



COL. E. W. TAYLOR
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS #1777

NEWSLETTER

Bedford, Texas.....December 2011



As is our custom we will not have a meeting in the month of December. We hope your time with your family is blessed and happy!

"Christmas Blessing"

By John Paul Strain



WE MADE A DIFFERENCE FOR OUR VETERANS AT CHRISTMAS!!!

**THE E. W. TAYLOR CAMP, WORKING WITH THE
MID-CITIES BLUEBONNET CHAPTER OF THE
UNITED DAUGHTERS OF THE CONFEDERACY, PUT
TOGETHER AND MAILED AN INCREDIBLE 150
BOXES OF GOODIES TO OUR TROOPS IN IRAQ,
AFGHANISTAN, AND KUWAIT WHO OTHERWISE
WOULD BE HAVING A VERY SLIM CHRISTMAS!!!**

**YOU CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS EXCELLENT
PROGRAM AT www.operationshoebox.com**





LOCAL CONFEDERATE GETS A HEADSTONE AFTER 119 YEARS



Michael Biggers, left, spearheaded the effort to obtain a VA grave marker for Eli Rice Boardman, who died in Grapevine in 1892. The stone was placed in Grapevine Cemetery on November 12. Biggers and four other men, all members of the R. E. Lee Camp Sons of Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth, made the installation. They included, beginning second from left above, Paul Biggers, James Floyd, Beau Purdom, and Barry Turnage, kneeling at right. E.W. Taylor Camp member Mike Patterson, kneeling behind the stone, discovered Boardman's residence and service during research for the Civil War Veterans Memorial in Bedford. Biggers plans to continue applying for markers for other veterans in unmarked graves in Tarrant County.



MAUDIE HOPKINS OF LEXA, ARKANSAS WAS LAST SURVIVING CONFEDERATE WIDOW

When Maudie Hopkins died in a nursing home in Lexa, Arkansas on August 17, 2008, an era in American history was complete. She was the last widow of a Confederate soldier. Maudie was 93 years old.

Maudie Acklin, 19, married CSA vet William M. Cantrell in 1934 when he was eighty-six. As a teenager, he served in a Virginia infantry battalion. His first wife had died in 1929. Maudie inherited his home when he died in 1937. Maudie was married three more times and had three children.

About 2005, E. W. Taylor Camp member Mike Patterson, (right, above) and his friend Jimmy Reynolds drove to Lexa to meet her.

THE SESQUICENTENNIAL

DECEMBER 1861

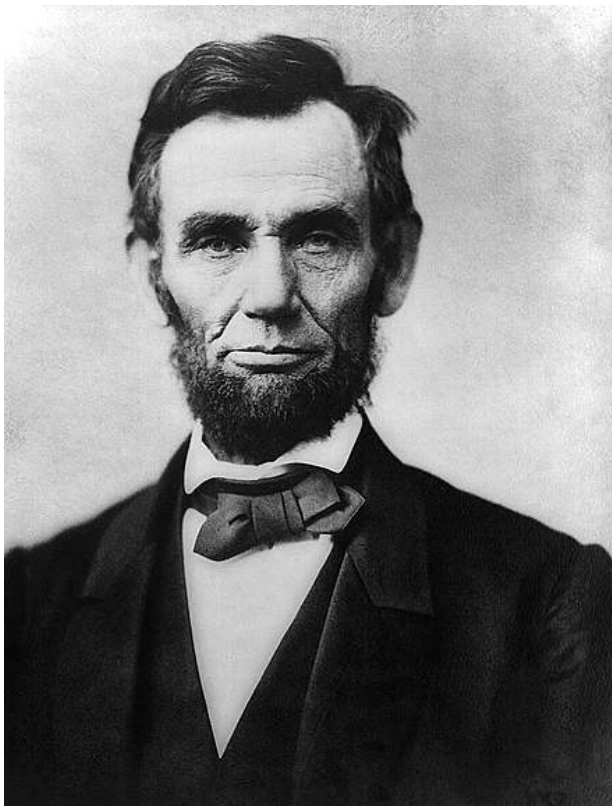
Dec. 7 Stonewall Jackson destroys the West Virginia side of Dam Number 5 on the Potomac River, disrupting the C&O Canal and impacting the Union's ability to repair the B&O Railroad.

Dec. 13 In a piercing winter wind, Confederates win the Battle of Camp Allegany in present-day West Virginia.

Dec. 19 Great Britain officially complains to the United States over the seizure of two Confederate commissioners from a British ship on the high seas in a Union public relations disaster known as the *Trent* Affair.

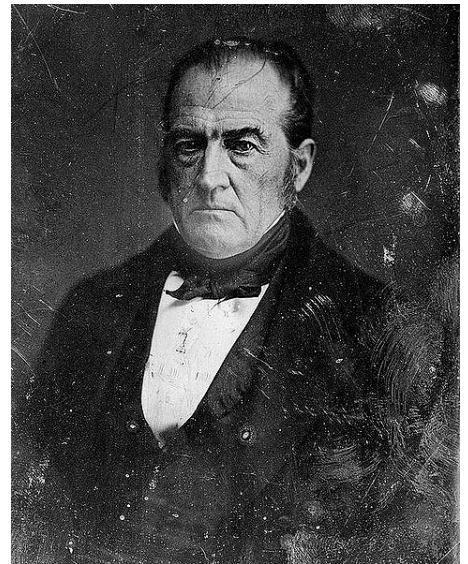
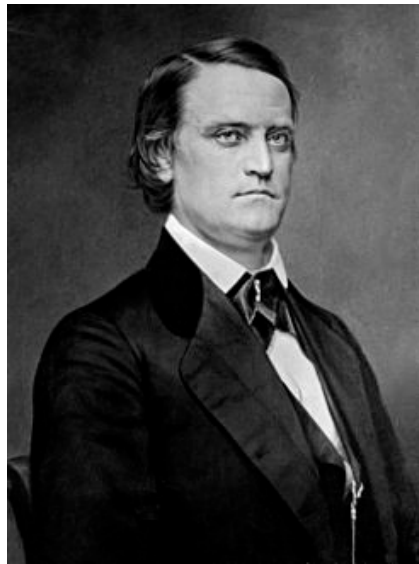
Dec. 23 At a Cabinet meeting President Lincoln and Secretary of State William Seward present their response to the British note protesting the *Trent* Affair.

Dec. 26 U. S. Secretary of State William Seward apologizes to Great Britain for the actions of the *San Jacinto* in boarding the *Trent* in the Bahama Channel.



A LESSON FROM HISTORY

In 1860 the party opposing Mr. Lincoln found it impossible to choose and back a single candidate. Instead, three men ran against him, splitting the opposing vote three ways. One must always vote his conscience, but he must also weigh the importance of some compromise for the greater good of the Nation. True in 1860, true in 2012.



GETTING TO KNOW OUR LOCAL CONFEDERATES

Grapevine Man was an Inspiration to All Who Knew Him



Rev. Lucratus H. Foster and his wife, Fannie (Fowler) Foster

Of the hundreds of veterans who wound up here in Tarrant County, only a handful were native Texans. One such man was Lucratus Hodges Foster, known to his friends here as “Cratus.” His father, Mexican War veteran Thomas Jefferson Foster, came to the Republic of Texas from Alabama and had settled at Holcomb Bluff in Cass

County by 1842, when Cratus was born.

Cratus served the South in Co.. F, 9th Texas Cavalry, and was with them at the Battle of Davis’ Bridge when he was severely wounded in the left hand on December 15, 1862. He was captured at the same time, and spent several weeks in Union prison hospitals until he was finally exchanged on April 1, 1863.

Local Man Inspiration, cont.

His hand was virtually useless to him for the rest of his life, but that didn't stop his service. He stayed with the regiment, and was a quartermaster sergeant when he surrendered at Citronelle, Alabama on May 4, 1865.

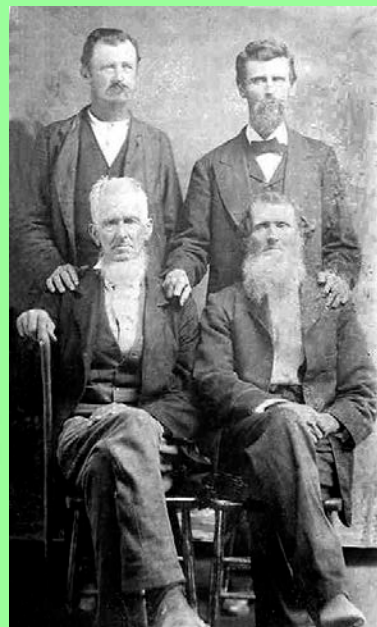
Cratus married Fannie Fowler in 1866. He attended Linden College and was licensed to preach by the Hickory Hill Baptist Church in 1872, the same year he came to Tarrant County. He was ordained by Lonesome Dove Baptist Church in present-day Southlake in 1875.

Foster was tireless in the service of the Baptist church here for the rest of his life. He was a member of the R. E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans.

Mr. Foster died at Grapevine on May 29, 1903. His wife lived only a few weeks, and died on their wedding anniversary, August 26. Both were buried in Grapevine Cemetery.

Cratus's obituary, printed in the Grapevine Sun, was written by his long-time friend, Confederate veteran Rev. Elihu Newton. To read it now, one hundred eight years later, is still a moving experience. It said, in part: "... *His diary shows that during his ministry he baptized over 800 happy converts, preached 4,000 times, visited 6,000 families and traveled 15,000 miles; assisted in ordaining a number of preachers and deacons (this writer being one), organized several Churches. While he was accomplishing this great*

work he was a constant sufferer nearly all the time from wounds he received in battle, Bright's disease and from lung trouble, and in addition to all his troubles he was poor and had a large family to support. He would plow, teach school and sell fruit trees five days of each week, and preach Saturday and Sunday. I have plowed by his side when he would tie his wounded hand to the plow handle, and in this condition I have heard him praise God aloud. How he accomplished as much under such difficulties I do not understand. It makes me feel like hiding my face in shame when I remember my own opportunities. Bro. Foster never forgot a favor; he was among the few that were thankful for favors, and retained that gratitude to the end.

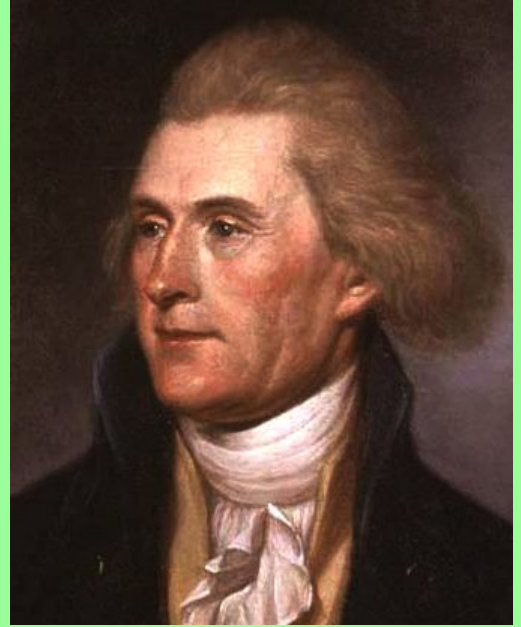


Thomas J. Foster (seated left) and three of his sons, Joel, and Cratus (right) are standing.

MEMORABLE QUOTES:

"Those who hammer
their guns into
plowshares will plow
for those who do not."

Thomas Jefferson



"Firearms stand next in importance to the constitution itself. They are the American people's liberty teeth and keystone under independence ... from the hour the Pilgrims landed to the present day, events, occurrences and tendencies prove that to ensure peace security and happiness, the rifle and pistol are equally indispensable ... the very atmosphere of firearms anywhere restrains evil interference — they deserve a place of honor with all that's good."

George Washington



ANOTHER CONFEDERATE HAS A NEW HEADSTONE ON THE WAY FROM THE V.A.

Walker McCulloch, 1832-1878, enlisted in Grapevine in 1862 and served in Co. A, 34th Texas Cavalry. We've managed to find a photo of his mother (left) but not of him. Walker's headstone in Lonesome Dove Cemetery in Southlake was readable as late as the 1970's, but the elements have eaten it since then. In late November we mailed an application to the V.A. for a new stone for him. We'll let you know when it's in place.

TIMES CHANGE...

...PEOPLE DON'T

	J. T. Prather	23	m.	Loafer
	Sallie	60	f.	
33's	J. T. Prather	29	m.	Farmer

Those of us who do lots of research in old census records sometimes find some puzzlers. Here in the 1870 Tarrant County census we find Confederate veteran J. T. Prather living with his sixty-year-old widowed mother. The census taker recorded his occupation as “loafer.” One wonders if his mother supplied the information for the official taking the census. He lies in Bedford Cemetery, not having done a frazzlin’ thing since 1923.



TARRANT COUNTY'S DANIEL BOONES BOTH HAD LINKS TO THE CONFEDERATE ARMY

You'll find Daniel Boon(e) buried in two different places here...one under an old handmade stone in Smithfield Cemetery and another beneath a red granite model in Mount Olivet in Fort Worth. They're father and son, in spite of the name's spelling.

Old Daniel died at Smithfield about 1892. He was contacted about 1890 by nationally-known historian Lyman Draper, asking if he had any artifacts from his famous ancestor. One of the letters Daniel wrote back to Draper has survived, giving many details of family history. His ancient-looking rock was made by a descendant, Guy Tarwater, in 1933.

At least two of his sons, Daniel Webster Boon and John Boon, were Confederate soldiers. John lies buried in Bourland Cemetery in Keller in an unmarked grave. John served in Co. E, Howell's Battery, 11th Texas Cavalry. He was pensioned.



Daniel Webster Boon, above, served in a Texas cavalry regiment. The papers in his pension file in Austin have disappeared. His wife received a Confederate widow's pension.



SURPRISE!?

Our Vets in the News!!!

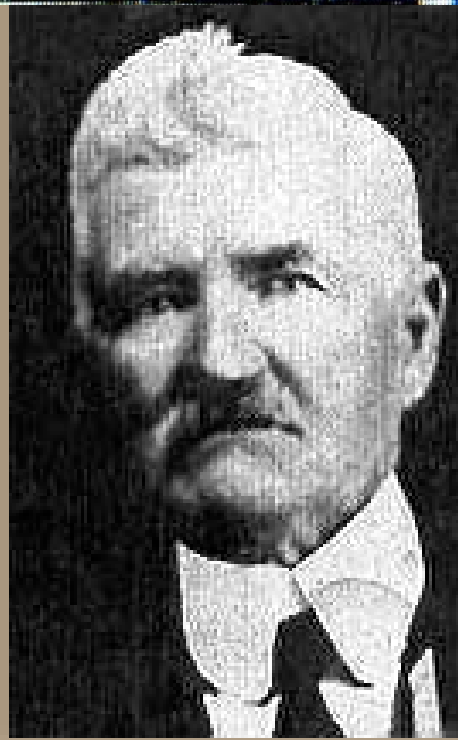
Human Skulls Found.

Grapevine, Tex., June 25.—J. M. Murrell, a prominent farmer of this county, was in town to-day and reports that some parties were fishing on Denton creek a few days ago and saw a bone sticking out of the bank, and upon investigation found a large hole from which seven human skulls were removed. The supposition is they were victims of the Ku Klux, as several parties disappeared from here during the time that organization existed and have never been heard from.

Dallas Morning News, June 26, 1897

John M. Murrell, a veteran of Co. A, 2nd Tennessee Infantry, was its Captain by War's end. He came to our area in the 1870's, stayed for many years, and wound up in Uvalde County. He was married four times and had twenty-three children.

It would be interesting to know who these seven men were, and who in the neighborhood broke out into a cold sweat when they were found.



PVT. DAVID L. STEPHENSON

Co. E, 14th Texas Infantry

"STEPHENSON — David L. Stephenson, the subject of this notice, a son of James and Nancy Stephenson, was born Jan. 21, 1834, in Blount county, Ala.; came to Texas with his parents about the year 1847, and in or about the year 1858 professed religion and joined the M. E. Church, South, at Ebel, on this — Starrville — circuit, where he lived a devoted member for near twenty-six years. I knew him well, and the whole of his Christian life. When I was class-leader I held class-meeting with him, when I was an exhorter I held meetings regularly at his church, when I was a local preacher I kept an appointment at his church, since I have been traveling I have been his pastor four years, so I think I knew him well. I have seen him happy, heard him shout aloud the praise

Of God, but he is gone. On the 5th of February, 1886, at his sister's, in Tarrant county, he passed away. The last words he uttered were: "I am going to heaven." May God bless his aged mother, brothers and sister, and help them meet him in heaven. C. H. Smith." Texas Christian Advocate, June 17, 1886.



**Smithfield Cemetery
North Richland Hills**

THE KILLING AT GRAPEVINE

Jack Estill Shot By Frank
Kennemer Yesterday.

BULLET PIERCED MAN'S BREAST.

The Difficulty Had Its Origin Over a
Disputed Division of Sugar Cane.
Admitted to Bond.

"A telephone message was received at the sheriff's office from constable Judd Hollis at Grapevine yesterday morning giving meager particulars of a shooting which occurred five miles from that town.

The particulars were Jack Estill and Frank Kennemer. Former [constabs?] the latter being a tenant on the farm of Estill.

From County Attorney James W. Swayne, who went out to investigate the affair, it was learned that the trouble occurred over a division of sugar cane.

During the affray Estill was shot through the chest and killed. Kennemer was frightfully cut on the head with a cane knife. The gash required ten or twenty stitches to close it.

Immediately after the killing of Estill, Kennemer escaped, but he was suffering

Fort Worth Morning Register August 25, 1900

so severely from the loss of blood that he was forced to stop at a friend's some three or four miles from the scene of the killing. A doctor was sent for, and when the physician started for the wounded man officers followed him and placed Kennemer under arrest and brought him to Grapevine. He was given an examination instanter and bound over in the sum of \$5000. Failing to give it he was brought to Fort Worth by First Assistant Sheriff Brock and lodged in jail.

Estill has twice been in the asylum and only a month ago he was returned to this county from the Terrell asylum. He was a well-to-do farmer and while he is said to have had an ungovernable temper, bore a good reputation and was generally well thought of. He was about 55 years of age and leaves a family.

Kennemer was a single man about 30 years old.

This prisoner will remain in the county jail until such time as he is able to make bond."

John Staples "Jack" Estill enlisted at Grapevine in Co. A, 9th Texas Cavalry. He was buried in the Lipscomb Cemetery on the DFW Airport Land. When the cemetery was moved to make way for the new airport, Estill was reburied in Bluebonnet Hills Memorial Park. Since Bluebonnet was not established until the 1950's, he is the only veteran of the War Between the States to be buried there.



THE MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION IN THE HISTORY OF THE U.S.A. IS COMING IN LESS THAN TWELVE MONTHS. PRAY HARD, EVERY DAY, THAT GOD WILL SEND US LEADERS WHO WILL HELP US GET BACK THE AMERICA WHICH ONCE WAS THE STRONGEST, SAFEST, MOST BLESSED, MOST PRODUCTIVE COUNTRY IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD.

ON FRIDAY, NOVEMBER
25, 2011, THE PRESIDENT
OF THE UNITED STATES
GAVE HIS WEEKLY FRIDAY
ADDRESS, THIS ONE
DEVOTED TO
THANKSGIVING. HE
THANKED A LOT OF
PEOPLE, BUT MADE NOT
ONE, SINGLE, SOLITARY
MENTION OF THE ONE
PERSON TO WHOM WE
(AND HE) OWE
EVERYTHING:

GOD.



“To you, Sons of Confederate Veterans, we will commit the vindication of the Cause for which we fought. To your strength will be given the defense of the Confederate soldier's good name, the guardianship of his history, the emulation of his virtues, the perpetuation of those principles which he loved and which you love also, and those ideals which made him glorious and which you also cherish. Remember, it is your duty to see that the true history of the South is presented to future generations.” Lt. Gen. Stephen E. Lee, Commander-in-Chief, United Confederate Veterans, 1906

NEVER FORGET





NEVER FORGET