

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

Bedford, Texas.....August 2012



AUGUST PROGRAM: JEFFERSON DAVIS AND THE CONFEDERATE CABINET.

AUGUST MEETING AUG. 30, 2012
Catfish and Company
900 Airport Freeway #110
Hurst, Texas 817-581-3912
Eat at 6:15 Meeting at 7:00

Join us in August as we take a brief look at President Davis and the fifteen men who, at various times, served in his cabinet. We'll make extensive use of historic photographs. We hope to see you there!!!

LOCAL CONFEDERATE VETERAN GETS A HEADSTONE AFTER A WAIT OF 143 YEARS!!!



An old Confederate no longer lies forgotten in Lonesome Dove Cemetery in Southlake. John W. Stateham was born in Georgia about 1832, came to Texas about 1852, and by the time the War began he had settled in Rusk County, Texas. He served in two regiments, the 28th Texas Cavalry and the 13th Texas Volunteers, his company of which was

made up of cavalry. He came to northeast Tarrant County about 1867 and settled in the area of present day Westlake-Southlake. Stateham was gunned down and died in June of 1869. Descendants say the shooter was Stateham's brother-in-law, who was married to Mrs. Stateham's sister. Then as now, sometimes acute hormonal imbalance may lead to lead poisoning.

Col. E. W. Taylor Camp members who installed the stone on Saturday morning., July 28, included standing, l-r, David Stewart. Ron Parker, Bob Gresham, James Madewell, and Mike Patterson, kneeling.

Even though it's much more difficult than before, this grave marking program is still a good one for a local camp to pursue.

JULY PROGRAM WAS LOTS OF FUN



Back in the spring we hit upon the idea of having a program on WBTS trivia. We also decided it would work well as a secret program, so we kept the plans to ourselves until the moment it went onto the screen on program night.

It was lots of fun, and if you weren't there we're sorry you missed it.

The questions started easy but got harder. None were impossible to answer, though, given some reading and study. They were the kind of thing you pick up from reading a wide variety of books and articles about the War, and from paying attention to local history as well.

We had the questions ranked for relative difficulty, from a 1 (In what state is Fort Sumter located?) to a 5 (General

Thomas Rosser is remembered for being the first to use *what* in warfare?) There were about one hundred questions, and several of them got some interesting comments from the group.

Ever see anyone wearing colored WBTS-period glasses at a reenactment? Now you can have a little chuckle to yourself 'cause you know the skinny on those.

Ever have occasion to go into the Fort Worth National Bank? Now you know an odd fact about one of the valuables once stored in their vault.

How many songs did U.S. Grant know by heart, and what were they?

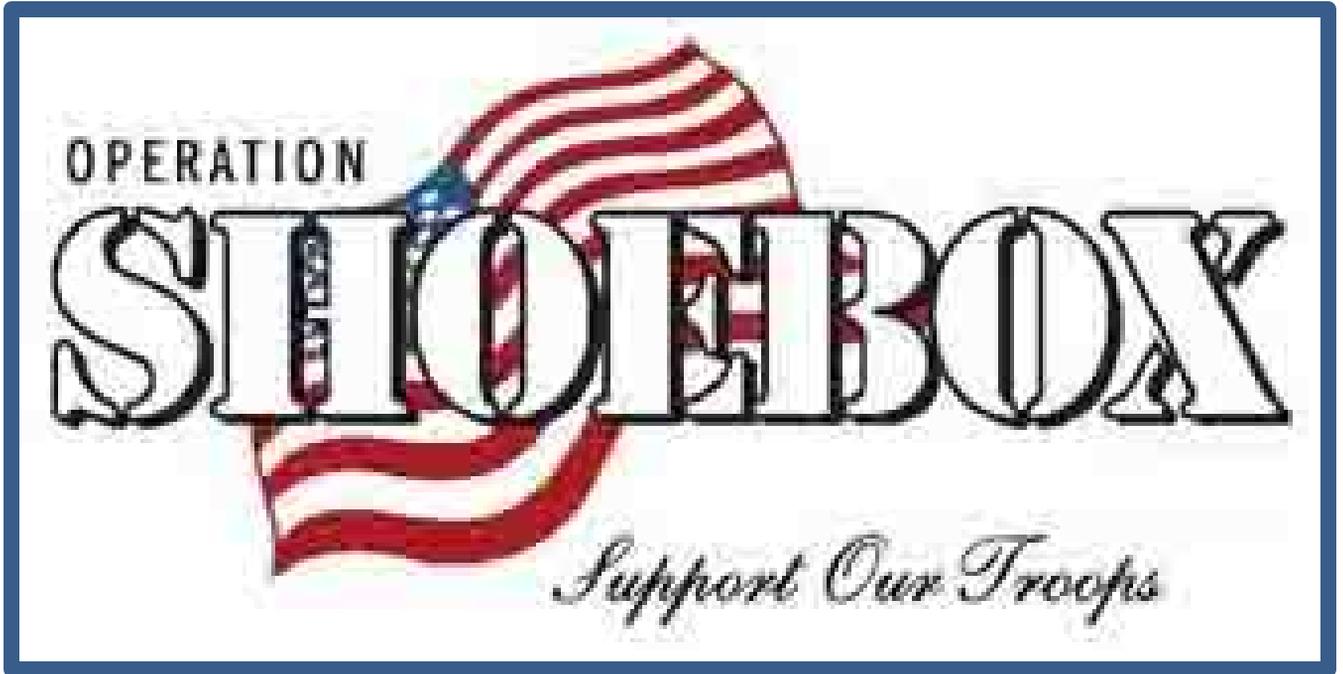
You know....the type of things which will really impress your grandkids' fiances when they're over at your place for dinner.

What would your feelings be about having a WBTS Trivia program each year? It could be put together with input from our members.



And what was the answer to the question about General Rosser? Anti-aircraft artillery, of course.

IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS ABOUT



Are you aware of the fact that our commander-in-chief once pointed out that, since the Armed Forces are all voluntary, they should pay for their own accident insurance to cover expenses if they are wounded in battle. he did, capitalization error intended.

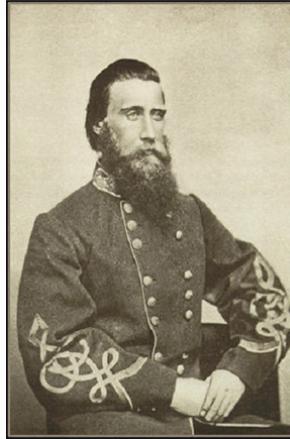
There are no more staunch supporters of the United States Military Men and Women than the Sons of Confederate Veterans. We can help them, and we should, even if it means a personal financial sacrifice to do it.

Operation Shoebox was founded in 2003 to bring some pleasure to American service personnel, some of whom are serving in very unpleasant circumstances as the rest of us celebrate the Christmas season.

Even if you're unable to attend meetings, please send a generous contribution for this program to our adjutant, James Alderman, at 221 Chapelwood Drive, Colleyville, Texas 76034. Include a note that it's for Operation Shoebox.

Thank you for caring and brightening the season for a deserving soldier.

WE NEED YOU... TO DO A PROGRAM FOR US NEXT YEAR. You have an interest, or you wouldn't be a member of our group.



We will work with you so you'll have a slide show to go with it. Most or all the preparation can be done via the computer and email. Pick a topic and let's get after it! We need you! People, Battles, Weapons, Clothing, Customs, Book Reviews, Movies, Etc. We will work with you!



GRAPEVINE CONFEDERATE VETERAN TO GET HEADSTONE ON AUGUST 18.

**Descendants from out of town will be here to help us
with the installation.**

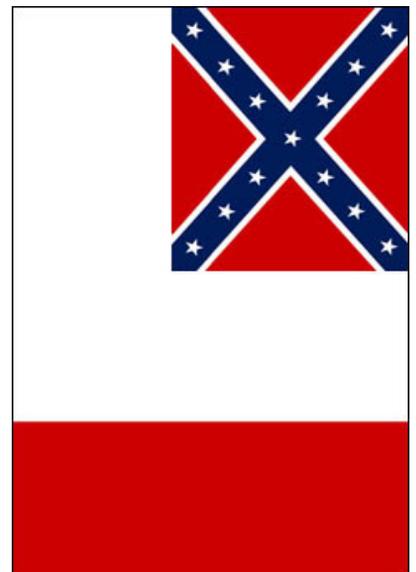
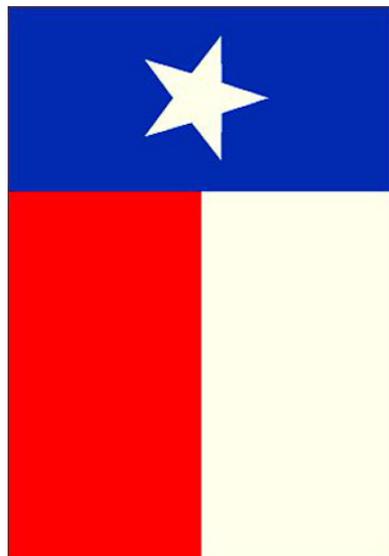
Rendezvous with us at Grapevine Cemetery on Saturday morning, August 18, at 9 a.m. to help install another VA headstone for a Confederate who's been waiting a long time.

John Fletcher Walton was born in 1832 in Jacksons County, Alabama. He served the South in Co. G, 3rd (Lillard's) Tennessee Infantry.

Walton and his family settled at Grapevine in 1884, where they remained. Walton's first wife died in the summer of 1904. He was remarried in the spring of 1905. The second Mrs. Walton passed away in 1908.

John Fletcher "Jack" Walton died in Grapevine in early 1913 at the home of his son-in-law, who was also surnamed Walton.

Bring some water, a hat, and a little energy and give us a hand that morning. We look forward to seeing you there.



**KEEP THE EVENING OF SEPTEMBER
29, 2012 OPEN ON YOUR CALENDAR.
MEET WITH US AT THE TEXAS CIVIL
WAR MUSEUM FOR JUDY RICHEY'S
PRESENTATION OF HER EXTENSIVE
HISTORIC DRESS COLLECTION.**

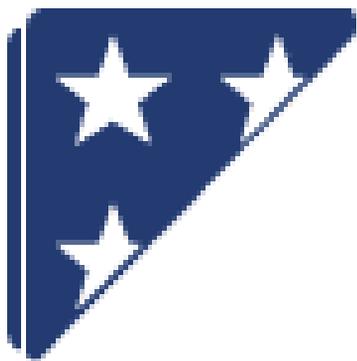


As many of us know, the best collection of WBTS artifacts west of the Mississippi River is housed right here in good ol' Tarrant County. It's out on West Loop 820 near White Settlement Road.

Ray and Judy Richey have spent years gathering, cataloging, and housing the collection. Gather up your wives, moms, daughters, sisters, nieces, and any other ladies you can so we can have a strong female presence as this once-in-a-lifetime event! We'll have more to say about it in the September newsletter.



fold3



AN AFFORDABLE AND ESSENTIAL TOOL.

Let's say you've finally identified your Confederate ancestor, and it's time to get a copy of his Compiled Military Service Records file in the National Archives in Washington, D. C. You fill out the NARA form online and mail Washington \$25, and in due time your records will arrive. Maybe.

There's a better way. For only \$49.95 per year, you can have complete online access, 24-7, to every Confederate soldier's records from every state. And that's only the beginning. They also have the Union files from soldiers from all the Southern states and Dakota, Delaware, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, and West Virginia. They have the original index cards from Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and New York.

You can look at Revolutionary soldiers and widow's pension files, Revolutionary service records, and lots of other interesting things. Records are being constantly added...things like service records for the War of 1812 (and their pensioners) and the Mexican War.

Their stated price for a one-year subscription is \$79.95, but keep looking and you'll find the place you can get your \$30 discount as a member of the SCV. That's about \$4.16 per month, and it's an incredible bargain for what you get. You can't drive one-way to the Dallas Public Library for that.



During our recent WBTS trivia show, Richard Trawick was quite right in pointing out that not four but five of our state flags display Confederate symbolism. We stand corrected.

Beyond the colors, there are the obvious lines of white stars on blue stripes on a red background. Prior to 1923 the flag contained only three stars inside the white rectangle....one above two below the state name. In that year, a fourth star was added, placed above the state name, and the other three were placed below it. The star above the state's name represents the state's place as one of the Confederate States of America.

Interestingly, Arkansas did not have a state flag until plans were in the works to launch the battleship Arkansas in 1912. Miss Willie Hocker of Wabbaseka, Arkansas, a member of the Pine Bluff chapter of the D.A.R., submitted the winning design in a statewide contest.

UPGRADE YOUR HAVERSACK AND HELP OPERATION SHOEBOX

Every one of our ancestors, from childhood on up, knew how to start a fire using flint and steel. It's an easy process to learn, and usually takes less than one minute.

You need a hard steel striker, a sharp piece of flint, some tinder, and something which will catch and hold a spark, like char cloth, which is charcoal easily made from cotton cloth.

The best thing to hold your striker, char cloth, and tinder is a small metal box, which can also be used to make more char cloth when you run out. One of the best things to use for tinder is torn-apart jute twine, but lots of other things found in nature will work.

At our July meeting, we brought the whole rig and showed how it's done, as far as getting a spark onto the char cloth. Going beyond that produces too much smoke for inside the restaurant.

For a donation to Operation Shoebox, you can have a metal box, tinder, char cloth, a striker, a piece of flint, and enough jute twine to start lots of fires. It'll come in a hand-sewn cotton bag with a draw-string, just like to old soldiers would have carried.



Since there's a little effort and expense to putting one of these together, we'll only make one for anyone who's interested. Email Patterson at mfpchat@yahoo.com if you want one, and it'll be waiting for you at the August meeting.

We'll also include a detailed set of photos and instructions in our September newsletter.

A FEW SUGGESTIONS ABOUT GETTING VA HEADSTONES IN THE NEW ERA.

If the veteran already has a readable gravestone, you're not entitled to a VA headstone. Don't apply for one.

Don't remove a stone the family placed because you want him to have a new one. That's one of the reasons the application rules have changed.

The VA checks Find-A-Grave to see if there's already a headstone in place. If the person is in the cemetery and has no headstone and is listed on Find-A-Grave, you'll have better luck if you can get the notation "Unmarked Grave" posted on FAG.

Only a direct descendant of a veteran may now apply. In some cases, you'll almost need a private detective to find one. Include a simple, one page explanation showing exactly how the applicant and the vet are connected, naming every person in the chain of descent.

Staple the app, the military records, and any other papers together.

If the vet already has a headstone which has become unreadable, you may be able to get a new VA stone. Include a color photo of the present stone. Keep a copy.

The app will get scanned and sent by computer to another office, and your color copy will become black-and-white. You'll be contacted to supply another color copy to the person working your case. With luck you can email the picture to them.

If you have your app completed clearly and properly, you may have a finished stone delivered to you within six weeks of the time you apply.

If you get a notice of approval, they'll promise delivery in four to six weeks. The trucking company is supposed to contact you before they deliver the stone to be sure you're home, but they probably won't. If the stone doesn't appear, the VA will not put a tracer on it until ten weeks have passed after the approval date.

A FEW COMMON-SENSE OBSERVATIONS ABOUT INSTALLING VA HEADSTONES

Upright VA headstones should be placed with the lower fourteen inches in the ground. They should be placed in a hole about three inches bigger than the stone all the way around. That gives you some tamping room. It also keeps the center of gravity of the stone very low, making it less likely to lean over time.

Stones begin to lean over time because the ground moves due to soaking and drying, freezing and thawing. The ground we're dealing with has been refilled so long that it's virtually back to its original degree of compactness. Blackland is a major problem in this regard. The sandier the land, the less the problem.

Concrete is not an absolute good, like moms, apple pie, and babies. It has its place. This isn't one of them. If any particular stone is going to lean, it's also going to lean with one or two hundred pounds of concrete stuck to the bottom of it. Shifting earth does not encounter concrete and, differentially, automatically go around it.

Put the stone in the hole, put a little dirt around it, and start tamping the fill with gusto. Check the vertical on both sides, make adjustments, and keep slowly filling and tamping. If you're working in black dirt, get some sand or topsoil for the fill. Pack the fill as tightly as you can.

Ten years from now if the stone begins to lean, it can be re-leveled with a sharpshooter shovel in one or two minutes. If you put a giant blob of concrete on the bottom of it, don't call me to help. I don't want to spend the day working on it.

I can't count the times when I was working for a monument company when I was sent to dig out an old monument, use a crane to lift it out of the hole, break all the concrete off it, and reset it in clean sand.

STATUS REPORT ON OUR HEADSTONE PROJECTS

Carroll Bennett Eaves. Co. B, Well's Texas Cavalry. **William Hardin Martin**. Co. A, 34th Texas Cavalry. **John G. Valentine**. Co. I, 4th Missouri Cavalry. All three buried in Hood Cemetery in Southlake. Applications originally denied because they were not submitted by direct descendants. Resubmitted per VA standards in late May. Notified of their approvals in late June, and promised delivery in four to six weeks. All three stones delivered to Patterson on July 2. Waiting for cemetery association to announce dedication date for Eaves, Martin, and Valentine in a single ceremony after cemetery is cleaned up.

John Fletcher Walton. Co. G, 3rd (Lillard's) Tennessee Infantry. Buried in Grapevine Cemetery. Paperwork done to VA standards and mailed June 9. Got notification on June 19 (ten days!!!) Stone delivered to Patterson on July 18. We'll meet at Grapevine Cemetery at 9 a.m. on August 18 to install it. Be there!

Joseph H. Williams. Co. B, 11th Illinois Infantry, a Union veteran. Lonesome Dove Cemetery in Southlake. ***Process has developed into a Saga.*** The search for a living descendant took more than ***forty hours*** of computer time and phone time. Paperwork done to VA standards and mailed June 7. Descendant was notified on June 12 that we needed to send a color photo of his present ruined marker, but she didn't contact us until June 30. We emailed the necessary photo to the VA within five minutes of learning they needed it. No word had been received as of July 11, and we feared our failure to respond in a timely manner may have caused us to lose this one. On July 11 Patterson talked to the VA rep via telephone and learned they had not received the photo, in spite of it being sent from two different locations on the same date. After four more unsuccessful tries to email the photo while she remained on the phone, she finally sent Patterson an email and he was able to get the photo to her by attaching it to a "reply." The VA rep was extremely personable and helpful, and promised she would get the app processed immediately. We have mailed a letter to her supervisor complimenting her attitude and willingness to help. The application was approved on July 12 and an email was sent to the descendant on that day, but she didn't email us the news until July 27. VA promised delivery within four to six weeks of July 12. Monument may arrive any day now, with or without prior notice. This one has been a nail-biter.

THE WAY IT OUGHT TO WORK EVERY TIME.....

Carson McKenzie Creecy. Co. E, 27th Arkansas Infantry. Buried in White's Chapel Cemetery in Southlake. Baited trotlines set out on the internet Saturday night, July 28, after 11 p.m. Got three solid bites via email in the first five minutes. Had application form signed by descendant in hand the next afternoon. App mailed to the VA on July 30 because July 29 was a Sunday.

TEXAS, OUR TEXAS

ALL HAIL THE MIGHTY STATE!

Two Texas Highway Patrol Officers were conducting speeding enforcement on Hwy 77, just south of Kingsville, Texas.

One of the officers was using a hand held radar device to check speeding vehicles approaching the town of Kingsville . The officers were suddenly surprised when the radar gun began reading 300 miles per hour and climbing. The officer attempted to reset the radar gun, but it would not reset and then it suddenly turned off.

Just then a deafening roar over the Mesquite treetops on Hwy 77 revealed that the radar had in fact locked on to a USMC F/A-18 Hornet which was engaged in a low flying exercise near this, it's Naval Air home base location in Kingsville Texas.

Back at the Texas Highway Patrol Headquarters in Corpus Christi the Patrol Captain fired off a complaint to the US Naval Base Commander in Kingsville for shutting down his equipment.

The reply came back in true USMC style:

'Thank you for your letter....

You may be interested to know that the tactical computer in the Hornet had detected the presence of, and subsequently locked on to, your hostile radar equipment and automatically sent a jamming signal back to it, which is why it shut down.

Furthermore, an Air-to-Ground missile aboard the fully armed aircraft had also automatically locked on to your equipment's location.

Fortunately, the Marine Pilot flying the Hornet recognized the situation for what it was, quickly responded to the missile system alert status, and was able to override the automated defense system, before the missile was launched to destroy the hostile radar position, on the side of Hwy 77 So. Of Kingsville.

The pilot suggests you cover your mouths when cussing at them, since the video systems on these jets are very high tech.

Sergeant Johnson, the officer holding the radar gun, should get his dentist to check his left rear molar. It appears the filling is loose.. Also, the snap is broken on his holster.'

Semper Fi



KEEP A SHARP EYE OUT FOR ITEMS WHICH WOULD MAKE GOOD QUESTIONS IN NEXT YEAR'S WBTS TRIVIA SHOW. EMAIL THEM TO PATTERSON AT mfpchat@yahoo.com

SACRED

to the

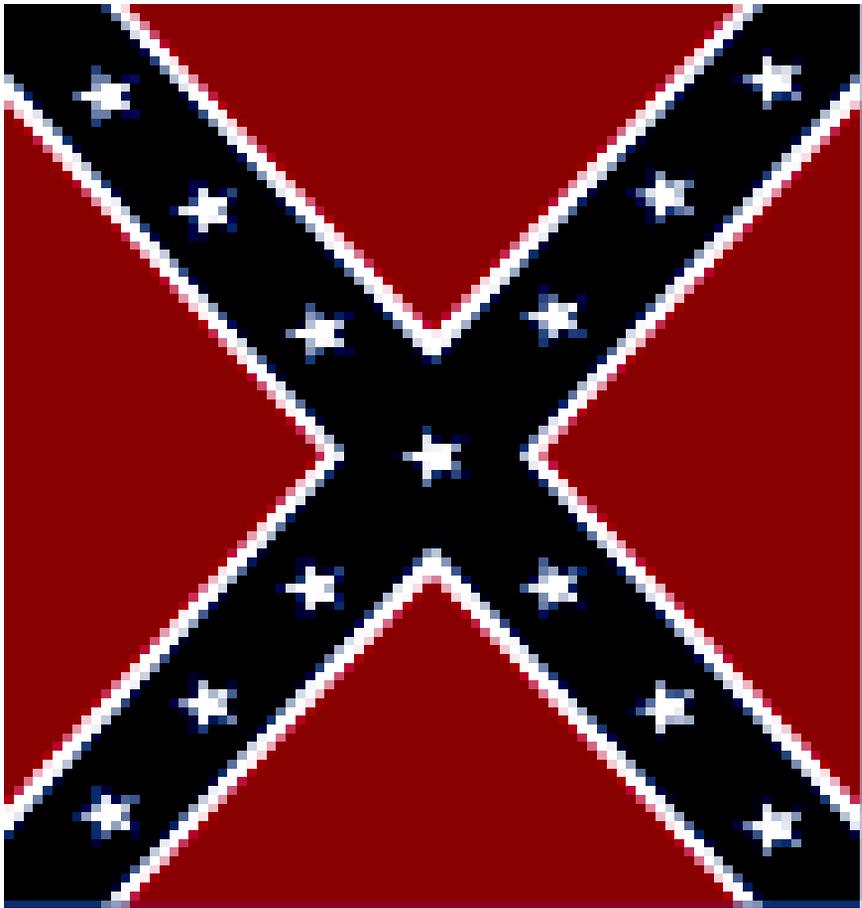
MEMORY

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.





**PRAY EVERY DAY THAT GOD
WILL PRESERVE THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AS OUR FOUNDING FATHERS
INTENDED IT TO BE.**



NOV. 6

2012