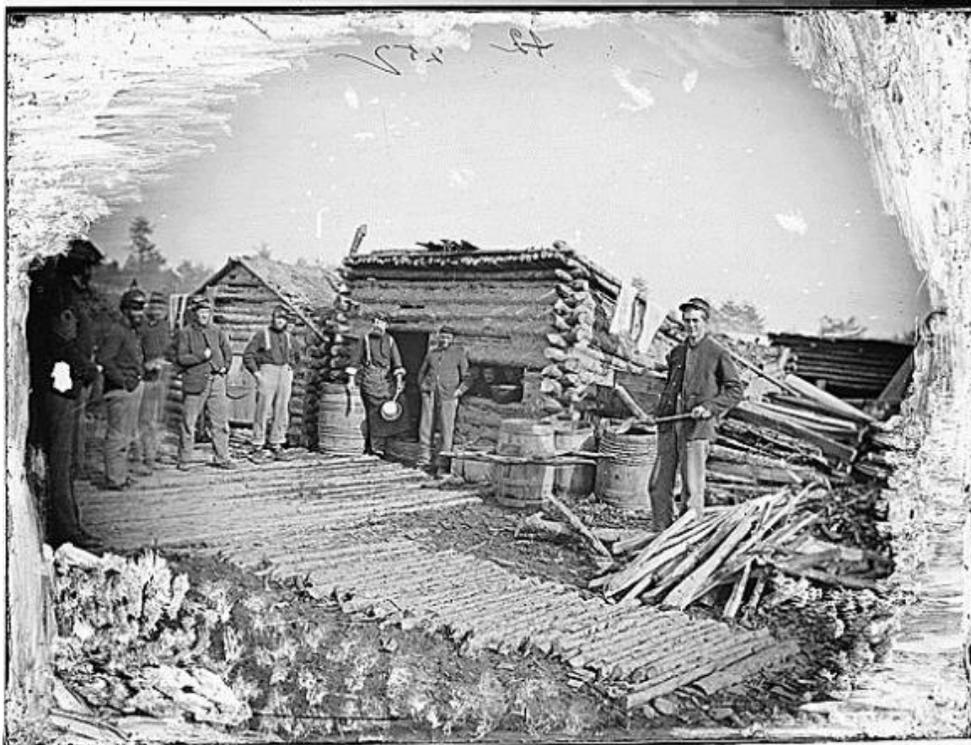


# THE UNION INFORMER

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

VOLUME 23 NUMBER 2

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Mathew Brady Photographs of Civil War-Era Personalities and Scenes, 1921 - 1940  
Camp scene, showing Company kitchen (Source: National Archives Catalog)

## February Camp Meeting

Cdr. Clint Anderson will arrange the Zoom meeting and email instructions on how to get connected. Basically, one needs only to click on the link provided. The meeting will begin at 6:30 on February 25<sup>th</sup>.

The program plan is to have a roundtable discussion from the members about their favorite trip or book about the Civil War, or a person of their interest. Therefore, we have a little preparation to do before the meeting.

## January Camp Meeting

Our second virtual camp meeting occurred on January 28 this year. Again, the Cdr.-elect made the

arrangements and invited the Department officers to attend. Present for the meeting were: Cdr. Rusk, Dept. Cdr. Craig McKinley; Dept. SVC Jeff Kennedy; SVC Carl Fallen; JVC Clint Anderson; PDC Rex Griffin; Mike Gates; Charlie Walker; PDC Joe Fears; and PDC William Andrews.

Cdr. Mike Rusk acted as the Installing Officer to swear in the following officers:

Camp Commander	Clint Anderson
Senior Vice Cdr.	Joe Fears
Junior Vice Cdr.	Scott Preston
Treasurer	Carl Fallen

There was no candidate for Secretary. However, later on, Cdr. Anderson and Treasurer Fallen agreed that the

posts of Secretary and Treasurer would be combined for the year. Appointed officers were not immediately announced. Due to the virtual setting for the meeting, modifications were required to the standard ritual proceedings.

Following the officer installations, PDC Mike Rusk gave a program presentation on “John Brown and Harper’s Ferry.” As always, Mike gave an interesting and lively talk on one of the colorful individuals in the nation’s history that was peppered with quotes and little details that kept one’s attention. Brother Rex Griffin joined in afterward to add more from his knowledge of the man and his activities.

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PDC Bernie Cooper of the Sgt. Jacob Overturf Camp # 4 has been hospitalized for some time and is seriously ill. He is not allowed to have friends or relatives visit. However, he does enjoy cards and letters, and would like to hear from us. Lori, his daughter, says just the mention of a familiar name lifts his spirits. He’s being moved around a bit recently, but Lori would be glad to tell you where to direct a communication to him. She can be reached at Bernie’s home phone number: 918-357-2590.

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Connie Rowe reports that Annette Buss Hixenbaugh has contracted the COVID-19 virus and is battling it. Annette is a member of the Rachel Cormany Auxiliary No. 2, SUVCW, and has been an active member in support of our camp. If you should like to send a card, her address is: 2931 South 129<sup>th</sup> Ave. Apt. 2, Tulsa, OK 74134.

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SVC Joe Fears has a new grandson, Daxton Osborne, born on 3/3/20 and a granddaughter Phoenix Gangwer, born on 8/21/20. This makes four and a fifth is on the way. Congratulations, Joe!

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Union Ancestor of **Brother Kevin D. White:**  
Pvt. Benjamin Bidwell  
Company E, 9<sup>th</sup> Indiana Infantry

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**Delegate Ribbon from 2020 National Encampment (Courtesy Cdr. Clint Anderson)**

## Edward Smith Update

Some of you long-time camp members may remember Edward Smith as a teenager during the early 2000 years. During most of his time as an active Indian Nations Camp member, Edward has had only a relatively short break in service since being restated last month.

Edward reports that after completing school, he had gone into education. By day, he is an assistant principal at Putnam City West High School, in Oklahoma City, and an adjunct professor of history and humanities with OSU-OKC. He’s spent much of his research time working with military thought and theory, especially unconventional warfare. He has had work published in the American Review of China Studies, Journal of Chinese Military History, and with Strategy and Tactics Press (an interesting piece about the introduction of firearms to Japan c. 16th century).

Editors Note: Trusting my faulty memory, I incorrectly stated in the January newsletter that Edward’s father, Carl, was a Past Department Commander. He was a Past Camp Commander. I’m sorry for that mistake.

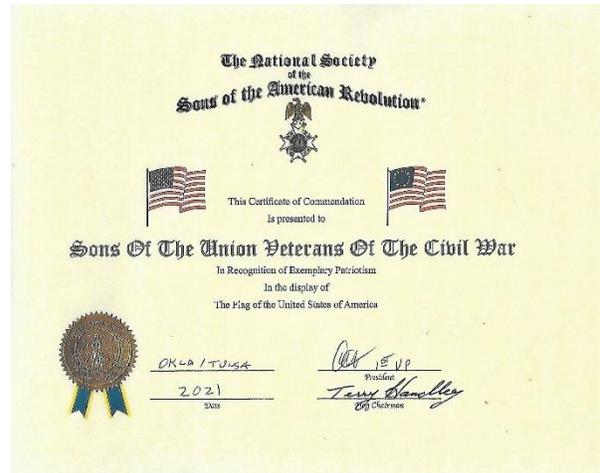
## Camp Business

JVC Scott Preston announced that camp programs this year will be delegated to camp members. Each member is requested to select a month and be responsible for the program: either presenting one himself, or securing an outside speaker. He has set up a digital method for registering one's preferred month and for determining which months are still available for selection. This procedure was explained by email earlier.

Two of our eighteen members still have outstanding dues payments, but they have promised to pony up. With their payments, we will have 100% membership retention!



**The National Encampment Badge for 2020  
(Courtesy Cdr. Clint Anderson)**



## Certificate Received From SAR

Cdr. Clint Anderson received the above certificate in the mail from Sons of the American Revolution in recognition due to our respect and treatment of our flags. Clint said he would pick up a nice little frame to add it to the camp inventory.

## Department Planning Meeting

On February 13, the Department held an Encampment Planning Meeting by Zoom. The Department has 40 members in three camps and a bank balance of \$1,735. An additional camp has been proposed for the Lawton area. Those attending the Encampment will be asked to pay \$20 to cover the cost of the encampment badge and delegate ribbon with nametag. The badge this year will be designed by Brother Rusk (as usual) and have a green and white ribbon. The delegate ribbon will have a complimentary color.

The Encampment is scheduled for May 8, and probably will be a virtual meeting, which means that we won't be physically gathering in one place. Therefore, in that event, Brother Rusk will collect the badges and nametags with delegate ribbons attached and meet Cdr. Crowe at a halfway point between Tulsa and OKC to hand off the items for Camp #1 brothers.

A proposal to change the Department Bylaws to exempt Life Members from paying department dues was deferred for consideration by the delegates to the Department Encampment.

The National Encampment will be held in St. Louis, MO, August 4-9.



**Brother Norman Crowe shakes hands with Vice President Pence at the White House ceremony honoring Native American Veterans.**

(Official White House photo by Tia Dufour.)

Brother Norman Crowe (formerly of the Indian Nations Camp # 3, but now Cdr. of Jeremiah Smith Camp #1) was honored at the White House Conference Supporting Contemporary Native American Veterans on November 19. The conference hosted nearly 200 Native American and Alaska Native Veterans, active-duty service members, and state, local and tribal Veterans' champions to honor the legacy of Native Americans in the military.

Brother Crowe and the other Veterans were invited to Washington for the event at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building at the White House. Brother Crowe has seven direct generations of Cherokee men who have served the United States military.

Attendees interacted with several Federal leaders from the White House, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of the Interior, Department of Labor, Small Business Administration and several other agencies, including Vice President Mike Pence.

"I had the pleasure and honor to attend the White House American Indian veterans conference yesterday" Crowe stated. "I went with my wife, son and his wife, and my grandson. It was a very informative conference to honor American Indian warriors. We had an unexpected guest at the conference. Vice president Pence came in and gave a great speech to all of us. It was a casual speech and not prepared! He went shaking our hands, I introduced, Brian and Haden as my son and grandson. Without hesitation he handed all three of us a Vice Presidential Challenge Coin. What a great honor. I really admired the man before. but I really admire him now. Also want to thank my cousin, Cara Cowan Watts and Tyler Fish, he is the senior policy adviser and tribal advisor to the president. Thank you for the honor to

attend this affair and to honor my family. A great time by all."



## The Dictator

Sound like a modern-day despot? Well, during the Civil War, a 13-inch seacoast mortar mounted on a reinforced railroad car was known at 'The Dictator.' Operated by Co. G, 1<sup>st</sup> Conn. Hv. Arty., it was used by the Federals in the siege of Petersburg during the period 9-13 July, 1864. This type of mortar weighed 17,000 pounds and with a 20-pound charge could throw a 200-pound explosive shell 4,325 yards when elevated at 45 degrees.

It was fired from a curved section of the Petersburg & City Point Railroad, an arrangement that facilitated lateral adjustment of fire. During this period, it fired 45 rounds, 19 or them during the battle of the Crater.

Most of this firing was done with a charge of 14 pounds and a range of 3,600 yards. It was then moved to a permanent emplacement near Battery 4.

The gun was also called the "Petersburg Express."



## Camp Calendar

- Feb. 25 Camp Meeting – Zoom Video
- Mar. 25 Camp Meeting – Location TBA
- May 8 Department Encampment – Location TBA
- May 31 Memorial Day – Rose Hill Cemetery
- Aug 9-11 National Encampment - St. Louis, MO

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