

THE UNION INFORMER

Monthly Newsletter of the Indian Nations Camp No. 3
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
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Confederate artillery opens fire at the reenactment of the Battle of Honey Springs on November 2, 2019.

*Merry
Christmas*

December Camp Meeting

Our last camp meeting of the year will be held at the Hardesty Regional library, 8215 E. 93rd Street, beginning at 6:30 p.m. We're supposed to be assigned the Ash Room, but if you find that we're not there, look around to see if we've been put into a different one. Carol Cox will be our speaker telling about her Great Grandfather and Sherman's march to the sea. We will decide the member dues amount for the year 2020.

Also, further nominations will be entertained for camp officers, followed by an election. A quorum of members

must be present for the vote to be valid, so please plan to be at the camp meeting to cast your vote. See the article on last month's camp meeting for the nominations already received.

October Camp Meeting

We had a light turnout for our October camp meeting. Attending meeting were: Cdr. Mike Rusk; JVC Mike Gates; SVC Carl Fallen; and Clint Anderson.

Nominees for camp officer positions were solicited for next year. Nominees were:

Commander	Mike Rusk
Sr. Vice Cdr.	Carl Fallen
Jr. Vice Cdr.	Clint Anderson
Secretary	Mike Rusk
Treasurer	Carl Fallen
Patriotic Instr.	Joe Fears

As a program for next month, the camp consensus was that they'd like to depart from the Civil War this month to invite Brother Johnny Manley of the Sgt. Jacob Overturf Camp # 4 to tell about his experience in the Vietnam War, if he would be willing to do so. However, Brother Manley, who served as a Navy Corpsman with the Marines at Hue, among other places, in some of the heaviest fighting of the war, respectfully declined. Understandably, to accept the invitation would have forced him to recall events that even these many years later are too raw to think about. In effect, he would have to relive them all over again. That was not our intent. On the contrary we honor his service to our country and would not desire to put him through further discomfort.

In a change of pace, for our program, we conducted a game of Civil War trivia questions. While we had planned for a larger audience, it worked out well. It was surprising how many of the answers were on target, which is a credit to our membership.

Brother Clint Anderson has thoroughly researched his ancestry and found a number of Union soldiers among them. He submitted supplemental member applications for ancestors:

- 1) Robert Marion Anderson – Co. D, 14th Kansas Infantry
- 2) Samuel Kinnaman – 3rd Tennessee Cavalry
- 3) John Wesley Crisp – 19th Indiana Infantry
- 4) Issiah Marion Hollandsworth – 50th Mississippi Infantry

Honey Springs Reenactment November 1-3, 2019

By Carl Fallen

On Saturday, November 2, my wife, Marlys, accompanied me to travel to the Honey Springs Battlefield for the semi-annual reenactment of the battle. The weather was about as close to perfect for a November reenactment as one could hope for: bright sunshine with a cool temperature, and a bit of wind. I'm sure the reenactors in their heavy wool uniforms appreciated the cool temperatures.

As we arrived at the checkpoint, helpers collected \$5 each and directed us to a grassy field where additional staff members directed us to the spot

where we were to park in rows. The ground was a bit soft, and I had to feel a bit uneasy about being able to get my car out over the soft ground after it had been chewed up by other vehicle tires during the day. Happily, it wasn't an issue.

As we walked from the car across the pastureland and crossed the road to the event grounds, we met a string of food trucks, and they were doing a brisk business. We selected one selling BBQ pork sandwiches and helped out.



Looking the part of a Civil War veteran, PCC Dennis Hoch awaits the start of the battle reenactment at the Honey Springs Battlefield.

Right away, we encountered the only person we saw there that we knew: Indian Nations Camp's Past Camp Commander, Dennis Hoch, decked out in his Civil War uniform of a Union Corporal, although I don't think he was participating in the battle. Dennis now volunteers at the Military History Museum in Broken Arrow.



Union reenactors sample the grub from the food trucks before the battle.

As the time for the reenactment approached, the crowd began to thicken until several hundred could be seen in our area. They were of all ages: young and old alike. Some brought folding chairs, some sat on blankets, and some just stood to watch.



A Confederate artillery officer explains something to a spectator before the battle.

High on a slope, far to the north, we could see the Union guns aligned for action, soon to be accompanied by the troops. In front of us were the Confederate guns. Shortly, the Confederate troops marched onto the field and took positions 75 to 100

yards in front of the cannons numbering about a dozen. The spectators were seated on the ground behind a rope line, marking the most forward point for them.



The Confederate troops enter the battlefield from the woods to the south. Mountain howitzer in the foreground with crew.

A man at a microphone began to explain the battle and what was taking place among the participants. His comments continued throughout the action.

The Union guns were too far away for me to get a good view of them, but the Confederate guns were represented by a varied arsenal: from the small mountain howitzer to the 12-pounder smoothbore Napoleons, the most common cannon used during the war. All the guns were manned by their crews and were actively firing during the exercise. It was an impressive sight when they began to fire a volley, as first one and then another fired in its turn down the line. Afterward, smoke temporarily obliterated them from view as the crews worked to reload the pieces.

After the initial cannon fire exchange, the troops opened fire with their muskets and slowly began to maneuver on the field. The north converged on the south. Eventually, the southern troops weakened, and began to give way, both sides leaving dead and wounded on the field. Toward the end of the battle, the Confederates (true to the real battle) broke into a run toward their cannon and left the field, with only a handful remaining to repel the advancing northern soldiers. Then the battle was over. The crowd gave the reenactors a hearty round of applause in appreciation of their performance. We owe these folks much for the work they do and the

expense they personally bear to bring to life a time in our history, for they do so with remarkable attention to make it as authentic as possible.

Remembrance Day at Rose Hill

Patriotic Instructor Joe Fears organized and conducted another fine program for the camp's Remembrance Day ceremony. Thankfully, the weather was ideal for it: cool and sunny with just enough wind to cause the flags to flutter a little, but not enough to mess up one's hairdo.

Brother Bernie Cooper, always a regular at these events, is still regaining strength after breaking his ankle, and was not able to attend. Representing six organizations, twenty-three people attended, including Brother Gene Turner's widow, Sally Turner.

Rachel Cormany Auxiliary
Daughters of Union Veterans
Sgt. Jacob Overturf Camp # 4
Cdr. Jesse Walker from OK Dept., SUVCW
Col. Daniel N. McIntosh Camp, SCV
Bugles Across America

The format of the ceremony followed those of previous ones. Patriotic Instructor Joe Fears opened with his remarks. Following the flag salute and the invocation by Lana Cooper. Indian Nations Camp Commander Mike Rusk gave the patriotic address.

Brother Clint Anderson read *The Gettysburg Address*. Joe Fears and Terri Walker read the names of Union soldiers known to be buried at Rose Hill. Three organizations laid wreaths in their honor.

Indian Nations Camp # 3 by Cdr. Mike Rusk
Rachel Cormany Auxiliary by Lori Cooper
Sgt. Jacob Overturf Camp by Cdr. Johnny Manley
The Rachel Cormany Auxiliary invited anyone present to take a red carnation and place it in a basket at the foot of the monument in honor of their Union ancestor, and many did. Stephen Thompson of Bugles Across America played *Taps*, which was followed by Lana giving the Benediction to close the ceremony.



Cdr. Mike Rusk presents an OK Dept Encampment Badge to Brother Clint Anderson on Remembrance Day.

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On Veterans Day, SVC Carl Fallen called the Claremore Veterans Center and asked what kind of supplies they needed for the veterans living there. With that information, he personally purchased \$80 worth of razors, after shaving lotions, skin lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste, lip balm, and three pair of slick shorts that wouldn't bind when bed patients turned over in bed. He delivered these to the front desk on behalf of the Indian Nations Camp. The Center has about 300 residents.
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Camp Calendar

Dec. 5 Camp Meeting – Hardesty Regional Lib.
Jan. 23 Camp meeting – Hardesty Regional Lib.

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