



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

# **NEWSLETTER**

**Bedford, Texas .....November 2013**

## **FIVE NEW CONFEDERATES' HEADSTONES DEDICATED AT OAKWOOD ON OCTOBER 5**

*Several descendants from out of state flew in to honor their Fort Worth ancestors, long dead and lying in unmarked graves here.*



With the addition of these five stones, our total placed in Oakwood in the past few months has risen to twelve. Our recently-finished survey of the Tarrant County pension records will continue to give us new stone candidates for several months.

We found willing and eager living descendants for two of them and got VA stones for their veterans in short order. For a third vet we found some descendants locally but, try as we might, we never got them interested enough to help.

On October 4 we did the final setting of a stone for Alfred D. Gray, at left. Three of his descendants...sisters...all flew in from their homes in California. They are, l-r, Barbara Gray Albaugh, Darlene Gray Zimmerman, and Rebecca Gray Bello. Other Gray family members came to the formal ceremony on October 5.

Cont. on next page

*As has been our practice for many years, we do not have membership meetings during the months of November and December. Enjoy those evenings with your families.*

## OAKWOOD, OCT. 5, cont.



*Members of the firing squad at Oakwood included, l-r, Jim McDaniel of the M. T. Johnson Camp and Jerry Puckett of the W. H. Griffin Camp; Kent Mathews, Ron Parker, James Madewell and James Alderman of the Taylor Camp; and Ben Hatch of the R. E. Lee Camp.*

*Several members of the extended family of Oscar W. Head also attended, some from as far away as Houston. Oscar has no direct descendants.*



**JOIN US AS WE RIDE IN THE  
ANNUAL FORT WORTH  
VETERANS DAY PARADE ON  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2013!**

*Once again this year we can ride in the back of the pickup or on the artillery trailer belonging to the M. T. Johnson Camp! Uniforms are requested but not required. If you don't have a uniform, bring a flag. Specific details on the next page.*



## Tarrant County Veterans Council

The Veterans Day parade will stage at the LaGrave Field parking lot at North 7th Street and Main Street. Arrive no later than 9:30 AM. (Streets start closing at 9:30 AM!) The parade will start at approximately 10:00 AM and finish by noon.

Simply park and walk into the area where the floats and trailers are staging. The M. T. Johnson Camp pickup and trailer will be easy to find with all its flags.

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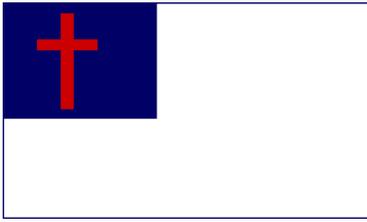
## **YEARLY TAYLOR MAUSOLEUM CLEANUP SET FOR SAT., NOVEMBER 16**

Please join us at 9 a.m. on Saturday, November 16, 2013 at Oakwood Cemetery in North Fort Worth. We'll spend a while sprucing up the last resting place of the man for whom our SCV camp is named, Col. Ennis Ward Taylor.

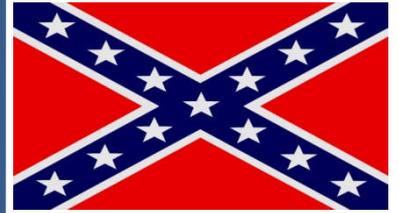
If you have an extension ladder, bring it and we'll check out the roof, too. Bring rakes, limb clompers, a broom, trash bags, maybe some Windex and paper towels, and anything else you can think of which might be useful. Cordless hedge trimmers would be a plus.

This is a yearly activity, and several hands make it a very quick job.





# A HERITAGE VICTORY IN SOUTH CAROLINA!!!



“Gentlemen:

I'd like to share some good news with you regarding the flags in Summerall Chapel at The Citadel. As you will recall, I asked you to generate letters and e-mail from your Division thanking Gen. Rosa, the college president, for restoring Christian Flags and a Battle Flag removed from the chapel.

As you will also recall, our concern was that this might be temporary. Therefore, we wanted to make a good case for the presence of the Battle Flag (obviously, the Christian symbols' removal was the greater concern -- more about that shortly).

Today, I learned that there were bunches of e-mails and letters that came to Gen. Rosa (w/ cc: to the Board of Visitors); the tone of this communication was positive and respectful. A Board member assures me that the issue is finished; there will be no further consideration of the flags -- they stay!

I also learned that the Battle Flag was simply a target of opportunity; the aim of this activity was the Christian symbols -- Christian Flags inside and outside were removed and the illuminated Cross went dark. Certainly, if they took this action, no small wonder that Confederate Heritage was treated as it was.

Nonetheless, we can all be glad today; when you come to Charleston for the Reunion next July, come visit our chapel and see ALL FLAGS IN PLACE! PLEASE DISTRIBUTE THIS TO ALL MEN IN YOUR DIVISION USING WHATEVER COMMUNICATION IS MOST EFFECTIVE.

Thanks again for your good work,

Gene Hogan  
The Citadel, Class of '85  
Chief of Heritage Operations  
Sons of Confederate Veterans “



# Opportunities For Service

## **November 1-3, 2013 The Battle for Fort Richardson, Texas.**

Jacksboro. Reenactment/living history event sponsored by Key's Battery and the 15<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry. Details online at

<http://www.keysbattery.com/battleforfortrichardson/>

## **November 9, 2013 Honoring James P. Hamaker in Aledo at Aledo-Brown Cemetery.**

New headstone installation. *Firing of musket salute if there are three or more men there in uniform with muskets.* Ten a.m. Other area camps have been invited. Details in the October newsletter online; map in this issue. No formal program planned. He has no living descendants.

## **November 11, 2013 Fort Worth Veterans Day Parade.**

We can ride in the pickup or on the artillery trailer along with the M. T. Johnson Camp. Details in the November newsletter online. Uniforms, flags, and black-powder longarms are welcome.

## **November 16, 2013 Cleanup at E. W. Taylor's Mausoleum in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth.**

Regular lawn cleanup tools, and a cordless hedge trimmer would be a big help. 9 a.m. This should take about one hour if several compatriots attend.

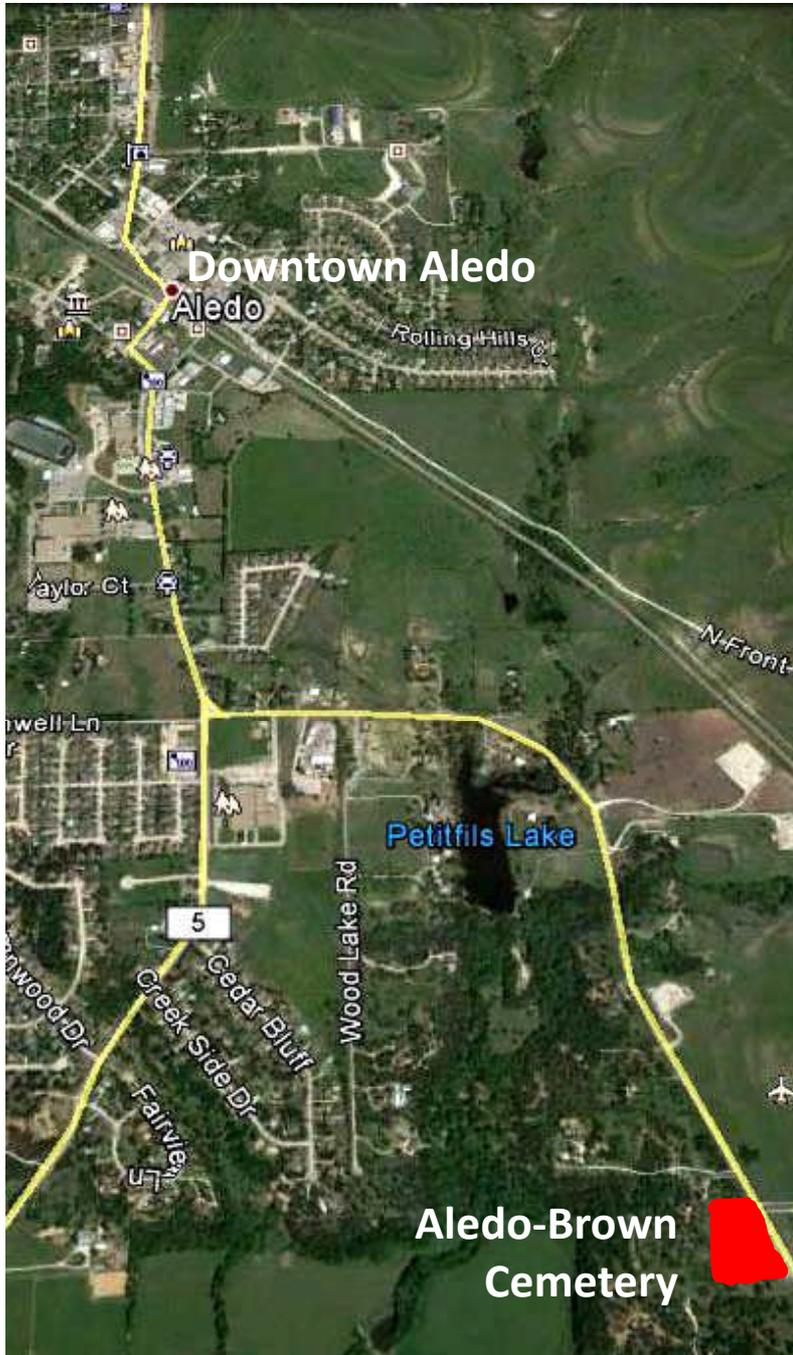
## **December 12, 2013 Joint UDC, SCV, OCR, C of C Christmas Gala in Arlington.**

See November and December newsletters for details and reservations information.

## **January 18, 2014. Fort Worth Stock Show Parade.**

11 a.m. Details will be in the December and January newsletters. A signed release must be in the hands of Ben Hatch several days prior to the event. Black-powder longarms are permitted. No handguns, including black-powder handguns, allowed.

# DIRECTIONS TO ALEDO-BROWN CEMETERY EVENT, 10 A.M. SAT. NOV. 9



Take I-20 or I-30 west toward Weatherford. Take the Aledo Road/FM 3325 exit and go south toward Aledo.

As the street enters Aledo it makes a gradual turn to the left (east). In town, it makes a sharp turn right (south) and crosses the railroad.

After about two blocks it makes a sharp turn left (east), and then another sharp turn to the right (south).

Drive some distance south and then turn east (left) onto Highway 1187. There is a large baseball diamond in the southeast corner of this intersection.

Continue east and south on Hwy. 1187 with its turns and you'll see the cemetery on your right.



*Annual Christmas Gala  
SCV, UDC, OCR and CofC*

*Thursday Evening, December 12, 2013*

*Doors open at 6:00 p.m.*

*7:00 p.m. Dinner, 8:00 p.m. Program*

*(Italian Buffet with Pasta and Chicken, Deserts, and a cash bar)*

*Rolling Hills Country Club*

*401 E. Lamar Blvd., Arlington, TX. 76011*

*(between Cooper and Collins – look for balloons)*

*Featuring Holiday Fellowship,*

*Guest Speaker: Lunnelle Siegel, Florida UDC*

*SCV Officer Installations,*

*“Bears on Patrol”*

*SCV Sales and UDC Silent Auction*

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

Mail Checks/Reservation to:

Gina Smith

2002 Cancun Dr.

Mansfield, Texas 76063

Late Reservations (after 12/3/2013), e-mail: [ginasmi83@gmail.com](mailto:ginasmi83@gmail.com)

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_ Group/s: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number of Reservations: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25.00 each Total Amt.: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Reservations \$25.00 or \$30.00 at the door*

# NOTES OF THANKS FROM GRATEFUL FAMILIES!

Hi Michael!  
I will write you a longer  
note when I get my  
thoughts collected -  
I do want to say  
Thank You to you and  
all those connected  
with the Elliston event.  
I don't know exactly how  
to express our gratitude  
but I have decided  
on a money gift to  
help you finish your  
and the Society's  
memorial stone project -  
the three 'homeless'  
needing a stone. Hope  
the money will help  
you all bring it  
to a close.  
Thank you again!  
Sharon  
The Elliston Family

*We received this note from the family of Birdville Confederate Mortimer Elliston, whose stone we got from the VA recently. They also included a generous donation which will make flat markers for several more veterans.*

# NOTES OF THANKS FROM GRATEFUL FAMILIES!

Thank you for all you  
have done for the soldiers &  
for our relatives.

Rebecca A. Bees  
Barbara Gray Abauger  
Darlene Zimmerman

*The descendants of Olley Choate and Alfred Gray handed us this note and a check to help continue our grave marker program. One of the next markers we make will be placed in Noah Cemetery in Arlington where Mr. Choate lies buried.*



*Thanks to the members of the three other SCV camps who came to help us with our October 5 event at Oakwood: Ben Hatch of the R. E. Lee Camp in Fort Worth, Jerry Puckett of the W. H. Griffin Camp and Jim McDaniel of the M. T. Johnson Camp. We appreciate you gentlemen!*

# AN INTERESTING SOLUTION TO A LONG-TERM PROBLEM

*Even though our National magazine, “The Confederate Veteran,” runs photographs of local camps’ events, the lag time is so long that many camps, including ours, long ago stopped submitting pictures.*

You may have noticed in the current issue of *The Confederate Veteran* that there’s a photo of us installing a headstone for Walker McCulloch, an old veteran who lies buried in Southlake in Lonesome Dove Cemetery.

It’s good to get national recognition. But the photo you just saw was of something we did way back on April 28, of 2012! We figured out long ago that sending in photos to the National magazine just didn’t work.

Several months ago your editor wrote an email to the magazine editor, suggesting doing one issue each year of just member-submitted photographs. It would be a very popular issue, and it would help clear up the obvious backlog.

To his credit, the editor-in-chief responded quickly and courteously. However, it was also apparent that the idea was going to catch on about like screen-doors on submarines.

Now that we have a wonderful website, every picture of every activity we’ve done since January of 2011 is easy to see. We’re even going to have an index for all three years’ newsletters in the December issue.

Enter David McMahan, the Texas Division’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Lieutenant Commander. He has graciously offered to see that event photos get posted in a timely manner on the Texas Division website. We’re going to start taking him up on that offer, beginning with news which is in this issue of our newsletter.



From now on, anyone can send event photos (1-2 per event) with brief explanations to David at [dmctxscv@gmail.com](mailto:dmctxscv@gmail.com) and he’ll see that they’re posted.

You can follow the progress of the project by going to [http://scvtexas.org/Member\\_Activities.html](http://scvtexas.org/Member_Activities.html)

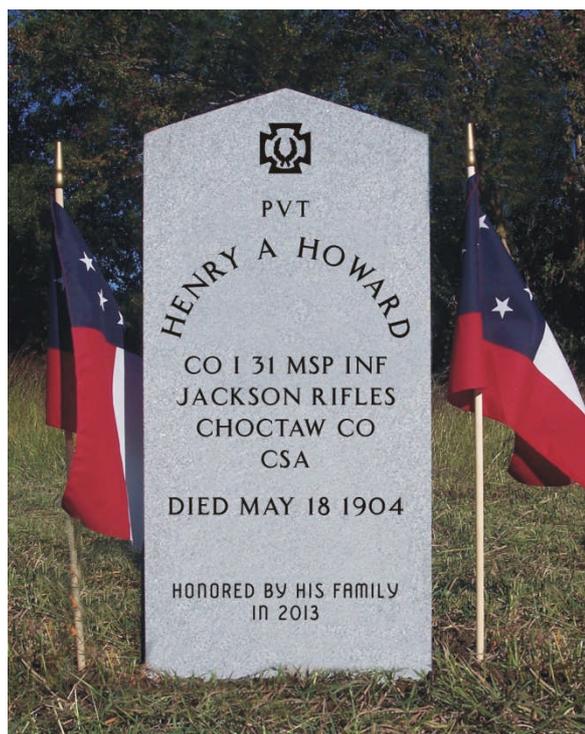
# OUR NEWEST MEMBER DOESN'T LET ANY GRASS GROW UNDER HIS FEET

*Ronald Howard was sworn in at our September meeting, and that evening he handed us a check to get his Confederate ancestor a VA-style upright granite headstone.*

The next morning we ordered the stone from the quarry in Georgia. Four days later, on Tuesday morning, we handed the check to Matt Worthington, at about the same hour the rock was being loaded on a truck in Georgia bound for Texas. Matt did the drawings for the new stone that same morning. We put an inscription for Mrs. Henry A. Howard on the back.

Three days later the blank rock was at Matt's shop. We engraved the stone early on the morning of October 17 and Ron picked it up before noon. In a few days Ron will install it in Corsicana.

We photoshopped the picture below to show how it will look installed.



# COMPATRIOT JAMES MADEWELL TAKES PART IN “LIVING HISTORY” EVENT AT BROWNWOOD ON OCT. 19



Sandy and James Madewell

On October 19 Brownwood’s Greenleaf Cemetery presented their Third Annual Talking Tombstone Tour from 5 until 8 p.m. To accommodate the large number of attendees, they started groups on the tour every twenty minutes. A full tour took approximately ninety minutes.

A small entrance fee was charged and proceeds were put toward a new maintenance shed for the cemetery grounds.

“I believe we have a wonderful line-up of actors and important lives to make people aware of,” said Connie Wyatt, Greenleaf Cemetery board member. “I think it will be just as much fun as the past years. It’s really a walk back in history.”

Our own James and Sandy Madewell portrayed two of the historical characters buried there: Hiram T. Savage and his wife, Susan. Savage enlisted as a Confederate soldier in Company B, 13th Texas Dismounted Calvary, at the age of seventeen and saw action in several battles. He married Susan Catherine Roberts in 1871 and the family moved in 1876 to what is now known as the Weedon community. Hiram preached and organized churches all over the area while Susan cared for their nine children. He was instrumental in the movement to establish Howard Payne College and contributed generously to the school.

## THREE CALIFORNIA DESCENDANTS HERE IN EARLY OCTOBER FOR ANCESTORS' NEW STONES



On Friday morning, October 4, James Alderman met us at Noah Cemetery in Arlington to install a stone for CSA veteran Olley Choate. The evening before three of Choate's descendants had flown in from California for the event and to attend our ceremony at Oakwood Cemetery on Saturday. The California ladies are standing above, l-r, Darlene Gray Zimmerman, Rebecca Gray Bello, and Barbara Gray Albaugh. The ladies are from Mt. Shasta, El Dorado Hills, and McArthur, respectively, all in California. In the photo above, another Choate descendant, Sue Muggli, lives at Everman. We then went to Oakwood to install another of their ancestors' stones.

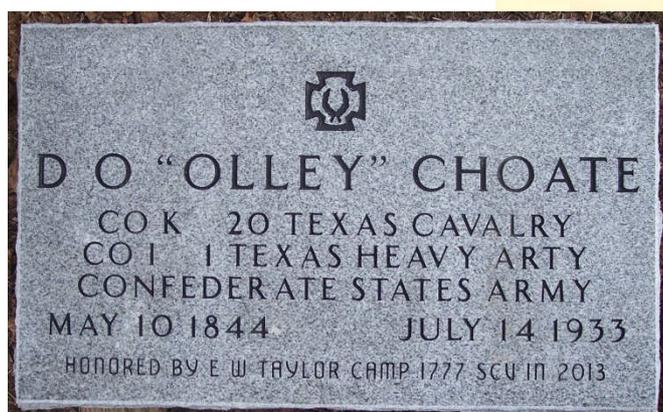
*Three sisters, descendants of Olley Choate and Alfred Gray, flew here from California to see the installation of the first stones their Confederate ancestors have ever had.*

The three ladies standing in the photo at left are also direct descendants of Alfred D. Gray, and it was while getting a headstone for him from the VA that we learned they were descendants of Mr. Choate.

Taylor Camp member Kent Mathews met us at Oakwood to install Mr. Gray's stone. The Gray sisters made a generous donation which will allow us to make several more stones like Mr. Choate's.



# OLLEY CHOATE'S NEW STONE IN NOAH CEMETERY IN ARLINGTON



*Our adjutant, James Alderman,  
puts the finishing touches on  
Choate's stone.*



# MR. PARSLEY GETS HIS STONE ON OCTOBER 19

*Way back in June we introduced you to this worthy veteran. Now, thanks to his descendants and local SCV camps, he's remembered with a permanent memorial in Handley.*

George W. Parsley settled here while the Kiowas and Comanches were still a part of everyday life. Parsley fought them himself more than once and they killed his stepfather and some of his wife's sisters.

He spent most of his time in our area living in Parker County. He served in two Confederate regiments...the 12<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry and the 19<sup>th</sup> Texas Cavalry.

Shortly before he died he came to Handley in Tarrant County and, in 1931, died at the home of his son there. He and his wife lie buried in Isham Cemetery.

The exact location of their graves was never recorded and has been forgotten. The Isham Cemetery Association would not allow the stone to be put in their cemetery under that circumstance, so it was decided to place it in the old Handley Cemetery, in recognition of his having died there. The stone records his actual burial place.

More details of his life may be seen by referring back to the June issue of this newsletter. Four of his descendants and a number of local SCV members funded his memorial.



## MR. PARSLEY'S NEW STONE, cont.



*Saturday morning, October 19, was breezy and chilly but we got Mr. Parsley's stone in the ground. Thanks to everyone who came to help, including Randy Martin of the S. W. T. Lanham Camp in Weatherford. Taylor members there were Jimmy Reynolds, Kent Mathews, and both the Pattersons. The installation crew is shown at left.*

# VETERAN AT WHITE'S CHAPEL SINCE 1933 GETS A STONE OCT. 21

William Robert Harper was a Confederate veteran of a Tennessee regiment. He lived for several years in Precinct 3 north of Big Bear Creek, and lies buried in White's Chapel Cemetery. He was a brother of another of our northeast Tarrant County veterans, Henry J. Harper.

William served in a Tennessee regiment but no records specific to him have survived in the National Archives. One of several affidavits in his pension file gives some details of his service: [he] "...does not remember the Regiment in which he served. He had a cousin named William Harper who was killed in the service of Forrest's Cavalry....He relates that a squad of about 30 or 40, including



Cont. on next page



WILLIAM R HARPER  
CO E 23 BTN TENN INF  
CONFEDERATE STATES ARMY  
SEP 13 1845 JAN 29 1933  
"FT. WORTH'S COURTHOUSE LAWN ORATOR"  
HONORED BY E W TAYLOR CAMP 1777 SCU IN 2013

## William R. Harper, cont.

himself, under the leadership of Capt. Bill Davis were cut off from the main army of Genl. Forrest near Chattanooga, Tenn., in Horse-shoe Bend of the Tennessee River and, after 8 days of hardships and without rations, the whole company under cover of night urged their steeds into the river and swam down beyond the Union Pickets, made their escape and pitched their camp on Paint Rock. After several days of scouting this company, having been betrayed by two of their comrades, was surrounded by Union forces near Chestnut Ridge and all killed except 8, and the two traitors. Among those killed were Capt. Bill Davis, John and Thomas Brown, Bill and "Pone" Green, and a man by the name of Higginbotham, all his mess-mates.

The installation crew at White's Chapel on Oct. 21 included Jimmy Reynolds (left), Stephen Smith (right), and Mike Patterson. Stephen is new to our group, only having been sworn in in September.

Brice Gray, one of those to escape, was made Captain of the squad under which applicant served until the close of the war. Mr. Harper thinks it will be impossible to find any of his comrades living, but thinks he can probably find two who, as boys too young to enter the service, neighbors of his at the time, will make affidavit to his services, if such would be acceptable. The applicant's memory seems bad as to events and his service, if any, seems to have centered about Lincoln County, his home, in Tennessee, as his statement that he surrendered at Marble Hill would indicate."



# GRAPEVINE VETERAN DEAD 113 YEARS GETS A STONE ON OCT. 21

Elijah James Blevins was born about 1825 in Kentucky. He served the South in a Georgia infantry regiment and came to Tarrant County in the 1870's. He was one of a large extended family who came to the Grapevine-Southlake area from Dade County, Georgia. For most of his life he seems to have used the name "James Blevins."

He was the younger brother of Jonathan Blevins (1817-1911), one of the pioneer settlers of the White's Chapel Community in present-day Southlake,.

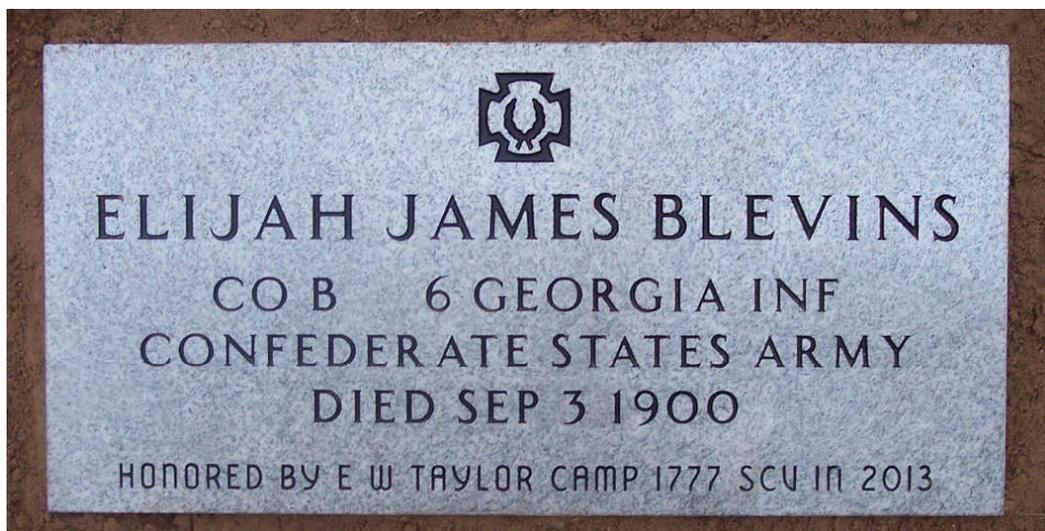
James Blevins served in the Confederate Army in Co. B, 6<sup>th</sup> Georgia Infantry. He enlisted May 27, 1861 at Atlanta, Georgia and served in the Army of Northern Virginia. He told pension authorities he was severely wounded in 1864.

Two other soldiers who settled in the White's Chapel neighborhood in Tarrant County, first cousins Benjamin Monroe Wilkinson and William F. Wilkinson, were also in Co. B, 6 Georgia Infantry.

An article in the Dallas Morning News on September 7, 1900 says: "Mortuary. Grapevine, Tex., Sept. 4, Jas. Blevins died suddenly yesterday from a paralytic stroke. He was about 70 years old."



*A group of James Elijah Blevins' siblings taken in Georgia during a visit by Jonathan Blevins of Tarrant County, seated at right. Two of Jonathan's sons served the Confederacy and later settled in northeast Tarrant County.*



# HANDLEY VETERAN DEAD SINCE 1902 GETS REMEMBERED

On Saturday October 19 several SCV members from area camps honored David Blackwood Wilson with a marker in Handley Cemetery.

Mr. Wilson was born in Augusta Co., Va. in 1838. He joined the Army and became a soldier in the 25<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry. He was captured on July 13, 1861 and was paroled. He was captured again at Spotsylvania, Virginia on May 12, 1864 and was sent to the prison in Elmira, N. Y. where he stayed until the end of the War.

By 1880 the Wilsons had settled at Handley and were farming there. His home appears on the old Sam Street Map of Tarrant County made in December 1895. It lay about one mile east of old downtown Handley, just inside the west boundary of the R. R. Ramey survey, north of the road and the railroad.

Mr. Wilson died at his home near Handley on February 13, 1902. Mrs. Wilson survived until 1932 and was buried beside her husband in Handley Cemetery.



DAVID B WILSON  
SGT CO D 25 VIRGINIA INF  
CONFEDERATE STATES ARMY  
AUG 24 1838                      FEB 13 1902

HONORED BY R E LEE CAMP 239 AND  
E W TAYLOR CAMP 1777 SCV IN 2013

# CONFEDERATE BURIED AT SMITHFIELD IN 1925 FINALLY GETS A MARKER ON OCTOBER 20.



Daniel Edgar Wolff is another of those veterans we discovered while searching the Tarrant County pension files. Since he was buried at Smithfield, he also can be included on the Northeast Tarrant County Civil War Veterans Memorial in Bedford.

Mr. Wolfe was born in 1846 in North Carolina. He told pension authorities he came to Texas in 1859. Mr. Wolfe enlisted at Bonham in 1864 and served in Co. K of James Bourland's Regiment of Texas Cavalry. He served on the Texas frontier. One of his comrades made an affidavit which said they served until the end of the War.

Mr. Wolfe also told pension authorities he settled in northeast Tarrant County in 1869. It was about that year that he married Sarah Ann Clark, a daughter of Smithfield pioneer and Confederate veteran Presley H. Clark, who lies buried with his wife at Smithfield.

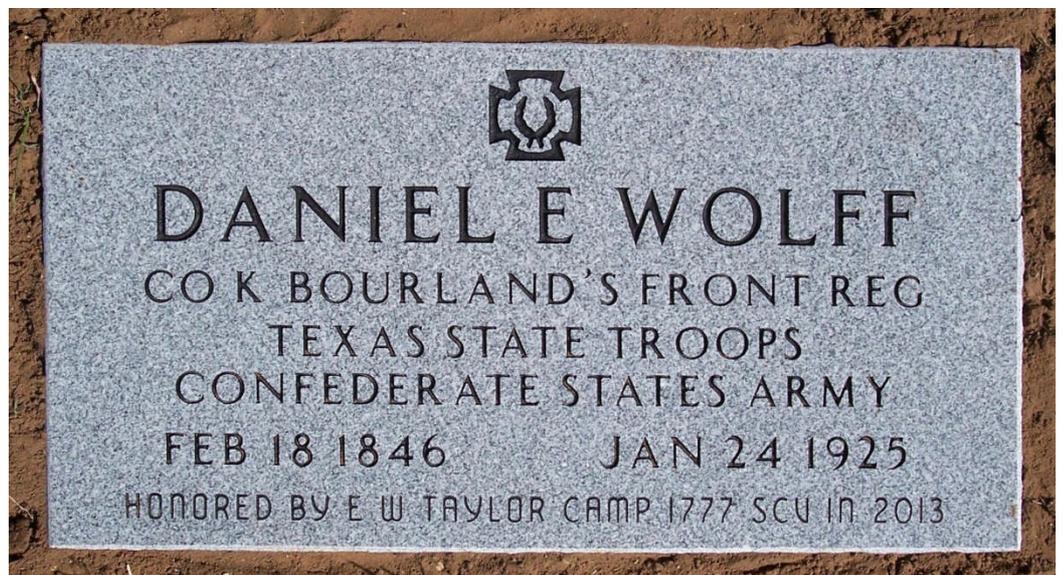
Sarah Ann (Clark) Wolff wife died in Fort Worth in 1915 and was buried at Smithfield.

Mr. Wolfe died on January 24, 1925 at the home of his son in Benbrook and his body was taken to Smithfield for burial.

Mrs. Wolfe's brother was a long-time popular sheriff of Tarrant County, Sterling Price Clark.



*E. W. Taylor Com-patriot and long-haul truck driver George Whitten got a rare Sunday afternoon free so we went over to Smithfield to install the marker for Mr. Wolff. It's one of the new markers Kent Mathews and your compiler engraved only three days before.*



## HOOD COUNTY CONFEDERATE, KIN OF TAYLOR COMPATRIOT , GETS A MARKER IN LATE OCTOBER



*Radford J. Tidwell died in Handley in 1904 and was buried in Rock Church Cemetery in Hood County. Like so many other of our honored dead he's been in an unmarked grave all these years.*

That finally changed this fall, when Compatriot Ron Parker let us know about Mr. Tidwell. On October 17 we went down to Matt's shop and made four stones, Mr. Tidwell's among them. Ron picked it up the next day and it began its journey to Hood County.

Tidwell was born in 1832 in Tennessee. By 1854 he had come to Texas and here he was married to Lydia E. Lamb, who died during the War. Later he was married to Martha A. Holmes, shown at upper left.

By 1880 he and his family had settled here in Tarrant County. His next-door neighbor was R. A. Randol, who ran Randol Mill. He died in Handley and his body was taken to Hood County for burial. Mrs. Tidwell lived until 1912.



# HEADSTONES PROJECT UPDATE

*You may have noticed the absence of this page in the newsletter recently. There are two reasons for that.*



*Kent Mathews readies a stone for engraving at Matt's on October 17.*

For one, we're no longer applying for stones from the Veterans Administration unless we have a descendant foam-in'-at-the-mouth to help us. For two, we're now making them ourselves.

Recent ongoing research projects are netting us *a bunch* of needy Confederate veterans. For the time being, our biggest problem is deciding who to do next.

Two months ago the E. W. Taylor Camp voted to fund eight. Some private individual donations have given us funds to keep the program going for a while.

We've limited ourselves voluntarily to three each month so we'll only tie up Matt's shop one morning monthly.

# GETTING TO KNOW OUR LOCAL CONFEDERATES

## *Local veteran surrendered with General Lee at Appomattox.*

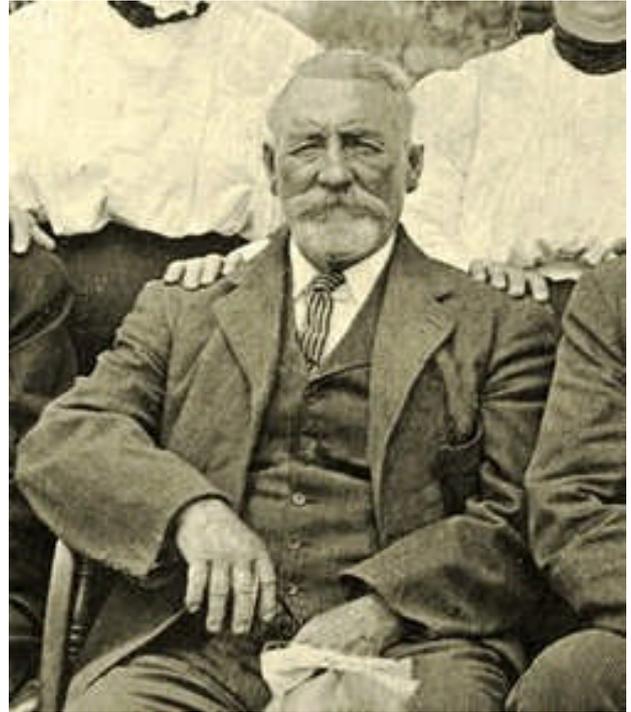
Lewis B. Blevins was a Confederate veteran who lived the last years of his life near Keller. He lies buried in Bourland Cemetery.

Lewis Blevins was born in DeKalb County, Alabama on January 20, 1843. He was a son of Tarrant County pioneer Jonathan Blevins (1817-1911) and his wife, Emily (Maxwell) Blevins (1820-1878).

Lewis served the Confederacy as a private in Co. H, 21st Georgia Infantry. His brother William served in the same company and regiment with him. Lewis' original records in the National Archives say he enlisted July 10, 1861 (other records say July 21) at Rising Fawn, Dade County, Georgia, for the duration of the War. On a roll dated November 1861 he is shown temporarily absent, "sick at Sudley Church." On a roll for December 31, 1863 through June 30, 1864, he was shown serving extra duty driving the brigade's forage wagon, and was still performing that duty as late as August 1864. He surrendered at Appomattox Court House in Virginia on April 9, 1865.

Other records say Lewis was wounded in the leg at the Second Battle of Manassas, Virginia, necessitating amputation on August 26, 1862. This could explain his extended duty working as a wagon driver. He was captured, exchanged October 7, 1862, and sent home.

Lewis brought his family to northeast Tarrant County about 1875, where they joined many other relatives and friends who had already made the trip from Dade County, Georgia.



His home appears on the 1895 Sam Street Map of Tarrant County. In modern-day terms, it sat in Keller south of Rapp Road, and within the area defined by Rapp Road on the north, Willis Drive on the west, Doyle Drive on the south, and Chase Oaks Drive on the east.

Mr. Blevins was a member of the Robert E. Lee Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth. Lewis Blevins died on January 4, 1921, and was buried beside his second wife in Bourland Cemetery. His funeral arrangements were made by the Foust family in Grapevine.

Lewis was married three times, lastly in 1901 to a widow named Sarah Sansom, who lived until 1934.

# THE FORT WORTH TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CITY OF FORT WORTH

PRICE FIVE CENTS

FORT WORTH, TEXAS, SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1905

5 O'CLOCK EDITION

VOL. XXI, NO. 250

## SMALL HOPE FOR RUSSIAN FORCES

If Japs Can Successfully Obstruct Line of Retreat Few Will Escape

## THOUSANDS NOW PRISONERS

Number Captured at Mukden Estimate From Twenty to Fifty Thousand

TOKYO, March 11.—The full extent of the Russian disaster is still unknown. It is known, however, that the Russian army is withdrawing in confusion and in great haste. It is expected that the Japanese will capture many thousands. Local estimates of the number taken vary from 10,000 to 25,000. It is not clear yet whether General Kuropatkin had planned to stand and hold his line north of the river or retire until he could meet the forces at his command. It is his confidence in the ability of the Russian army to withstand an assault. His action in heavily retreating the right in the neighborhood of Mukden has led to the belief he planned to hold a line on the river and attempt to check the flank attacks. To a desperate onslaught the Japanese drove a wedge through the line of the river and then pressing southward, practically created a giant cauldron around Mukden, leaving a tremendous force of Russians in the

## TERRORIST LEADER KILLED BY BOMB

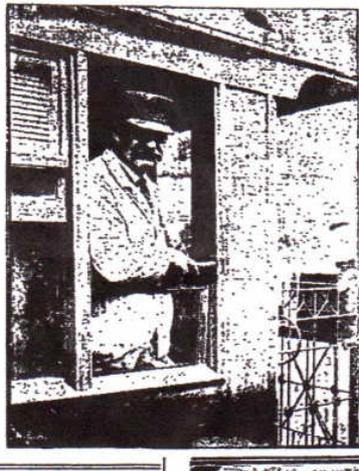
Infernal Machine Bursts in St. Petersburg Hotel, Wrecking Two Rooms

## HAD AN ENGLISH PASSPORT

Believed, However, to Have Been Emissary of Paris Revolutionary Body

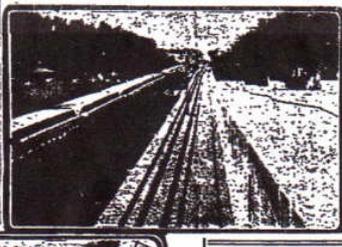
ST. PETERSBURG, March 11.—The explosion of a bomb at the Hotel Bristol adjoining the Hotel Arangel'skaya here just before daylight this morning killed the owner of the bomb, a man with an English passport given him by Alfred Henry McCullough, and wrecked the adjoining room, killing the wife of an officer and injuring several other lodgers. The explosion was heard blocks away and created a tremendous sensation. There is not the slightest doubt the man killed was connected with the terrorist party. The bomb was of the same power which killed the late Minister of the Interior Von Tsvetkov and Grand Duke Sergius, creating the same havoc as did the explosion at the Hotel Donskoi last spring. Preliminary investigation by the police leads them to believe McCullough was engaged either in packing his effects as the Hotel Bristol was to be vacated today, or in preparing for some desperate enterprise, when the bomb which, like all internal machines

## New York Elevated Had Subway Lines Still Affected By Strike



## PEACE CAN COME ONLY AFTER RUSSIAN VICTORY

Count Cassini, Czar's Ambassador at Washington, Says Result of Defeat at Mukden Will Only be More Reinforcements For Kuropatkin's Army



WASHINGTON, March 11.—"After Luo Yang there was talk of peace," Russia's answer was reformer. Luo Yang, Mukden is the scene of another retreat and again Russia's answer will be large reinforcements, but of course not a word." This was the emphatic statement of Count Cassini, Russian ambassador, today in the light of the morning dispatches telling of the Russian retreat. The only official news he has received in the last few days from his government regarding the operations was contained in a telegram which came last night, saying Kuropatkin was retreating after a day's fierce fighting. The ambassador, however, was acquainted several weeks ago with the final decision of the emperor that Russia would continue the war until the Russian army are victorious, regardless of the time it would require and already preparations are being made for large reinforcements to General Kuropatkin. If the odds of peace should come out of St. Petersburg on Kuropatkin, it would be most unexpected than the Russian ambassador, who has all along been positively informed neither but victory for General Kuropatkin can bring an end to the war.

On Saturday morning, March 11, 1905, J. B. Willis of Fort Worth, a self-professed Confederate veteran, went to the post office to pick up his mail. On that day his life was changed forever. On the following pages you can read his story, just as it appeared in the newspaper here.



ON THE "I" ROAD—WHERE THE SUBWAY AT 15TH STREET IN THE SECTION.

CHARGE ON THE "I" ROAD—WHERE THE SUBWAY AT 15TH STREET IN THE SECTION.

## VETERAN HELD ON FEDERAL WARRANT

J. B. Willis Arrested Here on Charge of Impersonating Postoffice Inspector

J. B. Willis, aged 45 years, who says that he is a Confederate veteran and exhibits wounds as proof of his status, was arrested by Policeman H. B. Johnson this morning on a federal warrant charging him with impersonating a postoffice inspector and obtaining money under false pretenses. Willis, who admits that he also goes by the name of W. T. Mast, was arrested at the postoffice where he had gone to get his mail. A description of the man had been furnished local police by United States Marshal Owen of Dallas, who came to this city Friday for that purpose. Assistant Chief of Police Allen detailed Officer Hink to watch at the postoffice with the result that a man answering the description was soon under arrest and in the city prison.

## JUDGE M'FALL CRITICALLY ILL

Leading Witness in the Moore Bribery Case Not Expected to Live Through Day

Special to The Telegram. AUSTIN, Texas, March 11.—Judge D. A. McFall, who figured so prominently in the Moore and Jolly bribery cases, is in a dying condition at his residence in this city. McFall is one of the state's most prominent lawyers and has been a leading witness in the Moore case and in the trial of the Jolly case. He is expected to die today. He was 65 years of age and had been ill for some time. He is survived by a wife and several children.

## BIG IRRIGATION PROJECT PLANNED

Will be the largest irrigation project in the southwest.

J. A. Kemp, while in the city Friday on his return from New Orleans. Mr. Kemp is one of the promoters in the organization of one of the largest irrigation enterprises in the southwest. The idea is to store the waters of the Wichita Valley for miles across the Wichita Falls to be used in irrigating the land between the Wichita and the Little Wichita rivers.

## Fleeing Troops Exhausted

TOKYO, March 11.—The following dispatch from the headquarters of the Japanese army in the field was made public today: "According to several reports, received on March 10, the Russian fled the district between the railroad and Mukden road to great confusion and in a state of utter exhaustion. Thousands upon thousands of Russians in the district between Mukden and Harbin, eight miles north of Mukden, are retreating north in a miserable condition. Our artillery and infantry is inflicting heavy losses. "On Friday our detachment hurriedly advanced from Singaitzhan on the Sun river between Mukden and Fushun and reached Fushun and inflicted heavy damage to the remnants of the enemy. Our detachment is now trying to annihilate them."

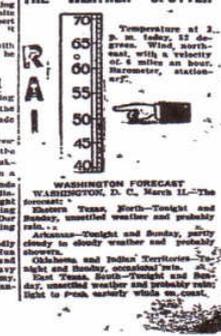
## CHADWICK TRIAL DRAWING TO CLOSE

Argument of Cleveland Woman's Counsel Resumed This Morning

CLEVELAND, Ohio, March 11.—E. P. Dewler, senior counsel for Mrs. Chadwick, in the case of Mrs. Chadwick, resumed his argument this morning. Saturday will see the close of the present trial and the case probably will be given to the jury on afternoon. Before adjourning court yesterday Judge Taylor announced that it was his intention to keep at the present trial until it was fairly concluded. Yesterday was given over to arguments, half of the total number having been disposed of. Assistant District Attorney Thomas G. Berry spoke in the morning and Judge Wing for Mrs. Chadwick took the afternoon. The question of a new trial was heard before the announcement was made that it was his intention to keep at the present trial until it was fairly concluded. The district court will be in session for the trial of the case.

any money in the bank she had secured amounting to \$12,000. \$10,000 of it is in one day, when the total amount which the bank could legally lend in one person was only \$5,000. The prisoner was back in low chair with a disengaged leg. She was greatly distressed at the time of the military adjournment and said: "I have about given up all hope. I have not any chance in this court." During the afternoon when her attorney was making arguments he brought out very much. My trouble will not be over, however, even if acquitted in the present case. Andrew Carnegie left for New York over the Lake Shore yesterday afternoon.

## THE WEATHER SPOTTER



WASHINGTON FORECAST WASHINGTON, D. C., March 11.—The forecast for the 24 hours ending tonight and Sunday, March 12, is as follows: Partly cloudy to clear with light to moderate winds. High 55, low 40. Wind, light to moderate, variable. Precipitation, none. Barometer, steady.

# VETERAN HELD ON FEDERAL WARRANT

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## J. B. Willis Arrested Here on Charge of Impersonating Postoffice Inspector

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J. B. Willis, aged 66 years, who says that he is a Confederate veteran and exhibits wounds as proof of his statements, was arrested by Policeman Bibb this morning on a federal warrant charging him with impersonating a postoffice inspector and obtaining money under false pretenses.

Willis, who admits that he also goes by the name of W. T. Maar, was arrested at the postoffice where he had

gone to get his mail. A description of the man had been furnished local police by United States Marshal Green of Dallas, who came to this city Friday for that purpose. Assistant Chief of Police Allen detailed Officer Bibb to watch at the postoffice with the result that a man answering the description was soon under arrest and in the city prison.

To a Telegram reporter Willis or Maar said that he served four years in the Confederate army in Lowry's brigade of the Sixteenth Alabama. On the top of his head is a deep scar, caused, he says, from a bullet and from the effects of which he has been partly paralyzed. He also bore wounds on his right leg and arm. He walks with difficulty, due to his paralysis.

When asked concerning the charge against him he said that he knew nothing of it and that he had never impersonated a federal officer. He went under an assumed name, he said, on account of business reasons.

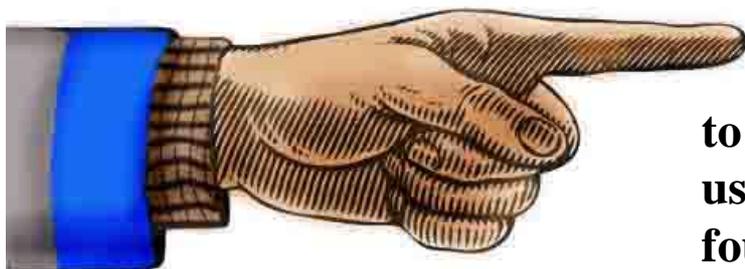
According to his statement he has been in Texas for a year, having come to this state from Alabama.

## **VETERAN'S BAIL IS FIXED AT \$500**

### **J. B. Willis Given Preliminary Hearing Before U. S. Commissioner and Remanded to Jail**

J. B. Willis, who also goes by the name of W. T. Maar, who was arrested in Fort Worth Saturday morning on a Federal warrant, charging impersonation of a postoffice inspector and obtaining money under false pretenses, was given a hearing before United States Commissioner Dodge Saturday afternoon and remanded to jail in default of \$500 bond.

Willis says that he is a Confederate soldier and is partly paralyzed.



## **Thanks!**

to Kent Mathews for taking us down to Matt's to make four stones Oct. 17, and for dropping them off at their destinations on the way home.

Cities in the puzzle: Jefferson City, Milledgeville, Tallahassee, Montgomery, Little Rock, Baton Rouge, Frankfort, Nashville, Austin, Jackson, Richmond, Raleigh, Columbia.

# FEDERAL JURY MAKES REPORT

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The federal grand jury adjourned temporarily at 2:30 o'clock today until Friday morning. This action, it is believed, was taken to have cases ready for the criminal days of the present term of court, leaving the remainder of the time free for the investigation of alleged beef combinations.

Indictments returned by the jury are: J. B. Willis, impersonating United States officer, Tarrant county; Socrates Miller, making false pension declaration, Tarrant county; Marvin E. Aston, theft of mail, Wise county; Jim Wilson, injuring mail receptacle, Comanche county; W. B. Bishop, theft of mail, Parker county; Robert Lowe, injuring mail receptacle, Brown county.

# IN THE COURTS

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## FEDERAL COURT

In the United States circuit and district court this morning Newt Zweifel, charged with illegally opening a letter, was fined \$10.

J. B. Willis, charged with impersonating a United States officer, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to one year and one day of imprisonment in the government penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga.

The case of Frank Tinnerd vs. Armour & Co., damages, went before the jury this afternoon.

Jordan Y. Cummings, a local attorney, was admitted to practice at the Federal bar.

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*The 16<sup>th</sup> Alabama Infantry was indeed in a brigade commanded by Brig. Gen. Mark Lowrey. However, the records of this regiment in the National Archives contain no records of anyone who may be this man under the name of Willis or Maar.*

# **WILL SERVE TERM IF HE RECOVERS**

## **Aged Federal Prisoner Found with Gash in Throat, Has Chance for Life**

**Willis, cont.**

April 12, 1905

It is expected that J. B. Willis, a Federal prisoner over 60 years old, who was found lying on a cot in the county jail early Tuesday morning, with a dangerous gash in his throat, will recover from his wound and will be taken to Atlanta, Ga., next week by Deputy United States Marshal W. O. Thomas.

Willis was recently convicted in Fort Worth on a charge of impersonating a United States officer. He was sentenced to one year in Federal prison. At the time he was sentenced, according to Federal authorities, Willis declared he would never go to the government prison.

He was taken to the county jail.

He was found by fellow prisoners Tuesday morning apparently fatally wounded. Dr. Rufus Chambers, who dressed the wound, says Willis admitted to him that he had cut his own throat and was sorry he had not succeeded in ending his life.

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# DIED ERE PRISON TERM WAS BEGUN

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**Confederate Veteran Taken  
From Fort Worth to At-  
lanta, Died on Train**

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J. B. Willis, a Confederate veteran, aged 68 years, died in the arms of Socrates Miller, an ex-Federal soldier, on a Cotton Belt train at daylight last Sunday morning, just as the train pulled into the city of Birmingham, Ala. Both men were in charge of United States deputy marshals and were on their way to the Federal penitentiary at Atlanta, Ga.

W. O. Thomas of this city, deputy marshal in charge of the prisoners, has just returned to this city and tells of the death of Willis as one of the most pathetic which he ever witnessed.

## Willis, cont.

May 19, 1905

Both men were charged with crimes almost similar—Willis with impersonating a Federal officer, Miller for defrauding the government through the pension department. They were taken from the jail in this city Thursday, May 11, leaving in charge of Deputy Marshal Thomas of this city and Deputy Marshal Worden of Dallas, Thursday night over the Cotton Belt. In the officers' charge were six other men sentenced to prison for various Federal crimes.

Willis was arrested in this city last March as he went to the postoffice for his mail.

While confined in the county jail here he made an attempt to take his life by cutting his throat. When taken to the station last Thursday he was so weak that it was necessary to lift him to the train. Soon after leaving the city Willis had a stroke of paralysis. A wreck at Commerce delayed the train for twelve hours. Willis gradually grew weaker and sat with his head resting on the breast of his fellow prisoner, Socrates Miller. At Texarkana Willis had another strike of paralysis and gradually grew worse.

At Memphis, Tenn., a physician boarded the train and gave his attention to the man. Every effort was made to save his life, but in vain. Just as the train pulled into Birmingham on Sabbath morning the old man expired in Socrates Miller's arms.

Willis was buried at Birmingham.

# AN INTERESTING ADDENDUM TO THE STORY OF THE BATTLES OF FRANKLIN AND NASHVILLE IN LATE 1864

*The following excerpt was taken from Wiley Sword's The Confederacy's Last Hurrah: Spring Hill, Franklin, and Nashville, published in 1992.*

“For most of the men who valiantly had fought and suffered in mid-Tennessee during 1864, over the years the significance of the campaign became increasingly obscured by the ongoing, daily episodes of life. Then, long after the last of the aged veterans was gone, as if some specter from the troubled past, a body appeared to remind all of the tragic reality of Hood’s invasion.

Lieutenant William N. Shy had died almost instantly atop the hill that now bears his name at Nashville. Yet in death he was to receive a prominence more than a hundred years later that few could have imagined.

On Christmas Eve 1977 a headless body was discovered lying on top of a dug-up casket behind the antebellum mansion that had been Lieutenant Colonel Shy’s residence. Police officials feared that someone had been murdered, and that the murderer, in an attempt to hide the body, had dug up Shy’s grave, only to be scared off before completing the work. A medical examiner estimated that the victim, dressed in what appeared to be a tuxedo, had been dead six to twelve months. The corpse was estimated to a white male, approximately five feet eleven inches, 175 pounds, and about twenty-six years old. When the head and other body parts were found nearby, the examiners learned the victim had died from a blow to the head.

‘It looks like we have homicide on our hands,’ said a chief deputy. A few weeks later, based on further laboratory evaluation, the mystery about the body was solved. The corpse had turned out to be that of Lieutenant Colonel Shy, so perfectly embalmed (evidently by Dr. Daniel Cliffe) that 113 years later some of he flesh was still pink. In the



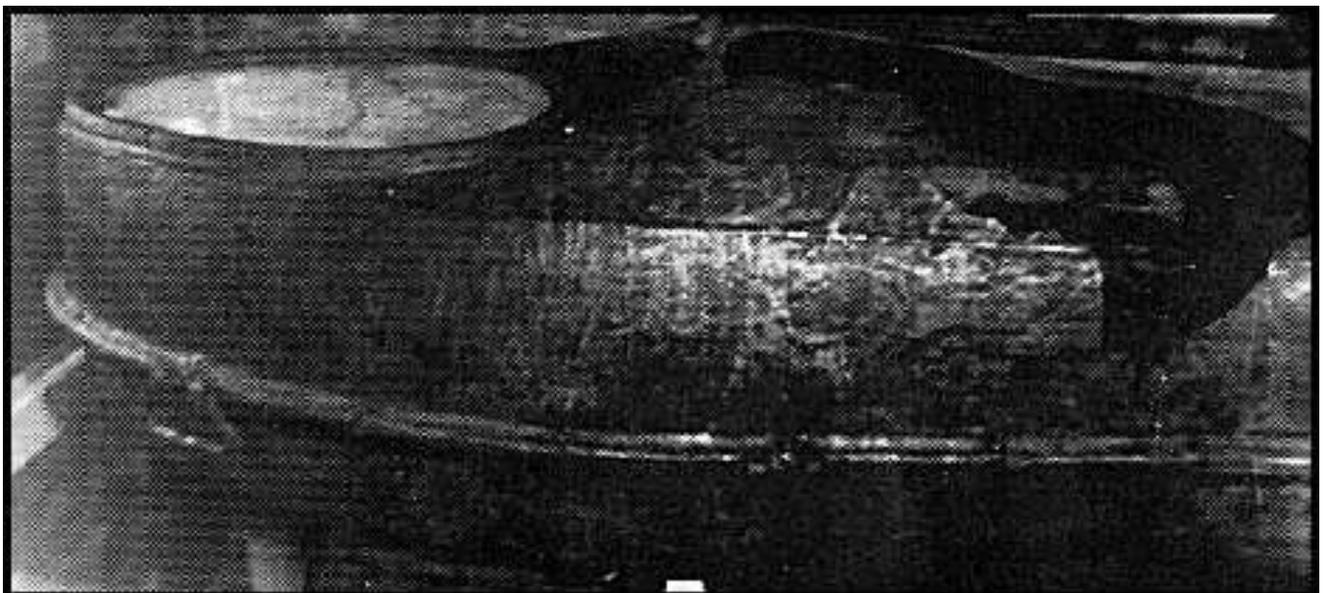
rush to provide answers to a curious public and press, no one had considered that a body in such a an excellent state of preservation could be that of a long-dead Civil War officer. The cast-iron coffin had been dug from the grave and his body pulled out in an apparent attempt to locate valuable artifacts. Within a few weeks Lieutenant Colonel Shy’s body was reburied in a brief ceremony. Today the damaged iron coffin originally used to bury Shy in 1864 can be seen at the Carter House Museum in Franklin. Said the examining physician of the incident, “I got the age, sex, race, height, and weight right, but I was off on the time of death by 113 years.’ If a tragi-comic episode, it was perhaps a fitting reminder of history’s often hidden reality.

Cont. on next page

## Lt. Col. William M. Shy, cont.



Lt. Col. Shy's skull, showing the massive entrance and exit wounds.



Lt. Col. Shy's original cast iron casket, showing the damage done by the grave robber. This casket is now on display in the Carter House Museum in Franklin, Tennessee.

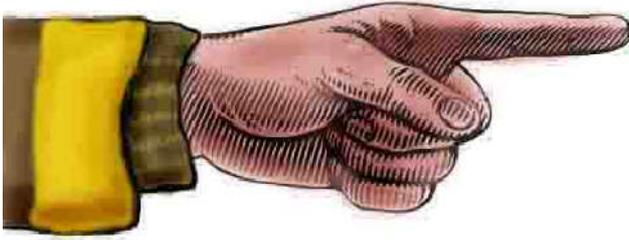
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## Lt. Col. William M. Shy, cont.



Above: Col. Shy's casket being taken from the family cemetery.  
Below: The casket after cleaning and conservation, being placed on permanent display. Shy's body was reburied in a new casket.





**Thanks!!! to George Whitten for helping us to install the stone for Mr. Wolff at Smithfield on Oct. 20.**

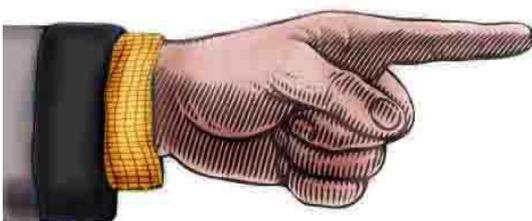


**Thanks!!! To the members of the Taylor Camp who came to help with our October 5 event at Oakwood in Fort Worth: James Madewell, James Alderman, Kent Mathews, Ron Parker, Mike Patterson, Jo Reynolds and Marilyn Patterson.**

**At our October meeting, the members voted to retain our present slate of officers for the upcoming year: Com. Mike Patterson; 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Com. Tom Trawick; 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Com. Bob Gresham; Adjutant James Alderman, and Chaplain Kent Mathews. We thank these men for their willingness to serve.**



**Thanks!!! To everyone who came to Handley on October 19 for the installation of Parsley's and Wilson's stones: Randy Martin, Kent Mathews, Jimmy Reynolds, Mike and Marilyn Patterson.**



**Thanks!!! To everyone who came to White's Chapel on Oct. 21 to help install the two stones there: Stephen Smith, Jimmy and Jo Reynolds, and Mike and Marilyn Patterson.**



**REMEMBER THE MUSEUM WHEN  
YOU HAVE VISITORS HERE FOR THE  
HOLIDAYS.**





# WBTS LIFE AND TIMES

*If you're a member of the SCV you have an interest in what was going on in our country in the 1860's. Now that information is so widely accessible, take the time to develop one or more of your interests...and share them with us at an SCV meeting!*

There has never been a time in America when a gold coin didn't pique everyone's interest, even if they were only getting to take a look at it. Getting to know how our Confederate ancestors lived is easier and more fun if we learn about the things which concerned them...not the least of which was the money they earned and spent.

A lot of Americans, in the South especially, probably lived their entire lives without ever owning a twenty-dollar gold piece. Still, they are exciting ties to our past. The coin above was minted at the U. S. mint in San Francisco (notice the tiny mint mark below the eagle's tail). Like all our other gold coinage of that era it was composed of 90-percent gold and 10-percent copper, to make a coin hard enough to withstand circulation in commerce. Its melt value as of August 4, 2013 was \$1,271.59.

Our country made its first \$20 gold coins, named by Congress to be "double eagles," in 1849. That year the mint made only two. One is

now in the Smithsonian's coin collection. The second, given to the director of the mint, was sold in 1873 as a part of his estate and is now lost. Regular production for circulation began the next year, in 1850.

When the War began there were three U. S. mints operating in the South. All three were taken over by the Confederacy but none continued to operate because of a scarcity of bullion.

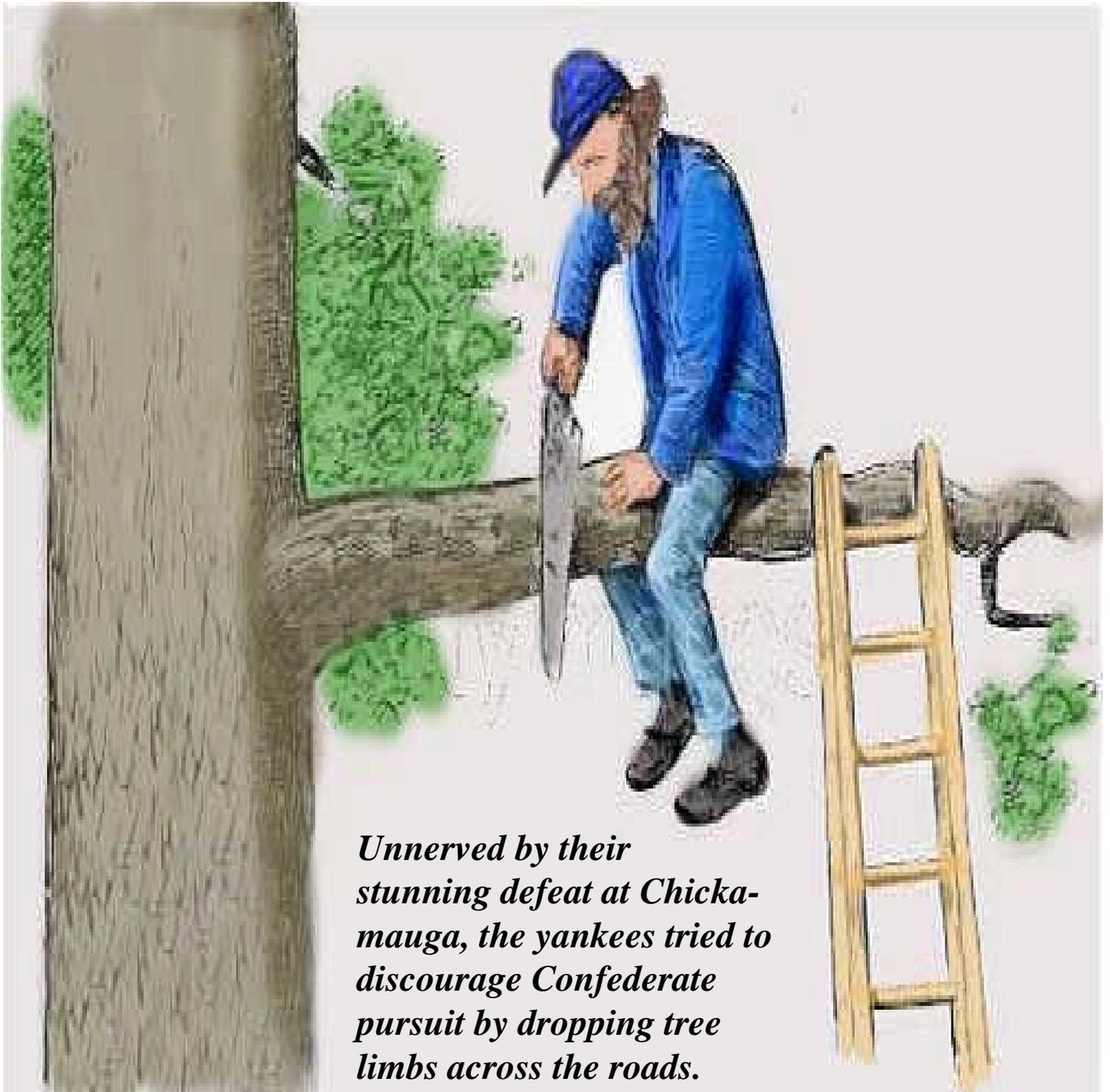
The branch mints at Dahlonega, Georgia and Charlotte, North Carolina had been established to mint locally-produced gold into coins. They did not reopen after the War. The New Orleans mint had produced both gold and silver coins, and reopened in 1879.

The "liberty head" \$20 design was produced with only a few changes until 1907, at which time a new design was introduced. The last double eagles were minted in 1933.



# CONFEDERATE STATE CAPITALS

Hidden in the grid above are the names of the capital cities of the thirteen states of the Confederacy as claimed by the stars on the First National Flag. Print a copy of this page and see how many you can get without looking at the list on page 29.



*Unnerved by their stunning defeat at Chickamauga, the yankees tried to discourage Confederate pursuit by dropping tree limbs across the roads.*



**Thanks to Marilyn Patterson for taking us to get drawings done at Matt's in October, for taking Choate's stone to Arlington on October 4, and for taking your humble commander and editor everywhere he goes.**

# TIME

# NEVER

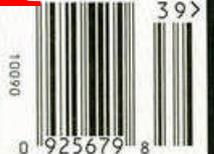
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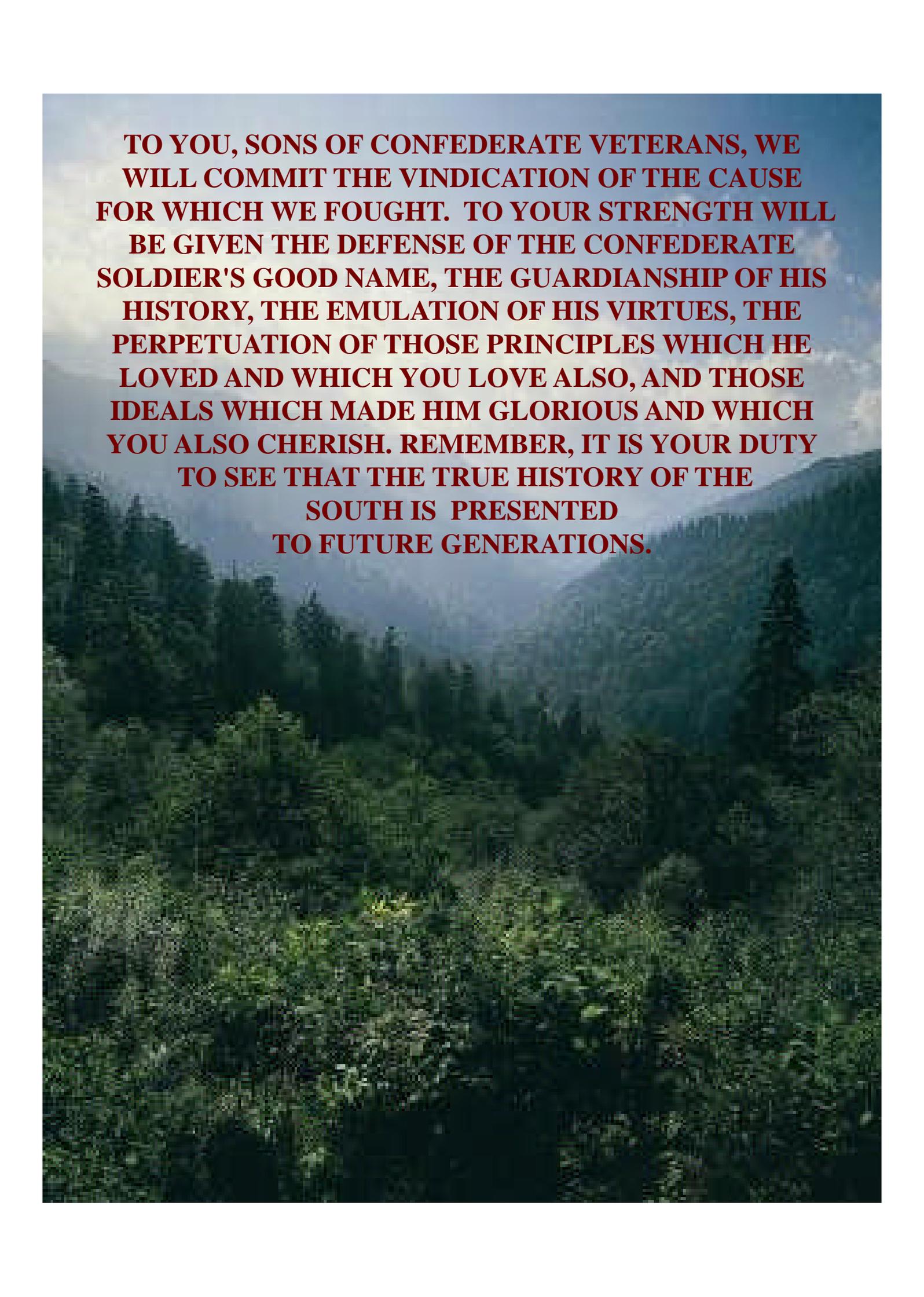
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**NEVER  
FORGET**



A scenic view of a mountain valley with dense green forests and a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the top portion of the image.

**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.**