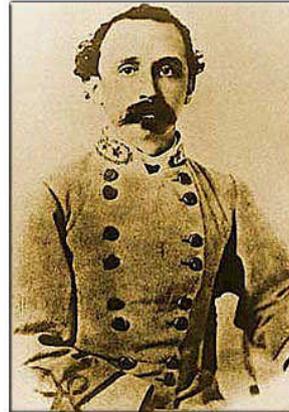




COL. E. W. TAYLOR
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS #1777

NEWSLETTER

Bedford, Texas.....June 2012



SUL ROSS IS TOPIC OF JUNE SCV PROGRAM

Join us on the last Thursday in June to hear a talk on Lawrence Sullivan "Sul" Ross, Indian-fighter, Confederate officer, and Governor of Texas. The presenter is Charles Oliver, a member of the Waco Camp no. 129.

Ross was born in the Iowa Territory in 1838, and came to the Republic of Texas with his parents the next year. By 1860 he was an accomplished Indian fighter, and led the raid on the Pease River in which white captive Cynthia Ann Parker was recovered.

He saw much active service during the WBTS, especially in the Atlanta and Franklin-Nashville Campaigns.

After his return to Texas he served in many public roles, most notably as governor of Texas for two terms.

Ross died in 1898 as a result of sickness he contracted during a hunting trip. He and his wife lie buried in Waco's Oakwood Cemetery.

Above: our presenter, Charles Oliver, and his grandson.

JUNE MEETING June 28, 2012
Catfish and Company
900 Airport Freeway #110
Hurst, Texas 817-581-3912
Eat at 6:15 Meeting at 7:00

IMMEDIATE PAST-COMMANDER OF THE E. W. TAYLOR CAMP PASSES AWAY. SERVICES IN DENTON COUNTY ON MAY 24.

Comrade Lonnie Taylor, 59, immediate past-commander of the E.W. Taylor Camp of the SCV, passed away Friday, May 18, 2012, at his home in North Richland Hills. His funeral was held at 2 p.m. Thursday in the Denton Funeral Home Chapel. Burial was in Prairie Mound Cemetery in Argyle, with a naval honor guard firing a salute. Lonnie was born July 27, 1952, in Denton to Godfrey and Marlyn Evans Palmer. He was married to Laura C. Pickens. Lonnie was a veteran of 24 years with the U. S. Navy. He was a member of the Sons of the Confederate Veterans, the 12th Texas Infantry, the Fort Worth Civil War Round Table and the Hoods Brigade Reactivated. Lonnie also volunteered at the Civil War Museum in Fort Worth. Survivors: Wife, Laura; son, Randall N. Palmer and wife, Tamara, of Fort Campbell, Ky.; daughter, Andrea D Marichal and husband, Victor of Melbourne, FL; sister, Dianna Sanford of Burleson; stepsister, Janice Taylor of Denton; and grandchildren, Sierra M. Palmer, Helen Marichal, Anthony Marichal, Kaitlin Palmer and Thomas Palmer.

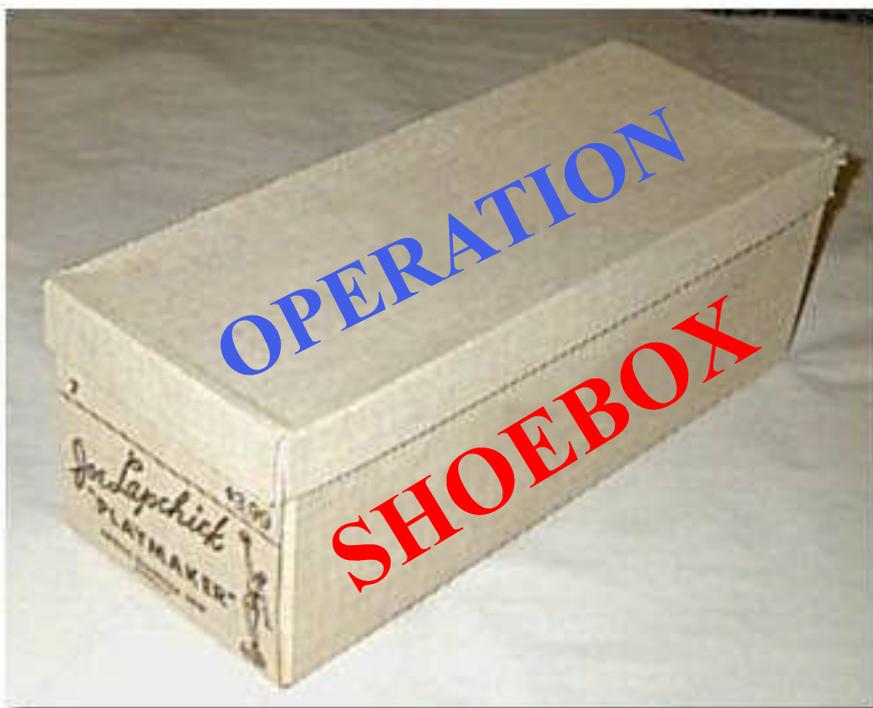


Our thanks to the E. W. Taylor Camp members who attended the service: Bob Gresham, Ron Parker, David Stewart, James Madewell, Tom Trawick, Mike and Marilyn Patterson. About eighteen uniformed SCV members were present.

Lonnie Palmer, at left, at the January 2011 meeting, when he relinquished the commander's role to Bob Gresham, right.



For your excellent May program on the St. Albans, Vermont raid...



THIS YEAR'S OPERATION SHOEBOX IS OFF TO A GREAT START, USING OUR \$50 HONORARIUM FROM THE CITY OF WESTLAKE AS SEED MONEY. IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO USE AS PREMIUMS, BRING THEM TO THE MEETINGS!

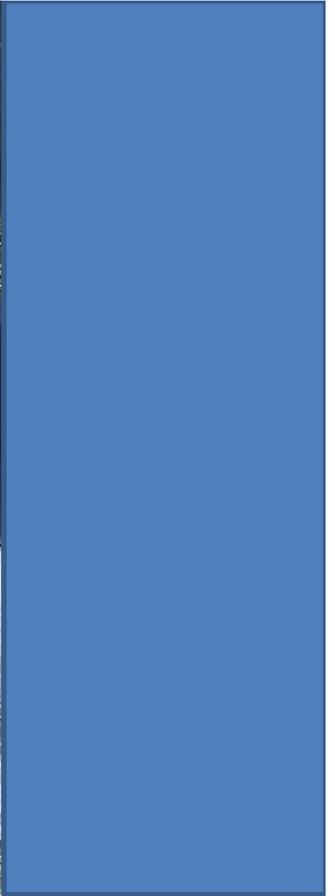
TEXAS DIVISION UDC MEMORIAL DEDICATED AT TEXAS CIVIL WAR MUSEUM ON MAY 5



*An absolutely
superb piece of
art in granite*



The Taylor Camp was represented at the ceremony by three members, l-r, 1st Lt. Comm. Mike Patterson, Commander Bob Gresham, Adjutant James Alderman, and Mr. Patterson's charge d'affaires Marilyn Patterson.



**HOOD'S
TEXAS
BRIGADE
MONUMENT
DEDICATED
AT GAINES
MILL
BATTLEFIELD
MAY 19**



GAME-CHANGING RULES NOW IN EFFECT FOR VETERANS ADMINISTRATION HEADSTONE PROGRAM

From now on, if you want to get a headstone for a Confederate veteran, you're going to have to find a direct descendant to apply for it.

The rules were changed in 2009, but the VA left the old form online until early May, and continued to approve requests from cemetery officials until that time.

In early May a new form was posted on the VA site, and henceforth only descendants may apply. Why did they suddenly change the form?

Your editor, after more than one long talk with VA supervisors, is convinced that the trigger was a group in Richmond, who, with the support of some SCV officials and at least one Democratic House member from Virginia, charged the VA with discrimination for not being willing to supply 17,200 new upright granite headstones for a single cemetery. See the inside front cover of the latest Confederate Veteran magazine.

These graves are already marked with small square numbered stones, paid for with U. S. tax dollars. It just seems, to this editor at least, that a request for this many stones, when our country's economy is in the toilet, is ill-timed. And I'd rather the SCV hadn't gotten on the "discrimination" bandwagon. I'm a little choosy about who I ride with. [bad grammar, si]

The official line, ***which is entirely valid***, is that whenever a benefit is denied to a veteran or his family, the family has a legal right to appeal the denial. Cemetery officials and non-relatives have no legal standing to make such an appeal.

I know that, almost to a man, SCV members have worked, paid taxes, and supported their families and their country throughout their adult lives. I don't want to be lumped in the public

mind with many of those in our country who demand something for which they've never helped pay.

The VA did open my eyes to a few problems I didn't know. We all are aware that many headstones have been gotten for graves which already have good, readable monuments. Now the VA checks the Find-A-Grave site, and much of that abuse has been stopped.

But I hadn't realized that in many instances old family headstones had been taken down and replaced with VA stones without the family's knowledge and consent. When irate family members call the VA to demand to know where the old headstone Grandma scrimped to buy has gone...you get the picture.

Finding records of deceased persons is fairly easy if one knows what he's doing. But making contact with living relatives is very tough. You may find a direct descendant buried in a perpetual care cemetery last year, but the cemetery office will not tell you the names or addresses of the next of kin.

Newspaper obituaries usually no longer give you enough information to find specific survivors, mostly to protect them from unscrupulous businessmen. Expect nearly all of your phone messages and emails left for strangers, even those you know to be descendants, to be left unanswered.

Still, with diligence and luck, we may be able to get a few more stones.

STATUS REPORT ON OUR HEADSTONE PROJECTS

Carroll Bennett Eaves. Co. B, Well's Texas Cavalry. Buried in Hood Cemetery in Southlake. Application denied because it was not submitted by a direct descendant. Resubmitted per VA regs in late May.

William Hardin Martin. Co. A, 34th Texas Cavalry. Buried in Hood Cemetery in Southlake. Application denied because it was not submitted by a direct descendant. Resubmitted per VA regs in late May.

John G. Valentine. Co. I, 4th Missouri Cavalry. Buried in Hood Cemetery in Southlake. Application denied because it was not submitted by a direct descendant. Resubmitted per VA regs in late May.

John A. Lanford. Co. A, 50th Alabama Infantry. Buried in Grapevine Cemetery. Slipped through before the rule change. Stone was delivered May 29. We'll cut an inscription for his wife on the back before we install it.

John Boon. Co. E, 11th Texas Cavalry. Buried in Bourland Cemetery in Keller. App denied. Veteran received a pension from Texas for years but the affidavits from comrades in his approved pension file are not considered proof of his service. We'll make him one ourselves. His wife has a large upright stone with a blank back, but it is stuck to its base and we are unable to take it to the monument company to carve an inscription on it for Mr. Boon.

John W. Stateham. Co. D, 28th Texas Cavalry. Buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery in Southlake. App completed to VA standards and will be mailed about June 1.

Joseph H. Williams. Co. B, 11th Illinois Infantry, **Union**. Buried in Lonesome Dove Cemetery in Southlake. Descendant located 5/29/2012 and paperwork initiated. App will be mailed by mid-June.

John Fletcher Walton. Co. G, 3rd(Lillard's) Tennessee Infantry. Buried in Grapevine Cemetery. Have baited trotlines out all over the place waiting for a direct descendant to bite. One or more certainly will within a week or so.

So far....we've been able to find direct descendants of the veterans we're trying to honor. This won't always be the case.



THANKS!!!

...to the members of the E. W. Taylor Camp who took the time to help honor Union veterans Hiram Adams and William Cowan in the Town of Westlake on Memorial Day. Several artillery pieces were there, along with a large number of uniformed men, both Union and Confederate. Taylor Camp members there included Mr. and Mrs. James Alderman, Ron Parker, David Stewart, and Mr. and Mrs. Mike Patterson.



Richard Trawick adjusting one of the flags at the graves of the Hunley crew. "A beautiful and touching moment in my life."



COMPILED MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS OF CONFEDERATE SOLDIERS... the second in a series looking at sources... The Confederate Army

had no centralized location to which all its personnel records were sent and kept. Each regiment's adjutant kept records as best he could. Most of what we know about the Southern Patriots has been compiled from thousands of sources from captured and otherwise recovered records at the War's end.

Early in the twentieth century the War Department oversaw a gigantic effort by copyists, working in longhand, to gather names and information from thousands and thousands of original documents, such as muster rolls, prisoner lists, exchange lists, and paroles. As an entry for individual soldier was found, a record was made on a separate card

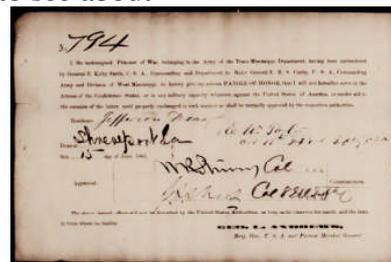
A jacket envelope for each soldier's cards was made, and gradually the veteran's service record took shape in a single place. The completeness and size of soldiers' records vary from a single card to files containing upwards of one hundred items, in some cases including original signed enlistment documents, discharges, paroles, pay requisitions and receipts, and many other things. Generally officers' files were larger.

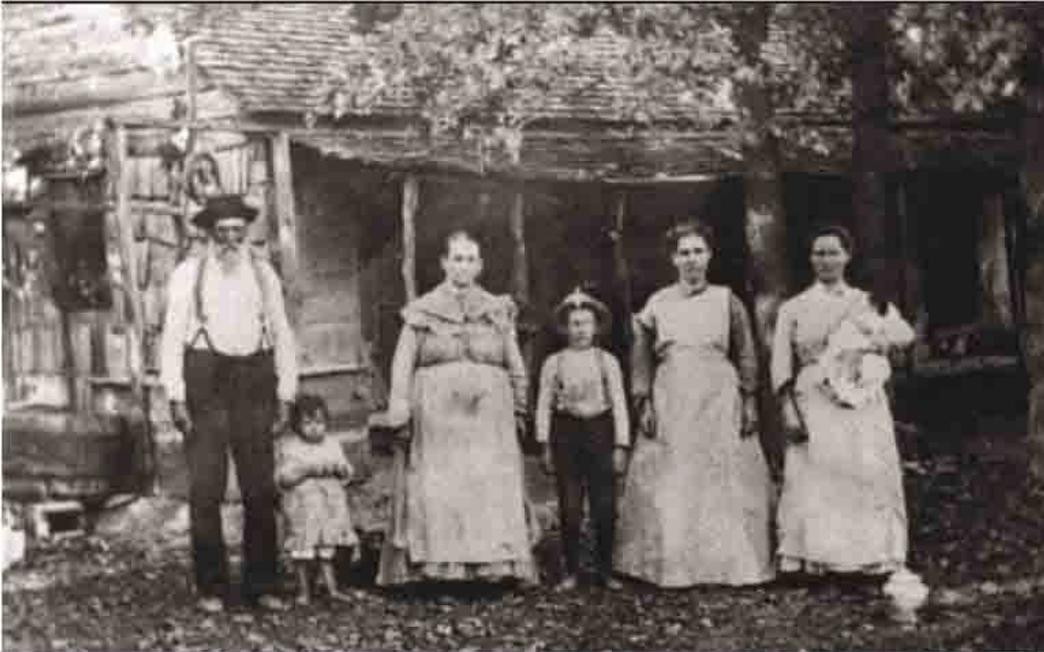
As an example, let's see what's in Col. E. W. Taylor's jacket envelope. The cover is shown above left. There's a company muster-in roll, with details of his age, date and place of enlistment, and a notation about his being promoted to major.

Next are nine various muster roll and regimental roster records for various times during the War. The last document is an original signed copy of his parole from 1865 (below right). His file is about the average length for a private, and much shorter than the file of most officers, particularly for colonels and above.

Some files are very long and interesting, especially when a soldier became involved in a lengthy dispute over some infraction of the rules. Being individuals, it wasn't unusual for a soldier to request a furlough home for some purpose, have it refused, and take it anyway. When called to account, he might say he "left in broad daylight with the full knowledge of the officers," and "returned to my company voluntarily, the crisis at home having been dealt with..." One soldier on our Northeast Tarrant County veterans' memorial promised, in writing, to find and kill (after the War) the officer who tried to prevent him going to his home to see about his orphan children. He wasn't able to carry through, because one of his pals got the officer first.

Don't order copies of your soldiers' records from the National Archives. They are available online from any researcher or public library who has a subscription to Fold 3. Every page of every Confederate soldier's file from every state is there. The public libraries in both Dallas and Fort Worth have a subscription. As an SCV member, you get a big discount for subscribing to Fold 3. It figures out to about four dollars per month, and is well worth it.





The Harper home, at left, sat near the intersection of Belknap and Layton in modern-day Haltom City. Only the tiny Harper's Rest Cemetery remains. It lies along the east side of Layton Avenue, a few yards north of Belknap.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR LOCAL CONFEDERATES

Henry Jackson Harper (1844-1928) came to Tarrant County from Lincoln County, Tennessee about 1884. He had served in Co. E, Newman's Tennessee Infantry Battalion.

He married his wife, Malissa Lock (1837-1922), in 1864. They had ten children, four of whom had died by 1900. Both died at their old home place near Belknap Street and Layton Avenue.

One of Henry's brothers, William Robert Harper, was also a Confederate veteran who settled near present-day Southlake before 1880. In his old age he moved into Fort Worth, and spent many days sitting on the court house lawn telling stories about the War to passersby. His 1933 obituary in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram was entitled "*Courthouse Lawn Orator for Many Years is Buried.*"

ULTRA-COOLNESS NOW AVAILABLE AT A REASONABLE PRICE



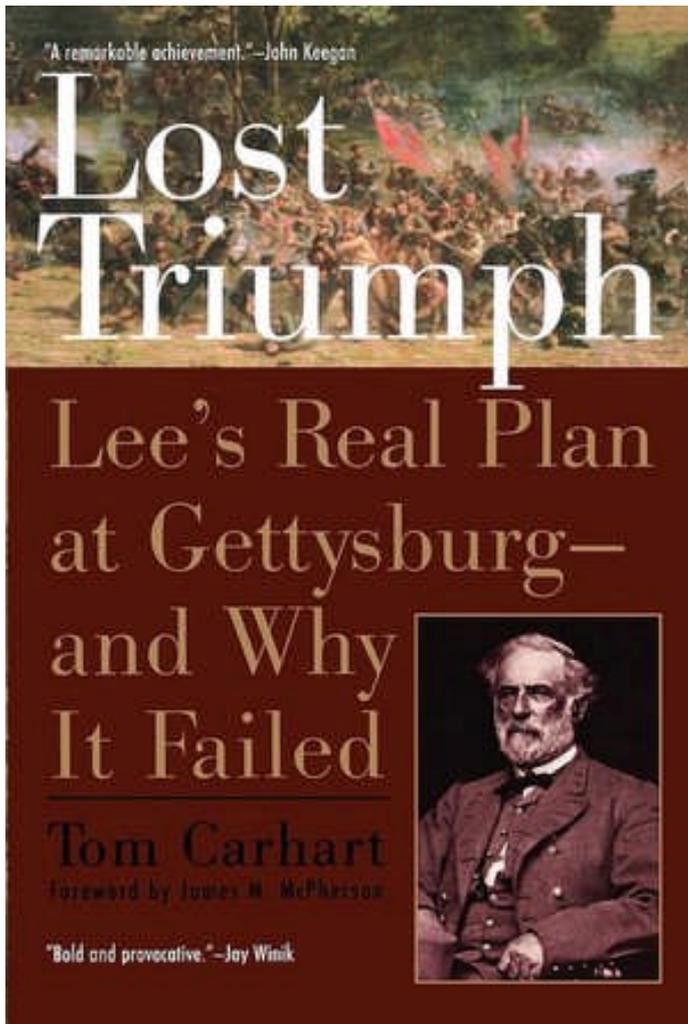
[CAST IRON CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA GRAVE MARKER | eBay](#)

An entrepreneur in the southeast U.S. has started producing repro CSA grave markers in cast iron (above). They are about eleven inches across and come with a metal mounting stake and a bracket on the back to hold a flag. They're sold on ebay and cost only \$40 each.

These things appear in old cemeteries all across the South in a variety of styles, some of which are shown here. There are also versions which were placed by the UDC.

Several bronze foundries in America also produce medallions for placement at graves of soldiers of both sides of the WBTS. Google them and see.





adjunct professor of history at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He has written four books on military history.

For years Mr. Carhart had a hard time believing that a military genius like General Lee would have gambled everything on Pickett's charge on July 3. Why, he wondered, would Lee commit only one-fifth of his available troops in that desperate assault?

Mr. Carhart's research, which is now accepted by the leading WBTS scholars, indicates that Pickett led only one part of what Lee intended to be a three-pronged simultaneous attack.

For various reasons you'll learn, the other two parts of the attack were not launched. Had they been successful, Meade's army would certainly have been defeated and the Confederates would have been in a position to threaten a defenseless Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., and to demand, and probably gain, Southern independence.

I got my copy of the book used from Amazon.com for under ten dollars, shipping included, and it arrived in about one week. Last month when Ben Hatch spoke to us, he stressed the need for us to become more knowledgeable about the WBTS, and this is an enjoyable and interesting way to do it.

AN INTERESTING NEW LOOK AT THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

Not long ago an old friend of mine gave me a book entitled Sacred Ties: From West Point Brothers to Battlefield Rivals: A True Story of the Civil War. It tells the story of six cadets from the class of 1861, three of whom went South while the other three stayed north.

I enjoyed this new author's style and learned a lot about the six men and the battlefields where they faced each other. By the time I'd finished the book and learned a little about the author, Tom Carhart, I was ready for more.

Mr. Carhart is the kind of American we need. He is a graduate of West Point and a twice-wounded Vietnam veteran. He has worked as a lawyer and as a historian for the Department of the Army in Washington, D.C. He has earned a PhD in American and military history from Princeton. He is now



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. General Stephen Dill Lee,
Commander-General
United Confederate
Veterans, New Orleans,
April 25, 1906**

