



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

NEWSLETTER

Bedford, TexasJuly 2013



JULY PROGRAM.

MEDICINE AND SURGERY DURING THE WBTS

Join us in July as our own Adjutant James Alderman presents a program to us on the things our ancestors faced when they were ill or injured. We look forward to seeing you!!!

JULY MEETING July 25, 2013 Catfish and Company
900 Airport Freeway #110
Hurst, Texas 817-581-3912 Eat at 6:00 Meeting at 7:00

WE NOW HAVE A WEB PAGE!!!



Thanks to Stephen Parker, Compatriot Ron Parker's son, we now have a webpage where you can go to see all our newsletters, links, how-to articles, news from other camps, etc. After this issue, that's how we'll post our future newsletters.

Simply go to <http://www.taylorcampscv.org/#> When you click on the news link, you'll be asked for a username and password. Type in "ewtaylor" and "scv1777" in those blocks (sans quotes) and that should do it. This releases us from the constant struggle to keep the newsletter small enough that everyone can download it easily.

***Let us know how you'd like to see it develop.
We're open to all suggestions.***

MANFIELD CONFEDERATE'S GRAVE MARKED AFTER 92 YEARS

On Saturday morning, June 15, Rufus Childress finally got a headstone. He'd been waiting since he died in the County Home on January 22, 1921. His body was taken to Mansfield Cemetery where his mother had been buried forty-six years earlier.

Mr. Childress' name surfaced while we were sifting through the Tarrant County pension records. He has no records in the National Archives, so a VA stone was not an option for him.

Allen Hearren and Kyle Sims of the M. T. Johnson Camp in Arlington decided to buy Mr. Childress a better marker than he could have gotten from the VA.

Rufus E. Childress was born in Shelby County, Texas in 1845. He served in a Texas company commanded by J. W. Chapman, and spent most of his service gathering beeves for the Army, usually

delivering them to Bonham and Dallas. He was discharged in 1865 here in Tarrant County on the Clear Fork of the Trinity River.

Rufus came to Tarrant County with his parents about 1855. His father, Hiram Clark Childress, was a veteran of both the Mexican War and the Confederate Army, and was Captain of Co. A, 18th (Darnell's) Texas Cavalry, in which regiment several local men served. Hiram died in 1901 and was buried at Merkel, Taylor County, Texas.

Rufus spent the rest of his life here in Tarrant County. He was married here on January 22, 1871, to Julia McCarty, and through some accident of fate died on their golden wedding anniversary. His widow lived until 1934, died in Wichita Falls, and was buried in Temple, Oklahoma.



We placed the new stone beside his mother's. The crew included, standing l-r, Philip Hearrean, Allen Hearrean, Jimmy Reynolds, Bobby Gresham, Wayne Pierce, Joe Wade, and kneeling, Mike Patterson, Pete Rainone, and Thuy Lien.

MANSFIELD GRAVE MARKER, cont.



Rufus's new marker was placed beside that of his mother, above. The device above her name is a fraternal Masonic abbreviation: Fear Not Daughter of Zion, Behold Thy King Cometh. Thanks to Compatriot Kent Mathews for finding out the meaning of the emblem. What about ARMY?



While we were waiting to get started, several of us saw our first-ever bobcat-in-the-wild in Tarrant County.





Two Taylor Camp members, Mike Patterson and John Meritt, attended the Texas Division SCV Reunion as voting delegates in Pottsboro, Texas on June 8, 2013.



Our hat's off to Compatriot Kyle Sims of the M. T. Johnson Camp who, during our May program of WBTS Trivia II, correctly guessed that the highest point in the old Confederacy is Guadalupe Peak in West Texas. Mere mortals would have concentrated on peaks in the Alleghenies, but not Kyle. The picture above was taken while standing on the peak looking south toward the neighboring peak of El Capitan.



BOONE EUSTACE, TAYLOR CAMPER, GOES SAILING IN SAGINAW

While riding a bull on Saturday, June 8 in Saginaw, Boone Eustace slipped the surly bonds of Earth and sailed skyward. Through it all, he kept hanging on. What a grip! The white line at left shows his right arm and hand still firmly attached, his head and body horizontal and above that, and his legs vertical above that. The next time his feet were on the ground he turned loose. The next Saturday he was back in action in Houston.

THIRD BRIGADE SCV MEMBERS ATTEND OKLAHOMA MONUMENT DEDICATION IN ARDMORE



On June 22, 2013, several Texas compatriots attended the dedication of the Confederate memorial at Rose Hill Cemetery in Ardmore, Oklahoma. The state's Confederate Veterans Home was located there, and nearly two hundred of the veterans who lived there are buried at Rose Hill.

While the state's UDC ladies saw to it that monuments were erected in most Oklahoma cities, at Ardmore they gave the veterans a home instead.

Compatriots from the M.T. Johnston Camp, the R. E. Lee Camp, and the E. W. Taylor Camp in the Third Brigade were there.





**NORTHEAST TARRANT COUNTY
VETERAN DIED IN OKLAHOMA
CONFEDERATE HOME, BURIED
BESIDE THE NEW MEMORIAL AT
ARDMORE.**

We were glad for the opportunity to get to visit Rose Hill Cemetery in Ardmore. We'd been wanting photos of the headstones of Mr. and Mrs. McGinnis for several years. Soon the pictures will be added to our Northeast Tarrant County Civil War Veterans Memorial Site.

John Caswell McGinnis was born in 1843 in Missouri, and came to northeast Tarrant County with his parents about 1860. John's father, Capt. William W. McGinnis, raised a company of the 20th Brigade of Texas Militia, in which many local men served.

John enlisted in Co. D, 9th Texas Cavalry at Johnson's Station in 1861. He was wounded five times in battle, and carried some of the lead in his body the rest of his life. He took part in several battles, including Pea Ridge, luka, Corinth; Jackson, Mississippi; Atlanta, Georgia; and Franklin and Nashville, Tennessee. He was a member of the R. E. Lee Camp UCV in Fort Worth and the UCV Camp at Sulphur, Oklahoma.

By 1915 Mr. and Mrs. McGinnis had settled in Oklahoma, where they moved about a great deal. He entered the Confederate Veterans Home at Ardmore where he died in 1924. Mrs. McGinnis was remarried after his death but was buried beside him when she died in 1941.

Mr. and Mrs. McGinnis had at least eleven children.



THIS IS THE PLACE TO GO FOR PICTURES OF TEXAS SCV EVENTS!

http://www.southernlegacy.org/Southern_Legacy/Welcome_to_Southern_Legacy.html



Compatriot David Moore of the Texas Division Media Group is a familiar face at Texas events; his photos are shared online at the link shown above. David was elected 1st Lt. Commander of the Texas Division SCV at the recent Texas Division Reunion in Pottsboro.



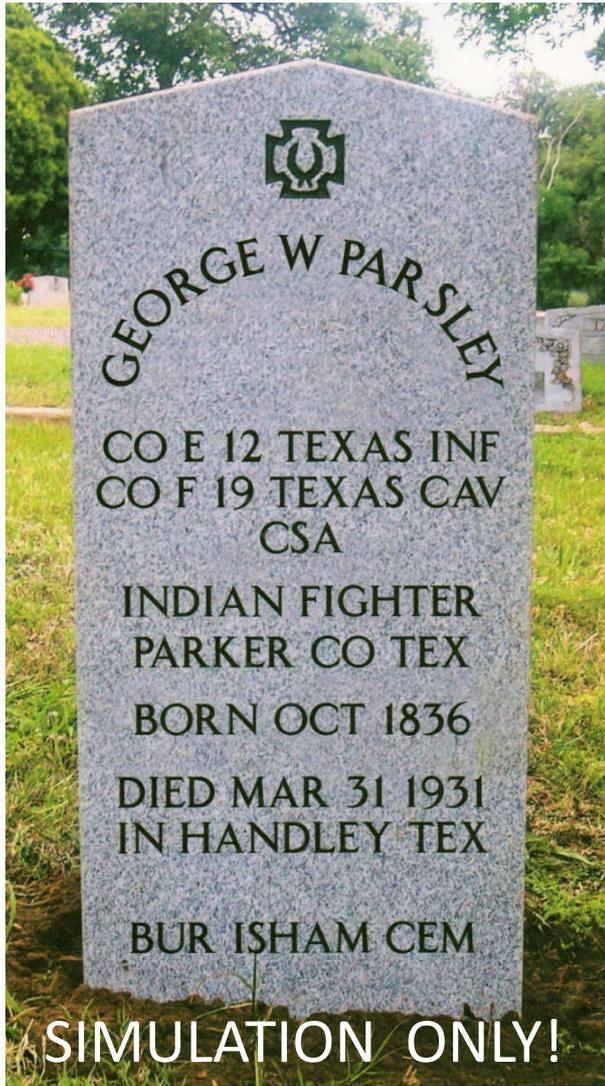
On the horizon...

By the time the weather cools off we'll have a lot of new headstones to install for our Confederate veterans... several in both Birdville and Oakwood cemeteries. Some of the men's descendants from out of state want to be here for those special days.

On September 21 we'll co-sponsor an event with the Birdville Historical Society. We'll dedicate four stones we've already placed there this year, and at least two new ones. We already know of some descendants who'll be coming from Oklahoma.

On October 5 we'll dedicate at least four new stones in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth. One man's family members will be flying in from California. For this one, we're looking at staging an event with some of the other SCV camps and UDC chapters.

Please put us on your calendars. *If you have some ideas or suggestions about putting together two good programs, let us know. This is a chance to honor some worthy old veterans and make some new friends for the UDC and SCV.*



You came through like the champs you are, and the funds were raised for this stone in less than three weeks! Three descendants and several SCV members from the M. T. Johnson Camp and the E. W. Taylor Camp were the donors.

Mr. Parsley's stone will look like this. This is only a simulation, photo-shopped onto another stone we recently installed at Smithfield.

“Good news, Godfather. We won't need to turn over the Parsley matter to our associates in finance.”





CONSIDERING A CHANGE OF DIRECTION. VA HEADSTONES ARE GETTING TO BE A MAJOR HEADACHE.

Your editor has been getting VA stones since the 1960's, and that's amounted to a bunch of them. Until about eighteen months ago, it was easy. Every step in the process depended on one person doing everything. Then a group of people in Virginia sued the VA for discrimination against Confederate soldiers, and the online application form changed, literally overnight.

Now only a direct descendant of the veteran may apply. We can only stand on the sidelines, doing all the research, finding a descendant who's willing to help, getting all the paperwork together and getting the signatures, and mailing the application in.

The VA will only contact and deal with the descendant if they need more information or clarification. Having another person in the mix is increasingly making the process unworkable and frustrating to a large degree.

This editor was told by a VA official that the person doing the work no longer has any "standing" with the VA in the process. The VA may only deal with the descendant...the applicant.

As of June 20 we have several applications which are in limbo, because descendants will not take the time to send on added documentation the VA has requested, or will not answer emails from us asking whether or not they've been contacted by the VA for more information.

Often the applications now include an extended wait and more confusion over unanswered emails, sometimes with multiple mailings, to get descendants or cemetery officials to sign the paperwork, in spite of self-addressed stamped envelopes we always send along. We spend hours, not to mention the time and gasoline to install the stones, and it doesn't seem unfair to ask others in the chain to spend a few seconds signing a paper and licking an envelope, on which we supplied the stamp.

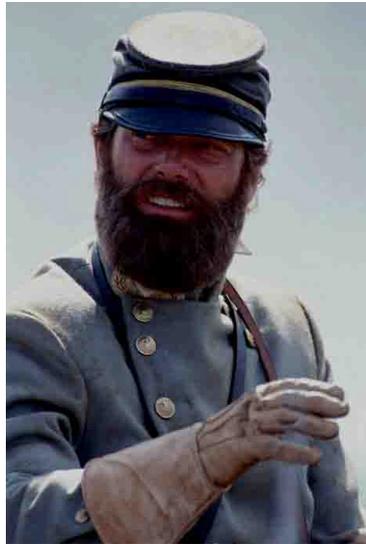
We have met some remarkable descendants in the course of getting these stones, and many of them have been as eager to get the stones as we were. They are our heroes!!!

We'll continue to help descendants who are genuinely interested and will do their part by responding to communications from us in a timely manner.

But the days of hounding descendants and cemetery officials to sign papers for us and making multiple requests to let us know if the VA contacts them...are over.

WE MAY FEEL A TRADITION COMIN' ON....

For two years in a row now we've had programs dealing with WBTS trivia. They've been fun to make, fun to present and fun to watch. Both years one person in the group has come up with an answer we thought no one would get.



Actor Stephen Lang is well-known to most of us as the man who ably played Pickett in ***Gettysburg*** and Jackson in ***Gods and Generals***. But he also played a great Ike Clanton in ***Tombstone***.

Last year in our premiere show, Third Brigade commander Ben Hatch correctly remembered that Stephen Lang had played the role of Ike Clanton...and Ben didn't even have the photo as a prompt.

There are many benefits to being a member of the Sons of Confederate Veterans. One of them is spending time with friends of like minds and having fun while doing it.

Next year there'll be a WBTS Trivia III and a trophy will be awarded to the person in the group who has the most surprising correct answer, based upon a slate of nominees made while the program is progressing. Details coming as they evolve.



Thanks to Compatriot Beau Purdom for an excellent program he presented in June on Brig. General John Hunt Morgan. We appreciate his willingness to help.

COMPATRIOT IN BRENHAM SCV CAMP HAS AUTHORED A NEW BOOK

Compatriot Thomas Giles Stevens announces a new book on a Tennessee soldier in John H. Morgan's command.

TENNESSEE PREACHER,
TENNESSEE SOLDIER
THE CIVIL WAR CAREER OF CAPTAIN
JOHN D. KIRKPATRICK, CSA
ONE OF MORGAN'S RAIDERS

THOMAS G. STEVENS



HISTORY / United States / Civil War Period (1850-1877)

THE CIVIL WAR PREACHER WHO RODE WITH MORGAN, FORREST, AND WHEELER

In 1861, young Presbyterian minister John D. Kirkpatrick—following in his grandfather and great grandfather's footsteps—was preaching at his first church near Nashville. At that time, war fever was raging even before Tennessee seceded. It was no surprise that John would enlist in the Confederate Army; like many in the South, his family had a long tradition of military service to their country. A year later, John became a captain in the Ninth Tennessee Cavalry, which soon was attached to Confederate General John Hunt Morgan. *Tennessee Preacher, Tennessee Soldier* is a carefully researched book that takes us through the years of the Civil War. It's the story of a man who was embroiled in bloody battles, bold raids, and daring escape—all the while living up to his religious values even under the stresses of war. Upon his return home, John successfully led several churches in Nashville, taught theology at Cumberland University in Lebanon, and published a newspaper. John D. Kirkpatrick lived a life of purpose and principle, and this is his story.



Thomas G. Stevens, a member of Morgan's Men Association, is a retired banker and a lover of Civil War history. He lives in Chappell Hill, Texas, where he is active in the Chappell Hill Historical Society. This is his first book.

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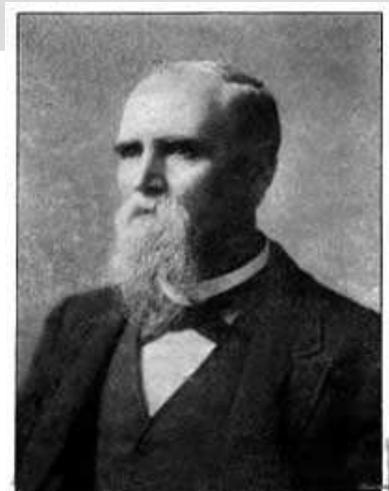
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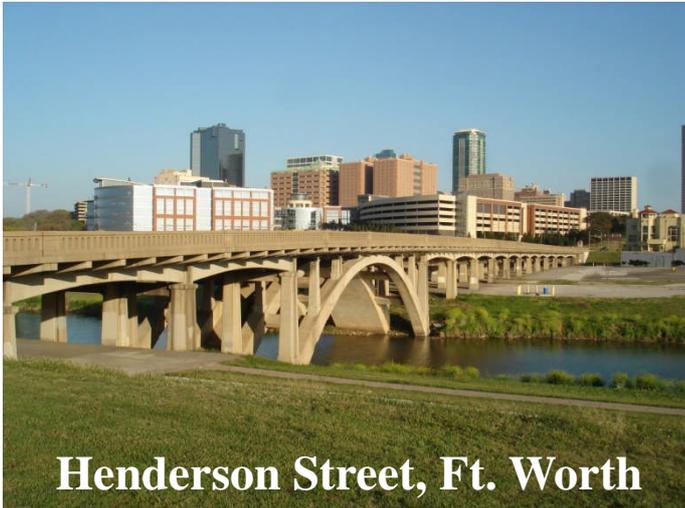
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"Mr. Patterson: I am member of the Jerome B. Robertson SCV Camp in Brenham, Texas, and the author of a new book, *Tennessee Preacher, Tennessee Soldier, the Civil War Career of Captain John D. Kirkpatrick, CSA, One of Morgan's Men*. I would greatly appreciate it if you could make the members of your camp aware of it. It may be purchased at either Amazon or Barnes & Noble."



REV. J. D. KIRKPATRICK, D.D.

NAMES ON THE MAP



Henderson Street, Ft. Worth

Joseph Manning Henderson, for whom one of Fort Worth's major streets was named, was born in Bradley County, Tennessee in 1840. After moving to Missouri with his parents and siblings, the family eventually settled at Birdville in Tarrant County in 1851. Young Joseph was the first to mark the way from Birdville to Dallas, having done so by using his team to drag a log through the sea of grass between the two towns.

When the War came, he went to where Waller's Texas Cavalry was camped in Louisiana and joined several other local men who were already in one of its companies. He was shot in the mouth during the Battle of Yellow Bayou, Louisiana in 1864, losing five teeth and having his jaw broken. He kept the minie ball for the rest of his life and often showed it to friends. At the end of the War his command was on the lower Brazos, from where he returned home.

One of Henderson brothers, John E. Henderson, was killed in the Battle of Mansfield, Louisiana. Another of his brothers, William C. Henderson, was also in the Confederate service. Both Mr. Henderson's sisters married Birdville Confederates: John Akers and John Hardisty.

After the War Mr. Henderson was prominent in local Democratic politics, and served as Tarrant County Sheriff in 1876-1880. He was also elected to the office of Tarrant County Tax Assessor-Collector, and even held both offices at the same time for a while.

In addition to his public service, he was also a large landowner, farmer, and stockraiser. He was known here for his fine horses and cattle, including one of the first herds of Shorthorns in this area.

Joseph M. Henderson died of cancer in Fort Worth on August 30, 1903. We have been able to find no photographs of him, though it seems likely with his prominence and comfortable lifestyle at least one must be in the hands of his descendants somewhere.

He was buried in Birdville Cemetery in present-day Haltom City. His son, Robert, a veteran of World War I, lies buried beside him.





HOW TO [MAYBE] GET A HEADSTONE FOR A CONFEDERATE VETERAN IN THE NEW ERA

This was once one of the easiest, best things we could do to honor our veterans who were resting in unmarked graves. "Once" is the operative word here.

Thousands upon thousands of veterans of America's wars have headstones they wouldn't have had it not been for this great program funded by our tax dollars. Sadly, in past years it has been one of the most fraudulently-used programs as well.

From day one, there has been a box on the form to check to show that the grave was unmarked. Many times the block was marked by the applicant even though the vet already had a marker.

Those days are over, thanks to a new internet sensation called Find-A-Grave. Especially for soldiers from our earlier wars, that's the first stop the VA employee makes in handling an application for a stone. If she finds a stone for your man there, that's the end of the trail for your application. You won't do jail time, but you won't get your stone.

For your application to have any chance, you need to include with it as many of the following things as you can. For purposes of this article, we're assuming you're applying for a Confederate soldier's marker.

First: Download the application form from the internet. Unless you're a direct descendant, you can't apply for the stone. You're going to have to find a descendant. Don't depend on the descendant to download the form, sign it, and mail it to you. In most cases they never will. Get the form, fill out as much as you can, mail it to the descendant to sign, and include a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Send the descendant an email on the day you send him the form. Send him another one in a few days to see if he got it.

Second: Be sure every box on the form is completed, even if it's only with N/A. The VA is looking for any reason to reject the application. In the "branch of service" box mark "other" and write in "Confed. Army."

In Boxes 4 and 9 write "N/A." In box 10 check "Other" and write "Civil War." You may feel otherwise, but if you write "War Between the States" your application may stop there.

In Box 12 if you want the Confederate Cross of Honor, mark "Other" and write "Confederate Emblem." In Box 21, write the name of the cemetery and the closest town and the name of the county and state...they're going to need that to check Find-A-Grave.

Boxes 24-26 can get tricky. Lots of these old cemeteries don't have cemetery associations. If it doesn't, find the person who owns the property around the cemetery, tell him the deal, and get him to sign the form so if the VA calls him he'll know what's up. If you put "No Cemetery Association" that will probably stop your application.

Box 27 is for any special communication between you and the person processing your application. You can try, but in almost every case they're going to put the unit designation which is shown on the "jacket cover" of the soldier's records in the National Archives.

Third: Get all three signatures...the applicant's, the receiver's (you, probably), and the cemetery association person's, printed names, and dates.

[Continued on next page]



HOW TO [MAYBE] GET A HEADSTONE, cont.

Fourth: Get your documentation packet together. Make everything as black/white/contrasty as you can. The person who opens your packet at the VA faxes everything (hopefully) you send to someone else to process your application. Every time a document is faxed, it loses some readability. The application says you can fax your application to them, but I don't because it makes one more fax stage in the process. I always mail it.

Fifth: Get as many of these things together as you can:

.....Pages from your man's Compiled Military Service Records file in the National Archives. If he doesn't have a file, don't waste your stamps. The application says they'll accept pension records as proof, but I've never been able to get them to accept affidavits in Texas Confederate pension files as proof. At the very minimum, send a copy of the cover/jacket of his file with his name, regiment, and rank on it, one clear card abstract which shows his enlistment data, and the card which shows the last date on which he appears in the records. If there's a parole paper or something like that in the file, that's good, too. If he has twenty-five pages, you don't need to send the whole file.

.....If (hopefully) your man or his widow was pensioned, send a copy from the pension file to show that your John Doe who wound up in Tarrant County is the same John Doe who served in Co. A, 19th Alabama Infantry, for example. If he has a mortuary warrant in his pension file, send a copy of that, too, to verify his death date. For a while in Texas the mortuary warrants had a line to show the name of the cemetery, but that didn't continue for long.

.....If he has a newspaper obituary, send a copy

(photocopy...they may not believe a typescript) of that. Hopefully, it'll name the cemetery where he's buried.

.....If he has a Texas death certificate, send a copy of that. Again, it should show where he's buried, and most of them do. Bear in mind that even though the law was passed in 1903, it was nearly WWII before we got anything near total compliance out in the rural areas.

.....If he's buried in a cemetery which has records which go back that far, get a photocopy of whatever the cemetery association has on him. We discovered recently that a letter from the cemetery association on their letterhead, signed by their official, may not be good enough. "With people having such easy access to desktop publishing, letterheads can be easily made," paraphrasing what we heard one person was told. Ask the cemetery official to photocopy their record with the palm of their hand showing in the copy, if possible. Write a note on the copy that that's the hand of the cemetery official. We have mailed 'em in with the face and hand of the cemetery official visible.

.....Send a copy of the page from Find-A-Grave which has all persons of your man's surname listed for that cemetery, to show that he has no listing there. They'll look anyway, but it's an act of good faith.

.....If your man was among the last of the vets who died and you can find someone who attended the funeral, get a signed, notarized statement from them to that effect, naming the cemetery specifically.

.....Failing that, get a signed, notarized statement from a descendant who has been in the cemetery many times and has had the gravesite pointed out to him by persons who were there at the burial. We have one app working in Hill County for which we got precisely this, but apparently the VA isn't accepting it as proof the man is buried there.

Cont. next page



HOW TO [MAYBE] GET A HEADSTONE, cont.

Sixth: Type up a detailed, one page list of all the documentation you've sent along with the application, and include it next in the packet just after the application form. A few times in the past the person working the application has asked questions which make us think everything we send may not be getting faxed and sent along.

Seventh: Make photocopies of every page you've produced and keep them.

Eighth: Put the whole shebang in an envelope and tape the envelope shut. Don't just rely on the glue. Make your return address unmistakable. Don't guess on the amount of postage. Take it to the post office and have it weighed. If it gets to Washington DC with a penny or two too little they may not accept it, and it'll be in limbo while (if) it makes its way back to you.

Ninth: Impress upon the applicant (if that's not you) that you need to know immediately if the VA contacts them, and what they say. We have some in the pipeline now we could have gotten but for the descendants' failure to respond to the VA with the added documentation we gave them. Tell the descendant they may hear nothing at all from the VA...and with the VA no news is good news.

On Tuesday, June 4 the UPS delivered a stone to us with no prior notice. We'd mailed in the application on May 3 with all the documentation in place. Lately we've been getting a kickback for one reason or another on about 50 per cent of our applications, but it's almost always something we can overcome....either by resending something we sent with the application in the first place or finding something else which will satisfy them. This only works if the descendant will let you know, and they often won't.

From what we can tell, there are two ladies at the VA who process all the Confederate marker applications. Both are sharp, educated ladies who know how to separate the stuff from the Shinola. We would never send them an application which wasn't absolutely worthy and legitimate.

If **every person in every government bureaucracy** charged with doling out our tax dollars were like these two ladies, our nation wouldn't be broke.

They don't give us everything we ask for, but they do what they can based upon the guidelines they've been given. I'm glad they're there watching out for my money.

Thanks! to Compatriot Kyle Sims for his tireless efforts at recruitment! Everyone in the SCV benefits when we have a self-starter like Kyle working for us!





YANKEES GET THE DRIZZLES AS THEY SEE THE HUNLEY BEING TOWED THROUGH NYC. Read the whole amusing story at <http://www.postandcourier.com/article/20130604/PC16/130609717/1165/hicks-column-yankees-on-alert-as-hunley-surfaces-in-new-york>



**WE WALK
AMONG YOU!**

Headstone Projects Update

As before, some 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 always ask the descendants to let us know immediately and what the VA's asking for. Sometimes descendants won't take the time to let us know they've been contacted, or won't forward what we send them, so the application goes belly-up.

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: 5th Alabama Infantry Btn., 17th Alabama Infantry, 9th Alabama Infantry, and the 58th Alabama Infantry. He died in Fort Worth in 1919 and was buried beside his first wife at Birdville. We have the stone. Waiting for two more stones for Birdville which are on their way so we can do them together on September 12 and save gas and time.

Alfred D. Gray, a member of Co. C, 19th Tennessee Infantry, died in Fort Worth in 1906. He lies buried there in Oakwood Cemetery. Waiting on one or two others for Oakwood to conserve our resources. Stone has arrived. Descendants from California want to be here for a dedication service which will take place on October 5.

Joshua Epps, 15th Missouri Cavalry. Died in Hill County in 1928 and buried in Heath Cemetery there. 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. We found an obituary in the newspaper and sent it to the descendants on June 7 to forward to the VA, so that should do it. No response from descendants since June 7, so we don't know if they forwarded the obituary. Stone hadn't arrived by June 30, so it may not be coming.

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. Descendant has not answered emails asking yea or nay on subsequent VA contact. Stone will be here in July or it probably isn't coming.

James W. Easterwood, Bradford's Mississippi Artillery, is back on the list. Died in 1909 and buried in Oakwood in Fort Worth. We have found descendants and have gone to extraordinary lengths to contact them but they are not interested. Mr. Easterwood is getting a flat marker made from granite scrap, which we'll dedicate on October 5.

Headstone Projects Update, cont.

Oscar W. Head, Corporal, Co. F, 10th 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 June 4.

Arthur Ireland Gilbert Smith, Co. D, 9th Battalion Missouri Sharpshooters, was paroled in June 1865 in New Orleans. He came to Texas in the 1870's, and wound up in Tarrant County years later where he died in 1927. He lies buried in White's Chapel Cemetery in Southlake. Application with flawless documentation went to the VA on June 22.

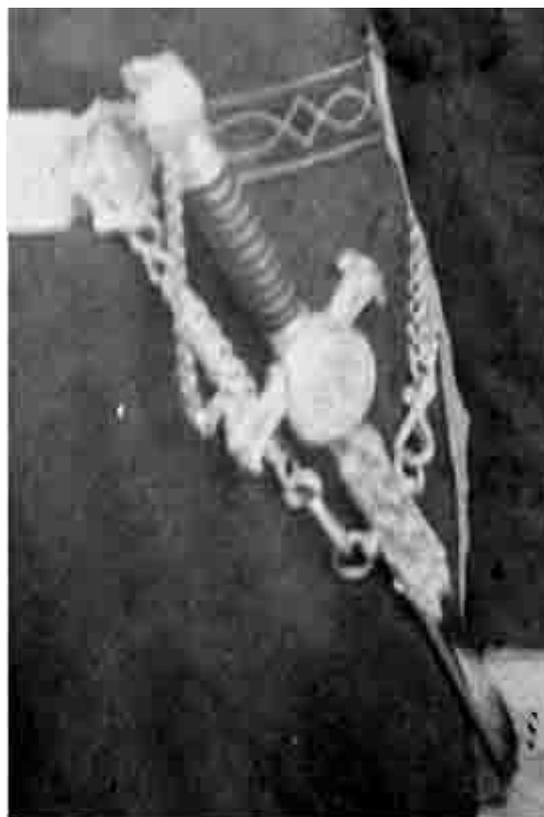


**WE STILL NEED YOUR INPUT AND EXPERTISE.
NOW WE HAVE SOME BETTER PHOTOS.**

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 and he'll pass the information along.



MORE USEFUL KNOWLEDGE....

It's happened to all of us. You're hundreds of miles from home, on a tight schedule, and some of your ancestors are buried in the neighborhood. You want to stop at the cemetery and take some pictures. You get there, and the side of the stone you want is in the shadow. You can barely read it when you're standing in front of it. Your chances of getting a readable photo are zilch.

No problem. You need some shaving cream and a credit card. Put a little cream across the inscription lines and squeegee it into the letters with your credit card. Clean up around them as best you can and take your photo. The next time it rains the soap will be gone.

Use good shaving cream. The stuff you buy at the dollar store is mostly water and won't stay good more than a few seconds. Now you know two things not to buy at the Dollar Store...shaving cream and batteries.

Especially on older stones which were engraved with a chisel, the lettering is wide and shallow. It may be just as hard to read in direct sunlight.

One of your humble editor's Confederate great-great grandpas is buried near Grapevine. His stone is as good as the day it was made, but it's unreadable most of the day. That's it at right, with half the inscription filled with shaving cream.





SOME TECHNICALITIES...THINGS GET HARDER AS THE PEOPLE RUNNING THE SYSTEM “SIMPLIFY” IT

One of the easiest research tools to use on the internet used to be the National Park Service’s Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System. You just typed in the name, and could make a few other simple choices if you wanted to....then hit the button. Then your choices popped up.

“To give visitors to the system a more seamless look at the records available,” they have redesigned the page where you type your search terms. One of the choices you have to make now is the state in which you want to search. When you do that, and after you’ve made your choice, the drop-down menu stays in place, blocking you from going any further and starting your search. You may finally discover if you’ll click out “in space” somewhere the menu will disappear, but most people won’t. They’ll just give up.

Several people have told this editor they get frustrated trying to use the search tools to find soldiers on Fold 3. If you can manage it, it’s better to get your soldier’s name and regiment off the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System site, then go looking for him by using one of the Browse functions on Fold 3. Again, many times on a Fold 3 search you’ll get a “no matches” message or a bewildering forest of them.

Another great stride in online research came when Ancestry.com put all the Texas Confederate Pension records online....sort of. The Ancestry index is woefully incomplete. To find a Texas Confederate pensioner, you’d best go to the index site put online by the Texas State Library and Archives and write down your man’s name and his pension number.

By taking some extra steps and with some patience, you can eventually scroll down through the pension files numerically and find your man (or his widow) when they don’t show up in Ancestry’s index.

That is, of course, if you man’s file wasn’t one of the MANY which for one reason or another didn’t get microfilmed. Lots of the files, sometimes many in a numerical sequence, are simply missing from the microfilm.

Most online research sessions using these new, improved internet tools include at least one loud “AAARGH” which brings the wife to the back of the house to see what’s happened.

fold3



THE EASIEST WAY TO FIND A MAN'S RECORDS ON THIS SITE...

First: Go to the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System online and get your man's company and regiment, for instance, Co E, 12th Texas Infantry.

Second: Go to Fold3, sign in, and hit "Civil War" in the line of choices above "George Washington's Crossing of the Delaware."

Third: Hit "Civil War Service Records" to the right of General Lee's picture.

Fourth: Hit Confederate Records, the choice shown in blue.

Fifth: Scroll down the list of choices of states in blue, and click on Texas.

Sixth: Hit "Browse" shown in blue, which will give you a long choice of regiments. They're not always in exact alphabetical order or numerical order. Sometimes if you're looking for a regiment named after a specific man and you don't find him, you may have to click on each regiment named after a man to get an expanded list of what's in that section. Sometimes there's no sense to it: "Eighty-first Infantry" may be listed before "Fourth Cavalry" because "E" comes before "F." Some of *those who walk among us* have apparently gone to work for Fold3, too.

Seventh: In this instance, scroll down the regiments until you come to the Twelfth (Young's) Texas Infantry, and click on it.

Eighth: You'll find a list of first letters of surnames of the men in the regiment. Click the one you want, and hope your man's in the list. My man in the regiment was Joseph M. Cavender, and he's in there under three different spellings, but they're all him.

Remember that many Confederates served under more than one numeric regimental designation, so check all of them using this procedure.

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HOW TO FIND YOUR TEXAS CONFEDERATE PENSIONER IF ANCESTRY.COM MISSED HIM IN THEIR INDEX

Come prepared with your man's/widow's Texas pension number which you got from the Texas State Library and Archives index site at <https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/apps/arc/pensions/>

First: Log onto Ancestry.com, put your cursor on "Search" and go down to "Military" in the drop down menu. Click on it.

Second: On the resulting screen, go to the right and click on "Pension Records."

Third: On the resulting screen, click on the green box which says "View All in Card Catalog."

Fourth: On the resulting screen, type "Confederate" in the keyword box at the upper left.

Fifth: From the resulting displayed list, click on "Confederate Pensions , 1884-1958"

Sixth: From the resulting screen, choose "Texas" from the drop down menu at Residence State

Seventh: Using your pension number, go down the list until you find the group in which your man (widow) should appear. These things are not entirely in numerical order, so don't give up...keep looking.

Eighth: Click on the group you want, and it will probably give you another drop-down menu which breaks the numbers down further. Click on the one you want.

[Continued on next page]

HOW TO FIND YOUR TEXAS CONFEDERATE PENSIONER IF ANCESTRY MISSED HIM IN THEIR INDEX, cont.

Ninth: Get a cool drink, relax, and tell yourself you can do this. The individual soldiers' files are arranged by the number assigned to them. Each file begins with the outside of the file folder which has a number written on the tab. You don't have to scroll through the pages one by one.

If your man's number is about in the middle of the pack, highlight the page number at the top and type in a number which is about in the middle of those in that file. Then scroll back and forth until you find a file folder with a number on it, and that'll tell you how to adjust your searching.

This is like shooting a cannon at the yankees and having a spotter in a tree, telling you how to adjust your shots. Some files have five pages, some files have forty-five pages. It all depends on how much trouble the old vet or his wife had proving their claims, etc. This process makes you appreciate people who are careful in making indexes.

Veterans and their widows whose applications were not approved were all microfilmed at the end in alphabetical order. They're included at the end of the numerical lists. Usually the old folks got turned down because they had too much personal property or they couldn't find anyone who'd served with them to make affidavits for them.

GIVE US SOME INPUT ABOUT HOW YOU'D LIKE TO SEE OUR NEW WEBPAGE DEVELOP! WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THERE?

mfpchat@yahoo.com



Thanks! to one of our new members, Compatriot John Meritt, for taking your newsletter editor to the State SCV Reunion in Pottsboro so they could both serve as voting delegates from the E. W. Taylor Camp!

Adapted from a Far Side Cartoon by Gary Larson



“Okay, okay...Just one more time and then it’s off to bed for the both of you. ‘Hey, Lem. You think there might be any bears in this ol’ cave?’ I dunno, Buck, why don’t we take a look?”

Thanks! to Compatriot Ben Hatch for all his years of cheerful, tireless service to the SCV at both camp and brigade levels. He is an unfailingly-positive ambassador for the Sons of Confederate Veterans!



E. W. TAYLOR CAMP OFFERS LOTS OF SERVICES TO THE HISTORICAL COMMUNITY:



Regardless of first impressions, we're not just a bunch of cultured bons vivants with pretty faces! We get lots of headstones for old veterans but our offers of help extend further than that. We are going to place this list on our new website and see what develops.

....We'll help you get your paperwork in order to join the Sons of Confederate Veterans, or the United Daughters of the Confederacy if you're a lady....even if you don't live near us.

....We'll help you get a headstone for your WBTS ancestor, even if he was on t'other side, even if it's not in our part of the world. ***..if you solemnly promise to answer our emails immediately, let us know immediately if the VA contacts you, and immediately send on to the VA what we send to you.***

....We'll give you advice on what and where to buy your uniform and equipment if you want to help at ceremonies.

....We'll email you free copies from your Texas Confederate ancestor's pension files.

....We'll help you find possible free access to Confederate pension files from other states.

TAYLOR CAMP PUBLIC SERVICES, cont.

....We'll email you free copies of any Confederate Veterans' Compiled Military service records from any state . Don't send your money to the National Archives for that. We can't honor requests for everyone with a specific surname.

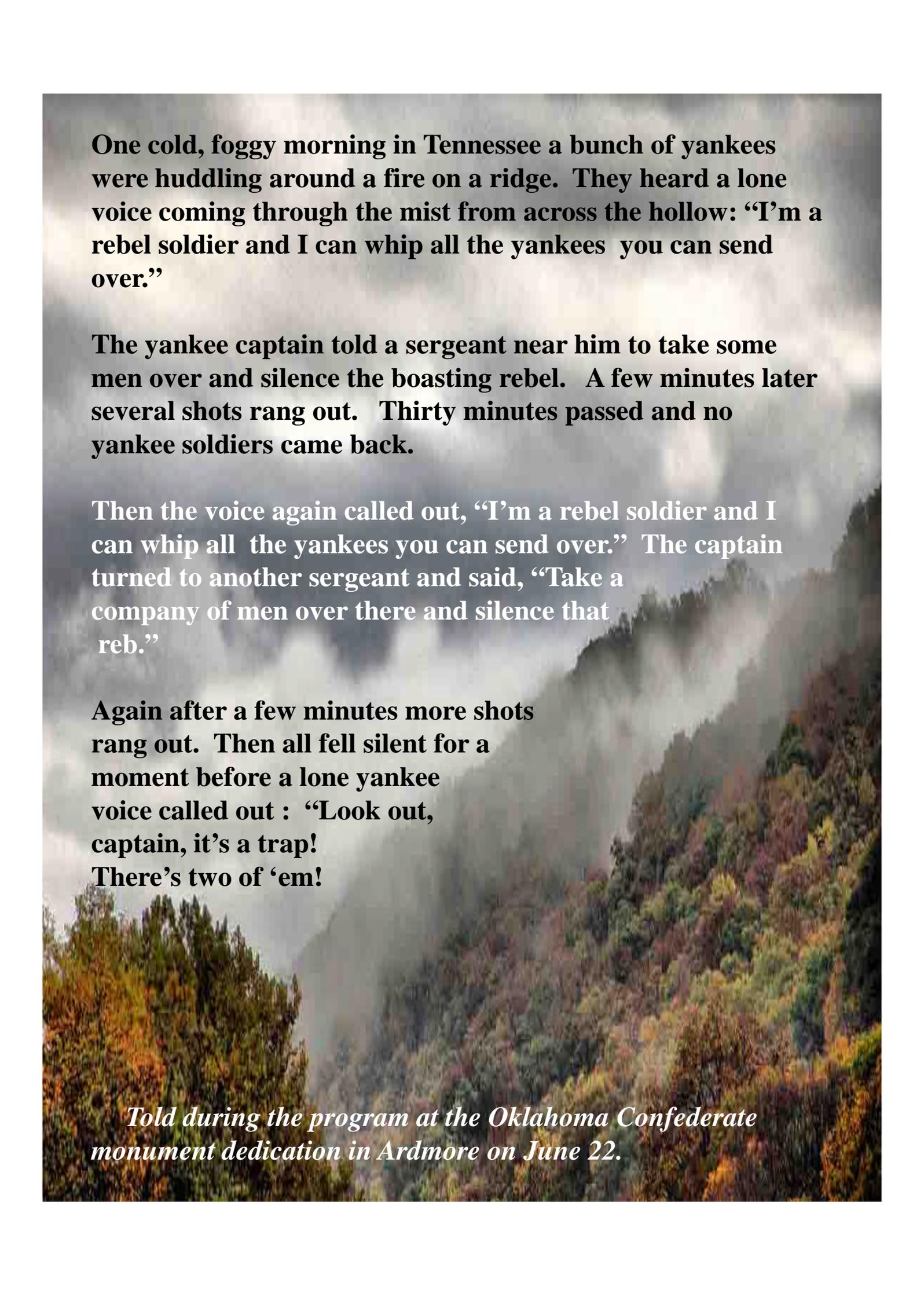
...We can also send you free copies of some yankees' compiled military service records from the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Dakota, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and West Virginia. Here again, we can't honor requests for everyone with a given surname or for a whole company or regiment.

.....We can get headstone photos from cemeteries in Northeast Tarrant County...photos which will be legible and can be used for documentation purposes.

....We can send photocopies of obituaries from Fort Worth newspapers pre-1923, and from Dallas newspapers 1855-1984. Again, we need to know a specific person and an approximate date. We can't do surname APB's.

Email Mike Patterson at mfpchat@yahoo.com and put SCV Help in the message line.

These services are offered free of charge. Donations would be accepted with gratitude. Gasoline, photocopies, online record subscriptions, and postage have to come out of someone's pocket. If you'd like to make a donation to the camp in return for some help we've given you, please make a check payable to E. W. Taylor Camp 1777, mail it to our adjutant, James Alderman, 221 Chapelwood Drive, Colleyville, Texas 76034 -6648, and put a note on the memo line "Thanks for Help."



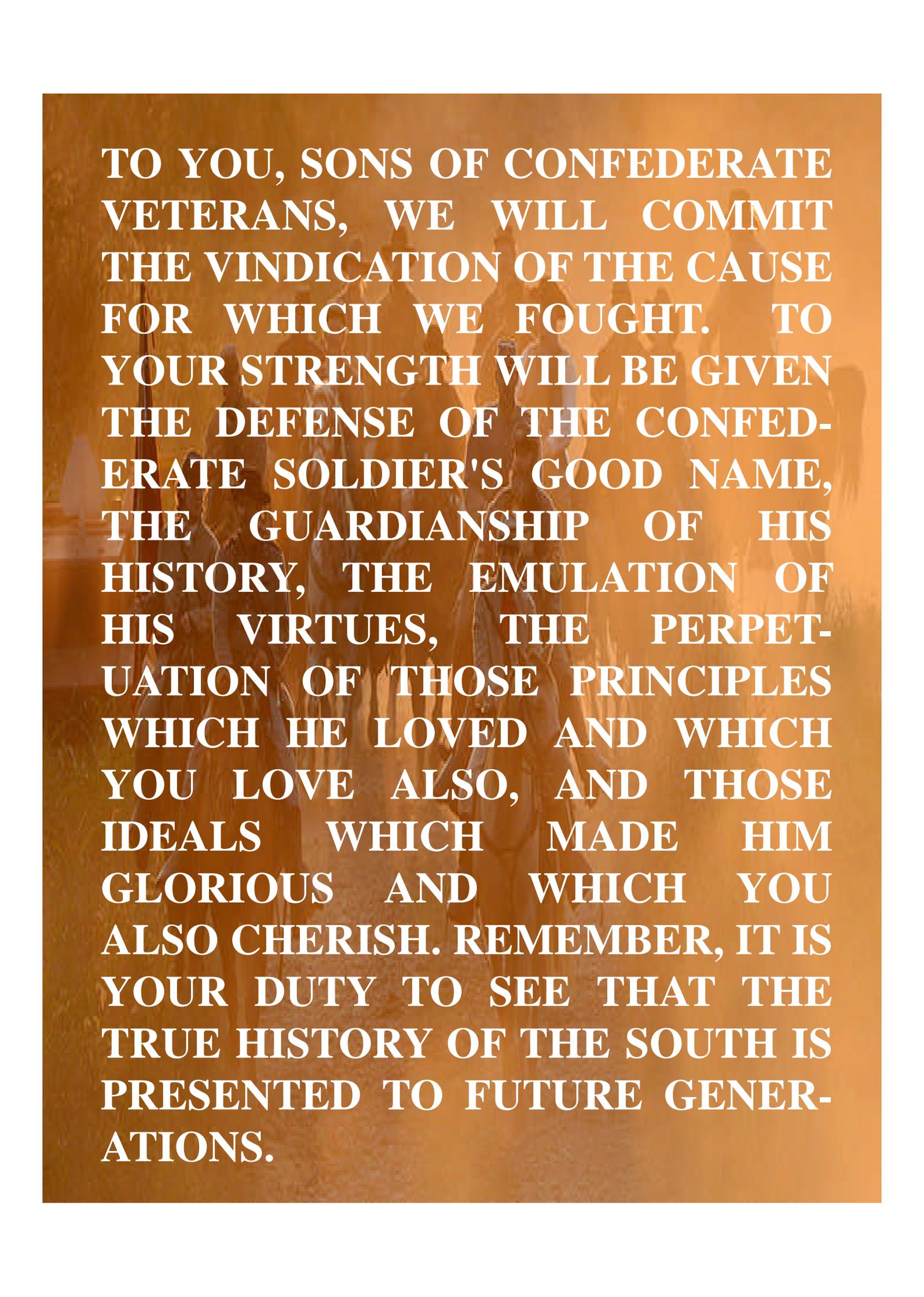
One cold, foggy morning in Tennessee a bunch of yankees were huddling around a fire on a ridge. They heard a lone voice coming through the mist from across the hollow: “I’m a rebel soldier and I can whip all the yankees you can send over.”

The yankee captain told a sergeant near him to take some men over and silence the boasting rebel. A few minutes later several shots rang out. Thirty minutes passed and no yankee soldiers came back.

Then the voice again called out, “I’m a rebel soldier and I can whip all the yankees you can send over.” The captain turned to another sergeant and said, “Take a company of men over there and silence that reb.”

Again after a few minutes more shots rang out. Then all fell silent for a moment before a lone yankee voice called out : “Look out, captain, it’s a trap! There’s two of ‘em!

Told during the program at the Oklahoma Confederate monument dedication in Ardmore on June 22.

A group of men in military uniforms marching in a parade, overlaid with a semi-transparent orange text box. The text is white and reads: 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.

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.