

# THE UNION INFORMER

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

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**SUVCW Eagle Scout Certificates awarded 3/23/26 by Scott Preston to Troop 26 at The Park Church of Christ. Top row: Zander Krull, Caleb Loader, Alex Mallory, Luke Stava.**

**Bottom row: Chris Harris, Ethan Turner, Kenyon Williams, Will Stava.**

## April Camp Meeting

Brother Clint Anderson will return to the lectern Thursday to entertain us with a program on the great Sultana disaster on the Mississippi river at the conclusion of the war. And no better presenter could we expect, because unfortunately, Clint had several relatives on the steamship carrying Union soldiers released from Confederate prisons, and he has made a point of learning all about it. Come to the Schusterman-Benson Library Thursday, Apr. 23 at 6:30 to hear all about it. Wear your membership badge.

## March Camp Meeting

Cdr. Preston gave an excellent program on Civil War Postage using PowerPoint software as an enhancement which was very effective with many photos and illustrations included. He had used AI to help research his subject and make it more interesting. He covered the development of the postage stamps and the mail system during the war. With the minimum of addresses required during that period, Scott said that a thousand letters daily landed in the Dead Letter Office.



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.



CC Scott Preston finishes his program on Civil War Postage at the March camp meeting.

### Items Needed for Encampment Attendees

Brothers attending the Encampment must carry a credential card from the camp Secretary. A current membership card is also required and is issued upon payment of the current year's membership dues.



PDC Clint Anderson delivers a well-researched presentation at the February camp meeting on Civil War money.

### Encampment Preparations

Cdr. Handley distributed his meeting agenda and links to the Zoom meeting to be held on April 9.

Among the items on the agenda were:

**Location of the Encampment** – VFW Hall in Edmond for cost of \$100. Maps will be emailed to Brothers.

**CinC to attend** – PCinC Pierson in charge of arrangements, cost of hotel estimated at \$240.

**Awards** – 2 Turner/Williams, 1 Dr. Mary Edwards Walker. Planning fanfare for the second.

**Registration** – Cost \$45 which includes:

- \$25 for badges, nametags, and delegate ribbons.
- \$20 for catered lunch at the venue.

**Officer Reports** – Needed as soon as possible.

**Allied Orders** – Invited to bring greetings.

**250<sup>th</sup> Celebration** – Each camp to state what they are doing in this regard.

**Encampment Dress** – Coat and tie or uniform.

**Camp Flags** – Bring them.

**Station Banners** - To be provided by host camp.

The 25<sup>th</sup> Oklahoma Department Encampment will be held May 10, 2026. All Brothers are invited to attend, but only delegates may vote.



Encampment Delegate Ribbon



Encampment Badge

## From the Camp Commander

Brothers, please begin considering any Department of Oklahoma positions in which you would like to serve. We will set our officer slate at our 23 April meeting, and I will present it at the Department Encampment. Brother Rusk is also developing a “Battle-Buddy” program to help us check in on each other between meetings. As we look ahead to upcoming camp presentations, I will be inviting the local Ladies Auxiliary and Tent 22 DUVCW to join us, so let’s prepare strong, engaging programs. Looking forward to our continued work together in Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty.

Scott Preston  
(918) 409-0039

## The Burnside Carbine



On March 25, 1856, A. E. Burnside patented his Burnside Carbine after making a few experimental models. This is the Ambrose Everett Burnside who would become the man Mr. Lincoln chose to lead the Army of the Potomac.

A third carbine model followed, and about 1,000 of them were ordered in 1860. The 4<sup>th</sup> and final model was the most successful. During the Civil War, the government bought 55,567 of this model with almost 22,000,000 of its strange cartridges. The shells did not contain a firing cap that is familiar to us. Instead, the shell casing had a hole where black powder was exposed and lighted by a separate mechanism. Burnside felt that was a safer design.

This breach-loading carbine fired a .54 caliber metallic cartridge. The weapon was 39½ inches long and weighed about seven pounds. Its 21-inch round barrel was rifled with five grooves.

The carbine was plagued by problems including the shell casing becoming stuck in the breach. The shell was inserted backward into the chamber. As the war progressed, the carbine became less popular while the Sharps and Spencer carbines gained favor.

Cavalry units were the primary users of the carbine,



1865.

but before the war ended, production was discontinued and the factory given a contract to make Spencer rifles instead.

After accepting the offer to lead the Army of the Potomac, Burnside realized that he was not cut out to lead such a large army, and resigned April 15,

## What is a Brevet Rank?

We often read about Civil War Officers with the Brevet rank of this or that. But what is that, and how does it differ from other types of military rank? For practical purposes brevet rank can be regarded as an honorary title, awarded for gallant or meritorious action in time of war. It does not carry any of the authority, precedence, or pay of real or full rank.

There are occasions, however, when an officer could claim that his brevet rank be recognized as real rank. The regulations were so vague that controversies arose throughout the war. Prior articles of war prescribed that brevet rank had no real significance while an officer continued to serve within his own organization, but his brevet rank could be recognized for real rank when he served in courts-martial and on detachments composed of different units.

All this led to confusion about just what an officer's actual position and command actually was. Some found it impossible to judge based on his title or uniform. After the war, in 1869, changes were made to remedy this problem.

However, in the meantime, and Act in March 1863 authorized the award of brevet rank to officers of the USV (United States Volunteers). Approximately 1700 officers were breveted Major General or Brigadier General of the Regular Army of the USV.



**Brevet Maj. Gen. George Armstrong Custer**

It may be recalled that George Armstrong Custer held the rank of brevet Major General on the USV during

the Civil War. He received that rank on April 15, 1865 at the age of 25. Afterward, he was reduced to a Lt. Colonel, which is the rank he held at the time of his demise at the Battle of Little Bighorn.

Lt. Col. Custer had a distinguished career as a cavalry officer. From the first Bull Run campaign to Lee's surrender, he took part in every battle of the army of the Potomac, except one. Although conspicuous in all engagements, he was breveted for gallant and meritorious services in five specific and major battles. During the war, he had 11 horses killed under him, although he was only wounded once himself.

Considered an aggressive combat leader, his units suffered disproportionately higher losses than others due to his often reckless, hard-charging tactics.

At the time of his death at the Battle of Little Bighorn in 1878, George Armstrong Custer held the rank of Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Army, commanding the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment.



### *Camp Calendar*

- Apr 23 Indian Nations Camp Meeting  
Schusterman-Benson Library
- May 09 OK Dept. Encampment 10:30 a.m.  
**VFW Hall in Edmond**
- May 23 Grave Flag Distribution  
Rose Hill Cemetery 10 a.m.
- May 25 Memorial Day Ceremony  
GAR Monument,  
Rose Hill Cemetery 10 a.m.
- May 28 Indian Nations Camp Meeting  
Schusterman-Benson Library
- Jun 22 Indian Nations Camp Meeting  
Schusterman-Benson Library

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Camp Website:

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

Webmaster: Terri Walker