



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

# NEWSLETTER

Bedford, Texas .....June 2013

**\$1,000!**  
**REWARD.**

**Head Quarters U. S. Forces,**  
*Columbus, O., Nov. 28, 1863.*

**GEN. JOHN H. MORGAN**  
**Captains J. C. Bennett, L. B.**  
**Taylor, L. D. Hockersmith,**  
**Sheldon T. H. Haines, and**  
**G. S. Magee,**

Escaped from the Ohio Penitentiary on the night of the 27th  
instant.

**A Reward of \$1,000!**

Will be paid for the apprehension and arrest of John Morgan,  
and a suitable reward for the apprehension and arrest of the  
others.

**WM. WALLACE,**  
Colonel 15th O. V. I. Commanding.



## JUNE PROGRAM

*Presented by Compatriot Beau Purdom  
of the R. E. Lee Camp. Join us as our  
friend Beau shares with us the life of a  
true Confederate Hero, Gen. John  
Hunt Morgan. Many of our local men  
served with Morgan in Kentucky.*

**JUNE MEETING June 27, 2013 Catfish and Company**  
**900 Airport Freeway #110**  
**Hurst, Texas 817-581-3912 Eat at 6:00 Meeting at 7:00**

# SEAN PARTEE IS NEWEST MEMBER OF THE E. W. TAYLOR CAMP; SWORN IN AT MAY MEETING



Sean Partee was sworn in as our newest member, a Friend of the E. W. Taylor Camp, at our regular May meeting. Sean came to us because of his friendship with James Alderman, our long-time adjutant. We welcome Sean to our group and look forward to a long and happy association with him. Shown above are, l-r, James Alderman, Sean Partee, and Kent Mathews, our chaplain.

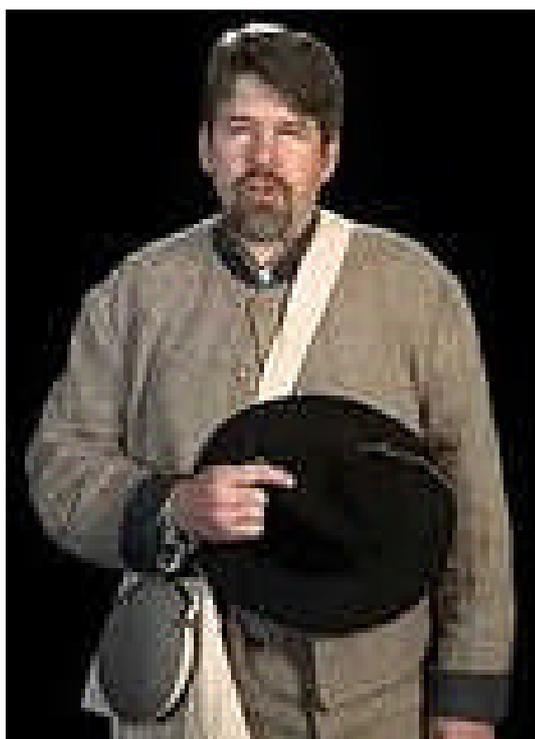
*Our personal friends are our best pool of potential recruits. We'll go to extraordinary lengths to find them a Confederate ancestor if they'd like to join us. Just let us know and we'll get on it!!!*

# CONGRATULATIONS, DAVID!!!



On May 11, 2013, Compatriot David Luttrell received his Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences degree in Criminal Justice from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls. He graduated with Highest Honors (Summa Cum Laude). David, shown at center above right, became a member of our camp at our February meeting this year.

In the Fall he'll be continuing his education and working towards his Masters in History (19th Century American History). Eventually he wants to become a teacher.



## OUR SINCEREST THANKS!!!

*...to everyone who has helped us in this year's never-ending spate of putting up headstones. We appreciate all those who drove us non-drivers to the sites, did the digging and lifting and tamping, got the stones to the cemeteries, paid for the stones the VA wouldn't approve, did the computer work and let us use their equipment and tools, helped us find the grave locations, signed VA paperwork for us, helped us with research for the applications, helped us sending out emails, read our newsletters, and came for moral support on setting days.*

# KELLER MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE WAS GREAT CHANCE TO GET OUR SCV CAMP INTO THE PUBLIC EYE

For the second year in a row we've been asked to take part in a local Memorial Day Observance. Last year it was in Westlake; this year it was in Keller. We were anxious to help in honoring our veterans and in firing three musket volleys as a salute to their courage and sacrifice.

This year's observance took place in Mount Gilead Cemetery, which was established in 1851. At this point, we know of more than twenty Confederates, a few Union soldiers, and one man who served in both armies who are buried there.

In addition, one of the only two Texas Revolutionary soldiers who came to live in this county is buried there near his Confederate-veteran son. At least two sets of father-sons soldiers are there, as well as a set of three brothers, the middle of whom went with the Union before he joined his brothers here in Texas.

Only one veteran from a 20<sup>th</sup>-century war is known to be at Mount Gilead. One special honoree of the day was William H. Boswell, who got a miniature VA stone recently to replace his old broken sandstone which had marked his grave since 1876.

The other veteran highlighted was George Washington Fishback, whose stone is featured in another article in this newsletter, and whose photograph appeared in the issue before this.

We thank all the members of the E. W. Taylor Camp and their families who came out to support us. In addition, we were joined by members of other area camps: the M. T. Johnson Camp and the K. M. VanZandt SAR Camp. All the members of the Taylor Camp who attended are in the photo below. Their names are **bolded**.



L-r standing: Sandy James, **David Stewart**, Debbie Hearrean, John Lougheed, **Nathan Pike**, **John Meritt**, **Kent Mathews**, **Ron Parker**, Janice Adams (Fishback's g-g-g-gd), **James Alderman**, **Jimmy Reynolds**. Kneeling are Allen Hearrean, **James Madewell**, **Mike Patterson**.

# KELLER MEMORIAL DAY



*We were joined by Jimmie and Janice Adams of Huntsville, Texas. Janice is the great-great-great granddaughter of George W. Fishback, whose stone we dedicated. She and another Fishback descendant, Lori Leyba of Colorado sponsored Mr. Fishback's stone.*

Below, l-r, Kent Mathews, Sandy Madewell, Mike Patterson, James Alderman, Ray Leftwich (K. M. Van Zandt Camp, SAR), James Madewell, Ron Parker, Debbie Hearrean, Allen Hearrean (M. T. Johnson Camp, SCV).



# AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SERVICE ON JUNE 15



We're invited to help in firing a musket salute in honor of Rufus C. Childress, who was a member of Chapman's Company of Texas Troops. We discovered Mr. Childress while searching the Tarrant County pension records.

He lies buried in Mansfield Cemetery in an unmarked grave. The members of the M. T. Johnson Camp, SCV, paid for a granite replica of an upright VA marker for him. It will be installed that morning at 10 a.m. Please join us!

## SEREPENDIPITY: A CASE STUDY

**Serendipity** means a "happy accident" or "pleasant surprise," specifically, the accident of finding something good or useful while not

specifically searching for it. The word first appears in written English in 1754 with its present definition. By its very nature, it strikes without warning, as it did on Saturday afternoon, May 18.

Your editor was trying to find an appropriate place in Smithfield Cemetery for the memorial stone for S. D. Pritchard. His nearest neighbor in 1895 was James Clinton Garrett, who died in 1898. Garrett has a marker, but there is no marker for his wife beside him.

Not wanting to put Pritchard on her space if she were there, we went on a search for Garrett's wife, and found her in Oklahoma where she survived until 1933. While there, she applied for a Confederate widow's pension

based upon the service of her husband, "James Clinton Garrett." Mr. Garrett died here before the pension law was passed, and his wife left Texas before she applied. With a common name like James Garrett, we had no way of determining whether or not our man had served, *and never would have* using Texas records.

*We'll take 'em any way we can git 'em.*

We have been aware of Garrett for decades, but he's been languishing on the big list of men who may have served but we'd never know for sure. Now we know.

The accidental, idle search to see who Pritchard's neighbors were in 1895 has added yet another honored veteran to our northeast Tarrant County Memorial.

# TARRANT COUNTY CONFEDERATE WHO LED AN AMAZING LIFE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR A HEADSTONE FROM THE VA

*Fought Comanches in Parker County before and after the War.  
Has two strikes against him in getting a memorial stone.*

George Warren Parsley led a life which seems almost impossible at this distance in time. Not only did he do good service against the Indians on our frontier, he also served in two Confederate regiments: the 12<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry and the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry. When we discovered him a few days ago we were excited. We had a good soldier, a willing descendant, and a newspaper obituary to prove his burial place.

What we don't have is a records file for him in the National Archives. Even though his parads in the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry made affidavits for him and he got his Texas pension, those State affidavits don't carry any weight with the VA. **Strike One.**

Mr. Parsley died in 1931 in Handley, and was buried beside his wife in Isham Cemetery. The Isham Cemetery has him listed on their burial site's roster, but his family never got him any sort of marker and his burial site is lost. The Isham Cemetery Association doesn't want any sort of memorial for him in their cemetery unless it's six feet directly above his remains. They believe they can do research to get the exact location. No such record exists. **Strike Two.**

Mr. Parsley settled in Parker County in 1856, when only the brave dared go there. About 1924 he wrote a letter to the Weatherford newspaper in which he gave some details of his early life:



"The following interesting letter is from G. W. Parsley, one of the pioneers of this section of Texas, having come here in 1856: 'I notice through our home paper a letter from Dr. T. W. Taylor, a member of the University of Texas, trying to locate the exact date of the legal hanging of Black Joe Williams. I am sure that I can give it by a business transaction. I have a copy of it made on the 14th day of October 1867, the day he was hung, in regard to a cattle deal with Spruce Woods on Patrick's Creek six miles west of Weatherford in Parker County. I came to Weatherford from Benton County, Mo., landed in Weatherford August 5<sup>th</sup>, 1856. In and

through Parker County, it being the frontier, we had many troubles with the Indians and some very narrow escapes. My step father, Jack Lopp, was killed five miles west of Weatherford. Two of the Rozelle girls, my wife's sisters, just across the line in Hood County, were killed. Three of the children were wounded. My neighbor, Bolen Savage on Sanchez Creek was killed and Jim Savage on Patrick's Creek was killed by the Indians and two of their children were carried away. Also Mr. Brown on Sanchez Creek, near Brazos on Spring Creek were carried away by the Indians.

*Cont. on next page*

## **NOT ELIGIBLE FOR VA STONE, cont. from previous page**

*We followed the Indians, killing one and got the girl, but they carried the boy away tied fast to a wild horse. Later he was brought back. Before leaving my immediate neighborhood near there, I will give you a little incident that happened to me. Corn was very scarce here, and but only a few people had any. I managed to buy one bushel from a Mr. Jones that lived some three miles up Sanchez Creek from me and started to Jack Preston's, a mile on Patrick's Creek. Just before going there I came in contact with Indians. You see there was no time to think, only to make the best getaway that I could and you can imagine which way the hair on my head stood. I saved my scalp but lost my corn, so the [?] weeks had to go back to my clabber cheese and dried beef.*

*Then I had good teeth and it was a pretty good appetizer. The next corn I got I hauled from Tarrant County. The first crop I made was in the spring of '59, so I had nothing to fear only to watch and keep out of the way of the Indians. After the Indians quit me they went back to Patrick's Creek. There they ran on to two of the Hamilton boys, one of them being a crazy boy, and killed both of them.*

*The principal raids made by the Indians after this were made on Rock Creek, Dry Creek. Buck Creek, and Keechi, west of Weatherford.*

*We have a camp here in Weatherford, but none of the old timers met with us that were here at the first settlement of Parker County. They are all dead or have moved away. We have some that were boys here just before the war. If they would be of anything to your history let me know and I can give their names as far as I know. G.W. Parsley 88 years old in October"*

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## **“AMBITIONS OF VET 93, IS TO LIVE TO BE 100,” Fort Worth paper, June 11, 1929**

Handly, June 11, "*I have chased Indians all over this country, and they have chased me.*" G.W. Parsley smiled when he said that, adding, "*They are all gone but I am still here. And I hope to be here at least seven years more. Then I'll be 100 years old. And if I enjoy as good health then as I do now, I don't know why I shouldn't live a few year more than the century mark.*"

Parsley is 93 years old. In his younger days, spent in this section of Texas, he fought Indians and when the Civil War broke he took up arms in the defense of the South. He is one of the oldest Confederate veterans in Texas, and among the comparatively few men who knew what is now Fort Worth when it was only an army camp.

Born in the little town of Independence, Jackson County, MO, in 1836, Parsley came to Texas with an immigrant train in 1856. His father died en route at Sherman, and was buried there. He settled at Weatherford, when the community consisted of only a few stores, and possibly a dozen houses, principally log cabins. Fort Worth at that time was only an old log fort called Camp Worth, with earthen breastworks thrown up about it as protection against Indians. The fort was about where the courthouse now stands. There was no courthouse then, Parsley says. The people, in an effort to establish law, held court under an old oak tree.

Later Parsley moved out onto Sanchez Creek and worked there on the ranch of Dan Waggoner, his uncle who died years ago.

In May of 1862, Parsley enlisted in the Confederate Army under Capt. Fant Ball, and in the latter part of that year was transferred to company F, Parsons Brigade, Watson's Regiment, and fought the entire course of the war from Missouri to Florida. He was mustered out of service at Hempstead, in May, 1868, with an honorable discharge.

cont. on next page

## NOT ELIGIBLE FOR VA STONE, cont. from previous page

In that same year he met and married Miss Lou Rozell at Marlin, and they settled into Hood County, rearing a family of eight children. Parsley was presented the Southern Cross Of Honor by the Daughters of the Confederacy in Weatherford in 1884. Since the death of his wife, Jan. 2, 1928, at the home of their son in Handley, he has lived with his children.

Parsley is far from feeble. He gets about unaided and does not use a cane. His hearing is good and he can read newspaper print without glasses. Possessing a keen, quick, thinking mind he readily recalls dates, names and places in a manner to excite the admiration of a history writer.

*"I do not drink intoxicating liqueurs nor do I use tobacco in any form."* There were originally 150 men in his company, and he has a complete list of their names and the picture of 57. His greatest desire is to procure the pictures of the remaining 93 and place them in a group and hang them in a prominent place in Fort Worth as a memorial to the younger generation, especially his descendants.

*"So far as I know, there are only two survivors of the company, except myself."*

Of his eight children, one is dead. The other seven living are; Mrs. John Sentel, Weatherford; J.L. Parsley, Lokeba, Okla.; W.M. Parsley, ? ; J.W. Parsley, Millsap; A.G. Parsley, Dallas; H.B. Parsley, Handley, with whom he is now visiting; and Miss Annie Wharton, Royal Street Dallas, where he makes his home.

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Mr. Parsley's newspaper obituary appeared in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on April 1, 1931: ***Bury Handy Veteran Today Special to the Star Telegram Handy, April 1- Last rites were to be said at 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at Isham Chapel, near here, for George W. Parsley 94. Confederate veteran and Indian fighter who died Tuesday afternoon at the home of a son, H. B. Parsley. Burial was to be in the Isham Cemetery.***

***Parsley was visiting a daughter, Mrs. Annie Sentel in Weatherford, where he was stricken, and on March 23 he was brought to Handley. He was born in Independence MO, in 1836 and came to Texas 20 years later, settling at Weatherford.***

***At the time Fort Worth was a military outpost consisting solely of an old fort called Camp Worth, situated near the sight of the courthouse.***

***Parsley enlisted in the Confederate army in 1862 and served the remainder of the Civil War under Capt. Fant Ball [Co F 19th Texas Cavalry]. He was honorably discharged in 1868. The same year he married Miss. Lou Rozell of M[?]. The couple settled in Hood County. He was presented with The Southern Cross of Honor by The Daughters of the Confederacy in 1884 at Weatherford.***

***It had been his wish to live to be 100 years of age. At a birthday celebration in his honor last year he remarked that "I have chased Indians all over this country and they have chased me."***

***Besides the son and daughter already mentioned, he is survived by four sons, A. G. Parsley, Dallas; Lee Parsley, Oklahoma City; William Parsley, Membrino, and J. W. Parsley, Bennett, and a daughter Mrs. Minnie Wharton, Dallas."***

# LET'S JUST CALL THIS ONE “The Parsley Project.”

Sometimes a particular pioneer, like Parker County's Parsley, piques our interest. Maybe it's his Indian-fighting days, maybe it's that face which saw so many interesting things, or maybe it's the fact that he left us a rich legacy by writing his stories for the newspapers. Maybe it's that things are stacked against him getting a memorial.

Whatever it is, sometimes an old vet just calls out to us across the years. We're going to do something to honor Mr. Parsley.

As of this newsletter publication date, the Handley Cemetery has said they'd be happy to have a memorial to Mr. Parsley, as one of their town's pioneers, in their cemetery. We'll engrave a line saying he's buried in Isham Cemetery. Unless we hear otherwise from the Isham Cemetery Association folks, that's the plan, Stan.

No need to be coy, Roy. If we get enough pledges by midnight June 30, to get him a replica VA stone (\$375) that's what we'll do. If not, we won't just slip out the back, Jack. We'll go to plan B and make him one from a piece of granite scrap. It won't look like scrap, but it'll be recycled from a previously-used stone.

We'll keep all donors in the loop about what's being done and get their input.



***So here's the deal. If you want to make a pledge toward doing this, email Patterson at [mfpchat@yahoo.com](mailto:mfpchat@yahoo.com) by the end of the day June 30. Don't send funds. Let him know how much you'd like to help, and he'll work up a plan to best use what we get. Then we'll contact the descendant and each donor by email with a proposed drawing. Your donation can be made to the E. W. Taylor Camp and can be tax deductible. Tool-using primates that we are, we can list donors on the back of the rock if we can get an upright.***

# FORT WORTH TELEGRAM

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FORT WORTH TELEGRAM

FORT WORTH, TEXAS, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1902

SEPTEMBER 1902

## AN AGED MAN DEAD FELL FROM A BUGGY

Yesterday afternoon about 5 o'clock an old citizen named G. W. Gardenhire, whose residence was near the North Fort Worth stock yards, died from injuries received by a fall from a buggy during the morning.

The old gentleman had stepped away from the family and got into a buggy with a friend for a drive. Returning home the buggy in some manner became uncoupled and the two men were precipitated to the ground. The old gentleman fell in such a manner as to inflict fatal injuries, and died at the hour mentioned. The man with him is said to be named Harris, a neighbor, who conveyed him to the hotel and later to Gardenhire's home.

It is said the horse was going along at an ordinary gait when the accident occurred and did not run away.

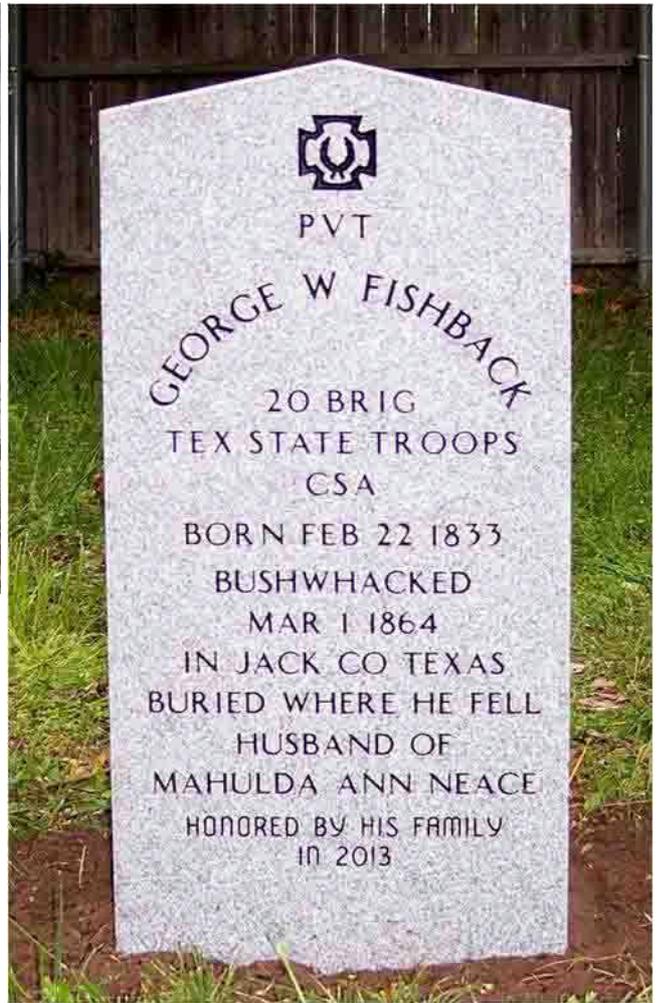
[Sept. 30, 1902]

## CONFEDERATE VETERAN FATALLY HURT IN BUGGY ACCIDENT IN NORTHSIDE GETS A STONE ON MAY 25.

*George Washington Gardenhire is another of those veterans we found while looking through the pension files. He brought his family to Texas about 1847 and settled first in Kaufman County. He and two of his sons were soldiers in Co. F, 16<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry. He enlisted on March 10, 1862, in Collin County, and presented himself for service riding a horse worth \$160 and with personal equipment worth \$25. One son, James, was "killed dead" in battle at Milliken's Bend, Louisiana on June 7, 1863.*



The Gardenhire setting crew, above left, l-r: David Stewart, Jimmy Reynolds, Ron Parker, Mike Patterson, Kent Mathews, and Bobby Gresham. While we were there we re-set James M. West's corrected marker (above right). We were joined by Compatriot Ron Parker's son and grandson, Stephen Parker, Sr. and Jr.



# LOCAL VETERAN GETS A STONE AFTER 149 YEARS



Mr. Fishback was highlighted in last month's newsletter. His descendants, Lori Leyba and Janice Adams, bought him a replica VA headstone and we installed it on the coldest May 2 on record...35-degree wind chill and 30 m.p.h. north wind.

His stone and one other will be dedicated in Keller on Memorial Day at Mount Gilead Cemetery's annual observance on May 27.

The setting crew included, I-1 standing, Ervin Hauk of the Tarrant County Historical Commission, and E. W. Taylor members John Meritt, Jimmy Reynolds, and (kneeling) Mike Patterson and Kent Mathews.

# NAMES ON THE MAP

*It may come as a surprise to many people that a large number of the place names we know were named for veterans of the WBTS.*

*In the next few months we'll try to acquaint you with a few of them, so you can amaze your friends with your off-hand knowledge.*

## HANDLEY

A few days ago we installed two markers for Confederate veterans in the old Handley Cemetery. Not many folks know that the town of Handley was named for a veteran of the War, and that he was originally buried in the old cemetery which bears his name.

James Madison Handley was born in Heard County, Georgia in 1836. He was never married.

Handley served as both a captain and a major in the 46<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry. He was captured at Champion's Hill, Mississippi, and spent the last two years of the war in prison.

The Texas and Pacific Railroad was built through the area in 1876 and the same year a post office was opened there. It was named in honor of Mr. Handley. After coming to Texas his dream was to build a home on the hilltop where Rose Hill Cemetery now sits, but he died in 1908 before his dream was realized.

In 1930 after Shannon Rose Hill Cemetery was beginning to flourish, Mr. Handley's body was moved there and buried in a prominent place near the cemetery entrance, on the hill where he had hoped to build a home. A new marker was dedicated for him on November 25, 1976.

## BENBROOK

Another Tarrant County pioneer named for an early president also has a city here named for him...James Monroe Benbrook, below.



Benbrook was born in Posey County, Indiana in 1831. He served in the Union army as both a private and a sergeant in Co. A, 40<sup>th</sup> Illinois Infantry.

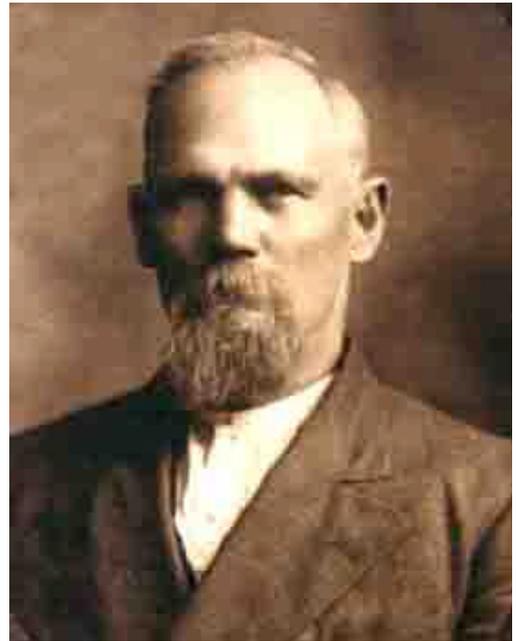
He came to Texas in 1876 and settled at Marinda in southwest Tarrant County. When rail lines were completed near his home and a depot was built in 1880 his neighbors chose to rename the spot Benbrook in his honor.

Mr. Benbrook died in 1907. In 1982 an official Texas Historical Marker was dedicated at his grave in Benbrook Cemetery at 812 Mercedes Street.

# TWO HANDLEY CONFEDERATES GET HEADSTONES ON MAY 11

On May 11 two more worthy Southern veterans finally got the recognition they deserved. We discovered both of them while we were slogging through the Tarrant County Confederate pension files earlier this year. We managed to find living descendants of both men, and the VA processed our applications in good time.

It may come as a surprise to lots of folks that there is a Handley Cemetery. When you're passing by if you don't know when and where to look, you won't see it. Its inaccessibility and its location on the way to nowhere may have helped spare it much of the damage from vandals other cemeteries have suffered. It's nestled away beside the Handley power plant, not far east of Loop 820 and south of Rosedale Street. It served the pioneers in that area before nearby Shannon Rose Hill was established. [Cont. on next page]



Daniel W. Evans



Daniel W. Evans' grave on the day of his burial in 1924, facing east-northeast. No trees!!!

## Two Veterans Honored at Handley, cont.



Above, left, part of the setting crew. L-r, Ron Parker, Mike Patterson, Kent Mathews, Wesley Massey, and Jimmy Reynolds.

Both veterans honored lie buried in Handley. They were Daniel W. Evans and Richard S. Coker. Evans' descendants even shared two photographs with us which were taken the day Mr. Evans was buried. The one at upper right was taken looking toward the northwest.

Daniel W. Evans was born in 1847 in Shelby County, Alabama. Mr. Evans was pensioned for his service in Co. K, 31<sup>st</sup> Alabama Infantry. He came to Texas about 1890 and died at Handley in 1924.

Richard S. Coker was born in Fayette County, Tennessee in 1843. He came to Texas with his parents in May 1856. He served in Co. K, 10<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry. They settled first in Wood County, Texas, and later moved to Smith County. After several other moves, he died at his daughter's home on Magnolia Street in Fort Worth in 1929.



We were joined by Mrs. Gresham, Mrs. Patterson, Wesley Massey from the R. E. Lee Camp; Ben Hatch, the Commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade of the Texas Division, and Joann Ehlers of the Handley Neighborhood Association.

E. W. Taylor Camp member Jimmy Reynolds loaned us his pickup to get the stones from Colleyville to the cemetery in Handley.

Standing, l-r; James Alderman, Ron Parker, Kent Mathews, Bob Gresham; kneeling Wesley Massey, Mike Patterson, and Ben Hatch. Jimmy Reynolds was also part of the crew but didn't get into the photo.

# POLITICALLY INCORRECT

## *R. B. Sigler vs. The State. An Appeal from the District Court of Wise County in 1879.*

One of our many Confederate veterans from northeast Tarrant County was Rufus Bolivar Sigler, who came to Texas in time to be involved in some of the governmental functions during the Republic. He later became a lawyer and was practicing law at Birdville when the War began. He served in Co. H, 37<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry.

He lost his first wife (wives?) and was later remarried to the widow of another of our veterans, Peter K. Matthews. Her given names were Martha Missouri. Mr. Sigler moved about a great deal, and by the time of the 1880 census was “living” in the Wise County jail awaiting trial.

Descendants of the Matthews family have recently found a court case involving Sigler in Wise County. After being arrested and convicted of horse theft in a very convoluted trial, Sigler appealed his case and won the appeal, which forced a new trial in Wise County.

The decision of the appeals court is online:

<http://books.google.com/books?id=o20tAQAA MAAJ&pg=PA283&lpg=PA283&dq=R.+B.Sigler+v s.+The+State&source=bl&ots=DiFnz5 dXG&sig=dCjDtSTLa0xisJlYdXpTwrLpKFA&hl=en&sa=X&ei=zHeXUd-0NYLy9gSW0YG4DA&sqi=2&ved=0CCsQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=R.%20B.Sigler%20vs.%20The%20State&f=false>

Hopefully, our readers will be able to click on the link in this newsletter. Otherwise, it can be cut and pasted into your browser.

Sigler based his appeal on the fact that the court thought evidence which could be given by his wife, who was a direct witness to some of the actions leading up to his arrest, was not worthy of being heard.

In these days when any offhand statement, any smirk, or any privately-made joke can end a public servant's career it's interesting to see what the person wrote in the Appeals Court's opinion. Men's value of women's mental abilities back then shines through in the last paragraph of this written opinion.

The “M. M. Sigler” mentioned herein refers to Sigler's wife, Martha Missouri Sigler.

*“...We are of the opinion that the court erred in not permitting the witness M. M. Sigler to state [certain facts]...it should not be forgotten that witnesses, especially female witnesses, do not speak with legal accuracy in making their statements on the witness stand, and that it is often necessary, in the course of an examination, to call the attention of the witness specifically to some fact which may refresh [her] recollection and cause [her] to modify a previous statement made with the utmost honesty and sincerity, but susceptible, from its looseness, of a construction never intended by the witness. It may be that the question may have served to remind the witness of a fact she had forgotten altogether, or overlooked in the confusion sometimes incident to female witnesses upon the stand...”*

Wouldn't it be funny today if some of the ladies in high places in our government, caught in a lie before a congressional committee, cited “*R. B. Sigler vs. The State*” in trying to have their earlier testimony expunged?

# SMITHFIELD CONFEDERATE FINALLY HAS A STONE AFTER 111 YEARS

## DEATHS.

### S. D. Pritchard.

S. D. Pritchard, aged 76 years, father of L. G. Pritchard, died at his home in North Fort Worth yesterday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The body will be taken to near Grapevine, the former home of the deceased, where the interment takes place this afternoon. Mr. Pritchard was a pioneer citizen of this county and came here twenty years ago from Mississippi. He leaves four sons, two of whom live in Fort Worth. The other two live in the country. The deceased was a Mason.

Fort Worth Morning Register, March 28, 1902

Samuel D. Pritchard was born in Tennessee in 1825. By 1850 the family had moved to Fayette County, Alabama. They lived in Marion County when the War began. He enlisted in May, 1862, in Co. K, 41<sup>st</sup> Alabama Infantry and by December was a corporal. By February of 1865 he was a sergeant. He was captured at Petersburg on February 11. Four days later he was in Washington D.C. where he took the oath and was furnished transportation to Pittsburg.

By 1870 they had settled at Copiah County, Mississippi where they all probably worked in Col. James Madison Wesson's Mississippi Manufacturing Company, making cotton cloth so fine it was known as "Mississippi silk" at the centennial celebration in 1876.

In 1880 the family lived in Carroll County, Mississippi. By 1895 they had settled in northeast Tarrant County.

Their home in 1895 lay in what is now Hurst, along the west side of Precinct Line Road a few yards north of its intersection with Highway 26.

Mr. Pritchett was the father of at least ten children. He died March 27, 1902. The installation crew included, at right, Jimmy Reynolds, Kent Mathews, and Mike Patterson.

We were not able to find any living descendants of Mr. Pritchard. An area businessman donated the funds to buy him a granite replica of a VA marker, and we were asked to say it was erected by the E. W. Taylor Camp.

On Thursday, May 22 a team of trained installation operatives rendezvoused at Smithfield at 18:30 hours, did the job, and skedaddled in record time. As before, Taylor Camper Jimmy Reynolds loaned us his pickup to get the stone to Smithfield.

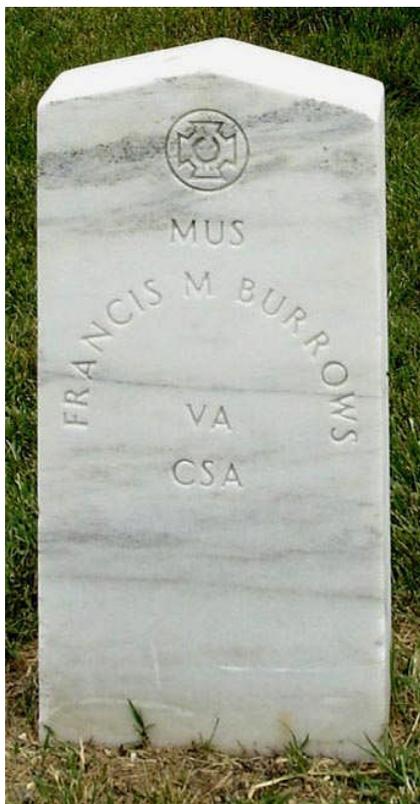


## FORMER COMMANDER OF FORT WORTH R. E. LEE UCV CAMP IS FOCUS OF ARTICLE IN THE NATIONAL SCV MAGAZINE THIS MONTH

We're always anxious to learn more about our local Confederate vets. It was a pleasant surprise to see a photo of one of our locals, Francis M. Burrows, in the latest issue of The Confederate Veteran magazine.

The last sentence of the article especially got our attention: "In 1922 Frank died, but it is not known exactly when, or where he is buried." They should have called us first.

An article appeared in our own Fort Worth Star-Telegram on October 18, 1922; it told us where he died and was buried. Mr. Burrows died in Washington, D. C., and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. A quick check of the Find-A-Grave site told us he died on October 8, 1922.



### EX-COMMANDER OF LEE CAMP HERE DEAD

Col. F. M. Burrows, 82, pioneer resident of Fort Worth and a member of Pickett's Division during the Civil War, died at his home in Washington, D. C., recently and was buried in Arlington Cemetery, according to word received here Wednesday.

He was a former commander of R. E. Lee Camp of Confederate Veterans. His death was sudden, being due to an attack of acute indigestion.

Burrows was a vice president of the Southern Society of Washington and held the rank of colonel on the staff of Gen. Julian S. Carr, grand commander of the Confederate Veterans' Association.

# Headstone Projects Update

*As before, several of the stones which appeared in this list last month have now been installed and have separate articles in this newsletter. On any given application, it's becoming the rule rather than the exception that the VA contacts the descendant asking for this or that in addition to what we've submitted. It's mostly just a tactic to see if we'll give up on the application. We never ask for any stone which isn't completely legitimate. We always ask the descendants to let us know immediately and what the VA's asking for.*

*We immediately get whatever the VA has requested and forward it to the descendant to send to the VA. In several cases the descendants have not forwarded to the VA the things we've sent them. Without interested and cooperative descendants we're shot down, and some stones in progress have been dropped from this list because of that circumstance.*

*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*** We picked up the finished stone on May 2. Waiting for one more stone for Birdville which is on its way so we can do them together.

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, and mailed the app to the VA on May 3. Have heard nothing from the VA as of May 30, so this one's probably on its way.

Joshua 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. Mailed to the VA on May 6. On May 17 they contacted the descendant saying we could not prove the cemetery where the man's buried, in spite of a signed, notarized statement from a family member saying he had had the grave site pointed out many times by family members who attended the funeral.

John H. Haralson, 41st Tennessee Infantry. Died in Fort Worth in 1922 and is buried at Oakwood with no rock. Began the paperwork on May 6. Mailed app to the VA on May 23. He served as "James H. Harrelson," but we have incontrovertible proof that he is the same man who lived here as John H. Haralson. Hopefully, someone in the VA knows incontrovertible proof when he sees it.

# Headstone Projects Update, cont.

Oscar W. Head, Corporal, Co. F, 10<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry. Surrendered with Lee at Appomattox. Died in Fort Worth in 1928 and buried at Oakwood with no marker. Began looking for a descendant on May 9 and found one that evening. His direct line is extinct, but a descendant of his brother, William S. Head...also a Confederate veteran and also buried at Oakwood...signed the application for us. Paper went to the VA on May 28.

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## **WE NEED YOUR INPUT AND EXPERTISE.**

*A few weeks ago we installed a VA stone for David R. Bedford in Oakwood Cemetery in Ft. Worth.*

*Since then, his family has found a cache of old photos and the picture at left was among them. It's clearly not a Confederate uniform, and it's certainly not Mr. Bedford.*

*If you have some thoughts about the unit or time period of this uniform, please email Mike Patterson at [mfpchat@yahoo.com](mailto:mfpchat@yahoo.com) and he'll pass the information along.*

# HOW IT'S DONE THESE DAYS



Several years ago Compatriot Ron Parker did the paperwork and got memorials for several Confederates who had no headstones in Soldiers' Row in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth. One of the soldiers was James M. West (1847-1936), who served in the 17<sup>th</sup> Georgia Cavalry Battalion. Some sort of VA snafu caused his headstone to be carved showing him to have been a soldier in the 31<sup>st</sup> Texas Cavalry.

So many years have passed that it was pointless to try to get a corrected stone so we decided to try something else. At the end of our ceremony at Oakwood on April 27 we pulled up Mr. West's stone and brought it home. It was our plan to lower the inscribed side about one-quarter of an inch, taking the engravings, and then to recut the inscription on the blank back of the stone.

This is a technique shown to your editor by Mr. John Hagan of Moore Monuments in Weatherford several years ago. We've successfully used it twice since then, both times on marble. The process involves sandblasting away the face of the marble down to the level of the bottom of the engraving. That sounds simple enough. However, it's not just the face of the stone which gets lowered.

The abrasive, hitting the stone at nearly the speed of sound, goes into the letters, too, and would cut *them* an additional quarter-inch deeper at the same time. For this to work, the engraving must not be cut any deeper than it already is. Enter one of the miracles of modern technology... silicone. It's tough, fast-drying, and extremely resistant to erosion. Each speck of the abrasive takes off a tiny piece of marble when it hits, but bounces off the silicone. As long as the abrasive nozzle keeps moving, not enough heat builds up to melt the silicone.

We first overfilled all the carvings with silicone and let it dry. Then we cut off the excess level with the face of the stone.



## HOW IT'S DONE, cont.



This was a good time to give the stone a general cleaning with a power sander. Newly-cut marble is hard enough to withstand some gentle sanding. The back, both sides, and both sides of the top cleaned up nicely. The front was going to be turned to dust, so we didn't clean it. We're left with gleaming white marble and the darker "marbling" streaks which are characteristic. As seen above, it's amazing how a few years of lichens and environmental crud (especially under a tree) will affect a white stone.

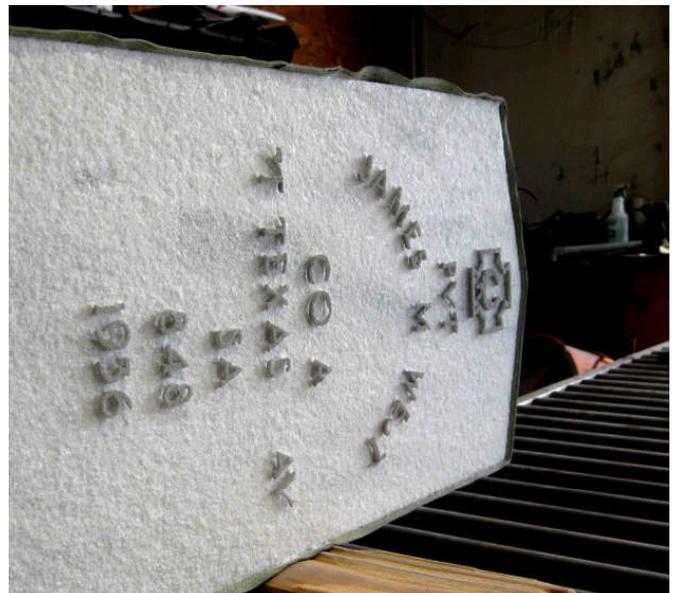
This doesn't work with granite, which is far harder. All you'd do is wear out some good sandpaper.

We didn't want to do away with the bottom twelve inches of the stone's front, so we covered it with latex mask. We also covered the stone's edges, to protect them as much as possible. Then the sandblasting began. It took less than ten minutes to eat away 1/4 inch of rock.

After the first round of blasting is done we're left with the little silicone letters (some of which didn't survive the last few seconds of blasting...see below). They did, however, keep the stone underneath them from cutting more deeply. The rest of the stone has been lowered about 1/4 inch

Sandblasting the engraved side leaves a weird pattern of lowered surface and raised letters. We took off the raised areas with a chisel, then ground the surface as smooth as we could get it. Some parts of the stone were harder than others, so the surface wasn't as smooth as it would have been had it been sawn.

Matt Worthington of Worthington Monuments did the drawing and made the latex mask which we glued to the back of the stone. The letters we wanted engraved were pulled out of the mask exposing the bare marble (looks yellow in the photo on the next page).



The back of the mask has a thin layer of yellow mylar on it, which holds the little pieces in place...like the centers of O, P, R, etc. The yellow stuff gets eaten by the abrasive instantly. We protected the edges and bottom of the stone with more latex, then the sandblasting began. After about five minutes and four complete passes over the stone, the new letters were the correct depth.

## HOW IT'S DONE, cont.



Using compressed air we blew the dust out of the lettering, and then...while the mask was still in place... sprayed in a coat of special black stone paint called lithochrome. It will last for several years and will make the stone more readable at a distance.

We removed the mask and protective latex, washed off all the glue residue, and dried the newly-engraved surface. Voila. We have a stone which looks like it's just come from the VA.

Really better...we can engrave whatever we want!!!



*This is the identical process most commercial monument companies and the VA contractors use to produce veterans' stones. If you have the equipment, ninety-nine percent of the job is done.*

### ***In a perfect world, this is the way it works...***

*Searching pensions, found Pvt. John H. Haralson, 41<sup>st</sup> Tennessee Infantry, who died in 1922 in Fort Worth and was buried at Oakwood with no stone. Texas paid a mortuary benefit to his daughter, a Mrs. Tucker.*

*...Ran a Texas death search for Tucker women with a father named Haralson. Got one hit.*

*...Ran a Texas death search for anyone with a Tucker father and a Haralson mother. Got one hit...a lady who married a man surnamed Phinizy.*

*....Ran a Texas birth search for anyone with a Phinizy father and a Tucker mother, and got one hit...a man born in Dawson County, Texas in 1935.*

*.....Did an online white pages search for a man with that given name surnamed Phinizy in Texas, and found one in Gail, Texas.*

*.....Called him, he answered, and he's our man. He's also very intrigued by all this and anxious to help. Total search time elapsed: 10 minutes.*



*There is nothing more important in the life of any special-interest organization... be it coin collectors or bird watchers or SCV camps...than quality monthly programs at membership meetings.* It's the monthly program which makes a prospective member decide whether or not to come back. It's the monthly programs which keep long-time members coming to meetings, month-in and month-out.

Programs aren't tests of endurance, they aren't pulpits for sermons, they aren't stumps for political speeches or rants, and they aren't chances for one person to show how much he knows about this or that. Monthly programs are opportunities for speakers to share their interests, and maybe a little of

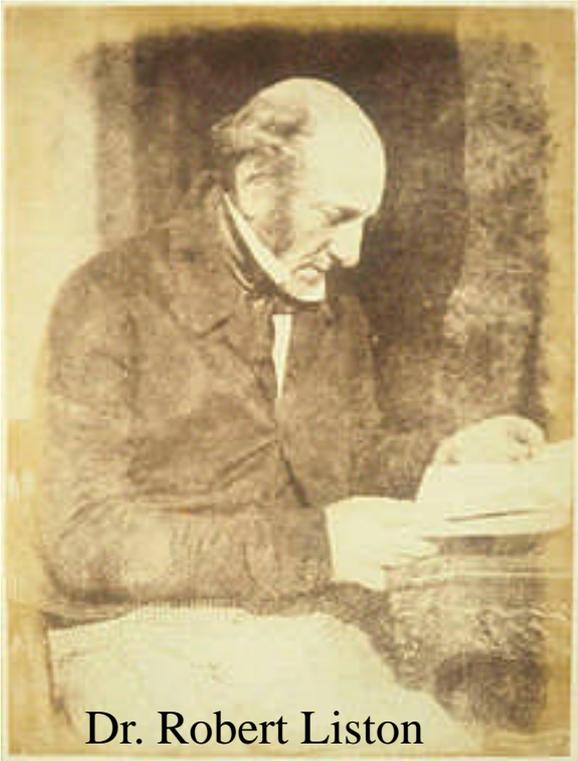
their expertise, in subjects everyone will find timely and interesting. Pictures and personal anecdotes are a definite plus, since we're all actively digesting a meal as we listen.

Good monthly programs aren't thrown together the day before they're presented. They take time and thought. They reflect a genuine, long-term interest on the part of the presenter. A program well-done, and saved on a thumb-drive, becomes a valuable resource to us and other SCV camps, too.

If you're a member of the SCV you have an interest in something about which the rest of us would like to hear. We'll make you a slide presentation to go with your program and will even come to your place to make sure it's a perfect fit for your talk. We need you.

***Take the Plunge!!!***

# OUR ANCESTORS LIVED IN SOME FRIGHTENING TIMES



Dr. Robert Liston

Who among us has not daydreamed about going into battle? Would we be brave? Would we be scared out of our wits? What if we were wounded? Would it have been better to be killed outright?

Medicine generally, and surgery specifically, must have been horrifying to contemplate. Even though most WBTS amputations on both sides were done under anesthetics it hadn't been that long since anesthetics, hygiene, and the germ theory were unheard of.

One of the most famous surgeons in the pre-WBTS world was a Scot named Robert Liston (1794-1847). He is certainly not to be confused with another famous doctor named Lister who was among the pioneers of

using hygiene to reduce mortality in patients. Liston's most famous case seems almost impossible to believe.

Speed was considered to be of the essence, in amputations especially. Most serious cases were not expected to survive anyway, and doctors were often callous.

Liston was widely-known and disliked as a show-off. In his most famous case he managed to amputate the leg of a patient in just under two and one-half minutes. The patient died afterwards in a hospital ward from gangrene, as usually happened.

During that same hurried operation, he also accidentally amputated the fingers of his young assistant, who died afterwards of gangrene in the same hospital. He also slashed through the coat of a distinguished surgical spectator, who thought his own vitals had been cut and who dropped dead from fright on the spot.

We can't help but laugh at this distance in time. In addition to setting a speed record which still stands to this day, Liston managed also to have completed the first operation in history with a 300-per-cent mortality rate.



**Captured yankee scientists  
were forced to work on the South's  
ultra-secret Manasses Project.**

Adapted from a Far  
Side Cartoon by Gary  
Larson

**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.**

*General Stephen D. Lee*