



COL. E. W. TAYLOR



SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS #1777

NEWSLETTER

Bedford, Texas December 2013

TAYLOR CAMP PROMINENT IN 2013 FORT WORTH VETERANS' DAY PARADE



Taylor Camp Adjutant James Alderman, at right above, appeared in the 2013 Fort Worth Veterans' Day Parade in another of his roles as a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. They were stationed beside the nation's only working, traveling replica of the Liberty Bell, which is owned by the Liberty Bell and Law Memorial Foundation, based in Fort Worth. As many expressed their thanks for having the Ten Commandments on display as for the Liberty Bell.
<http://www.proclaimliberty.us/blog/index.php/welcome-2/>

2013 Veterans' Day Parade, cont.

Six members of the Taylor Camp took part in the parade, including at right Mike Patterson, James Madewell, George Whitten, and Susannah Whitten.



Also from the Taylor camp (at left) were Bobby Gresham (left) and Tom Trawick (right). Bill Johnson of the MT Johnson Camp is in center.

At right, Randoll Reagan, Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price, Chuck Hield, and James Alderman, adjutant of the E. W. Taylor Camp.



TAYLOR CAMP FORMALLY THANKS MATT WORTHINGTON FOR HIS LONG-TERM HELP

Worthington Monuments is recognized for invaluable help across the years in marking Confederate graves.



WORTHINGTON MONUMENTS, INC.

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For many years Matt Worthington has been helping us make markers for Confederates in unmarked graves. We decided to formally thank him on Saturday afternoon, Nov. 16 at the grand opening of his second location in Arlington at 332-A East Abram Street. Above, l-r, are Mike Patterson, Matt Worthington, and Bobby Gresham.

 **Sons of Confederate Veterans**
Colonel E. W. Taylor Camp #1777
Bedford, Texas 

Certificate of Appreciation
presented to

Matt Worthington
Worthington Monuments

for his invaluable help in marking the graves of
Confederate Veterans
in Tarrant County, Texas

 Date *Nov. 15, 2013* 
Michael E. Patterson, Commander

Matt's original location and shop are located east of Rendon at 4265 E. FM 1187. He does expert planning, fabrication and installation of all types of memorial and engraved stone work. His phone number is 817-551-2800.

E. W. TAYLOR CAMP MEMBER HELPS HONOR SOLDIER WHO FELL IN AFGHANISTAN



On Saturday, November 30, SSGT Alex Viola of Keller, right, was buried with full military honors in Bluebonnet Memorial Park in Colleyville. He died in service in Afghanistan on November 17. Many area patriotic groups paid their respects to him, at the funeral service in Keller, along the route to Colleyville, and at the burial service at Bluebonnet.

Our adjutant, James Alderman (second from left above) served there in a Color Guard furnished by the Sons of the American Revolution. The Liberty Bell and Law Memorial Foundation also brought their Liberty Bell and Ten Commandments replicas, which are shown on the front page of this newsletter. The ringing of the bell was an especially moving part of the committal ceremony.





*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

Make Checks Payable to: Mid-Cities Bluebonnet 2429

Mail Checks/Reservation to:

Gina Smith

2002 Cancun Dr.

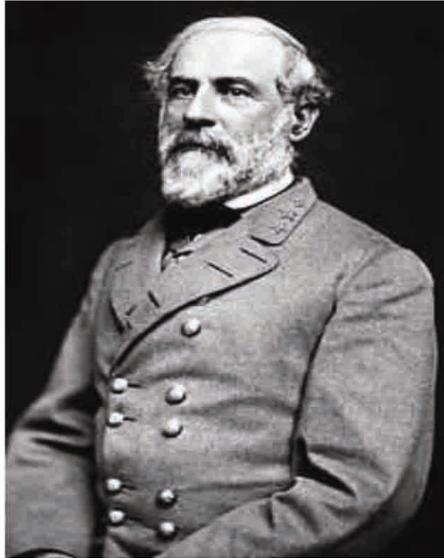
Mansfield, Texas 76063

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

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

Reservations \$25.00 or \$30.00 at the door

**The R. E. Lee, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Camp #239
Cordially Invites you to attend our
★ Lee-Jackson Day Charity Bar-B-Que ★**



**Location: Alpine Shooting Range Clubhouse
5482 Shelby Road ★ FT. Worth, TX 76140**

Casual Dress or Uniforms Requested

Order your tickets today, space is limited!!

Ticket Price: \$25.00 for singles or \$40.00 for couples

January 17th, 2014 at 7:00 PM

The Event will include with paid admission:

♪ Music by Singer songwriter Jed Marum ♪

World Class Texas Bar-B-Que with Sides and Desert

Presentation by Past LaDiv Cmdr Paul Gramling

Awards, Silent Auction and Fellowship

**Contact Lt. Wesley Massey or Cmdr Barry Turnage for tickets or
Information, Cash or Check only! Checks Payable to: R E Lee Camp 239**

Please Send your Admission and Guest Names to:

**Wesley Massey
9713 Lancelot Cir, Ft. Worth, TX 76140
817-456-3833**

wesleymassey@att.net

**Barry Turnage
624 Owens Dr, Crowley, TX 76036
817-297-2987**

peaceman1969@sbcglobal.net

**KEEP DECEMBER 14 OPEN
ON YOUR CALENDAR!**

*Join us to Welcome the children
of our Fallen Military Heroes.*

*Please take two minutes to watch this introductory video
explaining this wonderful organization:*

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dHyTPsAcMzQ>

We Need You!

*Saturday, December 14, 9 a.m. to Noon is our Annual
Welcome Event and Walk of Gratitude. Make a sign, bring
an American flag, and show these children and families that
the sacrifice of their families is not forgotten.*

**DOWNTOWN FORT WORTH
NEAR SUNDANCE SQUARE**

FortWorth-Welcome@snowballexpress.org



KEEP DECEMBER 14 OPEN ON YOUR CALENDAR!

You probably already know that the owner of the Texas Civil War Museum, Ray Richey, is a member of our own E. W. Taylor Camp.

Cindy Harriman, the Executive Director of the Texas Civil War museum, has invited us to come to the museum on the morning of December 14. The M. T. Johnson Camp will be there on a field trip that morning, and they'll be arriving about 9:30 or 10 a.m.

The museum will be showing their regular 30-minute film, and also a special film which will air on PBS next year called "Road to Valhalla." This new film had Jed Marcum, Buck Taylor, and Michael Martin Murphy involved in its production. You may learn more about it by going to: <http://www.lonechimneyfilms.org/the-road-to-valhalla/>

The new film will be shown from 11 until 12:30. At 12:30 the UDC will be there to bring out the UCV flags which have not yet been conserved, and we'll all be able to take a look at them.

"Road to Valhalla" will be shown again from 2 until 3:30. The regular museum film will be shown throughout the rest of the day at regular intervals.

If you still need another motivation to visit the museum, remember that the new Artillery Gallery was opened in September. Also, a new diorama of the Battle of the Wilderness will have been installed by then.

Museum admission is \$6 for adults, \$3 for kids 7-12, and free for kids under 6 who are with an adult.

Museum hours are 9-5 Tuesday-Saturday. Closed on all major holidays.



OPERATION SHOEBOX

TEXAS

Support Our Troops



Once again this year the E. W. Taylor Camp helped fund this fine organization by paying part of the postage costs to get the boxes to our troops overseas. The local effort was spearheaded by the Mid-Cities Bluebonnet Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy.



Commander Patterson:

We wish to Thank you and
the members of the Colonel
E. W. Taylor Camp for your
Contribution to our U.P.C.
"Operation Shoebox". This year,
with your help, we will be mailing
14 goodwill boxes to U.S. Service-
men and women overseas.

Have a Great Thanksgiving and
a merry Holiday Season.

Warm Regards, recd. 11/23/13

Joanna Rubel
Patriotic Chairman
Mid-Cities Bluebonnet
Chapter 2429,
Euless, Texas

GRANDMOTHER OF TAYLOR CAMP MEMBER WAS U C V CELEBRITY

Kent Mathews' grandmother was a favorite of the United Confederate Veterans here in Fort Worth.



*Alva Louise Blair 1915
Mascot,
United Confederate Veterans*

Kent Mathews' maternal grandmother, Alva Blair, her sister, and their cousin, Imogene Byers, were popular musicians in Fort Worth during the years 1910 -1920.

PLANTATION SONGS SUNG FOR VETERANS

Plantation melodies featured the program of the Albert Sidney Johnston Camp of Confederate Veterans Sunday afternoon. Mrs. H. C. L. Gorman rendered the selections in the negro dialect. Two of her readings were dedicated to local people. A poem "Abide With Me" was dedicated to Mrs. Minnie Cone and "Transplanted" to the late Frank S. Gorman.

Mrs. Gorman presented the camp with a gavel wrapped with the National colors.

Lieut. Commander N. E. Sutton sang a solo accompanied by Mrs. Lula Williams.

Misses Amentine, Alva Blair and Imogene Byers gave a violin trio and were elected mascots of the camp for 1919.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram, January 27, 1919

Alva was born in 1905 in Fort Worth. Her father's family settled in Red River County, Texas in the 1840's. Her maternal grandfather, Silas Witt, was a Tennessee infantryman who died at Springtown, Texas in 1889.

ALVA BLAIR WAS LOCAL CELEBRITY, cont.



Alva and Imogene played violins and Ametine played the piano. About 1914 or 1915 Imogene's mother travelled with the girls by train to Atlanta, Georgia with the chapter veterans to entertain at the U.C.V. reunion which was held at the Civil War Park. When asked what song they would like to have played the veterans would always say "Dixie".

The girls were voted to be the mascots of the Albert S. Johnston Camp of United Confederate Veterans in Fort Worth in 1919. More than one dozen articles in the pre-1922 Fort Worth papers mention the girls entertaining at various meetings in the city. Alva remembered playing for the Confederate veterans when they met in the basement of the Tarrant County Courthouse.

Alva married Kent's grandfather, Leroy L. Simpson, in 1925. She died in 2004 in Tarrant County and lies buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Fort Worth.

WANT TO MARCH WITH US IN THE 2014 FORT WORTH STOCK SHOW PARADE?

This year it begins Saturday, January 18, at 11 a.m. If you want to take part, your signed release form must be in the hands of the R. E. Lee Camp in Fort Worth and turned in with the parade application form.

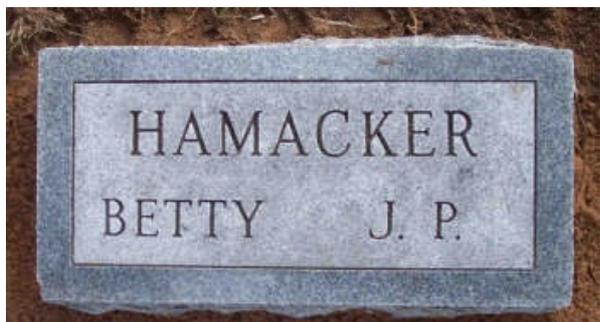
Send an email to Patterson at mfpchat@yahoo.com with "Stock Show Form" in the subject line. He'll email you the form. Print it, complete your parts of it, and mail it to Mike Patterson at 2205 Glade Road, Colleyville, Texas 76034. He'll get the forms to the Lee Camp. Do it **today** so you won't have to worry about it later. Mike needs it by the end of the day on December 26. We have to turn in the forms with the original signatures, no faxes.



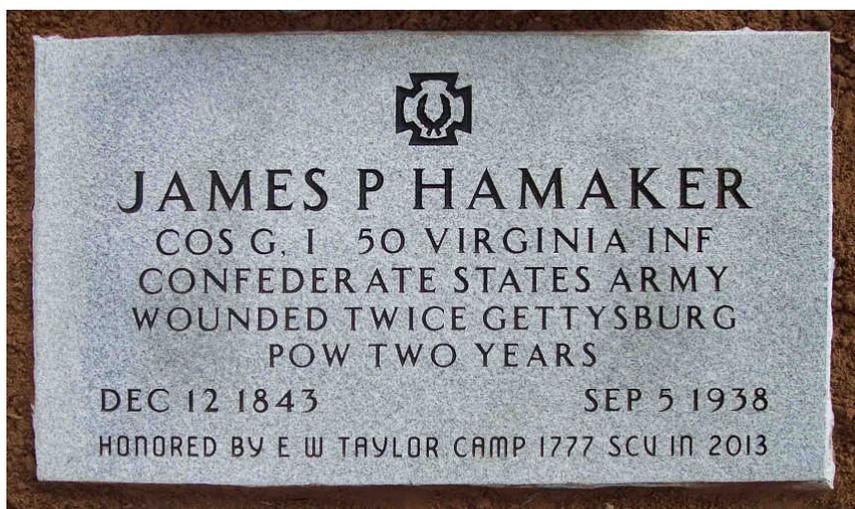
It's a brisk walk of about two or three miles. Last year the weather was perfect for someone wearing a wool uniform and doing moderate exercise. Unloaded black powder longarms are okay but all other guns are prohibited.

If you're new to the group and don't yet have a uniform we can borrow enough items to get you suited up so you can join us. Just let us know!

THRICE-WOUNDED GETTYSBURG VET BURIED IN ALEDO FINALLY GETS A STONE



Years ago someone got Mr. and Mrs. Hamaker a small stone with no dates. It misspells their surname. We set the new stone beside it.



Several months ago we learned the amazing story of James P. Hamaker, who was wounded twice and captured at Gettysburg. While back there for the 75th Reunion, he was again injured, and died from that one soon after he returned home to Aledo.

E. W. Taylor members Kent Mathews, Jimmy Reynolds, Mike Patterson, and Marilyn Patterson installed his stone on Saturday morning, November 9.

RON AND STEPHEN PARKER INSTALL STONE FOR KINSMAN IN HOOD COUNTY NOVEMBER 6.



Radford J. Tidwell (1832-1904) got his new stone on Wednesday, November 6. He had lain buried in an unmarked grave in Hood County's Rock Church Cemetery for nearly 110 years.

Mt. Tidwell served on the Texas frontier in the 9th Brigade of Texas State Troops. He died in Handley and was taken back to Hood County for burial. The professional-grade installation was done by Compatriot Ron Parker and his son Stephen Parker (who also keeps our webpage hummin').

BEDFORD VETERAN WAITS 131 YEARS FOR A MARKER

Alfred Fitzgerald was a member of a large extended family who settled here soon after the War.

Alfred Fitzgerald was born in 1831 in Monroe County, Tennessee. He served the South as a soldier in Co. A, 36th Tennessee Infantry.

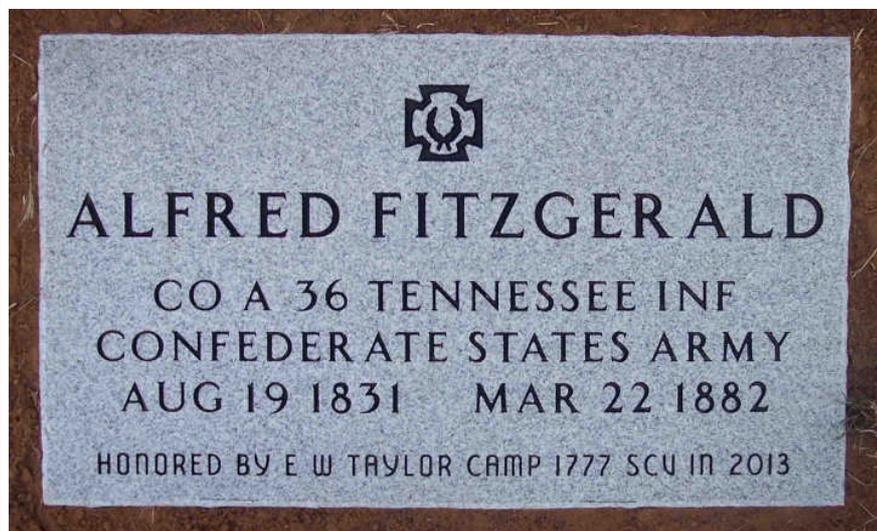
With his wife and children he came to northeast Tarrant County in the 1870's and settled near Bedford.

Alfred's sister was Mrs. Elihu Newton. Newton was a member of Gano's force and was a well-known Baptist preacher in this area for decades, in addition to spending one term in the Texas Legislature.

Mr. Fitzgerald died at Bedford in 1882. We made a marker for him on November 14 and installed it in Bedford Cemetery on November 18.



Bobby Gresham, our 2nd Lt. Commander, puts the finishing touches on Fitzgerald's stone at Worthington's on November 14.



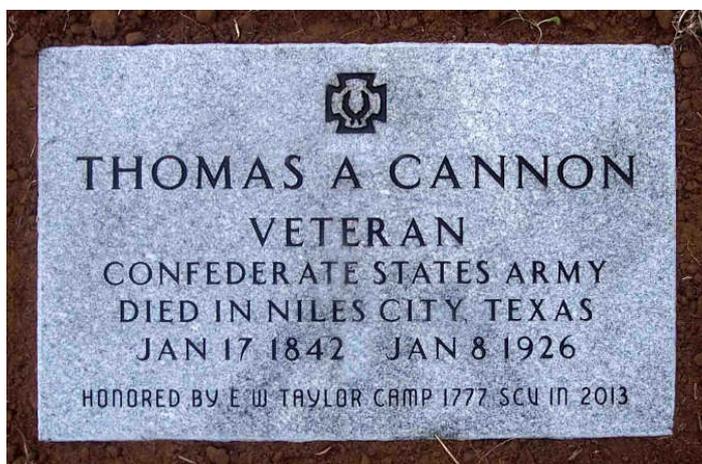
CONFEDERATE BURIED AT WHITE'S CHAPEL IN 1926 FINALLY GETS MARKER

Thomas Alexander Cannon died in the old Niles City section of North Fort Worth at the home of one of his children. He was brought back to White's Chapel for burial beside his wife.

Thomas A. Cannon was born in Mississippi in 1842. He told the census taker in 1910 that he was a Confederate veteran. We have not been able to positively identify his regiment. There is one Thomas Cannon in the records who fought in a Mississippi regiment, but there are no details in his file to prove he is the man who came here later.

Mr. Cannon and his second wife were married in Hill County, Texas in 1891. They continued to live there until about 1905 when they came to northeast Tarrant County and settled in present-day Southlake.

Mrs. Cannon died in 1912 at her home in the White's Chapel Community and was buried in White's Chapel Cemetery.



Mr. Cannon survived until 1926 and died at the home of one of his children in North Fort Worth in old Niles City. He was buried beside his wife at White's Chapel.

We made Mr. Cannon a stone on November 14 and installed it on November 21. The crew included, l-r standing above, James Alderman, Bob Gresham, Jimmy Reynolds, and Mike Patterson, kneeling. As always, Marilyn Patterson was the driver and took the pictures.

VETERAN WHO LIVED AT GRAPEVINE GETS A STONE AFTER 107 YEARS

Veteran Alabama cavalryman who died in Fort Worth in 1906 gets a marker at Grapevine's Parker Memorial Cemetery.

Joseph Houston Gresham was born in Limestone County, Alabama in December of 1846. The census records suggest that the family may have been living at Athens, Alabama when the War broke out; Joseph's father was working as a miller there.

Joseph served the South as a soldier in Co. E, 11 Alabama Cavalry. He enlisted at Tuscumbia, Alabama on February 9, 1863 and was detailed as a wagoner on March 15, 1864. An oath of allegiance he signed at the end of the war described him as fair complected, with light hair, and gray eyes; he was five feet ten inches tall.

By 1880 Mr. Gresham and his wife and children had settled in Cooke County, Texas. The birthplaces of their children shown in the census suggest they had come to Texas by 1872.

By 1900 Joseph's wife had apparently died and he was living in Grapevine in a household headed by his son-in-law, Almon C. Loyd. Mr. Gresham applied for a Confederate pension in early April, 1906 while he still lived at Grapevine. One comrade of Gresham's said the last time he saw him he (Gresham) was standing in line of battle at Paint Rock, Tennessee. Another comrade said he remembered Gresham was captured by the yankees within one half-mile of the affiant's home at Columbia, Tennessee, and that Gresham had stopped at their home on his way home after the War.

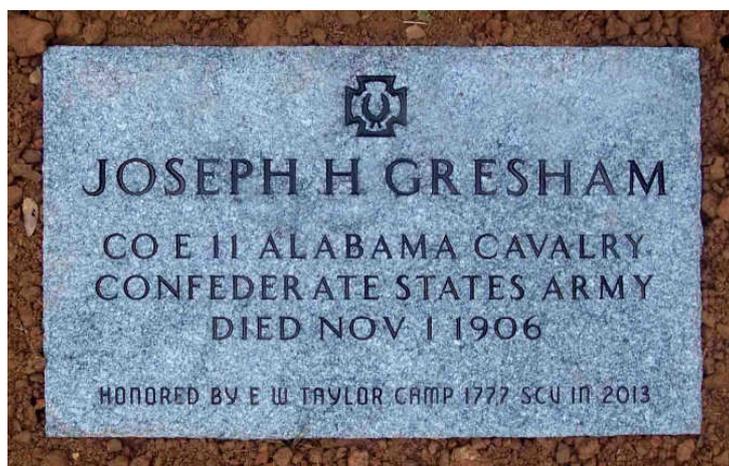
Dr. A. P. Brown, who examined Mr. Gresham, said he claimed to have defective hearing by reason of an explosion of a shell

from a cannon close to his head at Harristown, Mississippi. He wore eyeglasses when he read. He became short of breath after just a little exercise. He had symptoms of angina pectoris with "neuralgia of heart."

The Dallas Morning News of October 2, 1906 carried the following short note: "J. H. Gresham, aged about 59 years, died this morning at his former residence, 1309 East Eighteenth Street [in Fort Worth]. The body was shipped to Grapevine by undertaker George L. Gause for burial." This was reprinted from a Fort Worth paper printed on October 1, thus it seems Mr. Gresham must have died on the first.

A more complete biographical sketch of Mr. Gresham's life may be found on the Northeast Tarrant County Civil War Veterans Memorial website:

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~txtarran/military/civil_war_vets.htm



The stone was installed on Nov. 21 by the same crew as the one on the preceding page of this newsletter.



...to everyone who came out to help us install veterans' markers during 2013 (and we still have a few to go in December).

**James Alderman
Barbara Albaugh
Rebecca Bello
Worth Chollar
Frank Cowart
Bruce Erickson
Neta Erickson
Boone Eustace
Jack Eustace
Rhoda Eustace
Bobby Gresham
Dana Gresham
Ben Hatch
Ervin Hauk
Allen Hearrean
Philip Hearrean
Dennis Key**

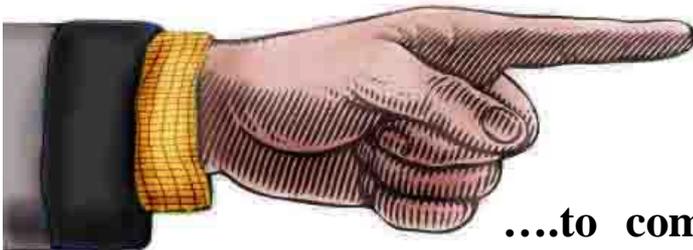
**Pat Lane
Richard Leech
Thuy Lien
James Madewell
Randy Martin
Wesley Massey
Kent Mathews
Susie Mathews
John Meritt
Sue Muggli
Ron Parker
Stephen Parker, Sr.
Stephen Parker, Jr.
Mike Patterson
Marilyn Patterson
Wayne Pierce**

**Nathan Pike
Toby Pike
Judie Porter
Rob Porter
Pete Rainone
Bill Reeves
Jimmy Reynolds
Joe Reynolds
Garland Smith
Stephen Smith
Mike Stark
David Stewart
Shirley Teague
Joe Wade
George Whitten
Darlene Zimmerman**

FIRST E. W. TAYLOR CAMP PHOTOS SENT TO THE TEXAS DIVISION'S LOCAL CAMP PUBLICITY PAGE.

On Sunday morning, November 3, we sent in a bunch of the photos of our activities which appeared in this newsletter's November issue.

The next day we heard from David McMahon, the 3rd Lt. Commander of the Texas Division, suggesting that we put our entire newsletter on the Texas Division site. We sent it to them on November 4, and it was posted in its entirety on November 6. Contrast that to eighteen months lag-time for our most recent single photo in the national magazine. Every state should set up a similar system.



THANKS!!!

....to compatriots James Alderman and Bobby Gresham for going with us to Worthington's on November 14 to make three stones, and to James for dropping them off at the cemeteries on the way home. On November 21 Jimmy Reynolds and Marilyn Patterson joined us, and we all installed two of the stones, one at White's Chapel and one at Parker Memorial.

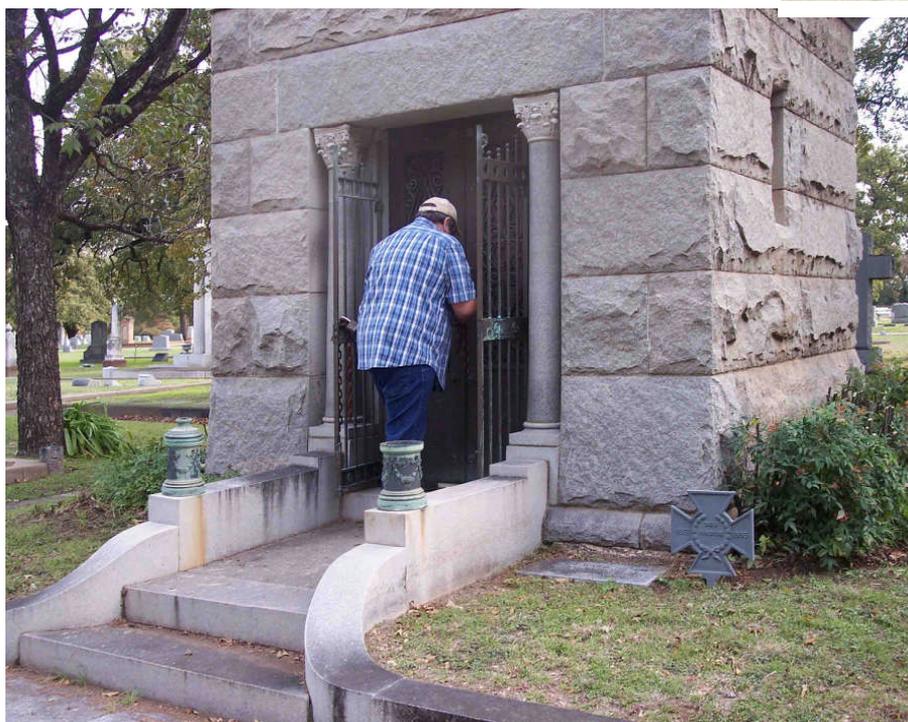
YEARLY WORK-DAY AT E. W. TAYLOR'S MAUSOLEUM HELD ON NOVEMBER 16

For many years it has been our custom to set aside one morning each fall to clean up around Col. Taylor's mausoleum in Oakwood Cemetery in Fort Worth. Now more than a century old, the mausoleum is beginning to show its age, especially inside.

The outer structure is of cut gray granite and there is no visible shifting of its exterior parts. Inside, parts of the north, west, and south walls had thin marble "paneling" installed, and one small part on the west wall has broken.

The entire eastern wall of the structure is covered by the four burial crypts for Mr. and Mrs. Taylor and their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Connery. Col. Taylor died in 1908 and his wife died the following year. Mr. Connery died in 1938 and Mrs. Connery lived until 1947. The mausoleum was constructed to hold only four bodies.

The angel atop the mausoleum is hand-carved from white marble.



The sealing stones for all four of the crypts are sound and will probably remain so for another century. They are engineered so that there is no lateral or downward stress placed upon them. Should any one of them crack, they may be easily replaced by our own camp members without outside help.

The inside ceiling of the building has suffered from some water damage, and we will probably remove it and replace it at some point in the future.

TAYLOR MAUSOLEUM, cont.



Compatriot Bobby Gresham had a commitment on the day of the cleanup, so he went the previous day and did the lion's share of the work...trimming the hedges. Amazingly, we removed about three cubic yards of hedge trimmings, fallen limbs, leaves, and other detritus.

Kent Mathews and the two Pattersons were left with only a little sweeping, raking, and bagging to complete the job on Saturday morning.

The most immediate fix-up which is needed is a replacement of one piece of the facing stone at the bottom of Mr. Connery's crypt. Water leakage has damaged one strip of the marble, which had some hidden impurities not apparent when it was made.



Compatriot Kent Mathews, above, sweeps out the mausoleum.

The original lock installed in the inner door in 1908 is still in place, and we have the key. There are also newer chains across both the inner and outer doors with separate locks. Both sets of doors open easily.

The inner ceiling is made from two large but thin slabs of marble, one of which is beginning to warp under its own weight. It will eventually break and will need to be replaced.

We may also renew the gold paint in the lettering on the front of each crypt. Even though it is the oldest, Col. Taylor's has survived better than any of the others.

We may also undertake some re-caulking of the exterior roof within the next year.

Col. E. W. Taylor's body occupies the lowest level in he crypt.





ANOTHER NEW VETERAN FOUND FOR THE MEMORIAL HERE

*Veteran who died in Birdville in 1903 could truthfully say,
“If it weren’t for bad luck I’d have no luck at all.”*

William Henry Paxton had a lot of bad luck in his life, and it seems to have begun the day he got out of his bedroll on the morning of August 15, 1862. By the end of the day, he had gotten the first of four wounds he received during his time in the Southern Army.

On the first day of the Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia, December 13, 1862, he was shot in both thighs and permanently disabled. Rather than be sent home he applied for and received alternate duty.

Later, during Stoneman’s Raid at Macon, Georgia, in July of 1864, Mr. Paxton managed to get shot a fourth time. We don’t know anything about his activities after that time, at least as far as the War is concerned.

When he returned home after the War Mr. Paxton was unable to work. One of his friends remembered that by about 1872 he already appeared feeble and disabled.

On February 18, 1877 Mr. Paxton and his wife and at least one daughter arrived in Texas. By 1880 they had settled in Wise County. Within five years his wife was dead.

By 1885 he had moved to Parker County, where he was arrested for incest, having allegedly married his step-daughter, who was twenty-nine years his junior. *Do we have your attention?* The existing records show no way this second wife could have been his step-daughter, so there must have been more to the incident than we are able to learn from records left to us.

He remained married to the lady, who was only about seventeen when they were hitched. Together they had eleven children between 1885 and 1900.

Because of a lack of vital records for the 1880’s and 1890’s we don’t know exactly what happened. By 1900, only two of the children were still alive. [Cont. on next page]



Mr. Paxton’s stone in Oakwood Cemetery.

William H. Paxton, cont.

We know that by 1893 the Paxtons had settled in Fort Worth. That year they lost twin sons, one after five hours, the other after five days. In 1899 their son, Jesse, drowned in a stock tank belonging to E. B. Daggett at Fort Worth. All three children were buried in Oakwood Cemetery. Curiously they are not buried anywhere near each other...not even the twins who died so close together. None of them are buried near their father, and all are unmarked.

By 1900 Mrs. Paxton was trying to support the family by working as a laundress. They were getting financial help from both the county and the R E Lee UCV camp, of which Mr. Paxton was a member.

On February 4, 1903 Mr. Paxton died. His funeral expenses were paid by his Confederate comrades.

In December of that year Mrs. Paxton was remarried to their next-door neighbor, a Mr. Palmer, who had divorced his wife only two weeks before. Mr. Palmer had already tried married life with that wife twice, and now had divorced her twice.

Mr. Palmer and his new wife later had a son, bringing the ex-Mrs. Paxton's lifetime total to twelve. In 1910 they had moved a short distance away from where they'd lived when they were married. Miss Lula Paxton, our soldier's twelve-year-old daughter, was living with them.

Something happened...and in 1912 Mr. Palmer's older children advertised in the newspaper asking if anyone knew the older Palmers' whereabouts. By 1914 they were back, and a large photograph of Lulu Paxton (at right) was run in the Fort Worth paper, asking if anyone had seen *her* lately. Mr. Palmer said he was sure Lula had merely run off...again...because he and she didn't get along.

That same year, 1914, the Palmers filed the paperwork to get a divorce but it was never granted. Later in 1914 Lula was arrested and convicted of writing a bad check. Her sentence was suspended, and she was made a ward of the court.



One of the 14th Georgia's regimental flags, preserved in the Georgia Dept. of Archives and History

By 1918 Lula Paxton had married Ed Wilbur, who shot her three times at their home in Denison, Texas on May 10, 1918. She died an hour later. Her body was brought back to Fort Worth for burial, and she remains here in a lost grave.

The Paxton's one remaining child, Herschel Paxton, was still in Fort Worth and a single man when he registered for the World War I draft in 1917. Perhaps being an astute young man he had seen enough of marriage and family to decide against both.



“WHAT WORKS: Ideas from Successful Camps”

We recently received this from Ben Sewell, Executive Director of the national organization of the SCV. “As one of the key components of the Vision 2016 project, Commander in Chief Michael Givens has requested that the herein-referenced publication, entitled “What Works,” be distributed to all Division Commanders who, in turn, are asked to forward the publication to all of their brigades and camps. All echelons of the SCV are free to print this locally and to send this useful publication to the membership electronically whenever it is feasible. CiC Givens and GHQ are aware that a few divisions have already received this recently.”

This paper puts forth some very practical points. It was edited and prepared by Dr. T. Y. Hiter, Past Kentucky Division Commander and Past Chief of Heritage Defense, Sons of Confederate Veterans. It was compiled from a number of sources, including surveys submitted by a number of local SCV officers.

It is too long for inclusion in this newsletter, but it may be read online at: <http://origin.library.constantcontact.com/download/get/file/1114282323135-15/What+Works+by+Tom+Hiter+for+Vision+2016.pdf>

Especially interesting are some of his comments about the conduct of local meetings and the reason many new members fail to take an active part in the work of the local camps.

This was obviously written by people who have long experience in conducting meetings, trying to arrange interesting programs, and trying to keep a camp’s members active and coming to meetings. If you care about the ongoing success of the Taylor Camp, set aside some time to read this document.



ONE-OF-A-KIND TEXAS BOOK: WEIRD BUT INTERESTING

Extensive renovation work in 1995 at the State Cemetery in Austin involved the moving of a number of graves of Confederate soldiers and a few of their widows. The archeological report is macabre, among other things.

Years ago your editor visited the State Cemetery and while he was there a staff member gave him a copy of Confederate Veterans at Rest: Archeological and Bioarcheological Investigations at the Texas State Cemetery, Travis County, Texas. Like all such reports issued by professional archeological firms, it takes the reporting of minutiae to unprecedented levels. It also requires you to have a medical dictionary on hand to understand it.

That said, there is information here on specific veterans which can be found nowhere else....and which probably most people wouldn't know what to do with it if they had it.

One of the veterans included in the book is Jacob S. Burleson, shown at right. He was born in 1839 in Webberville, Travis County. He joined the Texas Rangers in 1858 and served in several different regiments during the War. In later life he and his family lived at Pleasanton, Texas where he was a rancher.

In 1905 his health had declined to the point that he entered the Confederate Home in Austin. He stayed there several years, but died in 1917 while on "furlough" on a visit to relatives in Sprinkle, Texas. His grave in the State Cemetery is marked with a privately-supplied headstone.

Mr. Burleson's casket was of wood, which had entirely decomposed except for a small amount under a metal plaque attached to it. His body was buried with its long axis oriented to 280-degrees. The only clothing remains found were six two-hole shell buttons.



Mr. Burleson's skeletal remains had suffered greatly from the action of roots which had invaded the grave. The skull was complete with the exception of a few of the smallest facial bones. The rest of the skeleton was recovered except for a few vertebrae, a few rib fragments, and a few of the small bones of the fingers and toes.

Mr. Burleson probably suffered from fairly-extensive arthritis. His bones also

Jacob Burleson, cont.

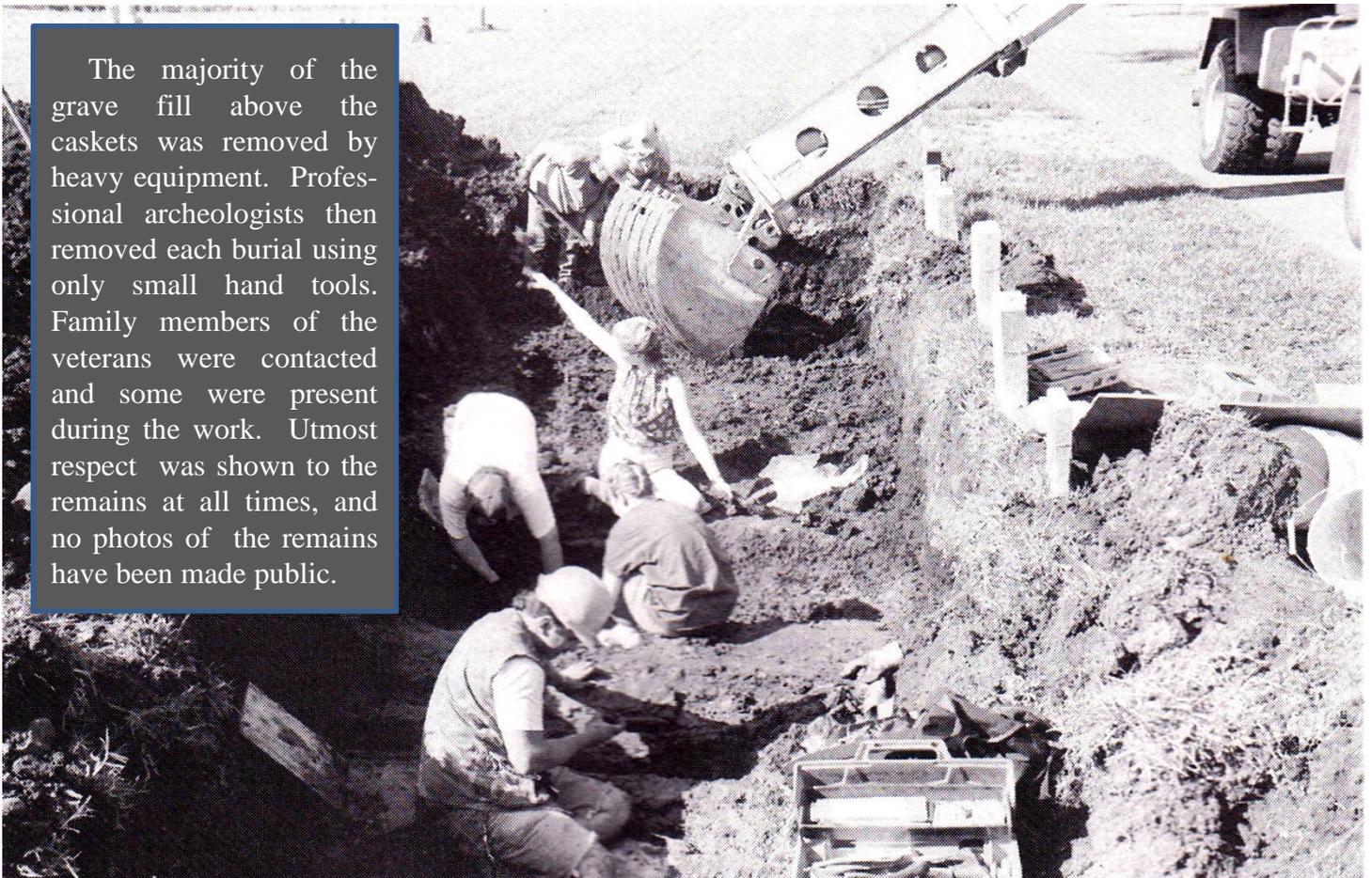
show that he suffered from a number of serious infections during his lifetime. He had lost most of his teeth by the time he died.

Among the most interesting findings was that his skull showed a large healed depression fracture about 1.5 x 1 inch on the left parietal bone (rear part of skull). It may have been from a saber or rifle-butt blow.

Mr. Burleson served in at least three different regiments, and his records have survived in all of them. None of them reflect a head wound he received in service, although he was released by a surgeon's certificate from his first term of service.



The majority of the grave fill above the caskets was removed by heavy equipment. Professional archeologists then removed each burial using only small hand tools. Family members of the veterans were contacted and some were present during the work. Utmost respect was shown to the remains at all times, and no photos of the remains have been made public.

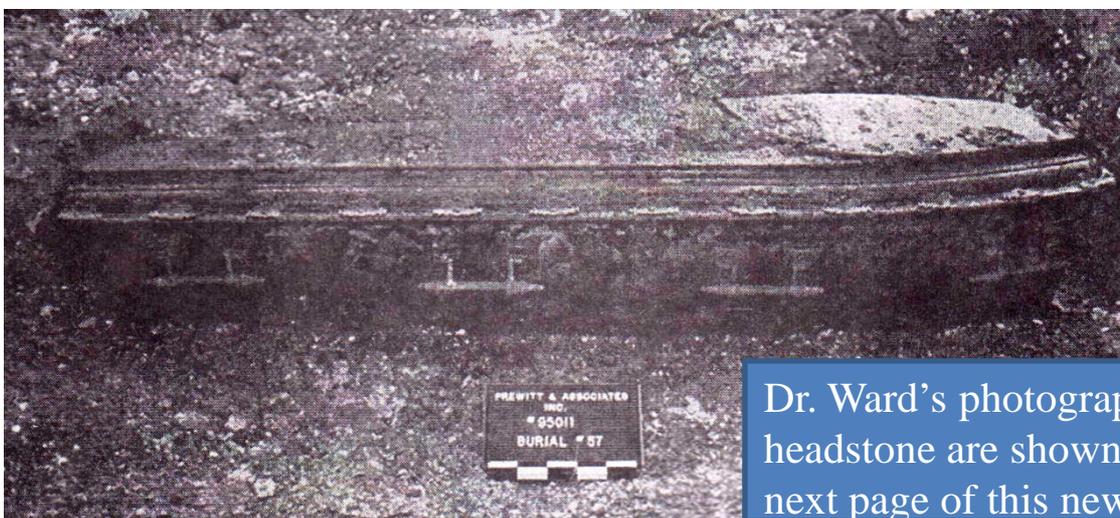
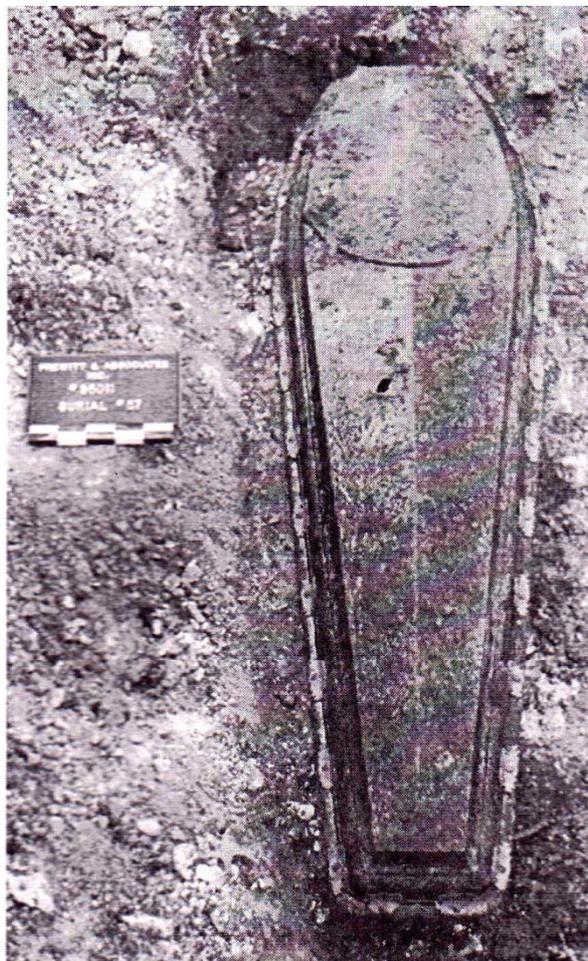


A SECOND INTERESTING STORY FROM THE STATE CEMETERY RENOVATION

In 1995 a total of fifty-seven graves of veterans and widows were relocated in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin. The earliest interment moved was from 1907, the latest was from 1951.

Interestingly, only one intact casket was encountered, and it was not opened during the removal. It was fashioned from wrought iron and remained completely sealed. The veteran buried therein, Dr. John R. Ward, had actually died in 1884.

Ward was a prominent surgeon in the Army of Northern Virginia and a personal friend of General Lee. One of Ward's descendants, a San Antonio bank president, had his remains moved to the State Cemetery in 1958 from Austin's Oakwood Cemetery.



Dr. Ward's photograph and headstone are shown on the next page of this newsletter.

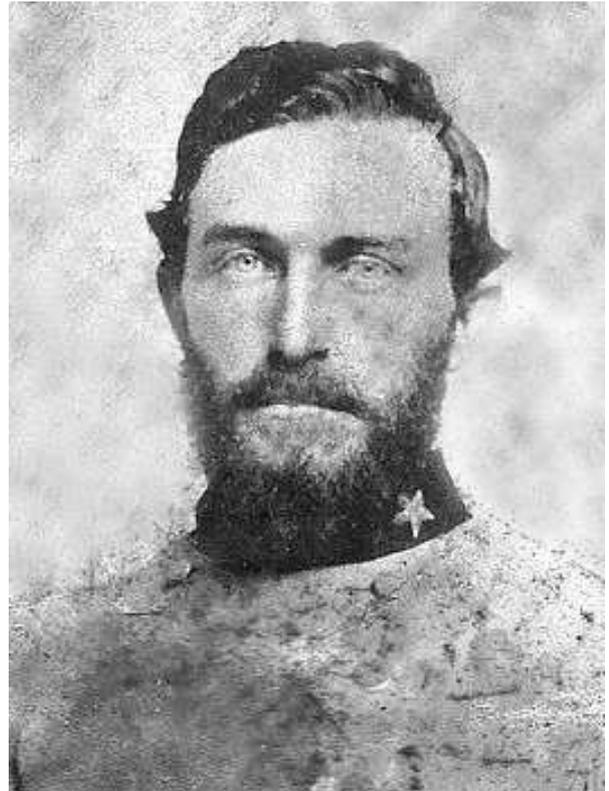
WARD, JOHN R. (1840~1884)

John R. Ward, Confederate veteran and doctor, was born in Campbell County, Virginia, on February 14, 1840. After receiving his medical degree from the University of Virginia Medical Department in 1860, he enlisted in the Lynchburg Home Guard, a company of the Virginia Militia, where he was appointed Assistant Surgeon on November 2, 1861. Later that same month, on November 16, Dr. Ward and the other members of the Home Guard were mustered into the Confederate Army as Company G, 11th Virginia Infantry.

On June 22, 1863, Ward was promoted to Surgeon by Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America. His appointment was later confirmed by the Confederate Senate on January 30, 1864. Other than what was mentioned above, no other information is known about his service during the War.

After the War, in 1871, Ward moved to Texas and settled in Austin, where he worked as a dentist before leaving his practice to become a farmer and a land speculator. After amassing a sizeable estate he died of tuberculosis on December 11, 1884. He was buried the next day in Oakwood Cemetery in Austin.

http://www.cemetery.state.tx.us/pub/user_form.asp?pers_id=122



LICENSE PLATE PROPOSAL



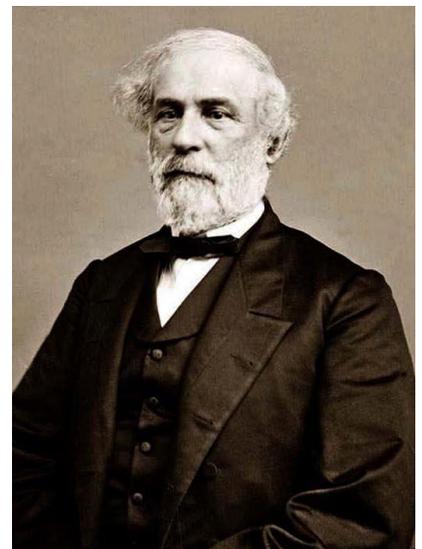
The Latest...

...in the ongoing attempt to get an SCV license plate for Texas may be found by reading this article which appeared in the Dallas paper on November 6: (be sure to click on the bottom of the photo on the first page...there are two photos...

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/state/headlines/20131106-appeals-court-hears-texas-dispute-over-confederate-flag-license-plate.ece?ssimg=1282321#ssStory1282319>

“My chief concern is to try to be an humble, earnest Christian.”

Robert E. Lee



G	A	U	N	T	L	E	B	E	L	S	H	E	A
L	E	G	T	S	L	T	H	S	H	C	S	A	R
L	S	E	N	D	G	A	T	D	I	P	T	R	T
I	B	B	I	I	R	E	D	X	U	C	L	A	X
B	O	R	A	N	L	R	E	R	S	G	E	O	E
I	B	R	E	T	A	S	S	C	O	B	B	V	P
P	B	S	N	B	R	T	N	R	X	E	O	C	S
E	S	U	B	B	R	E	F	U	G	L	H	E	R
K	A	A	O	A	R	T	D	D	G	I	T	L	E
G	C	O	P	B	E	T	I	N	N	E	A	D	T
S	T	S	O	N	E	R	S	S	E	B	E	D	S
S	S	O	O	L	T	B	T	R	R	P	H	A	L
S	T	Y	L	R	R	R	G	A	U	U	S	S	O
O	A	A	A	N	A	G	O	R	B	P	P	U	H
B	W	C	A	P	B	O	X	N	S	P	S	S	S

LEATHER GOODS. Hidden in the puzzle above are the names of twenty things our Confederate ancestors used made from leather. Some are singular, some are plural. Print yourself a copy of this page and see what you can do. The answers are on page 30 of this newsletter.



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



Words in the puzzle: gauntlets, belts, cartridge box, cap box, boots, gun sling, saddle, kepi bill, wallet, brogan, bridle, harness, holsters, gloves, spur straps, scabbard, chin strap, sheath, bayonet frog, suspender tabs



Adapted from a Far Side
Cartoon by Gary Larson

**TO YOU, SONS OF CONFEDERATE VETERANS,
WE WILL COMMIT THE VINDICATION OF THE
CAUSE FOR WHICH WE FOUGHT. TO YOUR
STRENGTH WILL BE GIVEN THE DEFENSE OF
THE CONFEDERATE SOLDIER'S GOOD NAME,
THE GUARDIANSHIP OF HIS HISTORY, THE
EMULATION OF HIS VIRTUES, THE
PERPETUATION OF THOSE PRINCIPLES
WHICH HE LOVED AND WHICH YOU LOVE
ALSO, AND THOSE IDEALS WHICH MADE HIM
GLORIOUS AND WHICH YOU ALSO CHERISH.
REMEMBER, IT IS YOUR DUTY TO SEE THAT
THE TRUE HISTORY OF THE SOUTH IS
PRESENTED TO FUTURE GENERATIONS.**

