

THE UNION INFORMER

Monthly Newsletter of the Indian Nations Camp No. 3
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
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OK Department Encampment attendees at the Honey Springs Battlefield Visitor Center. Front row: Jeff Kennedy; Mark Reichardt; Scott Preston; DC Terry Handley; Steve Clapp; Tucker McHugh; Mike Rusk, Carl Fallen, and Brian Pierson. Second Row: Ron Reder; Rex Griffin; Mike Gates; Kevin White. (Photo courtesy of DC Terry Handley)

May Camp Meeting

Our first Department Commander to hold the post for two consecutive years, Brother Rex Griffin, is slated to provide the program for our next camp meeting. That will be on May 22, 6:30 p.m. at the Schusterman-Benson Library, 3333 E. 32nd Place. Rex is the author of the historical fiction book, *Moon of Black Hearts*. Buy it on Amazon. He will be bringing a collection of Encampment medals for a show and tell. We will also be making arrangements for the Memorial Day ceremony at our GAR monument in Rose Hill Cemetery, and hearing Patriotic Instructor Mike Rusk's plans for it.

April Camp Meeting

After the business portion of our last camp meeting, PDC Clint Anderson, presented a program on researching a Civil War ancestor with a live demonstration of how he navigated the websites offering data on his Union ancestors, of which there are many. Using his PC and projector he accessed various software packages to find helpful data as he explained the various steps and how to use the software to advantage. We also elected delegates to the Department Encampment to be held on May 10. Cdr. Fallen said he would present Brother Pendley's membership certificate to him at the Encampment.



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.

Union Ancestor of Kevin White, PCC
 Pvt. Benjamin Bidwell
 Company E, 9th Indiana Infantry

Commander's Comments

The Indian Nations Camp was well represented at the Oklahoma Department's 24th Encampment this year:
 Clint Anderson, PDC, Dept. Secretary
 Carl Fallen, PDC
 Mike Rusk, PDC
 Scott Preston, Eagle Scout Coordinator (E)
 Mike Gates, Delegate
 Kevin White, Delegate
 Rex Griffin, PDC (dual memb. representing Camp #4)
 Dewayne Pendley, Alternate Delegate



Brother Dewayne Pendley receives his Indian Nations membership certificate from CC Carl Fallen.

Following a break in the proceedings, I was able to present to Brother Dewayne Pendley his framed, professionally lettered membership certificate. Since he lives in Eufaula, this was the first time we had a chance to meet him.

During a discussion of planned camp activities, the camp voted not to participate in Tulsa's Veterans Day Parade this year. However, after some thought, I'm not convinced this is the proper choice if we're sincere about having a presence in the community with the purpose of attracting new camp members. Therefore, I will personally try to have an entry in the parade displaying our name and logos.

I mowed the grounds around our GAR marker a week ago, but the hedges still need to be trimmed, and I hope to get folding chairs for our Memorial Day ceremony.

Commander Carl Fallen



DC Terry Handley conducts the 24th OK Dept. Encampment at Honey Springs Battlefield Visitor Center.

Camp Business

We've located the camp's archival records and have them in the hands of the current archivist. The

inventory of camp property is continuing, but we think we know what SUVCW documents and supplies we have on hand, and the few physical assets we own.

It was resolved that we schedule a breakfast meeting at a local restaurant that will be our June meeting, although little business may be conducted, depending upon whether we have a separate room, etc.

Brother Craig McKinley, PDC, from the Jeremiah Smith Camp graciously volunteered to come to Tulsa and present a program at our July camp meeting. We promise him a warm welcome.

Department Encampment May 10th

Preceding the 24th Annual Oklahoma Department Encampment, the Jeremiah Smith Camp #1 held its monthly camp meeting in the same room at 10 o'clock.



Ladies from the Allied Orders were welcomed to the Encampment.

Cdr. Handley then took charge at 11 o'clock and conducted a smooth-running Encampment. Attendees had to make it past Dept. Treasurer Tucker McHugh at the door, who collected \$25 from each Brother attending. Terry had a jug of coffee and boxes of donuts ready for those who didn't have time for breakfast.

While the Honey Springs Battlefield Visitor Center provided the excellent meeting room and facilities free of charge, the \$25 fee covered the cost of badges, name tags, delegate ribbons, and other Encampment expenses.

Sixteen Brothers attended the event, plus three others on Zoom. Secretary Clint Anderson was ill, but was one of those using Zoom. We certainly wish Clint a

speedy recovery. Mark Atterson and William Andrews were also electronically connected.



Cdr. Terry Handley presents Turner/Williams awards to PDCs Michael Rusk, Steve Clapp, and Rex Griffin.

Three Turner/Williams Awards were given this year. They went to PDC Mike Rusk, PDC Steve Clapp, and PDC Rex Griffin: one from each of the three camps, all fine gentlemen quite deserving of the recognition. This year's award included a certificate as well as a challenge coin type pendant on a blue neck ribbon.



PCinC Brian Pierson makes his remarks as the National Organization representative for the Encampment.

PCinC represented the National Organization at the Encampment and as Installing Officer. He urged OK

Dept. members to volunteer for National committees. Taking charge of the Encampment, he proceeded with the swearing in of the elected officers for 2025-26:

Commander	Terry Handley (2 nd Term)
SVC	Rex Griffin
JVC	Mark Reichardt
Secretary	Scott Preston
Treasurer	Clint Anderson
Councilor #1	Joe Fears (leaving #3 post for #1)
Delegates to National Encampment:	
	Mark Reichardt
	Kevin White

Citing the need for a 4th camp in the department without one being added since the Sgt. Overturf Camp #4 was chartered a number of years ago, PDC Mike Rusk suggested a new effort be undertaken. He stated that he would be willing to lead a Camp Organizer Committee with that objective. Cdr. Handley accepted the offer and ordered that a committee member be appointed from each camp to participate.



Cdr. Steve Clapp instructs his firing squad before the rifle salute to end the Encampment.

Freedman Cemetery Cleanup

You may recall that last year Brother Jeff Kennedy's Union ancestor had a new government headstone installed at his gravesite in Broken Arrow's Thomas Smith Cemetery at 20989 E. 41st Street. April 26 this year was designated as a cemetery cleanup day and folks were encouraged to lend a hand.

Continuing his work at the cemetery in NE Broken Arrow, Brother Jeff helped to organize and lead the clean-up day conducted under the threat of rain. Jeff wrote a note a thanks afterward: "Thank you to

everyone who volunteered for our cemetery cleanup day. We appreciated the strong support from our community. Together, we made significant progress on our first cleanup day of the season. Volunteers included neighborhood residents, (Scout) Troop 513 led by Archie Lyon, Troop 990 led by Adelaide Warden, and the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War.



Part of the work crew cleans up debris after taking down a tree along the cemetery fence line.

"We are grateful to Double Dumpster for donating the dumpsters. We also thank Vince Whiteley and Calvin Osborne for their generous donation of clippers and a shredder. Thanks to the volunteers from MCIFB who came to help. A big shout-out to Mr. Buddy Shannon for his dedicated work in helping preserve the TSC, and special thanks to Gail Jackson for her donation to mow the grass. It is heartwarming to see the community come together for a good cause. We would love to see more of our members participate in our events."



Brothers Steve Clapp and Rex Griffin display their Turner/Williams award certificates.



Installing Officer Brian Pierson, PCinC, DC Terry Handley, and Guard Scott Preston prepare for the swearing in of the 2025-25 Department Officers.



Cdr. Steve Clapp conducts the rifle salute signifying the end of the Encampment.



Camp Calendar

- May 22 Indian Nations Camp Meeting
Schusterman-Benson Library
- May 24 Distribute Grave Flags at
Rose Hill Cemetery
- May 26 Memorial Day Ceremony 10 a.m.
Rose Hill Cemetery - Tulsa
- June 14 Flag Day – Fly your flag.
- June **Breakfast Meeting TBA**
- July 4 Independence Day: Fly your flag!
- July 24 Indian Nations Camp Meeting
Schusterman-Benson Library

Editor: A. Carl Fallen

Camp Website:

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

Webmaster: Terri Walker