

THE UNION INFORMER

Monthly Newsletter of the Indian Nations Camp No. 3
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
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Oklahoma Department Encampment at Honey Springs Battlefield Visitors Center: Treasurer Tucker McHugh; Jr. Vice Cdr. Bob Wilkerson; DC Clint Anderson; Sr. Vice Cdr. Terry Handley; Sec. William Andrews. Back Row: Brothers Mike Rusk, PCinC Brian Pierson, Steve Clapp, Terry McLain, Craig McKinley, Mark Edwards, Kevin White, Mike Gates and Carl Fallen. Not pictured are Rex Griffin and Scott Preston, who had to leave early.
(Photo courtesy of Clint Anderson and the Visitors Center)

May Camp Meeting

During a busy time in the last nine days of the month, our camp meeting comes five days after our Department Encampment and two days before the busy Memorial Day activities begin. The location will be the Hardesty Regional Library, 8316 E. 93rd St., and it will start at 6:30 p.m., as usual.

Brother Rusk is working on a program he will present at the meeting.

April Camp Meeting

Present for the meeting were: Bob Wilkerson; SVC Mike Rusk, presiding in the absence of Cdr. Tolbert; Brian Barton; Carl Fallen; Mike Gates, and Kevin White. DC Clint Anderson participated by phone.

The speaker for our April camp meeting was to be DC Clint Anderson. However, he became ill, and to our relief, decided not to spread it around – his illness, that is. No doubt, we'll get the benefit of his program at a

later date. Not to be shut out though, Brother Kevin White got Clint on his smartphone and he was able to participate in the meeting for a bit on that medium. He disclosed that he had been ‘penciled in’ for a second term as the Department Commander in preliminary plans, which was news to him. He suggested for a camp activity during the summer that we schedule a family style picnic in the city park near his house, which has plenty of space and facilities for a picnic.

Camp Business

Delegates to the May 20th Department Encampment were elected at the camp meeting. In addition to the members who have held the office of camp commander or above, who are automatic delegates to the encampment, Delegates Brian Barton, and Bob Wilkerson were elected to represent the Indian Nations Camp.

SVC Rusk, acting as Camp Commander announced that he would be unable to preside at the June or August camp meetings, and raised the question of whether we should suspend camp meetings for the summer months (June, July, and August). Those present at the camp meeting were generally favorable, but a decision is expected at the May camp meeting.

The Annual Camp Report, Form 27, has been submitted to the Department along with the required per capita fees.

Mike Gates gave the Camp Council’s report on the camp officers situation. Mike said he was prepared to accept the JVC position, whereupon Brother Carl Fallen volunteered that he would ask Joel Fallen (not present) to resign that position to make it available to him. Consideration of replacing the camp commander will have to wait until he has missed six meetings in accordance to C&R provisions. SVC Rusk remarked that the post of Secretary-Treasurer (which he holds) is open to anyone who wants it.

Indian Nations Camp members are urged to assemble at the Rose Hill Cemetery to help the Rachel Cormany Auxiliary place grave flags at Union soldiers’ graves on Saturday, May 27th at 10 a.m. Each person will receive a cemetery map with clipboard, pencil, and about 10 flags. They will be assigned to a specific section of the cemetery where their graves are located.



**Acting Camp Cdr. Mike Rusk presents a certificate to Brian Barton for one of his Union soldier ancestors.
(Photo by Carl Fallen)**

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Tip on cleaning headstones: Use D2 cleaner. It’s what is used to clean Arlington Cemetery headstones, and it does a good job. But use plenty of water.

Memorial Day Ceremony

At Rose Hill Cemetery

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May 29th is the date we acknowledge the true significance of Memorial Day, which is to honor and remember the soldiers who lost their lives while serving or due to injuries they received while in combat.

Each year the Indian Nations Camp conducts a ceremony at either Rose Hill or Oaklawn Cemetery to commemorate the holiday. Both cemeteries have GAR monuments installed.

Patriotic Instructor, Mike Rusk, is preparing the format for the Rose Hill ceremony and selecting participants. It will open at 10 a.m. on Monday, May 29th. This is one of our most important annual events. Attendance has been falling in recent years, so let’s try to have a good turnout this year. Please bring a chair.

Work has been ongoing to ready the plot around our GAR monument at Rose Hill, including removing the weeds from small stones inside the circle around the monument, trimming the hedges, and removing weeds. The flag will be replaced for the ceremony,

and the finial replaced on one of the chain posts. The ground crew was mowing the area this past weekend.

Union Ancestor of Brian Barton
Ancestor: Pvt. Zaddock R. Casey, Sr.
Co. F, 18th Iowa Infantry



Installing Officer PCinC Brian Pierson transfers the OK Department gavel to newly installed Dept. Cdr. Clint Anderson. (Photo by Carl Fallen)

Department Encampment May 20th – Tulsa

For the second year in a row, the Department's Encampment was held at the very accommodating Visitor's Center at the Honey Springs Battlefield. It couldn't have been a more pleasant atmosphere.

Eighteen Brothers put down their \$25 fee to attend the Encampment. Secretary William Andrews published the program for the event in his exemplary fashion, which I dare say will not be outdone by any encampment. His work had much to do with the smoothness of the proceedings and the order of the business carried out. Dept. Cdr. Clint Anderson, who accepted a second term, was perhaps the primary beneficiary of Brother Bill's work.

Each of you will receive Sec. Andrews' email document of the proceedings, which makes it unnecessary to cover them here.

Suffice it to say, however, that there was considerable time devoted to the national committee's report of how 'male' should be defined in the SUVCW's Constitution and Regulations. It came down to whether the Oklahoma Department would support the committee's recommendation, or carry forward a new recommendation written by Brother Trent England of the Jeremiah Smith Camp #1. The vote was in favor of the later.



Sr. Vice Cdr. Mike Rusk of Indian Nations Camp #3.

During discussion of the motion, Brother Rusk voiced an impassioned speech to make the point that times are rapidly changing, and the organization needs to change as well. Our organization has been stalled on a total membership of 6,000 to 6,500 for decades, and we should be focused on how we can increase our membership, and heighten its appeal to the younger generations.

Brother Mark Edwards recalled how his daughter, a U.S. veteran with a Bronze Star and Purple Heart, is ineligible for membership in the SUVCW, although she qualifies for the Daughters' organization (DUVCW).

The National Dr. Mary Edwards Walker award will be presented to Mrs. Carol Comp of the Sallie Peachtree Tent, DUVCW, at a Jeremiah Smith Camp #1 meeting. The award is given to Sisters of the Allied Orders who have given significant service and demonstrated high levels of leadership in those Orders.



OK Dept officers about to be sworn in by Installing Officer PCinC Brian Pierson. (Photo by Carl Fallen)



Sec. William Andrews and Cdr. Clint Anderson confer before the Encampment began. (Photo by Carl Fallen)

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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.
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A Dozen Things to Do on Memorial Day

(Selected from Good Housekeeping website)

- [Donate flowers for soldiers' graves. Or, make a personal little decoration and place it on a soldier's grave.](#)
- [Help build a home for a veteran. \(With a donation to \[Building Homes for Heroes\]\(#\)\)](#)
- [Donate to related causes.](#)
- [Craft your own Memorial Day poppy.](#)
- [Write letters to soldiers and their families.](#)
- [Put together care packages for soldiers.](#)
- [Create patriotic chalk art. \(Gather the kids in your neighborhood and create a patriotic-inspired mural.\)](#)
- [Attend a Memorial Day parade.](#)
- [Watch a patriotic movie.](#)
- [Deliver dessert to a local family or the home of a fallen soldier.](#)
- [Visit your local cemetery.](#)
- [Attend the Indian Nations Camp's Memorial Day Ceremony at Rose Hill Cemetery in Tulsa.](#)

Camp Calendar



May 25 Camp Meeting – Hardesty Regional Library
 May 27 Distribute Grave Flags – Rose Hill Cemetery
 May 29 Memorial Day Ceremony – Rose Hill Cem.

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Camp Website:

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

Webmaster: Terri Walker – National Auxiliary to the SUVCW