



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

NEWSLETTER

Bedford, TexasSeptember 2013



"Ranger Mosby," by Don Troiani

Join us in September as our own Kathy Pryor presents a program on John Singleton Mosby, known as the "Gray Ghost" of the Confederacy, one of the South's best partisan fighters. Kathy has a number of photographs she took years ago before the developers took over much of the area in which he and his men operated, and she will share them with us in a power-point presentation. We look forward to seeing you!!!

**SEPTEMBER MEETING Sept.26, 2013 Catfish and Company 900 Airport Freeway #110
Hurst, Texas 817-581-3912 Eat at 6:00 Meeting at 7:00**

Smithfield Cemetery Foundation

Cordially invites you to the

*Dedication Ceremony for the
Veterans and First Responders Monument*

*Smithfield Cemetery
North Richland Hills, Texas*

2:00 o'clock P.M.

Labor Day • September 2nd, 2013

R.S.V.P. to SMITHFIELDCEMETERYTX@GMAIL.COM

Or call 817-281-5278

Reception Following at Smithfield Masonic Lodge

Taylor Compatriot Jack Eustace is the President of this organization, and they would appreciate us showing up in uniform to help fire a musket salute to the veterans. Let's arrive about 1:30. We know of forty-seven WBTS vets there.

The cemetery is on the north side of old Smithfield Main Street (North Richland Hills). The entrance way and parking is beside the Smithfield Masonic Lodge. Parking is across the street beside the Baptist church.

THREE NEW MEMBERS SWORN IN AT OUR AUGUST MEETING



Shown above, left to right, are our chaplain, Kent Mathews; new members Stephen Smith, Nathan Calvery and David Calvery; and camp commander Mike Patterson. Look for more new members at our September meeting!



Thanks!... to compatriot James Alderman for driving four of us to the museum in Hillsboro on August 17, and for taking us to make three monuments on August 27.

Thanks!... to compatriot David Stewart for sponsoring a gravestone for a Confederate veteran who is in an unmarked grave.



SOUTHLAKE VET GETS A STONE AFTER 86 YEARS

By the late 1920's the ranks of our veterans here were thinning fast. Arthur Ireland Gilbert Smith died in Grapevine in 1927 and was buried in White's Chapel Cemetery in what is now Southlake. We finally located a living descendant this spring and got Smith a VA stone.

Smith's application had perfect documentation when we mailed it on June 22, Luckily, we had a newspaper obituary for him which named the cemetery where he was buried. They delivered the stone to us on August 1 and we set it August 12.

Mr. Smith was born in 1839 in Jackson County, Indiana. By 1850 the family had moved to Monroe County, Mississippi.

Arthur served with the 9th Missouri Sharpshooter Battalion under Major Pental, and saw action in Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana.

By 1870 he had settled in Jasper Co., Missouri where he married Clarissa A. Trout about 1872. The Smiths came to Texas in 1874 and settled first in Hill County. In 1880 they lived in Grayson County and in 1900 they lived in Wood County.

By 1922 he had arrived in Tarrant County and settled near Grapevine. He was buried in White's Chapel Cemetery the day after he died.



A. I. G. Smith about 1921

The installation crew included standing: (l-r) Jimmy Reynolds, Kent Mathews, James Alderman; kneeling: Mike Patterson and Garland Smith, the veteran's great-grandson. Mrs. Reynolds, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Patterson also made the trip with their husbands.



...to everyone who came to Fort Worth to help man our table at the gun show on August 24th and 25th. We got some excellent member prospects. Taylor Campers who helped included James Alderman, Jack Eustace, Kent Mathews, Mike Patterson, Boone Eustace, Bobby Gresham, and James Madewell.



TAYLOR CAMP MEMBERS TOUR TEXAS HERITAGE MUSEUM IN HILLSBORO ON AUGUST 17



Three Taylor campers, James Madewell, Mike Patterson, and James Alderman, above l-r, were among members of four local SCV camps who toured the museum. The Middleton Tate Johnson Camp in Arlington sponsored the trip, and graciously invited us to go along. The museum is dedicated to the military heritage of Texas, and contains many amazing original relics. It also houses a world-class research center for the WBTS.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE...

Sept. 2: Help in firing a musket salute honoring veterans and first responders at Smithfield Cemetery, North Richland Hills, 2 p.m.

Sept. 21: Help in firing a musket salute dedicating newly-installed WBTS veterans' stones at Birdville Cemetery, Haltom City, 10 a.m.

Oct. 5: Help in firing a musket salute dedicating the newly-installed WBTS veterans' stones at Oakwood Cemetery, Fort Worth, 10 a.m.

Oct. 19: Help in firing a musket salute honoring George W. Parsley at his new stone in Handley Cemetery in East Fort Worth, 10 a.m.

Nov. 11: Fort Worth Veterans Day Parade. If it's like last year, you'll be able to ride in a pickup or on a trailer along with the M. T. Johnson Camp. In or out of uniform. The parade website is:

<http://www.tarrantcountyveteranscouncil.org/parade.html>

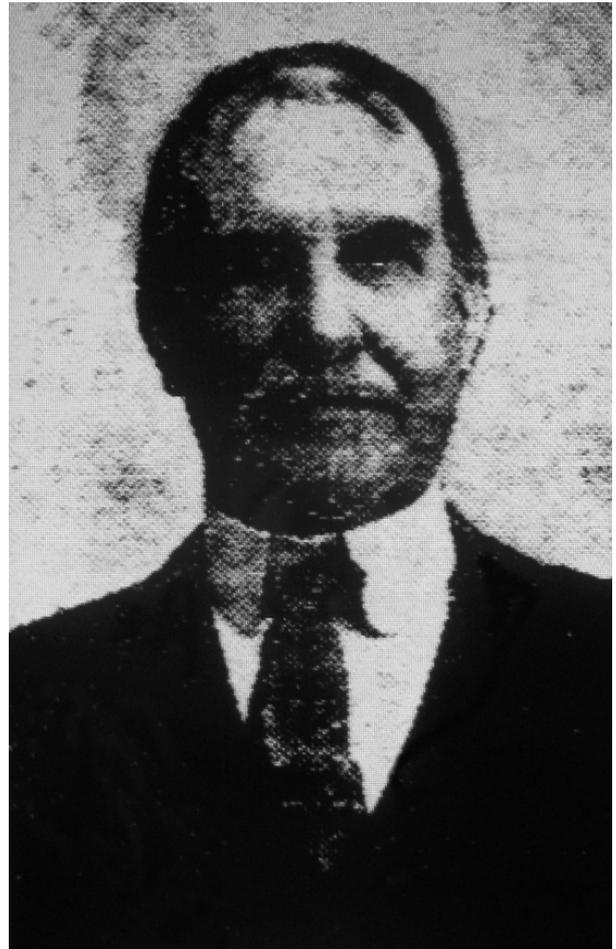
We always welcome your attendance even if you're not set up to help us fire the salutes. We may send out some appeals to help us install a few stones in the days before the ceremonies if you live close and if you have the time.

“NEW” PHOTO OF COL. E. W. TAYLOR FOUND

A picture of Col. Taylor was included in a 1904 article in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

An article in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on June 4, 1904 announced the names of the local delegates to the national reunion of Confederate Veterans, to be held in Nashville, Tennessee on June 11-14, 1904. This long article contained a number of photographs of local men, and one of them was Colonel Ennis W. Taylor, for whom our camp is named. This is not exactly a “new” photograph...it’s a better, less-cropped copy of the one which appeared with his obituary.

“COLONEL E. W. TAYLOR. The subject of this sketch was born in Greeneville, Ala., and immigrated to Texas with his father, M. D.K. Taylor, who was afterwards speaker of the house of representatives in Texas for about twenty-five years, and is well-known to all old Texans. He was raised on a farm and at a time in Texas when there were no schools, public or private, he had the benefits of education of only three months. At an early age he was made captain of militia, having had a good idea of military tactics. He was married in 1859 to Miss Fannie Fisher, daughter of a rich planter, then of Cass county, Texas. He enlisted early in the war between the states as a private in company A, Nineteenth Texas Infantry, Confederate States army. At the organization of the regiment he was elected major, soon promoted to lieutenant colonel, and soon thereafter promoted to colonel of the regiment, made vacant by the promotion of Colonel R. Waterhouse to be brigadier general, and served with distinction and devotion to his men and his country to the end of the war. He marched his regiment from Hempstead, Texas, where they were at the surrender, to Jefferson,



Texas, keeping up perfect organization and when they were disbanded at Jefferson he said, as a farewell to his men: “You have made gallant soldiers in defense of your country. You will now divide up what is left belonging to this regiment and go to your homes and make as good citizens as you have been soldiers,” which they did and have built up their fortunes and are now peaceful citizens of the United States, all living under one flag.”

New E. W. Taylor photo, cont.



As prominent as Col. Taylor was, there must be a good, clear studio photograph of him somewhere. The search is hampered by the fact that he had only one child who lived to adulthood, and she had no children of her own. The three photos we have are all from old-time newspapers. The other two appear on this page.

He is a democrat, and the slogan for the campaign of 1904 is "Down with Rooseveltism." He has always held great respect with the true republican party, and prides himself as numbering among his friends such men as Marcus A. Hanna, R. C. Kerens, Powell Clayton and the late lamented Logan H. Roots. He is now commander of R. E. Lee camp, Confederate Veterans, and their motto is "Charity to all mankind," and more especially to the indigent Confederate soldier.

He has associated with him in his regiment the noble spirits of W. L. Crawford of Beaumont as his lieutenant colonel; A. C. Allen, Texarkana, as his major; M. L. Crawford, Dallas; Rufus Price of St. Augustine, Captain A. C. Smith of Atlanta, Texas; and a host of others equally as good and true men. All that these old heroes want now is a constitutional government, protection to all alike in life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and to live to see the usurper, Theodore Roosevelt, discarded from the White House.

He has been a consistent member of the Methodist church, south, since he was 12 years old. He is now president of the United Benevolent Association. "

LOCAL VET BURIED IN ARLINGTON IN LINE FOR A HEADSTONE IN OCTOBER

We've known about Olley Choate for quite a while, but an offhand remark in an email in early August let us know we'd found a descendant.

Several weeks ago we got in touch with a descendant of Alfred Gray, one of the men we're honoring at Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth on October 5. She's flying in from out-of-state for the ceremony that day. Recently she mentioned in an email that she had another Confederate ancestor here buried in Arlington in Noah Cemetery. Do we ever work there?

Yep, we do. Her ancestor, Olley Choate, died in 1933. He was born in Polk County, Texas in 1844, and was the son of a Confederate veteran, too. Olley served in both the 20th Texas Cavalry and the 1st Texas Heavy Artillery. He's never had a stone. We'll make him one, and we'll probably install it on October 4 while the lady's in town.



Notified CCC 4/27/09

Endorsements Hereon for Comptroller's Use Exclusively

FORM No. 2—AMENDED
OCTOBER 1, 1902

Confederate Pension Application

Name of Applicant
Mrs. A. D. Gray

Tarrant County,

Postoffice *Ft Worth 703 Main St*

Comptroller's File No. _____

I have carefully examined the within application for pension, together with the proof in support thereof, and I recommend that the application be *Disapproved*
March 25 1907

this _____ day of _____
A. D. _____

E. A. Bolnes
Chief Pension Clerk

I hereby _____ the within application for pension, this **March 25 1907** day of _____

J. M. Stephens
Comptroller.

No Application Rejected by County Judge or County Commissioners should be Forwarded to Comptroller.

HOW MUCH WERE TEXAS CONFEDERATE PENSIONERS PAID?

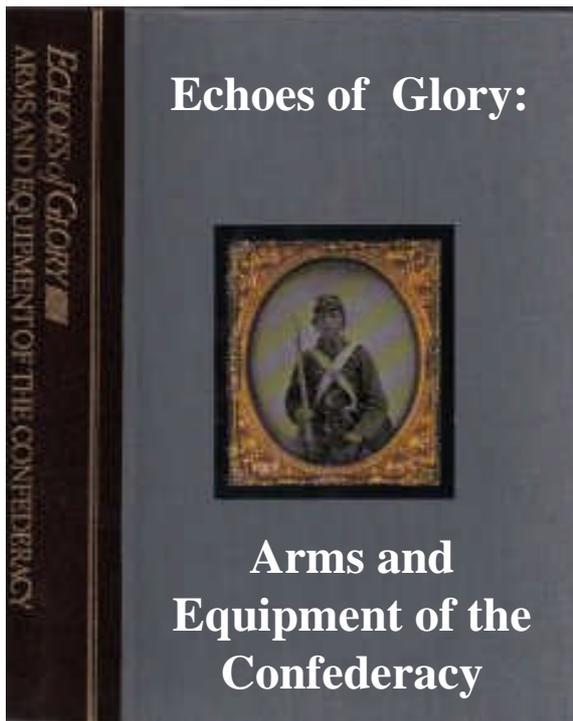
That's a very simple question with a very complicated...but interesting... answer. It all depends on the time period, the vet's situation, and other factors. It's clearly explained at a site maintained by the Texas State Library and Archives:

<https://www.tsl.state.tx.us/arc/pensions/amounts.html>

Words in the Time-Waster: ticks, lice, mites, fleas, bedbugs, flies, gnats, wasps, bees, ants, maggots, horseflies, deerflies, mosquitoes, rats, mice, hornets, weevils, roaches, chiggers



Thanks!...to your editor's sister, Tammy Patterson for taking him to the M. T. Johnson Camp meeting so he could do the program on August 8, and to Marilyn Patterson for going to Arlington to pick him up when it was over.



White title does not appear on book cover.

DO NOT MISS THIS!!!!!!

As of August 19, there were several used copies of this wonderful book available at Amazon.com for less than 10 dollars, shipping included. It is one of the most often cited authorities for authenticity in WBTS arms, uniforms, and equipment, even by the most hardcore reenactors.



*Thanks!...*to your editor's cousin, Steve Huckabee of Colleyville, for taking a headstone to White's Chapel for us on August 7.



*Thanks!...*to compatriot George Whitten for taking three headstones to Birdville Cemetery for us in mid-August, and for taking your editor to the RE Lee Camp meeting on August 19 so he could give the program



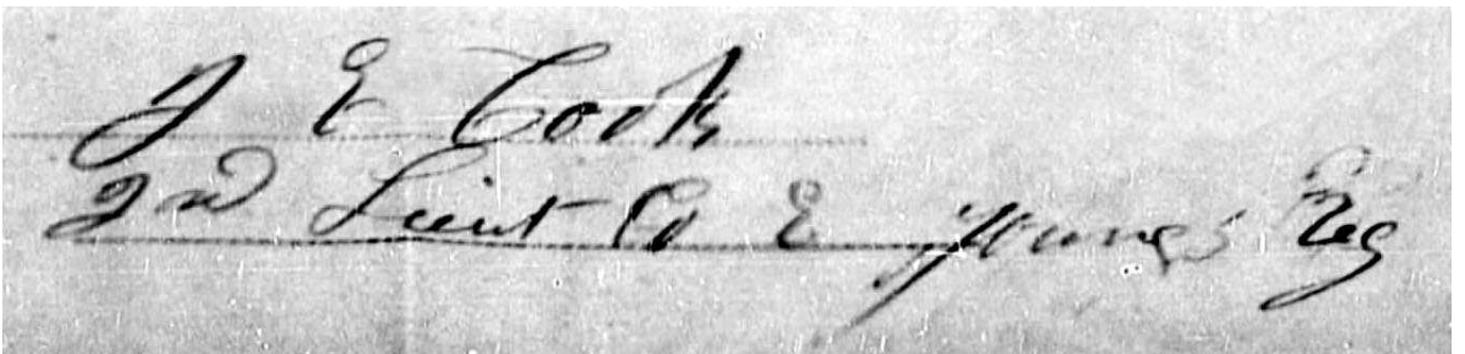
A NEW NAME ON THE MEMORIAL

We're constantly adding photographs and information to the website which complements our Northeast Tarrant County Civil War Veterans Memorial. Nowadays it's a feat to find someone not already included but in late July we found a new man, and what a man he was!

James E. Cook lived in Birdville in 1860. Along with Nat Terry, Tarrant Countians sent him to Austin to represent them in the Texas Secession Convention. We don't know a lot about him yet, but we do know he was born in South Carolina about 1822.

After the Convention he joined the Confederate Army and served as a 2nd Lieutenant in Co. E, 12th (Young's) Texas Infantry, enlisting in Tarrant County in 1861...the same company in which one of your editor's great-great grandfathers served.

Mr. Cook is in the land records here in 1863 but not in 1864. Where did he go?



Headstone Projects Update

Here's the status of some of the ones which aren't yet made and/or installed:

George W. Parsley will be dedicated in Handley Cemetery on October 19, in cooperation with members of several other area camps.

David James Warren, Charles L. Myers, and Mrs. Mortimer Elliston will be installed and dedicated in Birdville Cemetery on September 21.

Alfred D. Gray , James W. Easterwood, Oscar W. Head, John H. Haralson, and Thomas Manning are all at Patterson's and will be installed and dedicated in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth on October 5.

Joshua Epps arrived at Patterson's on July 22. We'll have a ceremony in Hill County this fall.

Olley Choate served in Co., K, 20th Texas Cavalry and Co. I, 1st Texas Heavy Artillery. He died July 14, 1933 and was buried in Noah Cemetery in Arlington. He has never had a stone. Stone is done and will be installed October 4.

James Phillips Hamaker was the subject of a newsletter article here last fall. He served as a sergeant in Cos. G and I, 50th Virginia Infantry. He's the man who went to the 75th Gettysburg Reunion and was injured there and died as a result...his third injury at Gettysburg. He doesn't have a stone and we're going to make him one, probably in September. He's buried in Aledo's Brown Cemetery. We'll probably stage something for him in tandem with the R. E. Lee and S. W. T. Lanham Camps.

William Shelby Massey served in Co. D, 37th Arkansas Infantry. He died under some unusual circumstances on September 18, 1905 in Fort Worth and is buried in an unmarked grave in Oakwood Cemetery. We'd never convince the VA of his service even though his widow was granted a pension. We'll make him a stone as soon as finances permit.

Evander C. McCaskill served in Co. A, 39th Alabama Infantry. He lived in Fort Worth when he applied in 1915, but was living at Anson in Jones County, Texas when he died in 1928. His body was brought back to Fort Worth and buried in Oakwood Cemetery. He has no marker. None of his direct descendants are online, so we'll make him a marker when the money's there.

Charles Louis McGuire served in Co. A, William Quayle's Cavalry, mostly frontier service. He died in 1909 and is buried in an unmarked grave in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth. We'll make him one from scrap when finances permit.

We have many, many more local men waiting for stones.

TARRANT COUNTY'S LAST CONFEDERATE? THAT DEPENDS...

Only last month we shared with our readers a Dallas newspaper article which claimed Tarrant's last Confederate veteran died in 1942. Pension research here has uncovered a veteran who outlived him more than three years.

We have a new man who may be the latest surviving Confederate veteran *buried* in Tarrant County...maybe. He certainly was pensioned from Tarrant County, and he's certainly buried with a headstone in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth. His records leave a lot of questions.

He was Thomas Montgomery. A quick check of the man's death certificate muddies up the issue. It shows that he died of chronic myocarditis at 3 a.m. on August 12, 1945...in a hospital in Floydada, Floyd County, Texas, and was brought back to Fort Worth for burial.

When he applied for a pension in 1930 he said he had lived in Texas since December 1871, and in Tarrant County since 1878. Probably true, but misleading. He is in Fort Worth in the 1880 census with his wife and children. When the 1900 census was taken he lived alone and was a stock raiser in Floyd County. There are affidavits in his pension file which indicate he joined the R. E. Lee Camp of UCV in Fort Worth in 1900.

He seems to have been well-known and well-liked by the members of the R. E. Lee Camp here. We have been unable to locate him in the federal census records *anywhere* for 1910 and 1920. Interestingly, the body of his wife (who had died in Fort Worth in 1886) was removed from the "city cemetery" to Oakwood Cemetery in 1920.

Montgomery was a member of the staff of K. M. VanZandt while Van Zandt served as national commander of the UCV. He also served on the staff of both Van Zandt and M. J. Bonner while they served as commanders of the Texas Division UCV.



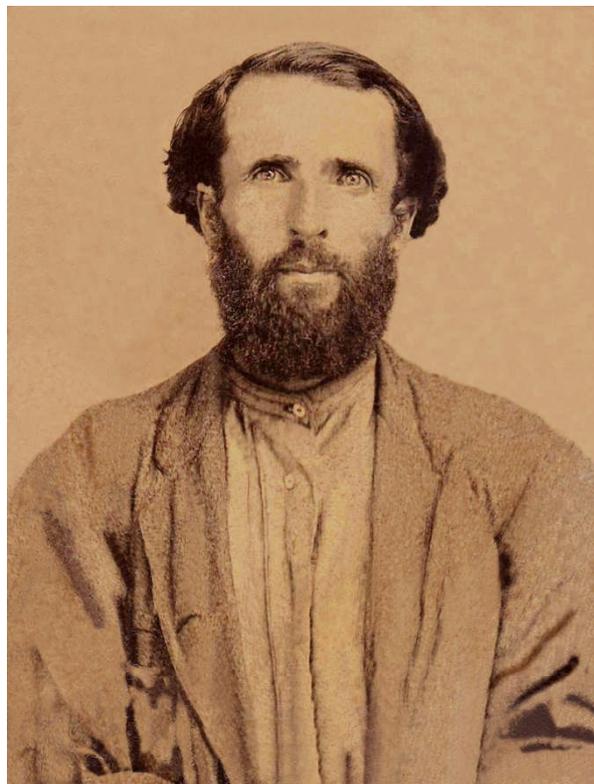
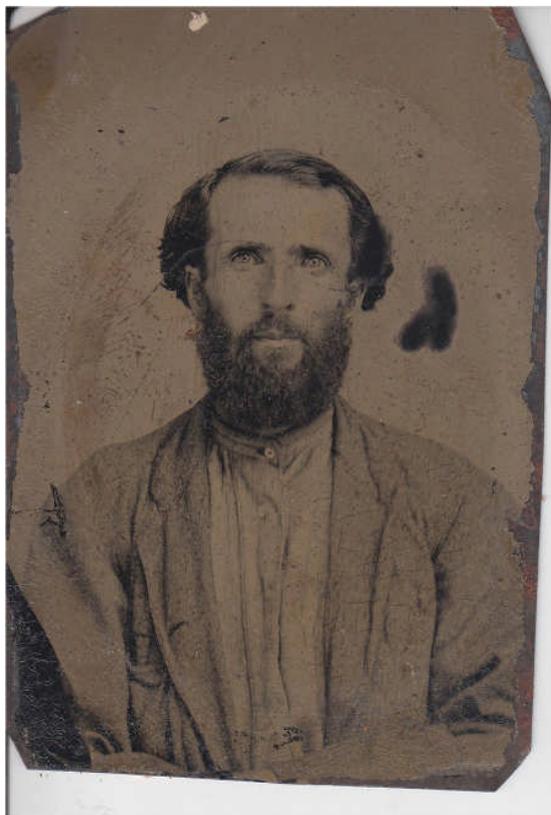
Thomas Montgomery is in the 1930 census of Floyd County as a cattleman, the same year that he applied for a Confederate pension from Tarrant County; it was not approved until 1932. R. E. Lee Camp records say he was elected lieutenant of the camp in 1936, and that he was living in Mineral Wells, Texas in 1938.

Like many of the younger Confederates who joined the Army in the last months of the War he had no records surviving in the War Department in Washington.

To help him join the R. E. Lee Camp in 1900 he got affidavits from two living compatriots who had served with him in Co. G, 12th Alabama Cavalry. He used those same papers to get his pension in 1932. His file contains several affidavits made by Mr. Montgomery himself.

Was he the last Confederate Veteran buried in Tarrant County? Maybe. We'll keep looking.

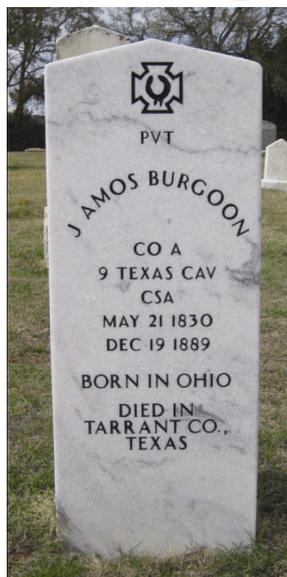
A NEW FACE TO GO WITH AN OLD NAME ON THE MEMORIAL

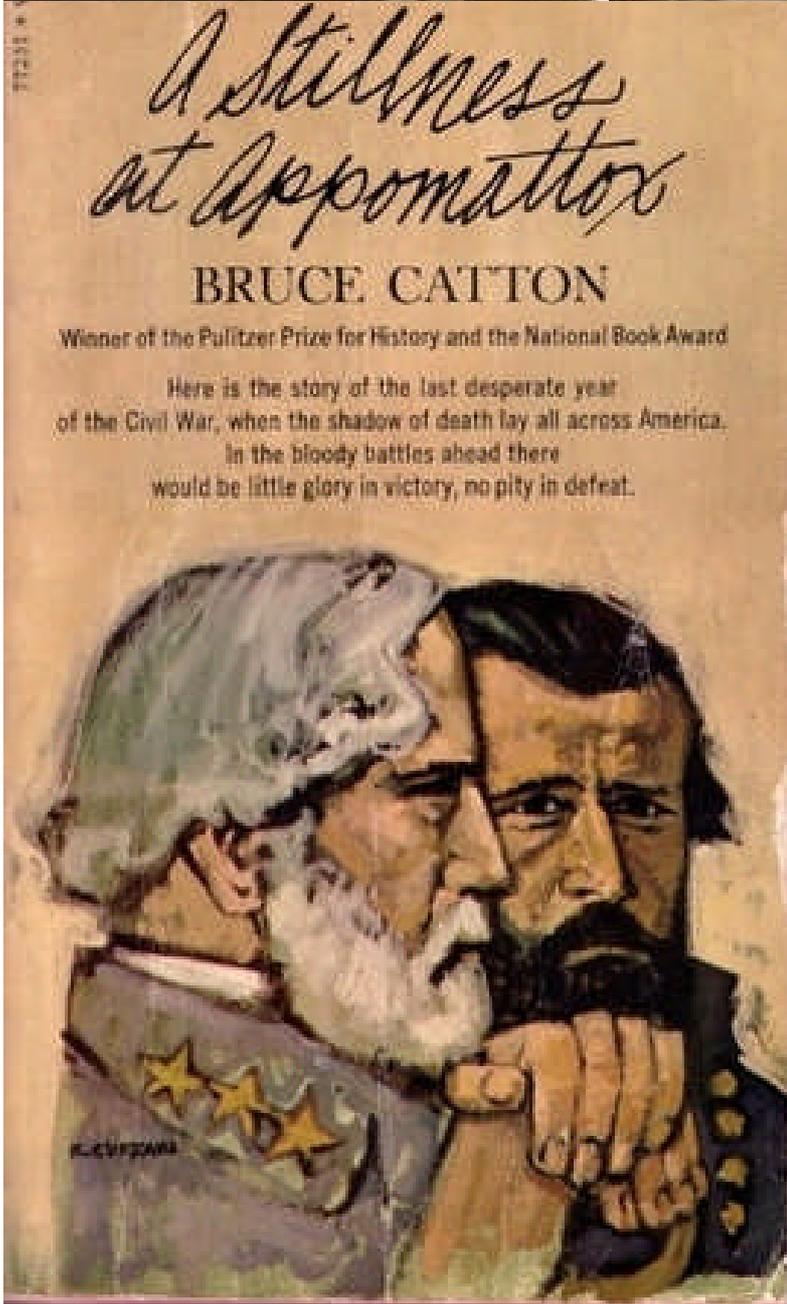


Joseph Amos Burgoon was one of three brothers who enlisted here in northeast Tarrant County. He served in Co. A, 9th Texas Cavalry and died at Grapevine in 1889.

In early August Pam Price, a friend of ours in the historical community in Grapevine, emailed us this tintype. It belongs to a Grapevine descendant, Cindy Treff. Two hours getting rid of flyspecks and emulsion cracks yielded a remarkably-good photo, probably taken around the time Mr. Burgoon served.

We got Mr. Burgoon a VA stone a few years ago and engraved his wife's information on the back of it. This stone stands near Mr. Burgoon's parents' stones in Grapevine Cemetery.





1954 PULITZER PRIZE AND NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER

This wonderful book remains one of the most readable of the thousands which have been printed about the WBTS.

Bruce Catton (1899-1978) was an American journalist and historian best known for his writing on the WBTS. Although his work was deeply researched and footnoted, he did not present it in heavy academic style.

In 1954 Catton accepted the position of founding editor of American Heritage magazine. He also served as a writer and reviewer there. He wrote of the new project, "We intend to deal with that great, unfinished and illogically inspiring story of the American people doing, being and becoming. Our American heritage is greater than any one of us. It can express itself in very homely truths; in the end it can lift up our eyes beyond the glow in the sunset skies."

Oliver Jensen, who succeeded him as editor of American Heritage, wrote: "There is a near-magic power of imagination in Catton's work that seemed to project him physically into the battlefields, along the dusty roads and to the campfires of another age."



THE AMAZING CONFEDERATE HALF DOLLAR

When the South seceded in 1861 there were three mints operating in the southern states. Two of them, at Charlotte, North Carolina and Dahlonega, Georgia, minted only gold coinage from locally-produced ore and bullion. The Charlotte mint certainly, and the Dahlonega mint probably, continued to function for a short time. They both then closed permanently.

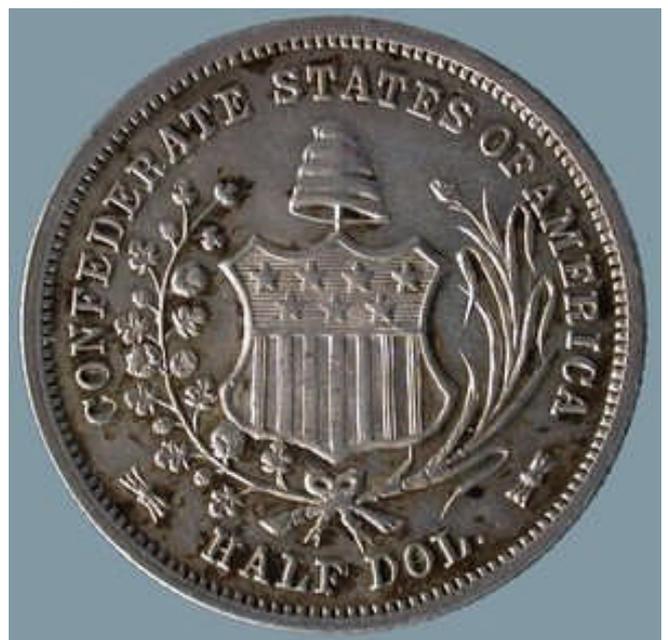
The third U. S. mint was located at New Orleans, and it continued to operate until the supply of bullion was exhausted in April 1861. All coinage produced there in that year was made using regular federal dies bearing the "O" mintmark, with one exception.

Confederate authorities designed a reverse for a Confederate half-dollar. In April 1861 they struck some trial pieces on a hand press to see if the high-relief design would release easily from the dies. Only four of the original pieces are known to exist today. The one pictured below originally belonged Dr. M. F. Taylor, the chief coiner of the New Orleans

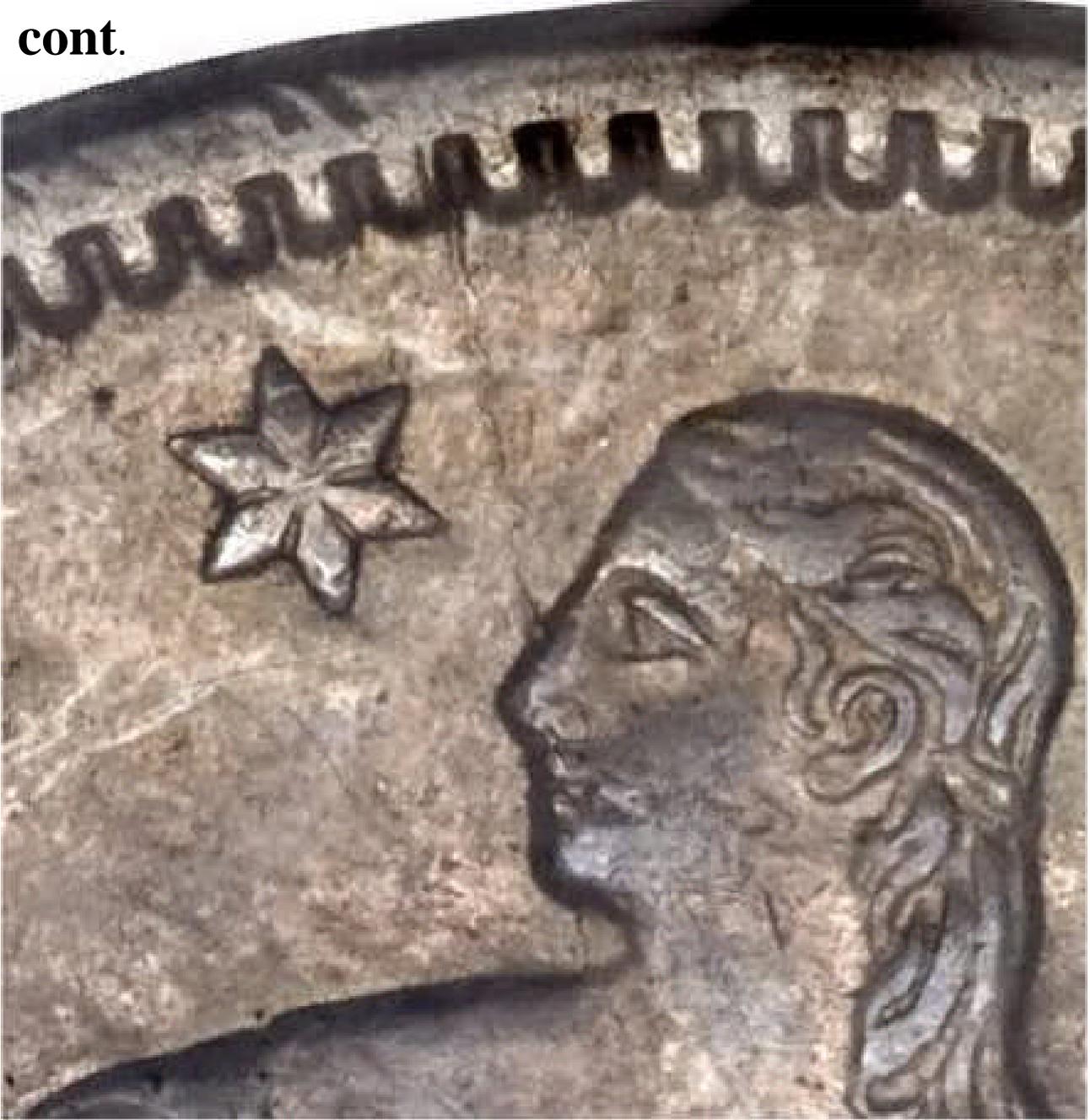
mint. About 1879 this original coin and the reverse die were purchased by a New York coin dealer named J. W. Scott. He later secured five hundred 1861 halves, planed off the reverses, and restruck them using the Confederate die. He also made an additional five hundred copies in a cheaper white metal.

The Confederate reverse die went missing in the 1920s and has not been seen since. Of the four original coins, one is in the collection of the American Numismatic Society in New York. As of the year 2000, one was in the hands of a St. Louis collector, and the Jefferson Davis specimen was in the hands of an Arizona collector. Another was sold to a private collector about 1975 and its owner prefers to keep his name and its location a secret.

The restrikes from the 1870's are quite valuable, and since that time thousands of copies have been made in various metals.



1861 Confederate Half, cont.



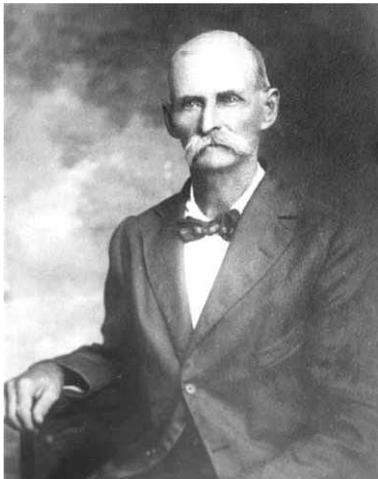
The four genuine Confederate half dollars were struck with an obverse die which had a crack in it, extending from Liberty's nose to the rim of the coin. Die cracks cause raised channels like the one above. This same die was later used to make halves with the regular Federal reverses, proving that the Confederates continued to coin a few Yankee examples at the New Orleans mint using their limited bullion.

NAMES ON THE MAP

Colleyville segment of long Tarrant County road is named for two local pioneers with WBTS ties.

Tens of thousands of people read the names “Cheek” and “Sparger” every day on street and highway signs. This road stretches from DFW Airport west for many miles to Blue Mound Road.

Depending upon where you are, it’s Mid-Cities Boulevard (twice), Cheek-Sparger Road, Watauga Road, and Western Center Boulevard. Don’t be surprised some day if Colleyville votes to change its part to Mid-Cities Boulevard, too, since “Cheek-Sparger” is pretty old-timey for a place obsessed with chic and image, and it doesn’t “match” the same streets on both the east and west sides of town.

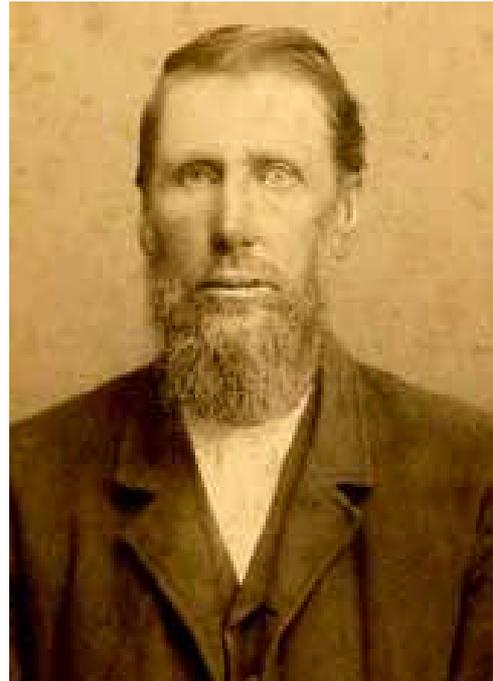


William Burgess Cheek (left) was born in 1846 in Georgia. Family oral traditions say during the WBTS he worked in a munitions factory in Acworth, Georgia. By 1869 he and his family had settled here in the old Spring Garden Community.

His old home still stands, hidden from view by trees on a huge piece of undeveloped land in southeastern Colleyville. He fathered a large family and has many direct descendants still living in this community.

Mr. Cheek died on Independence Day in 1930 and was buried in Parker Memorial Cemetery in the south part of Grapevine.

Family tradition says the road was completed between his and Sparger’s homes to make it easier for them to attend church at the old Oak Grove Methodist Church in Bedford.



Harvey Richard Sparger (1833-1914) (above) was born in Tennessee and moved to Georgia with his folks before the War. He served as a corporal in Co. K, 12th Georgia Cavalry. He and his family settled here in the fall of 1879.

He died in 1914 in his home in what is now the Tara Plantation development in Colleyville. He was buried beside his father in Smithfield Cemetery.

Sparger was your editor’s great-great grandfather. Both Mr. and Mrs. Spargers’ bodies were carried to Smithfield Cemetery in the old horse-drawn hearse which is on display in front of Foust Funeral Home in Grapevine.

During WWII one of Mr. Cheek’s granddaughters married one of Mr. Sparger’s great-grandsons, so there are folks in this community who are descendants of both men.

THE STORIES JUST KEEP COMING...

W. S. MASSEY DIES ENDING ACTIVE LIFE

Abandons Active Business Career Upon
Morning of Day of His Un-
expected Death

The first day upon which he gave up an active business career, W. S. Massey, formerly of the Mansion hotel, died suddenly in his room at the hotel which he has conducted with his wife for the past three years.

Monday morning the establishment passed into the hands of George Koenig, with the expiration of a lease. Monday afternoon at 4 o'clock the death of Mr. Massey occurred. Bright's disease is given as the cause.

Mr. Massey was 70 years of age and a native of Tennessee. He came to Texas twenty-nine years ago. A widow and son, R. D. Massey of this city, survive him.

The funeral was held from the Mansion hotel this afternoon. Rev. Alonzo Monk conducted the services. Interment was made in Oakwood cemetery.

The procedure is always the same...look through a man's file to see if it tells when he died. Then check to see if he has an obituary, a death certificate, or an entry on the Find-A-Grave site. Most of them have at least one of the three.

Sometimes, as in Mr. Massey's case, his obituary tells us where he's buried. In Oakwood's case we have the bound computer printout to check, thanks to a loan made to us by compatriot Ron Parker. The Oakwood book confirms that Mr. Massey is there and that he has no headstone.

For several months now we've been plowing through the Tarrant County Confederate pension files looking for candidates for markers. We've made it into the W's.

There are some very poignant stories connected with our Confederate veterans in the old Fort Worth papers. Among them is the story of William Shelby Massey, an Arkansas veteran who died the same day he retired.

When his widow applied for a pension in 1923, she was able to find two men still living in Arkansas who could attest to Mr. Massey's service in Co. B, 37th Arkansas Infantry. The War Department in Washington could find no record of his service, but the men's affidavits were sufficient for the State of Texas.

The Masseys were married in White County, Arkansas in 1868. About 1875 they came to Fort Worth. In 1880 Mr. Massey worked in the freight business.

Mrs. Massey moved about a great deal during the thirteen years she got her pension, and spent some time outside the state visiting with relatives. She seems to have had a great deal of trouble with the pension bureau stopping her payments and her file has many letters back and forth between her and the authorities in Austin.

Mrs. Emma J. Massey died at the home of her niece at 615 Hemphill Street in Fort Worth on December 4, 1936.

S	T	I	C	C	K	S	L	I	S	E	M
F	E	S	S	E	H	M	T	E	T	S	I
D	L	H	E	T	I	I	I	A	E	A	W
S	E	W	C	C	E	L	G	T	R	A	A
G	N	E	E	A	F	N	I	G	S	S	T
A	A	E	R	E	O	M	R	P	E	W	S
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T	S	E	I	Q	I	E	B	S	R	K	N
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E	M	E	V	I	L	G	N	A	T	S	O

The Return of the Monthly Time-Waster

See if you can find the names of twenty vermin which plagued our Confederate ancestors as they lived outdoors in the WBTS. Print yourself a copy and have at it. Answers on page eleven.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR LOCAL CONFEDERATES

The name of John Peter Smith was a familiar one here in Tarrant County long before the WBTS.

If there ever was any doubt that Confederate veterans had a huge influence in the development in modern-day Tarrant County one should examine the life of John Peter Smith. Historians for decades have referred to him as the “Father of Fort Worth.”

Along with many other local men, Smith served in Co. K, 7th Texas Cavalry. He was elected 2nd Lieutenant of the company when he enlisted and was a colonel when he was finally paroled at Brownsville, Texas on July 17, 1865.

Much has been written about Mr. Smith, both during his life and after it. A summary of his remarkable career is found in the Handbook of Texas online: “**SMITH, JOHN PETER** (1831–1901). John Peter Smith, known as “the father of Fort Worth,” was born on September 16, 1831, in Owen County, Kentucky, to Samuel and Polly (Bond) Smith. When he was seven years old, Smith and his family moved to Ohio County, Kentucky; however, both of his parents died near Hartford in 1844, leaving him and his five brothers as orphans. Smith chose to live under the guardianship of W. H. Garnett, a cousin.

As a teen Smith received an excellent education in the public school system. During the late 1840s he entered Franklin College in Indiana, and in 1850 he began a program at Bethany College in Virginia, graduating in July 1853 with first honors in mathematics and ancient languages.

After graduation Smith returned home only to leave four months later to move to Texas. By December he arrived in Fort Worth and decided to make it his home. In January 1854 Smith obtained possession of an old army hospital left abandoned by the Second United States Dragoons. In this building he began the first school in the city.



Although because of ill health he maintained classes for only three months, the school house was eventually transformed into the Male and Female Academy, reportedly the first permanent educational facility in Fort Worth.

The schoolmaster quit his job in 1855 to begin employment as a surveyor and land locator. For the next five years Smith worked at this job, while he simultaneously studied law with A. Y. Fowler. District Judge Nathaniel M. Burford admitted Smith to the bar in 1860. When the WBTS broke out in 1861, Smith voted against secession; however, when Texas joined the fight, he promptly began to show his support for the Confederacy. After mustering up 120 Tarrant County men, Smith helped form Company K under the command of Col. William Steele.

John Peter Smith, cont.

Joining the Seventh Regiment of the Texas Cavalry in Sibley's brigade, Smith fought with the Army of Western Louisiana in campaigns throughout New Mexico, Arizona, and Western Louisiana.

He was severely wounded at Donaldsonville, Louisiana in 1863 and slightly wounded at the battle of Mansfield, Louisiana in 1864. In that same year Smith was promoted to colonel of his regiment, and he commanded 600 soldiers until the group disbanded in Navarro County on May 18, 1865.

Following the war he returned home to begin his career as a lawyer and to deal in real estate. Smith owned 1,000 acres of land in Tarrant County in 1865 and quickly rose to prominence in Fort Worth society. Within five years he had doubled his holdings, and by the early 1880s he had amassed city lots valued at more than \$50,000 and thousands of acres of land. He was reported to be the largest landowner in Fort Worth. Smith donated much of his time and land to the development and expansion of Fort Worth. He successfully battled to have the county seat moved to his city from Birdville.

As a private citizen he was instrumental in many new business ventures. He was a partner in the Fort Worth Street Railway Company, thus establishing the first public inner city transportation system. Additionally, he helped promote the first railroad into Fort Worth-the Texas and Pacific-and donated thousands of dollars to railroad expansion.

In 1891 Smith was a key figure in the building of the first stockyard in Fort Worth. Nearly all of the larger cattle companies of northwest Texas were obliged to Smith for their organization, and many young cattlemen were personally indebted to him for his assistance. Smith was elected mayor of Fort Worth in 1882 and served the first of six terms. Under his guidance, several public services

were initiated, including the city's first water department.

As a public official he helped establish an independent school system and also served as a trustee on the first school board. In addition to his other accomplishments, Smith was the president of the Fort Worth Gas Light and Coal Company.

Several times he was urged to accept a nomination for governor of the state of Texas, but he continually refused, saying that he preferred to pursue his personal interests. Smith donated many acres to the city for improvements, including the land for the Oakwood, Calvary, and Trinity cemeteries and several parks, churches, and hospitals, one of which still carries his name-John Peter Smith Hospital.

Smith was a charter member of the Fort Worth Masonic Lodge and a member of the Christian Church.



John Peter Smith, cont.



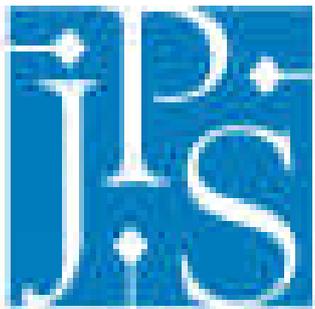
He married Mary E. Fox, the widow of a Fort Worth pioneer physician, on October 16, 1867. They had five children.

Smith died on April 11, 1901, in St. Louis, Missouri, while on a promotional trip for Fort Worth. Reportedly, the cause of death was blood poisoning, which he contracted following a robbery and assault outside his hotel.

He was buried at Oakwood Cemetery on Fort Worth's north side. The citizens of the city honored him by erecting the John Peter Smith Monument, a marble bust, near St. Patrick's Cathedral in the heart of the city on land donated by Smith.

Celebrate the vision
of John Peter Smith

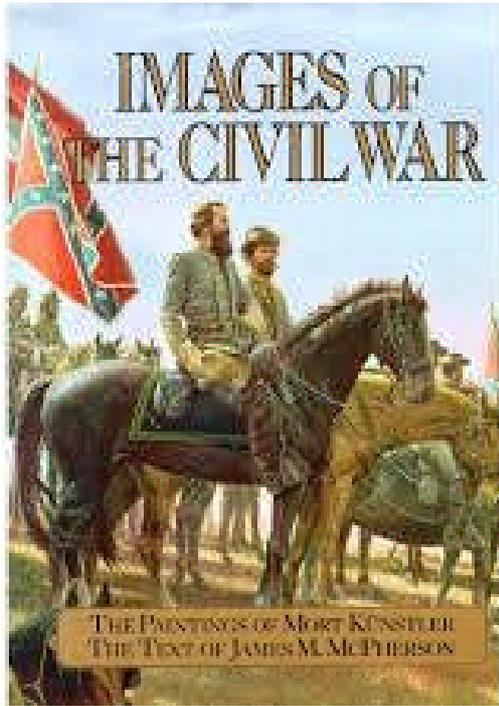
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With a purchase price of one lonesome cent at Amazon.com, plus \$3.99 shipping and handling, you'll have an excellent addition to your WBTS library.

With text by James M. McPherson, this is an interesting collection of paintings by one of the best WBTS painters, Mort Kunstler. When you get past Mr. McPherson's conviction that slavery was far and away the principal cause of the War, and his occasional use of words like "debacle" when the Union loses an engagement, this is a very readable short account. It can easily be read in a single day.

Take the time to really look at the details in the paintings. Think of the time and attention it took to get a single soldier just right, with the shadows in each fold of his clothing, with the lighting and shadow on his

face, the details of his weapons and his equipment. Only when you own one of these books and have the time to sit and study the pictures in your own easy chair can you begin to appreciate the talent and knowledge these artists possess.

This is only one of several published collections of Mr. Kunstler's paintings. and he's only one of a number of very accomplished WBTS artists.

Try as they might, local brick-and-mortar bookstores can't compete with these online booksellers until Congress figures out a way to make us pay sales tax on out-of-state internet purchases.



HOW MUCH DID OUR ANCESTORS EARN IN THE ARMY?

The cash shown above represents a Confederate private's pay for one month during most of the WBTS.

The Confederate pay structure was modeled after that of the US Army. Privates continued to be paid at the prewar rate of \$11 per month until June 1864, when the pay of all enlisted men was raised \$7 per month.

Confederate officer's pay was a few dollars lower than that of their Union counterparts. A Southern brigadier general for example, drew \$301 instead of \$315 per month; Confederate colonels of the infantry received \$195, and those of artillery, engineers, and cavalry got \$210. While the inflation of Confederate money reduced the actual value of a Southerner's military pay, this was somewhat counterbalanced by the

fact that promotion policies in the South were more liberal.

As for the pay of noncommissioned officers, when Southern privates were making \$11 per month, corporals were making \$13, "buck" sergeants \$17, first sergeants \$20, and engineer sergeants were drawing \$34. About the same ratio existed in the Northern army between the pay of privates and noncommissioned officers.

Soldiers were supposed to be paid every two months in the field, but they were fortunate if they got their pay at four-month intervals (in the Union Army) and authentic instances are recorded where they went six and eight months. Payment in the Confederate Army was even slower and less regular.

Keller Confederate veteran Norvel L. Joyce served in Capt. William Hardeman's Regiment of Texas (also shown as Capt. Welch's Regiment) Cavalry. He wrote in his application for a Texas Confederate pension, "Always a private, never drew a cent of money or a garment of clothing during the war."

WELL-KNOWN LOCAL VET LED DIFFICULT LIFE, MET TRAGIC END

Only recently got a headstone, thanks to RE Lee SCV

Samuel J. Darcy was a familiar sight on the streets of Fort Worth for more than forty years. He was the one-armed Confederate veteran who continued to work, doing whatever he could to earn his living, right up to the moment he died.

Sam told his compatriots at the R. E. Lee Camp that he was born in McNairy County, Tennessee. He came to Texas about 1847, and to Fort Worth about 1859. He was a lifelong bachelor.

He enlisted in the Confederate Army at Paris, Texas on August 5, 1861 and became a private in Co. G, 32nd Texas Cavalry.

On the last day of December 1862 he was shot in the right arm during the Battle of Stones River (Murfreesboro), Tennessee, and as a result his arm had to be amputated. He was captured by the yankees on January 2 and was sent to Camp Chase, Ohio where he remained until he was exchanged on March 28, 1863. The records do not reflect whether his arm was amputated by Confederate or Union doctors, but he did spend some time in Union hospitals. He received a medical discharge on May 8, 1863 at Shelbyville, Tennessee because he was unfit to serve, owing to the absence of his arm.

He came back to Fort Worth and went into the drug business for a time after the War. He moved and worked in that business for a time in Cleburne, Texas during the 1870's. When the 1880 census was taken, he lived in Fort Worth with the family of cattle-dealer George W. Saunders; he was a relative of Mr. or Mrs. Saunders.

By the end of his life he was employed distributing printed matter in Fort Worth. On the

evening of September 9, 1902 he was walking across the Katy Railroad tracks at Seventeenth Street. He was struck, knocked down, and severely mutilated by the train. A shorter article about his death in the Dallas newspaper was considerably more grisly in its details than the article in the Fort Worth paper.

He was buried on September 10 in Oakwood Cemetery. The article from the Fort Worth Star-Telegram on September 11 is reproduced on the next three pages.



Darcy actually died Sept. 9, 1902

OLD SOLDIER KILLED.

Sam J. Darcy Run Over in the Katy Railroad Yards.

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS.

Fort Worth, Tex., Sept. 10.—Sam J. Darcy, a Confederate soldier, aged about 65 years, who was a familiar figure on the streets of Fort Worth as a distributor of printed matter, was knocked down by a couple of box cars last night while attempting to cross the Missouri, Kansas and Texas crossing at Seventh street. He was dragged some distance, his right leg being cut off and he was otherwise badly mangled and died shortly afterward. The remains were interred this afternoon at 4 o'clock, the funeral being from the family residence, 103 Lamar street. He was a member of R. E. Lee Camp of Confederate Veterans of this city and a number of the members of that organization attended the funeral.

TENDERLY LAID TO FINAL REST

**REMAINS OF SAM J. DARCY RE-
CEIVE LAST RITES AT HANDS
OF COMRADES**

**Confederate Veterans, Sons of Veter-
ans, and Other Friends Pay Honor
to His Memory. Interment
at Peter Smith Cemetery**

The funeral of Sam J. Darcy, who was killed on Tuesday night by freight cars being backed over him at the Seventeenth street crossing of the Katy tracks, was held yesterday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

There was an unusually large gathering at the late residence, 1003 Lamar street, where the services were conducted by his pastor, Rev. C. McPherson of the First Christian church. While his comrades in gray predominated, yet there was a large concourse of citizens generally of all ages and of both sexes, showing the universal esteem in which he was held by the community at large. The Sons of Veterans were given the post of honor as pallbearers, while his comrades detailed a number of honorary pallbearers. The former were George W. Clark, S. S. Potts, W. P. Lane, I. J.

Stockett, J. M. Ball and W. E. H. Nicholson; while the latter were General K. M. Van Zandt, S. P. Greene, E. W. Taylor, J. C. Terrell, W. M. McConnell and J. H. Murphy.

The head of the procession formed at the house, composed of his comrades and the Sons, who marched preceding the hearse for several squares in double ranks. Then the procession parted ranks and stood at salute as the hearse and the carriages containing his immediate friends filed through, after which all sought their vehicles and followed the remains to the Peter Smith cemetery. There the comrades gathered about the grave and Chaplain W. E. Sellars of Lee camp followed the ritual of the camp, adding a few words pertinent to the occasion. Then followed the signal from the chaplain, "Comrades, deposit the emblem," and the comrades passed in single file around the grave and deposited therein, on the coffin, the evergreen, the emblem of immortality.

It was one of the saddest of the many sad occasions that have befallen the camp. One evening he goes out to his duties, which he followed industriously to the last moment, and is suddenly crushed beneath the iron

wheels of fate; and before that hour on the following evening his comrades gathered about the red earth heaped over his grave, while sorrowing friends deposited thereon wreaths of immortelles, including a beautifully wrought floral battle flag with its red field and thirteen stars under which he and his beloved South fought and won and lost.

End of Fort Worth Star-Telegram article

Small Glitch in Parsley Project; Not a Problem

The granite truck from the quarry in Georgia arrived on Tuesday, August 13. When they finished loading it in Georgia they discovered the truck was overweight, and they took individual stones off until the weight was correct. Parsley's was one they took off.

Very seldom in the monument business is there a "rush job." The quarry assumed a 30-day delay would not make any difference, and for our purposes it won't. We didn't intend to install the stone until mid-October anyway, given the heat and the other stones we have in the waiting line.

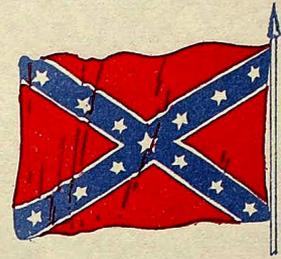
We have called the quarry and told them the stone needs to be on the September truck, and it will be. It could be engraved on the same day it arrives in Fort Worth if it needed to be.

We'll go ahead and tentatively set Mr. Parsley's stone installation for October 19 at Handley Cemetery. We expect the Weatherford Sons of Confederate Veterans to be here in force to help us fire a musket salute in his honor.



S. H. TERRELL, COMPTROLLER
J. M. EDWARDS, CHIEF CLERK

Comptroller's Department
State of Texas
Austin



October 30, 1925.

Mrs. J. A. Pegues,
Tyler, Texas.

Dear Madam:

Your application for confederate pension which was rejected April 10th, 1917 on account of your having a homestead rendered at more than \$1,000.00 may now be renewed, if desired by you, and approved if you will file with this office the certificate of your County Tax Assessor showing homestead rendered at not more than \$2,000.00 and other property exclusive of homestead rendered at not more than \$1,000.00.

On receipt of such certificate your application will be given prompt consideration.

Yours very truly,

S. H. Terrell 

KR/ms

COMPTROLLER.

The Times, They Are A'Changin'

This is the actual letterhead the Texas Comptroller's Office used in its official correspondence back in the 1920's. Many of them appear in Confederate vets' files.



The small area indicated above has been identified as the region of the brain which originates ideas for newsletter articles. If your area comes up with any new ideas or questions to be addressed in this newsletter, please contact the editor at: mfpchat@yahoo.com



"Freeze! . . . Okay, now . . . Who's the brains of this outfit?"

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.

