

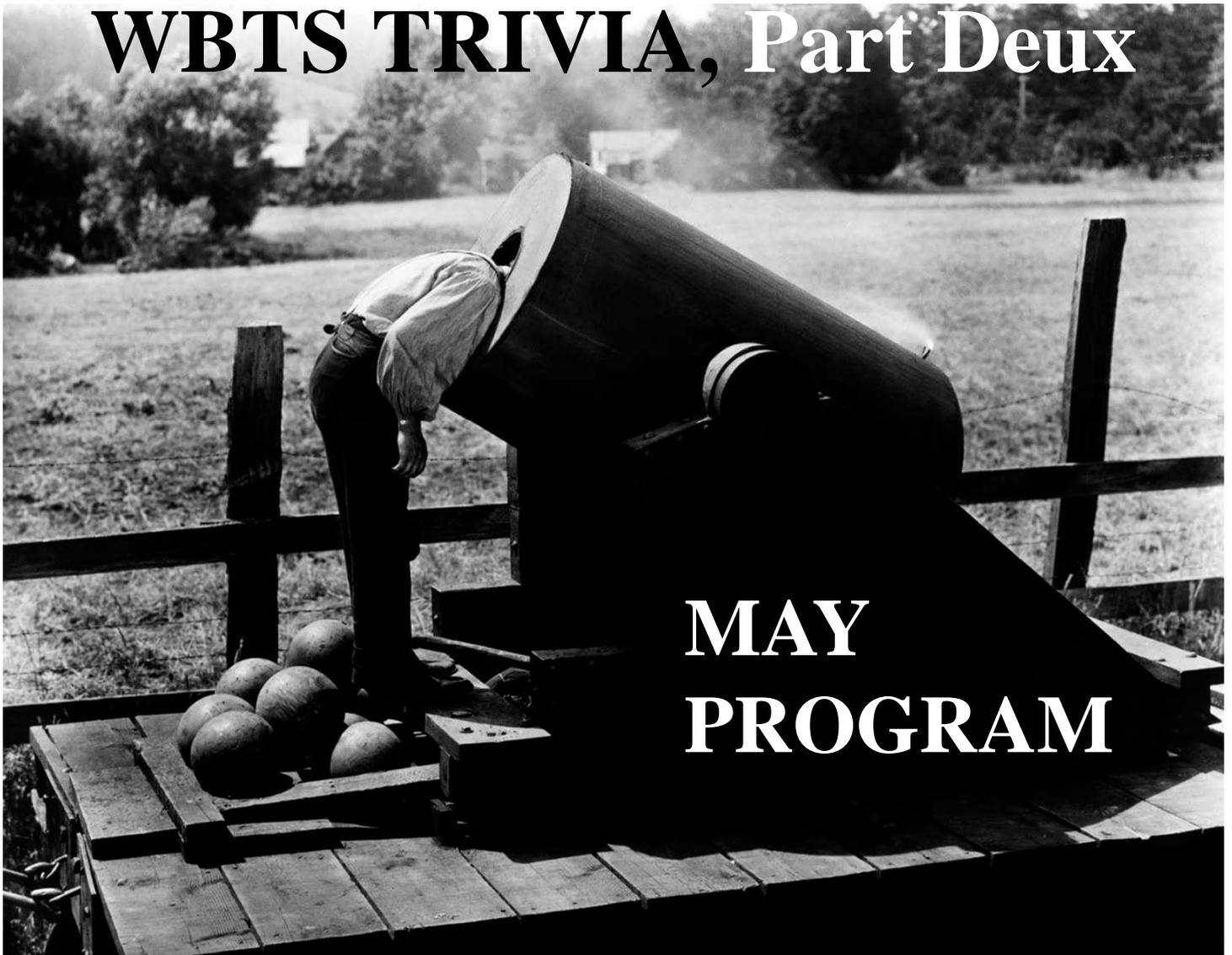


**COL. E. W. TAYLOR  
SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS #1777**

# **NEWSLETTER**

**Bedford, Texas.....May 2013**

## **WBTS TRIVIA, Part Deux**



**MAY  
PROGRAM**

**This was a really fun program last year, so let's continue with more pictures, maps, and surprising questions! Join us!**

**MAY MEETING MAY 30, 2013 Catfish and Company 900 Airport Freeway #110  
Hurst, Texas 817-581-3912 Eat at 6:00 Meeting at 7:00**

# NEW MEMBER SWORN INTO E. W. TAYLOR CAMP AT HIS HOME ON APRIL 20



The first of three new members for our camp this month, Jeff Ainsworth of Bedford, , was sworn in at his home on Saturday afternoon, April 20. Four other camp members were there (above, l-r): Jeff Ainsworth, Mike Patterson, Bobby Gresham, George Whitten, and Kent Matthews.

Jeff is a native of Gulfport, Mississippi. His Confederate ancestor, John W. Street (1827-1909), was a veteran of Co. G, 34<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Infantry, also known as the "Tippah Rangers." He was captured with several other members of his regiment at Lookout Mountain, Chattanooga, Tennessee on November 24, 1863 and spent the rest of the war in a yankee prison. Most of that time he was at the prison camp at Rock Island, Illinois. He was released from Rock Island early in May, 1865 and was officially surrendered at LaGrange, Tennessee at the end of the month.

The flag of the 34<sup>th</sup> Mississippi Infantry was captured that same day, and it survives. Jeff also received a hand-sewn 3'x 5' replica of the regimental flag. We welcome Jeff to our Camp, and hope to have a long, happy association with him!

# FORT WORTH CONFEDERATE WAITS 118 YEARS FOR A HEADSTONE

When the last echoes of the musket salute faded away on Saturday, April 27 it was a fitting end to a battle of sorts. The process of getting David R. Bedford a headstone from the VA was a first for us, in more ways than one.

Decades ago, one of Mr. Bedford's daughters purchased and placed a memorial stone for her parents in the old town cemetery in Lynchburg, Tennessee, beside the graves of two children they'd buried there before they came to Texas. For some reason, she never got around to getting them headstones in Oakwood where they're buried. When we applied to the VA for a stone for Mr. Bedford earlier this year, the VA found the stone in Tennessee immediately and rejected our application...even though we had air-tight documentation they were buried here.

Worth Chollar of Marietta, Oklahoma, the Bedford descendant who'd signed the paperwork for us, decided to appeal. The appeals process was a long story, but not a dull one. It took time and some extraordinary effort, but his persistence paid off.

Counting Bedford descendants, members of the E. W. Taylor Camp and their guests and other visitors, a total of forty-one people were present for the installation of the marker and the musket salute which followed.

Some of the family members came from as far away as Oklahoma, Georgia, and Houston.

The photo below represents only a part of the group. Eight of the persons in attendance managed to stay out of the photo.



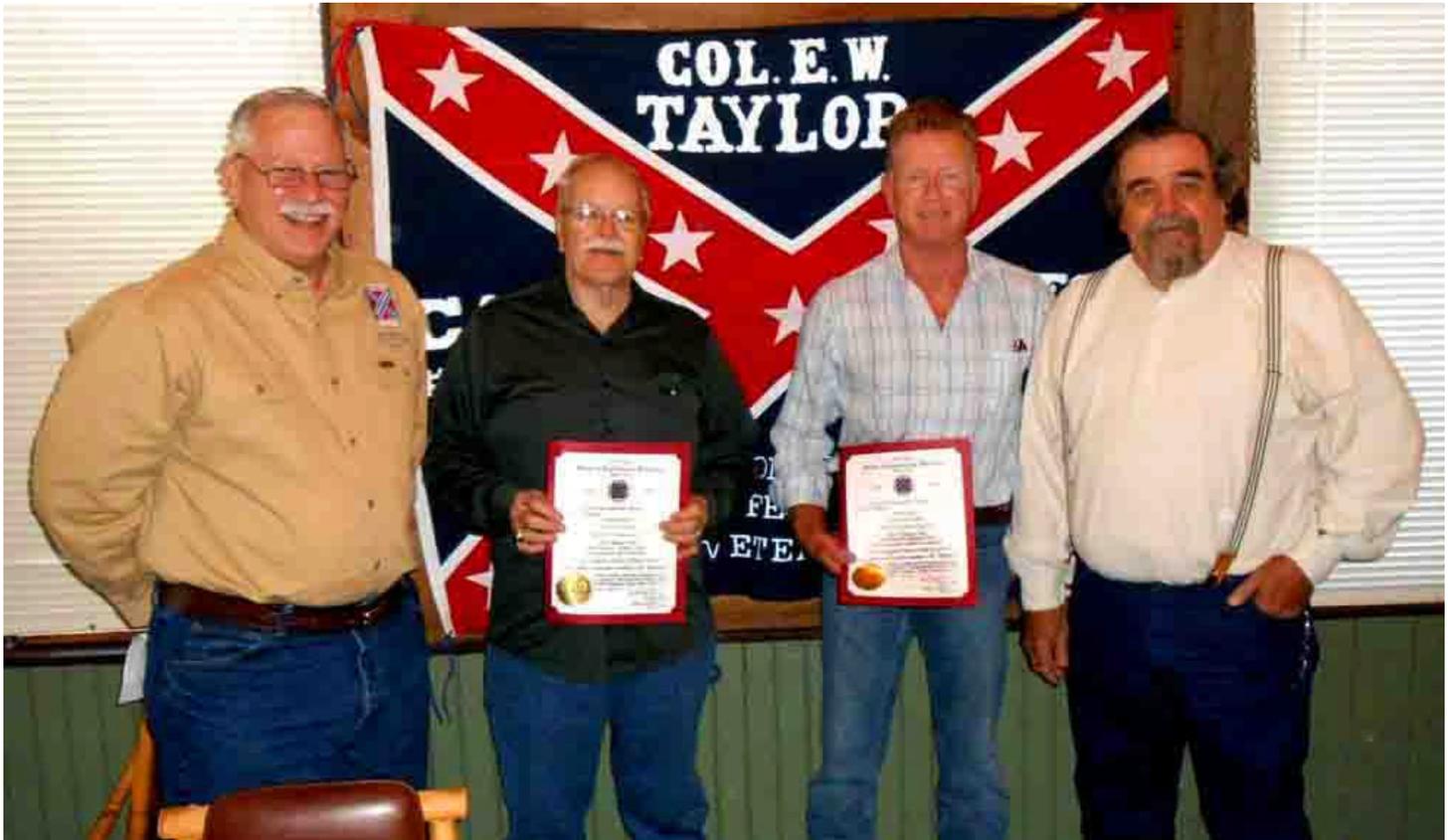


***Thanks to everyone who came to make the marker installation at Oakwood on April 27 a success! Our camp was joined by Kirt Barnett from the R. E. Lee Camp, second shooter from left, above.***

E. W. Taylor Camp members present were, l-r, standing: Jimmy Reynolds, David Stewart, Ron Parker, John Meritt, Kent Mathews, Richard Leech, Bobby Gresham; kneeling: James Alderman, Mike Patterson, and James Madewell.



# TWO NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN AT APRIL MEETING



L-R, Kent Mathews, Jimmy Reynolds, John Meritt, and Mike Patterson

Two new compatriots were added to the E. W. Taylor Camp on Thursday night, April 25: Jimmy Reynolds and John Meritt.

Jimmy's great-uncle was Stephen Marion Reynolds, who served the South in more than one regiment. Most of his time was in the 1<sup>st</sup> (Dobbins') Arkansas Cavalry. S. M. Reynolds died in Collin County in 1919, and is buried in Frankford Cemetery just inside the Collin County line north of Dallas.

After service in the U. S. Army, Jimmy worked as a classroom teacher in the Birdville I. S. D. for thirty years. He lives in Haltom City with his wife, Ida Joe Reynolds, who is herself the granddaughter of a Fort Worth Confederate veteran.

John Meritt lives with his wife, Loretta, near Roanoke and they own their own business. They have one daughter, and will be grandparents in the not-too-distant future. John was born in Fort Worth and graduated from Keller High School in 1976.

John's great-great-great grandfather was William Lawson Gattis (1826-1902), who served in Co. D, 21<sup>st</sup> (Wilson's) Tennessee Cavalry. Mr. Gattis lies buried in Lane Cemetery in Eastland County, Texas.

We welcome both men to our camp, and look forward to many years of camaraderie, work and service with them.



Taylor Campers Kent Mathews and Mike Patterson had the highest seats in the parade, atop one of the cannon caissons.

Several months ago the Palestine City Council told the John H. Reagan Camp of the SCV they could fly a First National CSA flag at the courthouse during Confederate History Month. That lasted about four days until “community outrage” caused it to come down. As the years pass, the number of people needed to reach the “outrage” threshold is falling steadily.

The Council then told the SCV the display of the Confederate flag would have to be restricted to parades and “private property.” Excellent idea!

Through months of hard work and some very selfless donations by a lot of people, there’s now a piece of private property in the city of Palestine, Texas which is owned by the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Inc., of Columbia, Tennessee. Quite fittingly, it’s just across the street from the Anderson County Veterans Memorial. It’s administered and cared for by the members of the John H. Reagan Camp #2156 SCV.

On Saturday, April 13, several hundred members of SCV and UDC groups from across the state and many other interested citizens came together to take part in a parade from the courthouse to the new memorial, and to dedicate the memorial grounds to the memory of Anderson County’s Confederates.

## **E. W. TAYLOR CAMP MEMBERS TAKE PART IN THE PALESTINE MEMORIAL PLAZA PARADE AND CEREMONY ON APRIL 13**

***John H. Reagan Camp  
flanks the opposition and  
now has a permanent  
memorial to all Anderson  
County’s 1000 Confederate  
heroes.***

Our compliments to the members of the John H. Reagan Camp for their tenacity, hard work, and planning for the parade, the dedication service, and the memorial itself. They also unveiled an Official Texas Historical Marker on the property which details Anderson County’s part in the WBTS.

There are lots of excellent photos of the event posted online at:

<http://www.southernlegacy.org/SouthernLegacy/PalestineDedication.html>



# KELLER CONFEDERATE, MEMBER OF HISTORIC FAMILY, GETS A HEADSTONE ON APRIL 20

John Boon died in 1927, but he didn't get a headstone until April 20, 2013. Our application to the VA for a marker was turned down because none of his records have survived in the National Archives.

John Boon was the son of one Daniel Boone and the brother of another Daniel Boon. In this family the spellings have gone back and forth. The father's old sandstone marker in Smithfield Cemetery says "Boone," while John and his brother both used the "Boon" spelling. They are all direct descendants of Israel Boone, a brother of the Great Frontiersman Daniel Boone.

When John registered to vote in 1867, he said he'd been in Texas since about 1849, and in northeast Tarrant County since about 1865.

John served the Confederacy in Co. E, Howell's Battery of the 11<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry. When he was applying for a Confederate pension his sister, Margaret Tarwater, made an affidavit for him. She said he came home only once during the entire war, and was there at the time buying horses for the Army. Mr. Boon said he was discharged in May, 1865.

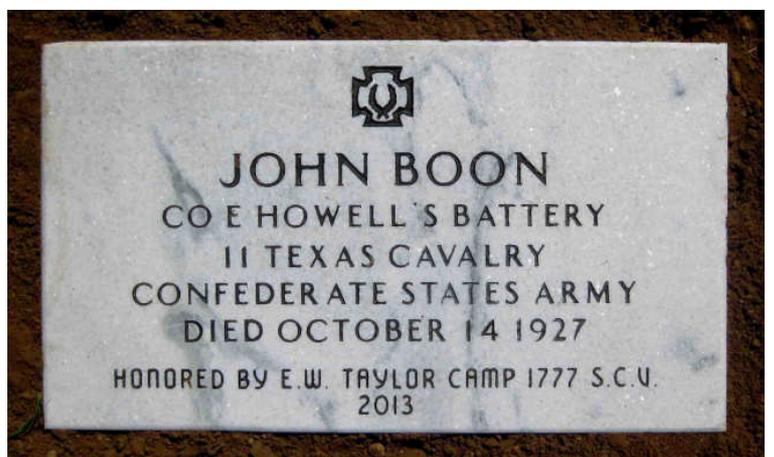
His wife, Mary (Crawford ) Boon, died in Keller in 1900 and was buried in Bourland Cemetery there. Mr. Boon died in Keller at the home of his daughter, Mrs. John Stateham.

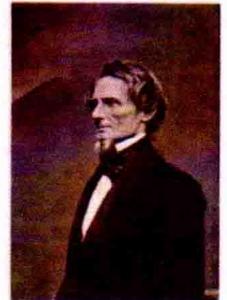
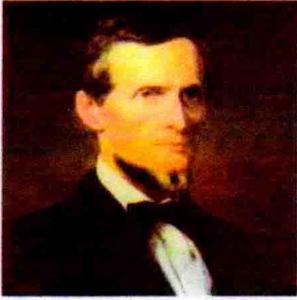
We made Mr. Boon a ground-level stone from a piece of another VA stone we recently received which had been broken by the UPS.

Jack Eustace and Boone Eustace, both members of the E. W. Taylor Camp, are descendants of John Boon's sister, Mrs. John C. Tarwater of Smithfield.



Standing, l-r, Jimmy Reynolds, Jack Eustace and his grandson Boone Eustace, John Meritt; kneeling Mike Patterson and Kent Mathews.





*You, Your Members and Guests are Invited to Join  
Mid-Cities Bluebonnet 2429 UDC  
At Our Annual*

# *Jefferson Davis Luncheon*

***Saturday, May 18, 2013***

*10:00 a.m. Registration, 10:30 a.m. Program*

*11:45 a. m. B-B-Q Luncheon with Dessert*

## ***West Fork Presbyterian Church***

*Directions: From N. Hwy. 360, Exit Ave. K (N. Arlington)*

*Go East-bound on Ave. K, Cross the Railroad Tracks*

*Turn Left on 109<sup>th</sup> St.; Turn Right on Santerre St.; Church is on Left*

*Please Join us to Celebrate our Only CSA President, Southern Food, Fellowship,  
Favors, Music, Silent Auction, Military Service Awards, and Chapter Awards*

*Guest Speaker: Cynthia Harriman, Executive Director of the Texas Civil War Museum*

*Registration Required for Lunch; Deadline 05/13/2013*

*Adults \$14.00, Children \$11.00 (18 and Under)*

***Checks Payable to: Mid-Cities Bluebonnet 2429 UDC***

*Mail Checks/Reservation to: Mrs. Gina Smith*

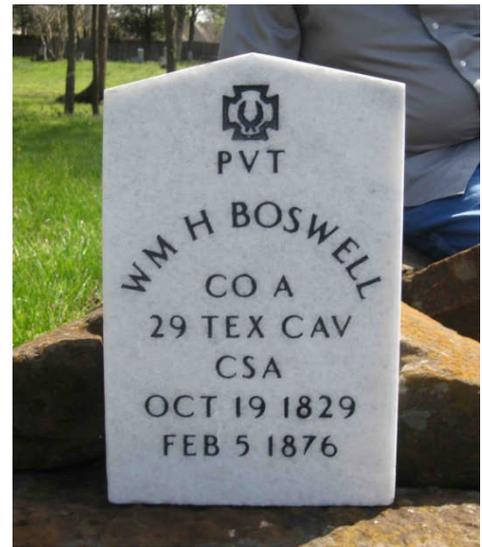
*2002 Cancun Dr. Mansfield, Tx 76063*

*Late Reservations, e-mail: ginasmi83@gmail.com*

*Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_ Group/s: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Adults (\$14): \_\_\_\_\_, Children (\$11): \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amt.: \$ \_\_\_\_\_*

# AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE ON MEMORIAL DAY, MONDAY, MAY 27



We have been asked to participate in a Memorial Day Observance in Keller on Monday, May 27. The ceremony will begin at eleven a.m. in historic Mount Gilead Cemetery.

Among other things, we'll be dedicating two new stones for Confederate soldiers on that day. Mount Gilead contains the graves of at least twenty Confederates, two Federals, and one man who served in both armies. In the recent past a few new burials have been added, including at least one veteran from this century. One Texas Revolutionary Veteran, Thomas J. Thompson, is also buried there.

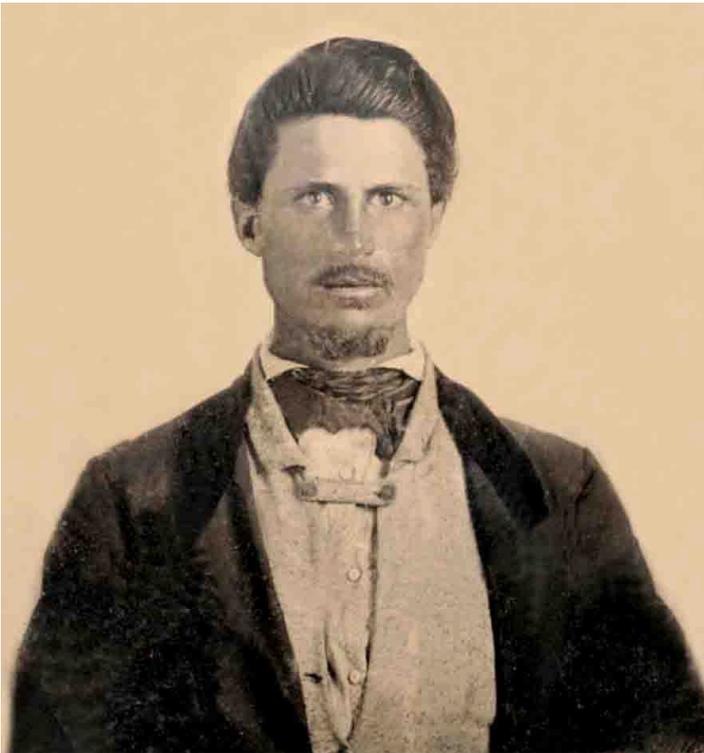
We need as many of our camp members as possible to come in uniform and be prepared to help fire a musket salute.

Mount Gilead Cemetery is in Keller at the east end of Bancroft Road, north of FM 1709. It sits beside Mount Gilead Baptist Church, which was the second religious body founded in Tarrant County.

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***On Saturday morning, May 11, let's meet at ten a.m. to install two VA headstones in the old Handley Cemetery in East Fort Worth. No ceremony planned at this time, just the installations. From East Loop 820 take Rosedale/303 east for just a few blocks and watch for the cemetery on your right (south). It's about two blocks east of Handley Drive.***

# GETTING TO KNOW OUR LOCAL CONFEDERATES



**GEORGE WASHINGTON FISHBACK**

courtesy of Lori Leyba

It isn't often that we get to see a wartime photograph of one of our local Confederates, but sometimes we get lucky. We are especially fortunate to see this one, because he died during the War.

Several months ago we got in contact with two of G. W. Fishback's descendants, Lori Leyba and Janice Adams, and they have kindly shared their records with us.

Mr. Fishback was born in Warren County, Indiana in 1833. By about 1855 he had settled in northeast Tarrant County, where he married Mahulda Ann Neace, the daughter of Peters Colonist Iraneous Neace of the Mount Gilead Community.

George W. Fishback served the Confederacy as a member of Capt. William W. McGinnis's Company of the 20th Brigade of Texas State Troops. He enlisted in July of 1861.

Family sources reveal that Mr. Fishback was killed by bushwhackers March 1, 1864 east of Jacksboro, Jack County, Texas, where the stage line crossed a creek or river. He lies buried there in a now-unmarked grave.

After George's death, his widow, Mahulda Ann (Neace) Fishback, married John H. Hill. Mr. Hill had served in both armies...first in the 16<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry, and then in the 59th Illinois Infantry. John and Mahulda (Neace) Fishback Hill are buried in Keller's Mount Gilead Cemetery near her parents.

In the spring of 2013 Mr. Fishback's descendants purchased a granite replica of a VA headstone to be placed on the next gravesite north of Mahulda's. He has no surviving records in the National Archives, so it was impossible to get a stone for him from the veterans administration.

In the next two or three days new Taylor Camp member Jimmy Reynolds will be furnishing the wheels to pick up the stone from Worthington Monuments, and we will install it.

Mr. Fishback's new monument will be dedicated during Mount Gilead Cemetery's annual Memorial Day observance, held this year on May 27 at eleven a.m. A second locally-made VA-type marker will also be dedicated at the same time.

# MOVE OVER, “CO. AYTCH”

*There’s another Co. H who needs to be up there on the top shelf with you...Sgt. Berry G. Benson, Co. H, 1<sup>st</sup> South Carolina Inf.*

Every time anyone mentions the common soldier in the Confederate Army, Sam Watkins’ classic, Co. Aytch, gets mentioned, and rightly so. Watkins was there at lots of the places that mattered, and he was able to remember many of the day-to-day details which help us know what it was like to be a Confederate soldier.

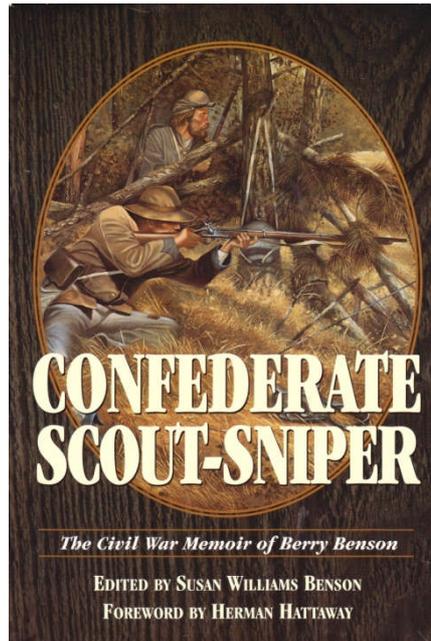
Not long ago I spied another memoir on Amazon.com and took a chance. I like it every bit as much as Sam’s book. It’s called Confederate Scout-Sniper: the Civil War Memoir of Berry Benson and is easily available online. Other editions

may have a slightly different title, depending upon the editor.

Berry was seventeen when he left his home near Augusta, Georgia. Even if he did say so himself, he soon became a crack shot, natural leader, and sure judge of human nature. He had some exciting adventures on reconnaissance within earshot of Union trenches and encampments. He saw the desperation and blind panic of frontal charges and retreats.

One of his most amazing exploits took place after he landed in Elmira Prison in New York, where he joined the only successful tunnel escape in the camp's history. He managed, much of the time alone, to make it back to the southern lines.

The book is full of interesting details and sidelights. Space admits us to relay only one to our readers. Like me, you may have noticed



that in many of the photos which have survived the War one thing was missing.... trees. Benson explains that: **“Long before winter was over, the woods had all been cut down for fuel. First the smaller trees, then the larger, until only here and there could be seen one standing, the largest of all. And when these were felled the stumps were cut over again level with the ground, and men coming**

**in from picket would be seen carrying logs of wood to camp, maybe two miles distance. So the whole country presented a dreary scene of hills covered over with huts, tents, “merrimacs,” flies, all kinds of soldiers’ habitation, and no tree or bush for shelter, and no grass, all dusty and gray beneath. A deserted camp of this kind presents a scene of utter desolation. And after the stumps were gone? Ah, then we dug up roots. And then? Wood was hauled on wagons from a distance and issued as [were] rations...”**

After the War Benson led a happy and successful life as a family man and public accountant, and was active in veterans’ affairs. He died in 1923 at the age of seventy-nine. The City of Augusta honored Benson by using him as a model for a statue which is part of the city’s Civil War Memorial. This wonderful book is no less a part of the legacy he has left us. His descendants may be justly proud of his service and his writings.

# Headstone Projects Update

*March's unprecedented wave of headstone activity was a result of a blitzkrieg of applications sent to the VA in January. Finding living descendants of veterans is labor-intensive and one has to have a vacation from it occasionally. Several of the stones which appeared in this list last month have now been installed and have separate articles in this newsletter. Here's the status of the ones we're working now which aren't yet installed:*

David James Warren served in four different Alabama regiments: 5<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry Btn., 17<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry, 9<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry, and the 58<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry. He died in Fort Worth in 1919 and was buried beside his first wife at Birdville. He is in an unmarked grave, but we were not able to find any living descendants. **Mrs. Sharon Sawyers of Lincoln, Nebraska, a descendant of Mortimer Elliston, for whom we recently erected a VA stone, graciously paid the cost for a stone for another Confederate veteran of our choosing** Blank stone arrived here at Worthington Monuments on April 15.

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

Daniel W. Evans was a veteran of the 31<sup>st</sup> Alabama Infantry. He died in 1924 in Handley in East Fort Worth and was buried in the old Handley Cemetery near the power plant. Application mailed to the VA on February 13. Stone delivered to Patterson on March 20.

George Washington Gardenhire served in the 16<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry. He died in a buggy accident in the stockyards in 1902 at age 82 and was buried in Oakwood Cemetery. We found a descendant and started the paperwork on March 10. Application mailed to the VA on April 3. Sarah Biles at Oakwood said the VA had called to verify their address, so this one is probably on its way.

Samuel D. Pritchard served in the 41<sup>st</sup> Alabama Infantry and died in Fort Worth in 1902. He lies buried in Smithfield Cemetery. We are getting him a headstone with an anonymous donation from an interested individual who heard we were going to start asking for donations from businesses. Stone was ordered from the quarry on March 18. Blank stone arrived here at Worthington Monuments on April 15.

George Washington Fishback, McGinnis' Co., 20<sup>th</sup> 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. Descendants ordered a stone from Worthington Monuments on February 8. Stone will be placed at Mount Gilead where his father-in-law and remarried wife are buried.

## Headstone Updates, cont.

Alfred D. Gray, a member of Co. C, 19<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Infantry, died in Fort Worth in 1906. He lies buried there in Oakwood Cemetery. We found him while plowing through the Tarrant County Confederate pension application files. We started his paperwork on April 26.

Rufus E. Childress. Chapman's Company of Texas Troops. Discharged here in Tarrant County. His father was a commissioned officer in the Confederate Army. Buried in Mansfield Cemetery. Doesn't have records in the National Archives so a VA stone was out for him. Members of the M. T. Johnson Camp paid for a headstone for him, which should be engraved and ready to install about May 1.

Jefferson Epps. 15<sup>th</sup> Missouri Cavalry. Died in Hill County in 1928 and buried in Heath Cemetery there. We were asked to help with this stone by some of the Bedford family on April 27, and the paperwork was begun that afternoon.

James M. West. Died in Fort Worth in 1928 and was buried in soldiers' row in Oakwood. Served in the 17<sup>th</sup> Georgia Cavalry Battalion. Got a VA headstone several years ago but the VA put him in the 31<sup>st</sup> Texas Cavalry. We're resurfacing his stone, and will recut the whole inscription correctly.



***Thanks!!! to one of our new members, John Meritt, for giving your newsletter editor an excellent Kodak digital camera. We had reached a point where our current camera could always be depended upon to let us down when the crunch -time came.***



One of the old stories which used to be passed among the veterans of the ANV told about three nights General R. E. Lee and three aides shared and were snowed-in in an old decrepit farmhouse. General Lee was widely known as a snorer of the first rank, but out of respect to him it was never mentioned.

On the first morning after, one of the aides dragged himself in to breakfast and said he got no sleep at all. Lee had made the windows rattle and the aide said he just sat on the bed all night and watched the general sleep.

On the second morning, the second aide straggled in to breakfast and said General Lee snored so loudly the shingles rattled all night, and the aide sat in a chair and watched him all night.

On the third morning the third aide came into breakfast, bright eyed and bushy-tailed. Asked about how he'd fared the night, the third aide said "I tucked the General in, patted him on the bottom, kissed him on the cheek, told him "good night, sleep tight," and he sat on his bed all night and watched me."

Adapted from a joke sent in by one of our compatriots.

**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.**

**Gen. Stephen D. Lee**

