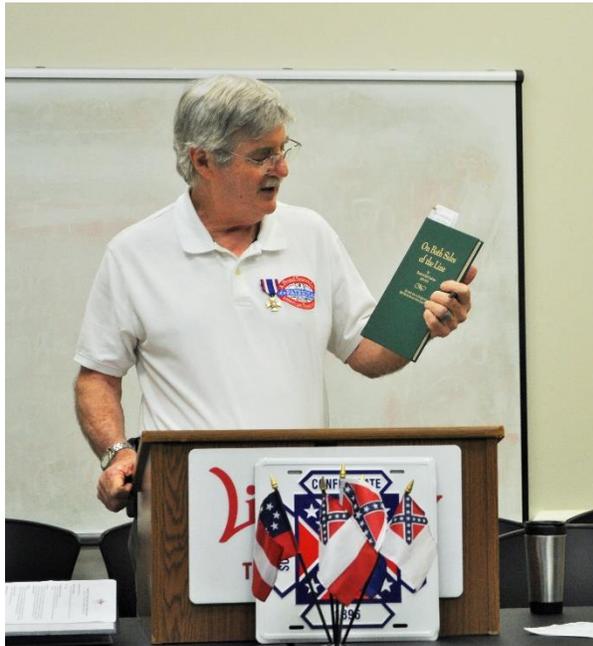
In October 1863, Fannie states in one passage, “That night we camped at Lee and Gordon’s Mills, on Chickamauga Creek, near the edge of the battlefield. We slept in a barn and in the morning I went to the creek to get water to make our coffee. As I went to dip the

water from a little rill running down the hill, I saw that it was running over the dead body of a soldier who had been buried behind a breastwork...I did not get my water there.

“It is a disgrace to a civilized people that the dead were left so long unburied as at Chickamauga.”

On May 8, 1861, a diary entry states, “...then I saw a union cavalry man coming up the hill toward me and then another and then another in single file, all with pistols hand cocked to shoot.

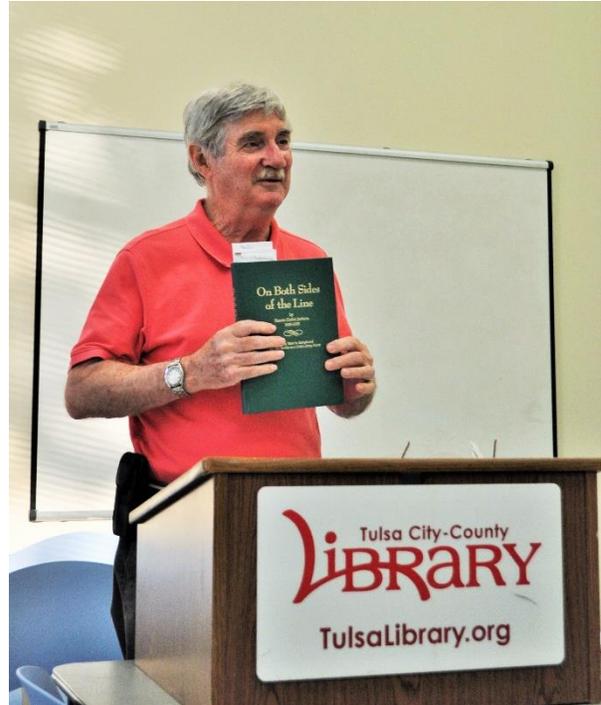
“Are there any Rebel soldiers about the house?” I answered, “No.” Then why did I have shoes on the mule? How long since I had seen any Rebel soldiers? Where was my husband? Was he an officer? How large a force was there at Resaca? All these questions I answered to the best of my knowledge.”



Cdr. Mike Rusk holds a copy of a book by diarist Fannie (Oslin) Jackson as he makes his presentation to Col. Daniel N. McIntosh Camp, SCV on May 14, 2019.

Brother Rusk was invited to first give his presentation to the Sons of Confederate Veterans, which he did on May 14. His talk was well received, and he got a warm round of applause afterward. There is little doubt that he will be invited back.

Camp McIntosh is also a small camp, although larger than the Indian Nations camp. Like us, they also find it a challenge to find a variety of speakers willing to speak to a small group on a Civil War topic.



Commander Rusk gives his presentation to our Indian Nations Camp.

Memorial Day Ceremony



Brother Joe Fears welcomes attendees at the Rose Hill Memorial Day Ceremony.

Patriotic Instructor Joe Fears organized and conducted our annual Memorial Day Ceremony, which was held at our GAR Monument in the Rose Hill Cemetery on Monday, May 27th. There was a light turnout on a very, very windy day, but this is an important camp event each

year, and certain people make a point to attend. We appreciate their interest and support. This annual event honors our Union ancestors as well as their comrades in arms, and it's good to see people attend the ceremony.



Dept. Cdr. Jesse Walker addresses the group at the Memorial Day Ceremony.

Several people took part in the ceremony: Brother Fears gave the welcome and made his introductory remarks. Dept. Cdr. Jesse Walker spoke briefly, followed by Carl Fallen, who gave the talk on Patriotism. Kathy Rusk and Lori Cooper of the Rachel Cormany Auxiliary read the names of the Union veterans interred at Rose Hill.

Wreaths were presented by Carl Fallen for the Indian Nations Camp, Lori Cooper for the Rachel Cormany Auxiliary, and Johnny Manley for the Sgt. Jacob Overturf Camp.

Everyone was invited to individually place a red carnation in a basket at the base of the monument in a salute to his or her Union ancestor as they called out his rank, name, and unit designation.

Loni Cooper gave the opening and closing prayers, and a bugler played Taps to end the ceremony.

We are fortunate to have such a nice monument in the veterans section of the cemetery from which to conduct

events such as this, and we owe much to the efforts of the late Brother Gene Turner for his hard and persistent work to get this monument erected. He would not be denied.



Brother Carl Fallen gives the Patriotic speech at the Memorial Day Ceremony.

Brother Fallen's patriotic speech drew on quotes from several U.S. presidents during their Memorial Day addresses, and two overriding events in our history which brought citizens together like no other: the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941; and the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. He expounded on how these two events affected ordinary people, and how practically everyone pitched in to win World War II, which has been quite different in the years that have followed.

Too often, in wars since World War II, it has been largely only the soldiers and their families who have paid the price of war, with little sacrifice being asked of those not directly involved. While it has always been easy enough for the wealthy to avoid the draft (as we have seen in recent U.S. presidents), after the draft was eliminated, it has been entirely possible for citizens to escape involvement in the nation's wars.



Kathy Rusk and Lori Cooper of the Rachel Cormany Auxiliary read the names of Union veterans buried at Rose Hill.

Civil War Destinations are Losing Ground

(Excerpts From a Wall Street Journal Article
May 28, 2019)

Fort Oglethorpe, Ga. – Is Civil War Tourism history? Once a tourism staple for many Southern states and a new Northern ones, destinations related to the 1860s were drawing fewer visitors. Historians point to recent fights over Confederate monuments and lack of interest by younger generations as some of the reasons.

The National Park Service’s five major Civil War battlefield parks – Gettysburg, Antietam, Shiloh, Chickamauga/Chattanooga and Vicksburg – had combined 3.1 million visitors in 2018, down from about 10.2 million in 1970, according to park-service data. Gettysburg, in Pennsylvania, the most famous battle site, had about 950,000 visitors last year; just 14% of its draw in 1970 and the lowest annual number of visitors since 1959. Only one of these parks, Antietam, in Maryland, has seen an increase from 1970.

The number of Civil War reenactors, hobbyists who meet to re-create the appearance of a particular battle or event in period costume, also is declining. They

are growing too old or choosing to re-enact as Vietnam War soldiers or cowboys, said Mr. Varnell, 49 years old.

Mike Brown, 68, plays part of the cavalry at Civil War re-enactments and recently helped organize a recreation of the Battle of Resaca in Georgia. “The younger generations are not taught to respect history, and they lose interest in it,” he said.

More recent history is also damping interest said Kevin Levin, author of a coming book on the war. The fatal 2015 shooting of nine black churchgoers in Charleston, S.C., by a white man who had embraced the Confederate battle flag, and the 2017 white-nationalist rally around a Robert E. Lee statue in Charleston, Va., has transformed how people view Confederate imagery and, in turn, Civil War-related historic sites.

For decades, the focus of many sites and events was on “who shot who where,” said Glen Brasher, an adjunct history instructor at the University of Alabama. “It had no explanation of why people were there shooting each other,” he said.

Now, some museums and historical sites are working to draw younger visitors, as well as more minorities and women, by telling a more complete story about the great conflict. Once underplayed subjects, such as slavery’s role in causing the war, are getting more prominence, with new exhibits in Richmond, Va. Atlanta and elsewhere.

This month, the new American Civil War Museum opened in Richmond with expansive exhibits, including of battles and generals, but also information on slavery and the war’s impact on civilians. The new museum was born from the merger six years ago of two Richmond museums, one of which was the Museum of the Confederacy.

It’s important to know how it happened,” a visitor to Lookout Mountain said, “and why it happened.”



Camp Calendar

- | | |
|---------|---------------------------------------|
| June 27 | Camp Meeting – Hermerich Library |
| July 4 | Independence Day – Fly your flag! |
| July 25 | Camp Meeting – Hardesty Regional Lib. |
| August | Camp Meeting – Hardesty Regional |

Editor: A. Carl Fallen – acfallen@sbcglobal.net

Website: <http://indiannationscamp3-sucvw.weebly.com>

Webmaster: Terri Walker (Rachel Cormany No. 2 Auxiliary)