



COL. E. W. TAYLOR

SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS #1777

NEWSLETTER

Bedford, Texas.....March 2013

THE S. C. V. CONFEDERATE GRAVES REGISTRY PROJECT IN TEXAS

Join us at our March meeting as Compatriot Rocky Jim Sprott of the High Plains Brigade tells us how to get the graves of our Confederate soldiers here identified and included in the national database.

His presentation will include tips on identifying candidates in cemeteries and in determining the regimental affiliations of those men, if indeed they served in the Confederate forces.

The names and burial places of the veterans identified will be placed in the public domain on the internet and will help researchers for many years to come.

This burial registry is a sanctioned project of the national organization of the Sons of Confederate Veterans, and it deserves our support.

**MARCH MEETING-- MAR. 28, 2012 Catfish and Company 900 Airport Freeway #110
Hurst, Texas 817-581-3912 Eat at 6:00 Meeting at 7:00**

E. W. TAYLOR CAMP'S NEWEST MEMBER ALREADY A PROVEN WORKER



Our camp's newest member is David Luttrell (center), who was inducted at our February meeting. David's Confederate ancestor, also named David Luttrell, was a member of the 41st Tennessee Infantry. David has already been active on his own in Confederate heritage preservation, and is responsible for several of the VA Confederate markers already in place in Fort Worth's Oakwood Cemetery. David was inducted by Camp Chaplain Kent Mathews (left) and Commander Mike Patterson (right). With young, interested, committed members like David our Camp is sure to grow and accomplish great things as we work to preserve the memory and honor of our Confederate ancestors.



.....to Beau Purdom of the R. E. Lee Camp for presenting to us his excellent program on General Hood and the Battle of Franklin.

.....to our excellent waitress Jessica for her years of service to our group during our meetings.

.....to everyone who came to our February meeting. We had to move in two more tables to accommodate everyone.

.....to the members of the Camp who come out to help us set new headstones for Confederate vets (and the occasional Union man).

.....to those who face the aggravating rush-hour traffic of the Metromess to come to our monthly meetings!



WOW!

If the Texas Civil War Museum didn't already hold a premier place in the World for its WBTS collection, it would now. Ray Richey, the museum's owner, and a member of our own E. W. Taylor Camp #1777, recently announced that his collection includes the coat worn by Ulysses S. Grant at the surrender at Appomattox Court House. Read the article at lower left.

<http://www.star-telegram.com/2013/02/01/4594235/oilmans-museum-holds-unique-collection.html>

***The Museum is open
Tuesday through
Saturday, 9 to 5.***



TWO BIRDVILLE CONFEDERATES GET HEADSTONES ON FEB. 23



On a crisp February morning, two more Birdville Confederates finally got headstones. Mortimer Elliston had been waiting since 1879, and William G. Nuckolls had been waiting since 1926. Both now have sparkling new marble stones, courtesy of the Veterans Administration and our tax dollars.

We have two more on the way for placement in Birdville Cemetery; they're currently being remade because they were broken by the freight company before they made it to us.

A formal dedication service for all four is being planned for later.

Elliston came to Tarrant County from Kentucky in the late 1840's, and was an official Peters Colonist. He patented a huge tract of land, with its present-day boundaries Broadway Avenue on the south, Haltom Road on the west, Denton Highway on the east, and Stanley-Keller Road on the north. He served the South as a member of Waller's Regiment of Texas Cavalry. He died young, leaving a sizable family.

Nuckolls came to Tarrant County about 1880 from Hardeman County, Tennessee, where he had served as a deputy sheriff. He was a veteran of Co. E., 7th Tennessee Cavalry. He settled near Keller, and lived to be ninety-six years old.



The crew, l-r standing in lower photo: Kent Mathews, Jimmy Reynolds, Bob Gresham, Bill Reeves; kneeling Mike Patterson and James Madewell.

THE S.C.V NEEDS YOU ON APRIL 13 !!!

We need to make a maximum effort to be in Palestine, Texas on the morning of April 13 to support our compatriots in the John H.

Reagan Camp #2156. On that day they will formally dedicate their new Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza.

This is an official event of the WBTS Sesquicentennial, sanctioned by the Texas Division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. Our compatriots in Palestine have been standing tall in the defense of our Southern Heritage...and in the face of some pretty determined resistance...and they deserve our support on that day.

In April, 2011, a first-national Confederate flag was raised outside the Anderson County Courthouse in Palestine, Texas, after county commissioners narrowly approved a motion to fly the flag there throughout April in honor of Confederate History Month. Within a short time the flag had drawn national attention as various groups began to protest.

The Memorial Plaza is directly across the street from the current veterans' memorial park and is owned by the national SCV in Columbia, Tennessee. Reagan Camp members are providing most of the labor to build it and will maintain it.

Their two-page flier is reproduced in this newsletter.



CONFEDERATE VETERANS MEMORIAL PLAZA—PALESTINE PARADE AND DEDICATION CEREMONY

WHEN:

The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 is excited about officially opening the Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza – Palestine, on April 13, 2013. The Parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. and the Dedication ceremony at 11:00 a.m. Form up time to be in the parade is 09:30 a.m. There is also a reception at the Museum for East Texas Culture on April 12, 2013 from 06:30 p.m. to 08:00 p.m.

WHERE:

The parade will begin at the Anderson County Courthouse at 500 N. Church Street and travel west on Avenue A to Oak Street, then west on Oak Street to the Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza at 600 West Oak Street. The Museum for East Texas Culture where the reception the evening before will take place is located inside the old John H. Reagan High School building in Reagan Park at 400 South Micheaux Avenue.

WHAT:

The Confederate Veterans Memorial Plaza is officially a part of the SCV "Flags Across Dixie" program and will honor CSA veterans from across Anderson County, Texas, and the South. The reception, parade, and dedication ceremony is a Texas Division SCV, sesquicentennial event. The 100 ft. x 60 ft. tract of property is very nicely located in Palestine (across the street from the current veterans' memorial park) and is owned by the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Inc. Columbia, TN. The John H. Reagan Camp #2156 members are providing most of the labor for the construction and will maintain this permanent memorial park worthy of the Confederate veterans who so proudly served the Confederacy in the War Between the States, 1861-1865!



1st Texas Infantry, C.S.A. fighting in Miller's cornfield at the Battle of Sharpsburg by Don Troiani

HOTEL INFORMATION:

For those who would like a hotel room for Friday night, there are a block of 25 rooms at the LaQuinta Inn and Suites, 3000 South Loop 256, Palestine, TX. The rate is \$80.00/night for a king (10 rooms reserved) or two queen beds (15 rooms reserved) and up to four in each room. The hotel has also set up a complimentary conference room with snacks and drinks for anyone in our group to enjoy meet and greet time together. Please call 903-723-1387 and ask for the Sons of Confederate Veterans block by March 28, 2013 if you need a room.

CAMPING INFORMATION

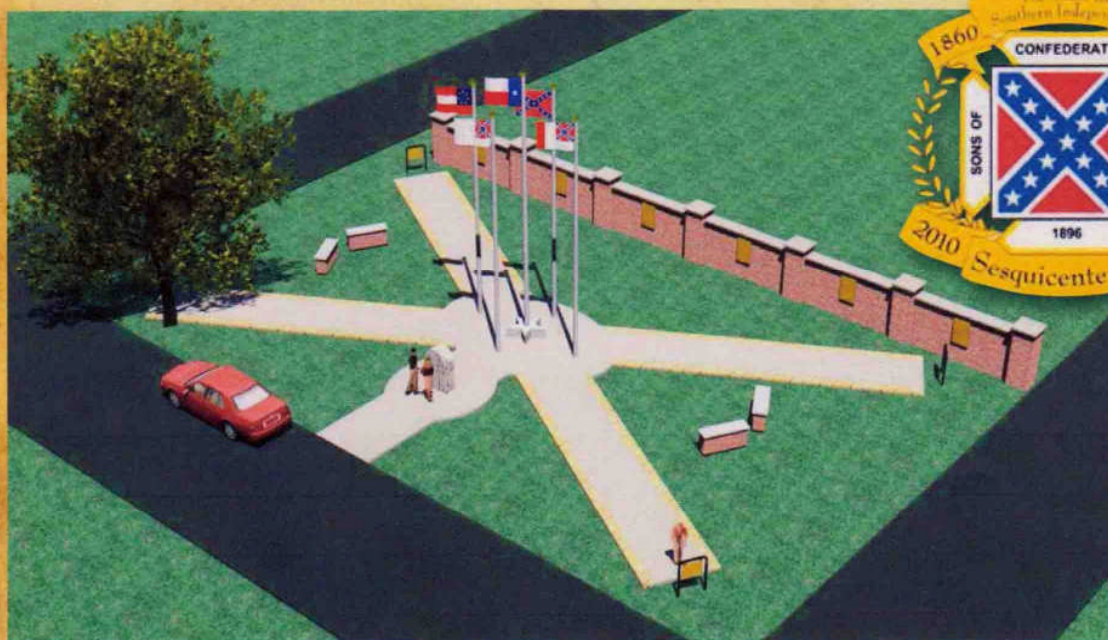
Texas State Railroad - Palestine Depot has a few campsites available with, table, grill, running water, plenty of trees for picket lines, and restrooms close by. The depot is very close to Palestine on Hwy 84 East. The campsite cost is \$12/day per site. If reservations are made in January, the cost will be one-half off the regular price. The corporate reservation number is 888-987-2461. Be sure to clarify the "Palestine Depot" as the Rusk Depot is about 30 miles away.

ATTIRE:

Confederate military uniforms and 1860 period civilian dress is encouraged, but not required. Your attendance will be greatly appreciated!

MEMORIAL BRICK PAVER DONATIONS:

If you would also like to honor a Confederate veteran, CSA government official, SCV camp, UDC or OCR chapter on a brick paver in this plaza, forms are available at www.reaganscvcamp.org.



CONTACT INFORMATION:

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YOUR HELP IS NEEDED FOR A LOCAL EVENT IN MAY



We've been asked to take part in the Memorial Day Observance at Keller's Mount Gilead Cemetery on May 27. We will have at least two new Confederate soldiers' stones to dedicate. Mount Gilead Cemetery was established about 1851 beside the second religious body established in Tarrant County....Mount Gilead Baptist Church. There'll be directions to the cemetery and a map in our May newsletter.

At this point we know of eighteen Confederates buried at Mount Gilead, two others we suspect are there in unmarked graves, one man who fought in both armies, and one man who was a Union veteran.

Also buried there is one of the only two veterans of the Texas Revolution we know wound up in Tarrant County. He was T. J. Thompson, who lies buried near his son, Samuel Houston Thompson, one of our Confederates.

Please plan to be with us. Have your uniform and gun so you can help us fire salutes to these brave men who helped build Texas.

**OUR PROGRAM SCHEDULE FOR 2013 IS FILLING
UP RAPIDLY. IF YOU'D LIKE TO DO A PROGRAM
FOR US, OR IF YOU'VE SEEN ONE WE'D ENJOY,
PLEASE CONTACT MIKE AT mfpchat@yahoo.com**

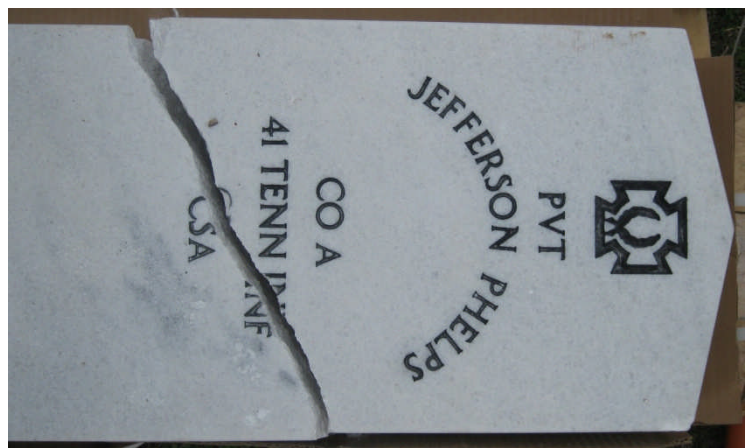
SOME SANITY-SAVING GUIDELINES WE'RE GOING TO FOLLOW IN THE FUTURE IN REGARD TO VA STONES...

Your humble newsletter editor and point-man in the effort to get gravestones from the Veterans Administration is getting older. His eyesight is going, his nerves are fraying. His patience with government and institutions is eroding. He finds himself running in circles trying to get descendants, in some cases, to put forth even the bare minimum of effort required of them to keep the process going.

Henceforth, all of the following must be met before a new application for a headstone will be sent in:

1. The vet in question must have a file of records in the National Archives in Washington, D. C.
2. We must be able to prove that the vet in the records in Washington is the same man who came here to live.
3. We must have a document which specifically states the name of the cemetery in which the veteran is buried.
4. We must be in contact with a descendant who is interested, will respond immediately to emails or phone calls, and who will let us know immediately when they are contacted by the VA for any reason. The process breaks down when the descendant is uncommunicative.

Of the first four stones we've gotten from the VA since January 1, two have been broken by rough handling while in the custody of the UPS. This one, for Jefferson Phelps, arrived in this condition on February 11. It's been reordered.



Headstone Projects Update

Several developments on this front during the month of February....some good and some bad. The VA is looking closely at headstone applications. That's good, since it's our own money they're spending, and our government's in the shape it's in now because of all the freebies they've given away in the past. Here's the status of the ones we're working now:

William G. Nuckolls was a Confederate veteran of the 7th (Duckworth's) Tennessee Cavalry. Mr. Nuckolls died near Keller in 1927 and is buried in Birdville Cemetery. Mailed paperwork to the VA on January 7. Stone delivered to Patterson on February 11. Installed at Birdville on February 23.

Frank Beaver was a Union veteran of the 71st Ohio Infantry. He died in 1896 and is buried in White's Chapel Cemetery in Southlake. Mailed paperwork to the VA on January 19. VA called descendant and wants a "certificate of disposition of remains." No such document existed in 1896. We've sent in what we can, and may not get this one.

Jefferson Phelps served the South in the 41st Tennessee Infantry. He died in Birdville in the late 1880's and was buried there. Mailed paperwork to the VA on January 7 and it was approved January 17. Stone was delivered to Patterson on February 11 but was broken in half. Reorder process underway.

John H. D. Clower joined a local company of the 34th Texas Cavalry. He died in 1922 and was buried in his family cemetery at Whitt. Mailed application to the VA on January 31. Stone delivered to Patterson on February 28.

John Stuart Hukill served first in the Confederacy and secondly in the Union army. He died in 1891 and was buried in Birdville Cemetery. We found a descendant on New Year's Day, and on the next day learned she was also a great-great granddaughter of Jefferson Phelps. Mailed paperwork to the VA on January 7 and it was approved January 17. Stone was shattered by UPS in Fort Worth on February 7 and has been reordered.

Mortimer C. Elliston served the South in Waller's Texas Cavalry Battn. He died in Birdville in 1879, and was buried in the cemetery there. Mailed paperwork to the VA on January 12, and stone was delivered to Patterson on February 11. Installed at Birdville on February 23.

Charles Adkins served in the 29th Texas Cavalry. He died in Fort Worth in 1914 and is buried in Oakwood Cemetery. Mailed paperwork to the VA on January 17. Stone delivered to Patterson on Feb. 18.

David R. Bedford and wife are buried in Oakwood Cemetery...but they have a stone in Tennessee in the old family plot there; the stone was erected as a cenotaph by their daughter. VA will not grant a marker to put at the grave here because of the stone erected by the daughter. Unique situation....stone is in Tennessee and bodies are here. Under appeal to the VA.

Headstone Projects Update, cont.

William Madison Brown fought in the 23rd Tennessee Infantry. He died in 1925 and is buried in White's Chapel Cemetery in Southlake. Mailed the application to the VA on January 30.

William James Beckham served in Cayce's Company of Light Artillery in Purcell's Battery in the Army of Northern Virginia. Died in 1918 and buried in Oakwood Cemetery. Mailed application to the VA on January 21. Stone delivered to Patterson on February 22.

Richard S. Coker served in the 10th Texas Cavalry and died in 1929. He's buried in the old Handley City Cemetery near the Power Plant in Handley in east Fort Worth. Sent the application to the VA on January 21. Stone delivered to Patterson on February 22.

George Lutes was a Union vet who served in the 154th Indiana Infantry. He died in 1888 and is buried in Arwine Cemetery in Hurst. Sent his application to the VA on January 21. On February 22 they wrote wanting more documentation (probably because incorrect information in posted on Find A Grave).

Ivory S. Tyner served in the 6th Georgia Cavalry. He lies buried in Smithfield Cemetery Application mailed in on February 8, and descendant received approval notice on February 15.

Seaborn Cowart was a veteran of the 6th Georgia Infantry. He died in Fort Worth in 1919 and was buried in Smithfield Cemetery. Application mailed to the VA on February 14.

George W. Creed was in the 9th Texas Cavalry, was killed at Corinth in 1862, and was buried there in a mass grave. We're going to see if the VA will give us a stone to act as a cenotaph for him beside his parents at Mount Gilead Cemetery in Keller. The application went to the VA on January 28. The VA contacted us and told us they won't approve the stone until we ***prove Creed is buried at Corinth and doesn't have a stone.***
How would one do that?

George Washington Fishback, McGinnis' Co., 20th Brigade Texas State Troops, killed at Jacksboro in 1864 by bushwhackers and buried where he fell. No records in the National Archives so a VA stone is out for him. Stone will be placed at Mount Gilead where his father-in-law and remarried wife are buried. Descendants ordered stone from private monument company on February 8.

John Boon served the South in the 11th Texas Cavalry. He died in 1927 and was buried in Keller in Bourland Cemetery. He has no records in the National Archives, and so is ineligible for a VA stone. He'll get one, using a piece of one of the broken stones delivered to us by the UPS.

William H. Boswell enlisted in Denton County and served in the 29th Texas Cavalry. He died at Keller in 1876 and is buried in Mount Gilead Cemetery. He has records in the Archives, but we can't find a living descendant to apply for the stone. We'll make him one from a piece of the marble from one of the broken stones we have.

A LITTLE PEEK INTO THE PROCESS OF GETTING A V A MARKER....

There are a hundred things which have to happen to get a VA marker into a cemetery. Unfortunately, we only have control over the first one and the last one. We just have to keep our fingers crossed, and keep a careful record of dates, times, and persons we talk to as we try to iron out the kinks in the system. We always take copious notes, always ask for names, and write down what was said, dates, and times.

Basically, the three things which cause the most problems may be summed up with the use of nine capital letters: VA, USPS, and UPS.

Consider the marker of one John S. Hukill, which was approved by the VA on January 17. The application process went just fine because we send good documentation and make our paperwork legible.

On Friday, February 1 the UPS called and left a message saying the stone would be delivered on Monday, February 4 between 10 and 5. They did not leave us a tracking number...without which one doesn't talk to UPS. Surprise, surprise, the stone...she no come on Monday.

We started that afternoon trying to talk to UPS. They said we'd have to get a tracking number from the VA. The VA said they couldn't give us a tracking number because the subcontractor who engraves the stone deals with the UPS...the VA doesn't. *It* had begun....

Who was the subcontractor? The VA doesn't tell "patrons" that because we're not in a condition of "need to know" about that part of internal government business. Would the VA call the subcontractor and get the number, and let us call the VA back. No, they don't do that.

So we started an epic, first-ever quest on our own...calling the marble suppliers and fabricators all over the southeastern United States who are large enough to have government contracts. Miracle of miracles, we actually found the one company out of dozens who got the contract for our stone. They had a cheerful, efficient, sentient being working there who looked us up in their computer and got us the sacred tracking number. The chances were astronomically small that we even found the company.

Armed with that, it took only two or three calls to UPS to discover that the stone was mistakenly shipped over the weekend to the wrong freight distribution center. On Tuesday morning, February 5, it arrived at the Fort Worth center, and was ready to load on a truck for absolute, positive delivery to me on Wednesday, February 6, between 10 and 5. Several days, dozens of phone calls, and two or three blood pressure headaches, and we had the problem solved. Not.

At 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday afternoon the lady from UPS (with whom I was now on a first-name basis) called me back. The stone, which had nearly made it to us after all the confusion, was dropped off a forklift in the middle of a high-speed turn and had fallen onto the concrete floor. It was in "at least a dozen pieces." They had already called the VA and ordered a replacement stone.

The VA assured them the stone would be remade and would be re-sent immediately and with no further problems. "Yea, verily, and in *that* day thou shalt look toward the heavens, and behold, there shall be pigs, taking wing, soaring as eagles."

The pledge of allegiance to the Texas state flag is

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

According to [The Handbook of Texas Online](#), "In 1933 the legislature passed a law establishing rules for the proper display of the flag and providing for a pledge to the flag: "Honor the Texas Flag of 1836; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one and indivisible." The pledge erroneously referred to the 1836 national flag, known as David G. Burnet's flag, instead of the Lone Star Flag. Senator Searcy Bracewell introduced a bill to correct this error in 1951, but the legislature did not delete the words "of 1836" until 1965."

The pledge was again amended by House Bill 1034 during the 80th Legislature with the addition of "one state under God." The revised wording became effective on June 15, 2007.



It's time to revive the time-honored custom of pledging allegiance to the flag of our sovereign state. Our state government is our strongest ally against the erosion and usurpation of our states' rights given to us by the Constitution of the United States of America.

General Lee and many of the other leaders of the Confederate government realized that fealty to one's state was of supreme importance when one's personal rights were threatened.

Last Surviving Veterans, cont. The next in a series of short notes about America's National Treasures....our Veterans.

The last white veteran of the Indian wars was Frederick Fraske, (right) who was born in Germany in 1872. He enlisted in Chicago in 1894 and was sent to Fort D. A. Russell near Cheyenne, Wyoming. There his unit prepared for an expected confrontation with some elements of the Cheyenne and some other dissatisfied Northern plains tribes. Fraske died in 1973 in Chicago, a few days past his 101st birthday.



Our last veteran of the Spanish-American War was a sailor named Nathan E. Cook, who lied about his age to enlist. He also saw service in the Boxer Rebellion, the Philippine-American War, and along the Mexican border. During WW I he commanded a submarine chaser which sunk two German U-boats. During World War II he served in Haiti and Panama. He died in 1972 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Last Surviving Veterans, cont.



The last American veteran of World War I was Frank Buckles, who was born in 1901. He drove ambulances and motorcycles on the front lines in Europe. During World War II, he was captured in the Philippines and spent three years as a civilian prisoner of the Japanese. In 2008 he met with President George W. Bush in the Oval Office of the White House. Mr. Buckles died in West Virginia in 2011, a few days past his 110th birthday.



TO YOU, SONS OF
CONFEDERATE VETERANS, WE
SUBMIT 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 THE PRINCIPLES HE LOVED
AND 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.