



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

# NEWSLETTER

Bedford, Texas.....December 2012

## TEXAS SECESSION PETITION REACHES LEVEL OF SIGNATURES REQUIRED FOR MANDATORY PRESIDENTIAL RESPONSE

At the end of the day on Monday, November 12, 2012... less than one week after the election, more than 80,000 citizens of Texas had signed a petition for Texas secession. According to his own predetermined standard, the current occupant of the White House must respond to any citizens' petition which gathers more than 25,000 signatures within thirty days. As of November 30, all fifty of the states had filed similar petitions at the White House's website. The text of the Texas petition says:

*The U.S. continues to suffer economic difficulties stemming from the federal government's neglect to reform domestic and foreign spending. The citizens of the U.S. suffer from blatant abuses of their rights such as the NDAA, the TSA, etc. Given that the state of Texas maintains a balanced budget and is the 15th largest economy in the world, it is practically feasible for Texas to withdraw from the union, and to do so would protect its citizens' standard of living and re-secure their rights and liberties in accordance with the original ideas and beliefs of our founding fathers which are no longer being reflected by the federal government.*

# TWO MEMBERS OF THE E. W. TAYLOR CAMP TAKE PART IN THE 2012 VETERANS DAY PARADE IN FORT WORTH



On the windy morning of November 10, Bob Gresham (our camp commander) and James Alderman (our camp adjutant) represented us in the annual Veterans Day Parade in Fort Worth. James took part in his role as a member of the Sons of the American Revolution.

The parade staged in the parking lot at LaGrave Field on North Main, marched up the hill into downtown, and made its way back to the Field. The first entry arrived back at the starting place about two hours after it began.



# E. W. TAYLOR CAMP MEMBERS TO MARCH IN STOCK SHOW PARADE ON JANUARY 19



As of the last day of November, nine Taylor camp members have said they're going to march with us in the stock show parade.

New parade rules require each person taking part to have submitted a signed liability release form with their group's application. We will be marching as a part of the R. E. Lee Camp, since parade rules will not allow any group with less than twelve participants to register.

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## CONFEDERATE VETERANS GRAVE MARKER PROJECT UPDATE

In mid-October we placed notices on several internet sites offering help to descendants to get their CSA ancestors' graves marked within Tarrant County. Almost immediately, Carolyn Green of Longview, Texas took us up on our offer.

Ms. Green's ancestor, William H. Garrett, died in Kennedale in 1924 and was buried in the Hudson Cemetery there. He and his wife lie there in unmarked graves.

On October 25 we mailed the completed application and documentation to the VA. On November 26 the completed stone was shipped to us from the stone cutter in Georgia, and it was delivered to Patterson's house on November 29.

The stone's arrival was a total surprise. No one had been notified that it had been approved, let alone that was to be delivered. It will be installed in early December.



## **WE HAVE BEEN INVITED TO TWO CHRISTMAS MEETINGS OF OUR NEIGHBORING SCV CAMPS**

December 10th- Fort Worth (R. E. Lee Camp 239 Meeting) We will meet Monday, December 10th for our December meeting. It will be at Risky's in the stockyards. We will start gathering at 6:00 pm for Christmas visiting and selecting from a new menu. Don't forget to bring an item (no more than \$10-\$15) for a fun gift exchange. It will be a fun relaxing time just like our Camp picnic in June. Be sure to include your mate for this Christmas time together.

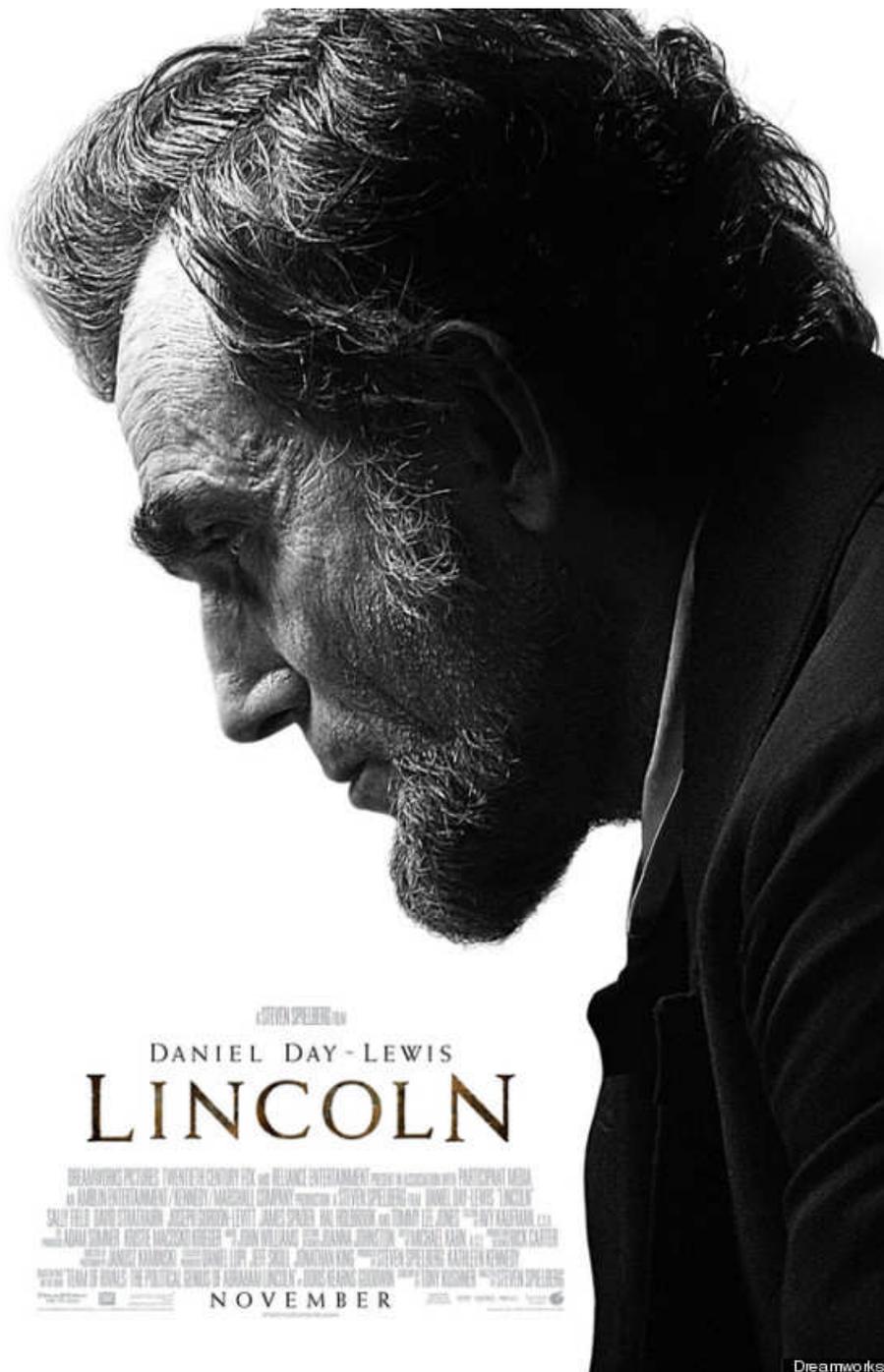


The Colonel Middleton Tate Johnson Camp 1648 in Arlington, Texas invites you to our December Christmas Party/ Meeting on December 13. As in years past, this is a joint venture with the UDC, OCR and C of C .

The meeting will take place at the Rolling Hills Country Club, 401 E. Lamar Blvd., Arlington, Texas 76011 (NE Corner of Lamar and Cooper).

Doors open at 6 p.m. ~ 7 p.m. dinner ~ Program at 8 p.m. Italian Buffet with Pasta, Chicken and Meatballs, Desserts and a Cash Bar. Tickets are \$25 per person in advance or \$30 per person at the door. For more information contact Allen Hearean at [ahearrean@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ahearrean@sbcglobal.net)

The guest speaker will be Robert Mestas, the Heritage Defense Officer for the Illinois Division of the SCV. He does speaking engagements nationwide, in the personae of Robert E. Lee.



The newest Lincoln movie was released to the general public on November 16. It is the latest project of Hollywood producer Steven Spielberg, who recently worked and spent heavily to help the president be reelected. Spielberg, like all directors, benefits financially every time a ticket to see the movie is sold. Daniel Day Lewis, the star, also supported the president in his bid for a second term. FYI.

# GETTING TO KNOW OUR LOCAL CONFEDERATES

## FELIX GRUNDY BRANSFORD

Felix Grundy Bransford, for whom the old community of Bransford in present-day Colleyville and Bransford Road were named, was born September 3, 1828 in Barron County, Kentucky.

He was a son of Walter Lee Bransford and his wife, Virginia Pickett Settles. While still a boy, Felix moved with his father's family to Ray County, Missouri.

In his teens, Bransford served in the Mexican War in Co. G, Separate Battalion, Missouri Mounted Infantry. He also served as both a private and a sergeant in the Confederate forces.

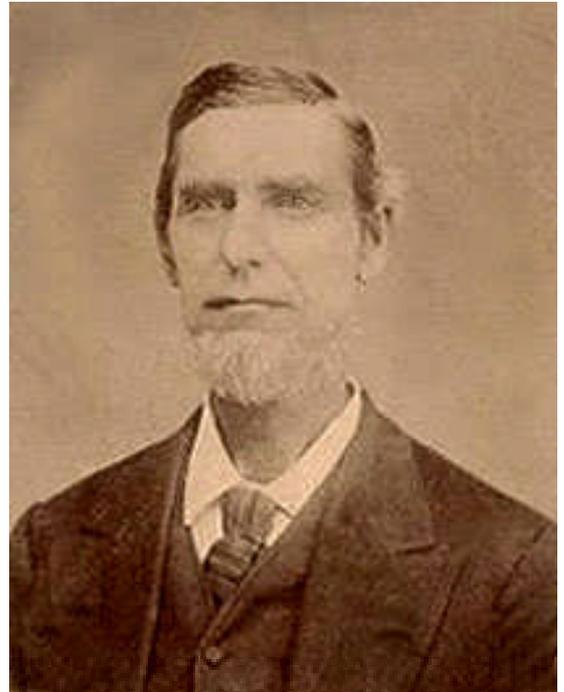
He served for a time in Co. H, 11 Missouri Infantry. He enlisted June 20, 1862 at Ft. Smith, Arkansas for three years or the war. He was also a 3<sup>rd</sup> Sergeant in Co. H, 2<sup>nd</sup> Missouri Cavalry during a period which included August 8 – October 31, 1862. He is shown as a 3<sup>rd</sup> Sergeant in Hunter's Regiment in November and December, 1862. He was absent for a time on detached service with the ward master transportation department on November 10, 1862. He was discharged for an indelicate medical disability on June 1, 1863.

By 1873, he and his wife and children had arrived in northeast Tarrant County where he opened a general store. He was a member of the Grand Prairie Masonic Lodge, established in 1875 in the Smithfield community; it later was renamed the Smithfield Lodge and still meets today. In 1877 the Bransfords sold three tracts of land in Tarrant County on the A. G. Walker and J. H. Barlough surveys, and the family moved to Newport in Jack County, Texas.



Bransford served in the Twentieth Legislature of Texas regular session January 11 through April 4, 1887 and in a special session April 16-May 15, 1887. He represented District 44, which included Clay and Montague Counties. His home was shown as Newport, and his home county was shown as Montague.

They moved again, about 1897, to Clay County. He died in Clay County, Texas on October 25, 1898, and was buried in Newport Cemetery just a few yards inside the north line of Jack County, Texas. His wife died August 7, 1915 and was buried beside him.



# An interesting excerpt from an unusual WBTS book...

*If you're like this humble editor, you spend a lot of time in Half-Price Books stores looking over the Civil War selections. Doubtless, you've seen many paperback copies of Tony Horwitz's Confederates in the Attic, printed in 1998. It has some interesting spots and some which will make you grind your teeth. His account of meeting Alberta Martin of Alabama, at the time supposed to be the last surviving Confederate widow, is entertaining. She said:*

“...so one evening, when an old man beckoned to her from across the fence, she went over to talk to him.

‘I remember he had big ol’ blue eyes, reddish skin, and a moustache. Not bad for an old feller.’ That was William Jasper Martin, the Confederate veteran [sixty years Alberta’s senior]. He came up the road every day to buy tobacco at a nearby store, and each time he’d chat with Alberta over the fence. ‘We’d talk about nothin’, what I call no sense, just talkin,’ she said. ‘We didn’t spark none. Sparking was an old Southern slang for flirting.

But the talk soon turned serious. ‘He said he was huntin’ him a wife and wondered if I’d be his,’ Alberta said. ‘I was tired of livin’ in that house and needed somebody to help raise my boy. We’d knowed each other several months. So I told him, yea, reckon so.’

William was eighty, but he possessed one asset most younger men lacked: a decent, steady income. As a Confederate veteran, he drew a fifty-dollars-a-month pension from the state, more than many sharecroppers earned in a year, particularly during the boll weevil-racked years of the 1920’s.

‘We got married at the courthouse,’ Alberta said. ‘I wore a blue dress, wasn’t no special dress. He wore common clothes, too. His friends serenaded us round and round with cowbells and made a racket hollerin’ and hoopin’. But there was no further celebration. ‘Times was hard then, people didn’t know what a honeymoon was.’

The gap in their ages also made for a certain formality. ‘I called him Mr. Martin,’ Alberta said. ‘I never did call him any other name because he was so old. He called me Sis, like my daddy did. But I called that old man Mr. Martin, even in bed.’

I asked if she had any regrets about marrying a man sixty years her senior. Alberta smiled. ‘Better to be an old man’s darlin’ than a young man’s slave,’ she said.

Ten months after their marriage, Alberta bore another son, William Jr., known as Willie. Her husband was generally kind to the children, she said. ‘But he was high strung. I can tell you that. He’d just as soon kill you as look at you.’

He was also vague about his Civil War days. ‘He didn’t talk much about it, and I didn’t ask much,’ Alberta said. ...during a reunion in 1932, he fell ill and died a few days after his return home...

Alberta quickly remarried to William’s grandson, Charlie, and more or less forgot what little she knew about her previous husband’s military service. [She and Charlie were married for fifty years and six months.]”

***Alberta Martin’s funeral in 2004 was something of a national event. Google “Alberta Martin” and you’ll find lots of information and photos. Amid all the hooplah, another Confederate widow surfaced in Arkansas, Maudie Hopkins.***

# THE LAST TWO SURVIVING CONFEDERATE WIDOWS



In 2004 people from all over the country converged on a small town in southern Alabama to lay to rest Mrs. Alberta Martin (left), believed to be the last surviving widow of a Confederate soldier. But she wasn't the last one, it was soon learned.

The publicity surrounding Mrs. Martin's passing soon brought to light the existence of another widow, Maudie Hopkins of Lexa, Arkansas (right).



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Like Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Hopkins was married young to a veteran many decades her senior. She was nineteen when she married eighty-six-year-old William M. Cantrell, a veteran of a Virginia infantry battalion. They were married in 1934 and lived on his pension until he died in 1937. They had no children together.

Maudie was married twice more and had three children.

As soon as your newsletter editor learned of her, he and his lifelong friend, Jimmy Reynolds, drove to Lexa, Arkansas to meet her. She was a gracious and interesting lady. We took her flowers and a lemon pie, one of her favorites. If you'd like a challenge, try finding a pre-baked lemon pie in rural Arkansas. For the rest of her life we sent her flowers on her birthday, December 7.



Maudie Hopkins passed away on August 17, 2008 in a nursing home near Lexa. We were on our way to work at the monument company on the morning of the service when we heard the news. Otherwise, we would have been among the mourners at her service.

# LAST SURVIVING VETERANS OF AMERICA'S WARS

America's true national treasures are its veterans, and we should honor them at every opportunity. Only last year, the last American veteran of World War I, Frank Buckles, passed away in West Virginia at the age of 110. With each passing year the ranks of our World War II veterans become thinner. The veterans affairs folks tell us that of the 16-million-plus Americans who took part, only about 1.5 million are still with us. We lose between 700 and 800 each day.

When it comes to picking a last survivor of any particular war, there will always be disagreements. Lemuel Cook (1759-1866), at right, may have been the last verifiable survivor of the American Revolution. Three other men who also claimed to have served survived him were unable to find proof to get pensions. The last one died in 1869.



Hiram Cronk (1800-1905) (left) is widely accepted as the last surviving soldier of the War of 1812. He died in New York. Amazingly, a motion picture was made of his funeral procession, and it may be viewed online at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lhjc3pCRe4>



Henry S. Riggs (1812-1911) was born in Bedford County, Tennessee. He was probably the last survivor of the Black Hawk War, which was fought in 1832 in Illinois and the Michigan Territory. He died in Warren County, Illinois.

*This series on America's last surviving veterans will be continued in the January 2013 issue of this newsletter.*

# ***Did you know there was a Confederate Medal of Honor?***

The **Southern Cross of Honor** is the name of two separate and distinct military honors presented to Confederate military personnel and veterans. The original wartime medal, *aka Confederate Medal of Honor*, was a military decoration meant to honor officers, noncommissioned officers, and privates for their valor in the armed forces of the Confederacy. It was formally approved by the Confederate Congress on October 13, 1862, and was originally intended to be on par with the Union Army's Medal of Honor.

During the war a shortage of metals prevented the awards from being minted and handed out. The names of these soldiers were, however, were recorded in an Honor Roll and preserved in the Adjutant Inspector General's records.

We have two local ties to the men honored. One of them appears on our Northeast Tarrant County memorial. He was Jasper N. Holt of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Tennessee Infantry, who won the award for heroism during the Battle of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The other was a kinsman of our adjutant, James Alderman. He was Chesley Alderman of the 9<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry, who was mortally wounded at Gettysburg.

A later award of the same name was instituted by the Daughters of the Confederacy in 1898 and was given to many surviving veterans.

The roster of the wartime recipients may be found online at <http://www.forsythnchistory.com/files/ConfederateMedalWinners.pdf>

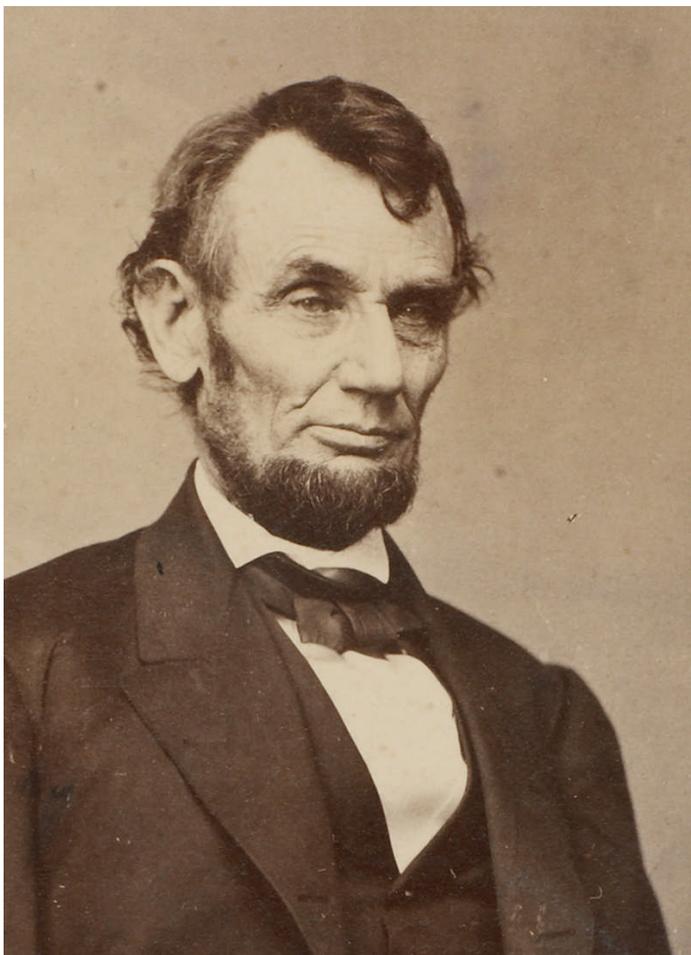




# THEY WALK AMONG US.

If you needed more proof,  
here it is.

<http://digitaljournal.com/article/317043>

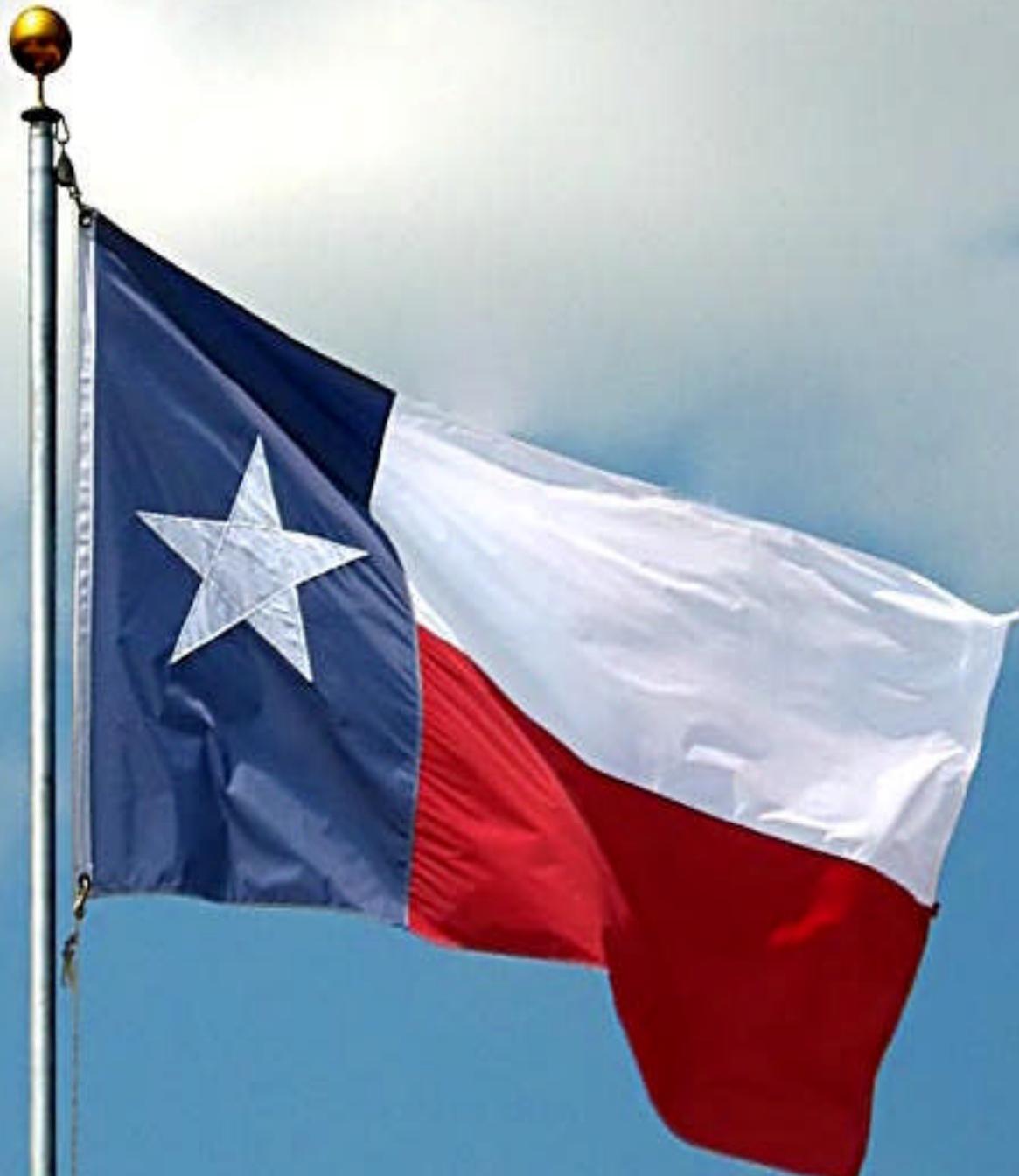


“From whence shall we expect the approach of danger? Shall some trans-Atlantic military giant step the earth and crush us at a blow? Never. All the armies of Europe and Asia... could not by force take a drink from the Ohio River or make a track on the Blue Ridge in the trial of a thousand years. No, if destruction be our lot we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of free men we will live forever or die by suicide.”

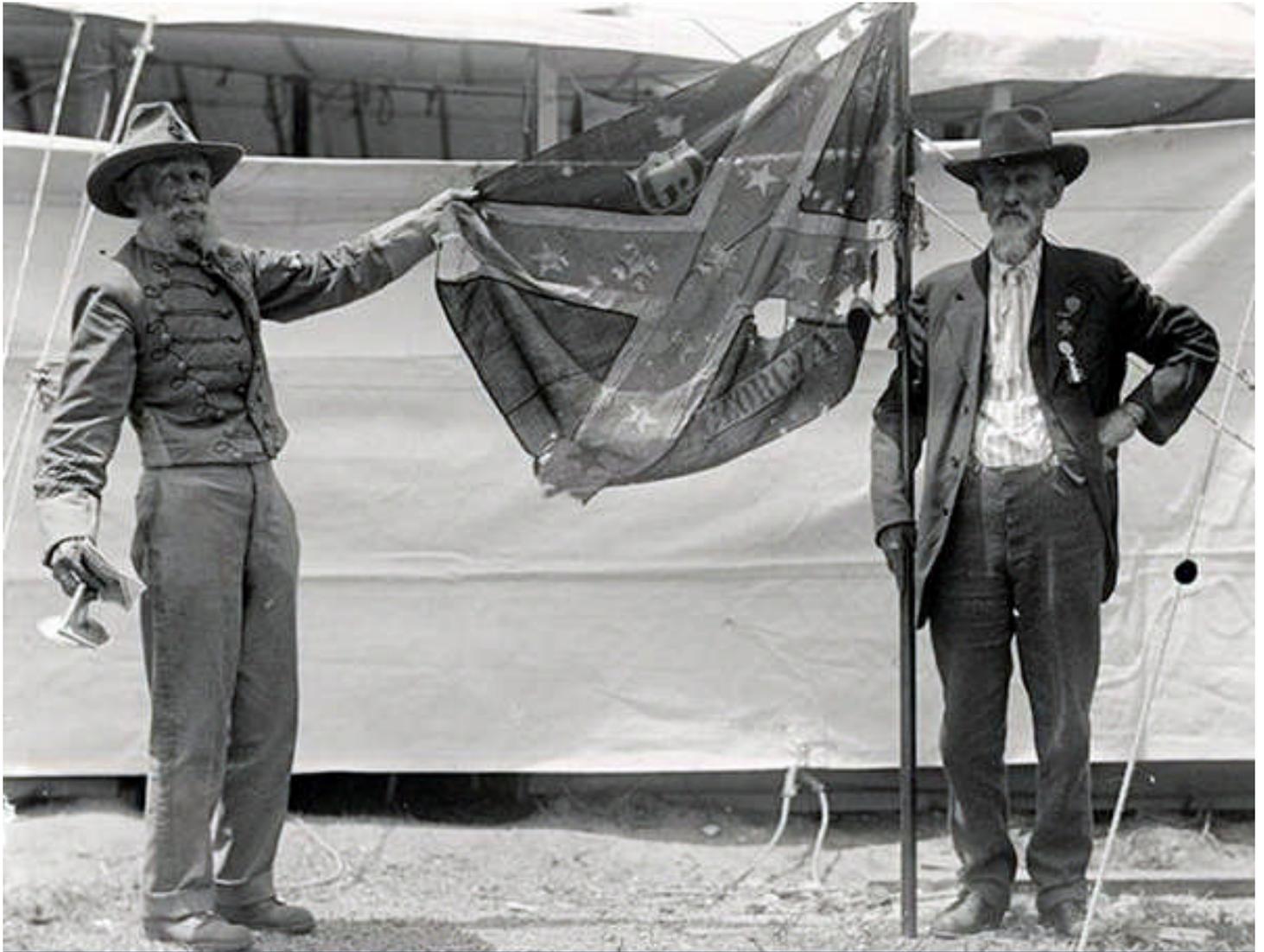




**“I SALUTE THE  
CONFEDERATE FLAG  
WITH AFFECTION,  
REVERENCE AND  
UNDYING DEVOTION  
TO THE CAUSE FOR  
WHICH IT STANDS.”**



**"Honor the Texas flag; I  
pledge allegiance to thee,  
Texas, one state under God,  
one and indivisible."**



***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, 25 April 1906**