

THE UNION INFORMER

Monthly Newsletter of the Indian Nations Camp No. 3
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
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AUGUST 2020



Members attending the July outdoor Camp Meeting: Cdr. Mike Rusk; Scott Preston Michael Gambill; and Clint Anderson. Not pictured is virtual attendee Mike Gates. (Photo by Carl Fallen)

August Camp Meeting

JVC Clint Anderson was planning a trip visit the Sultana Museum in Marion, AR, just across the river from Memphis. However, he had to postpone that trip, so he won't be speaking about it at our August meeting. However, he'll have another topic. Clint has an ancestor who was among the hundreds of Union soldiers who went down on the overloaded vessel at the end of the war, so this should be an interesting report. He also plans to give a more robust presentation on the sinking of the Sultana at a later meeting. This will be another outdoor meeting in Clint and Kathy's back yard, 7411 S. 108 E. Ave. beginning at 6:30 p.m. For seating, **please bring a lawn chair.**

July Camp Meeting

Returning to JVC Clint Anderson's back yard for our July meeting, we were blessed with practically ideal weather conditions. Shaded by Clint's house against the evening sun, and a gentle breeze wafting across the area, the outdoor setting was quite pleasant for our meeting. Attending were: Cdr. Rusk; SVC Carl Fallen; JVC Clint Anderson; Mike Gambill; Scott Preston; and Mike Gates by Zoom.

Cdr. Rusk called the meeting to order at 6:30, welcoming those who had arrived. Everyone came wearing masks in accordance with the new city

ordinance. The meeting began with officer reports, followed by a discussion of business topics separately.

Camp Business

Reminding the camp that in all likelihood, our Department will probably be the residence of the next Commander in Chief of the SUVCW. That's a rare honor, especially for a small department like ours. As stated previously, Mike would like to see us, as a department, do something special to commemorate the event, and asks members to be thinking about that. However, he recognizes that the recent cancellation of this year's National Encampment may complicate the election process.

The Treasurer reported that the camp has \$1,625 in our bank account with no outstanding debts or expenses. Cdr. Rusk voiced the opinion that was too much money for us to hold, and that we should be spending some of it. He asked the members to be thinking of ways that we could make good use of it. In the past, we have held our membership fee on the low side as a means of making SUVCW membership more attractive. Therefore, we take in approximately \$130 a year for camp operations. If we have a camp project, or recruiting expenses, that amount is quickly consumed, and we're "living beyond our means." Anything greater than that must be withdrawn from our reserves. We should keep in mind a couple of things: 1) our organization's primary purpose of keeping the memory of the Union soldiers alive, and 2) that it is immensely easier to spend our funds than it is to rebuild them.



Several ideas were discussed for using the camp funds were: 1) giving the funds to other non-profits; 2) purchasing medals and certificates to be presented to ROTC and Boy Scout recipients in accordance with SUVCW rules; 3) possibly purchasing GAR markers to

be installed at deserving graves in Rose Hill cemetery. The cost or quantity was not part of the discussion, but prices range from \$25 to \$55 depending upon who the supplier is, the number ordered, and the quality of the marker. Aluminum versions have been priced at \$18.

Efforts are still underway to find a suitable camp meeting place, now that the City County Library remains closed to meetings. JVC Clint Anderson welcomed us to continue meeting in his back yard, but weather conditions are likely to interfere during the fall and winter months. In September, we will join the SCV in a joint meeting they will host at the Tulsa Little Theatre building at 1511 South Delaware Ave. Camp McIntosh has a speaker in mind.

The subject came up of the Boy Scout tent we bought a few years ago, and what became of it. It would be useful for setting up a recruiting table at outdoor events like re-enactments, etc. If anyone knows the whereabouts of this tent, or its status, please notify Cdr. Rusk.

Camp Recruiting Brochure

Earlier in the year, in discussions between the Camp Commander and the SVC, it was agreed that we needed a Camp Recruiting Brochure as a handout to prospects

As a recruiting tool specific to our Indian Nations Camp, a brochure has been developed similar to the colorful National Organization's "Honor Their Memory" tri-fold brochure available for purchase. Drawing material from the National Organization's documents, we have used excerpts from those sources and provided background information about our camp. Since we don't have a permanent mailing address, it's not really appropriate to provide one in the standard document. However, if we have a need for several to be distributed at one time, we can modify and print the document to include a current contact person and mailing address. Otherwise, it will be necessary to manually print such information on the front cover before giving it to a prospective member.

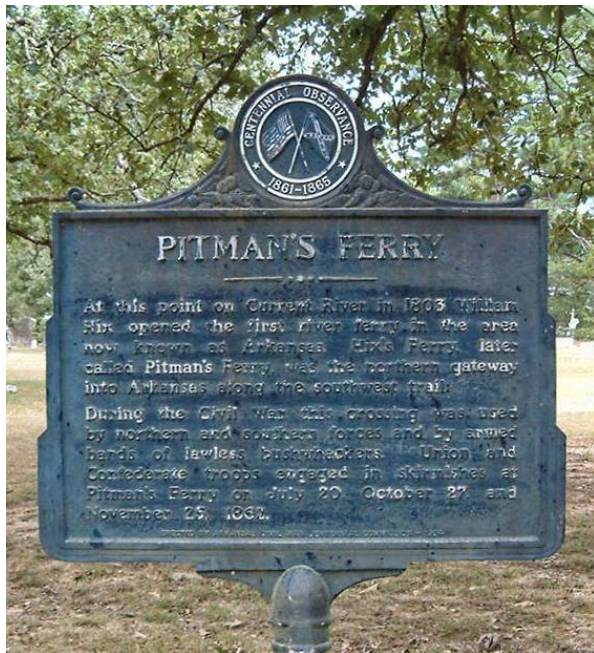
The brochure is a single sheet of paper printed front and back with three columns in landscape format. The printed document is then folded into thirds.

The draft document was distributed to camp members soliciting comments and suggestions. Cdr. Rusk asked that the brochure be forwarded to the other two camps with the expectation that they might modify it for their camps' use. But then questions arose about using the Nat'l Organization's logos and document excerpts, so the issue is currently in limbo.

Military Action at Pitman's Ferry, Arkansas October 27, 1862

By Brother Mike Gambill

This past 4th of July weekend I had the pleasure to tour around the eastern Ozark foothill region of Randolph County, Arkansas and Ripley County, Missouri in search of ancestral burial sites. While searching for the cemeteries, I was able to locate the area known as Pitman's Ferry right beneath the Missouri-Arkansas state line. This area of NE Arkansas held a strategic importance during the Civil War as the roads and rivers from Pocahontas, AR, led all the way up to St. Louis and down into the "bootheel" of Missouri right to the Mississippi River.



Historic Marker for Pitman's Ferry action.
(Photo by Mike Gambill)

After doing some basic research on this engagement at Pitman's Ferry, I discovered that there were actually numerous engagements fought over this river ferry on the Current River with skirmishes there on April 1, July 20, October 27, and November 25, 1862, with the October 27th fight being the largest. Federal forces under COL John W. Dewey attempted to capture the ferries on the Missouri side of the Current River and sneak over to the Arkansas side and catch the Confederate forces of Burbridge's Brigade off guard. The Union order of battle included troops from the 23rd Iowa Infantry, the 24th and 25th Missouri Infantry, the 13th Missouri Volunteer Cavalry and

elements of the 1st Missouri State Militia-a unit that technically was not required to fight outside of the Missouri border. Union artillery was centered along the Missouri side of the river and opened up just prior to the assault which caught the Confederate artillery batteries off guard and scattered their guns. The battlefield today is under private ownership but a plaque remains right outside the area of fighting. A country store still exists right outside the battlefield as well which has been in existence long before the Civil War began. The town of Supply, Arkansas was named for being a Confederate supply facility for this region.



The historic country store dating from before the Civil War in Supply, Arkansas. (Photo by Mike Gambill)

With Federal forces claiming a victory at Pitman's Ferry on October 27, 1862, Dewey's Brigade was able to maneuver along the old Southwest/Military Trail down to the town of Pocahontas and conduct a reconnaissance mission in force. Pocahontas would change hands numerous times over the next year of the war until the end of 1863 when Union forces finally secured the eastern Ozarks. However, guerilla fighting on both sides continued until the end of the war. While this area was strong in their support of the Confederate cause with many men joining Arkansas or Missouri Confederate units, I was able to locate the tombstones of my GGG Grandfather William Henry Fowler who actually returned along with his brother Thomas to their original

family homes in Pike Co Indiana and both of these young men fought for the Union with the 25th and 22nd Indiana Infantry regiments, respectively. These men, along with a number of other Union veterans, are buried in Randolph County and I have begun a research project to locate as many of these veterans as possible so they may be remembered and their graves honored as being Union soldiers.

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 Joe Fears' Union Ancestor:
 Pvt. William A. Fears
 Co. A, 1st Arkansas Volunteer Cavalry
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Monument to the Battle of Nashville.

Battle of Nashville Monument Defaced

In a continuing rampage to deface, damage, or destroy American monuments, the monument to honor both Union and Confederate soldiers who fought in the Battle of Nashville has become a target. This 30 foot obelisk in Monument Park also honors veterans of World War I.

In mid-July, a derogatory phrase was scrawled at the base of the monument with red spray paint. It is estimated to cost \$10,000 to remove it, and the work had begun.

The monument, considered a treasure of Nashville, is owned by the Tennessee Trust Commission, and it is prepared to prosecute. The monument is made of white granite and bronze. Dedicated on Armistice Day in 1927, the original monument was destroyed by a tornado in 1974. It was rebuilt and dedicated in 1999.

The Battle of Nashville was fought two weeks after the Battle of Franklin. Surviving Confederate troops from that battle fought again in the Battle of Nashville on December 15-16, 1864.

Most of the damage and destruction so far has been aimed at Confederate monuments, but this monument honors not only Confederates, but Union and World War I veterans. Perhaps this reflects the ignorance of those perpetrating such attacks. It is another way of re-writing history.

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 Our esteemed Camp Commander, Mike Rusk, will be vacationing with his wife, Kathy, in Colorado this month. Therefore, he won't be at the camp meeting on the 27th, and the camp meeting will be conducted by the Senior Vice Commander, Carl Fallen. It's the Rusk's annual trip to Estes Park, which they greatly enjoy. Situated at the entrance to the great Rocky Mountain National Park, it's a very popular and scenic tourist resort with its own elk herd. Happy vacationing, Mike!
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Camp Calendar

- Aug. 27 Camp Meeting - **7411 S. 108 E. Avenue**
- Sep. 8 Joint Camp Meeting with SCV at Tulsa Little Theatre, 1511 S. Delaware Ave.
- Oct. 22 Camp Meeting - Location TBA
- Nov. 11 Veterans Day

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